

# SAS SPECTRUM eNEWS

## SAS Annual Member Event — SciX 2015

Sunday, September 27, 2015

12:00–4:00 pm

Providence, RI

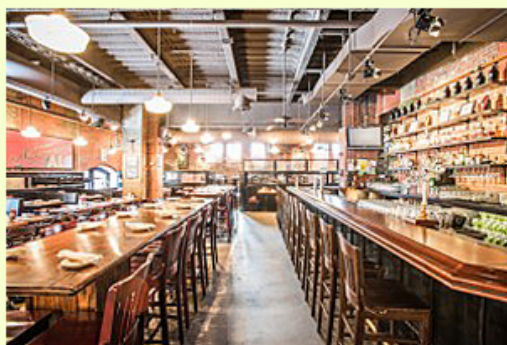
Come join us for lunch at the Union Station Brewery and a scenic boat tour along the Providence River!

**Free for SAS Members**

Contact the SAS Office at 301-694-8122 or [sasadmin@s-a-s.org](mailto:sasadmin@s-a-s.org) to save your spot!



Providence by Boat



Union Station Brewery — the best stop in Providence for lunch and local craft beer. A gem in the heart of Providence's downtown district, this former train station-turned-brewery is the perfect change of pace.

## The SAS 2018 Strategic Fund — Play a Role in the Future of Your Society Today!

When I started my role on the Executive Committee in 2013, it became clear to me that I would not be able to follow-up on all of the activities that I outlined in my "campaign manifesto" in the 2012 SAS presidential election. The main reasons were that (1) the Society's finances were under significant stress and (2) the Society had not developed a strategic fund to support new initiatives.

Over the past two years, the EC team has taken actions to address the financial stress. These include creating an investment fund (which generated several thousand dollars of income in 2014), investing in our Spectroscopy Marketplace that has paid back its start-up investment, and creating a Marketing fund for the Society, which has already generated a return. In addition we have made difficult cuts to our operating budget and internal systems

including moving to a home office in 2014, changes to our membership systems, and establishment of new budgetary categories to allow us to better understand our expenses. We have conducted major updates to our by-laws to clarify how the Society operates and we have engaged Regional, Technical, and Student sections to increase grassroots support for the Society. Some of these activities are visible to the general membership and some will become more transparent over the coming year including website and journal changes, and the Society's 2020 vision. I could go on, but these last few years and the next two will be looked back upon and characterized as years of proactive change.





Despite these changes and the many committed volunteers leading our committees, I believed we would benefit from a strategic fund that can be annually purposed to realize the vision of the incoming Society president (and backed by a majority of our members via the electoral process).

Therefore, in one of my last acts as President, I received backing from the EC for my proposal to form a 2018 Strategic fund and to institute a funding drive to capitalize it. The fund is held separately from our other accounts (in a Vanguard Windsor II mutual fund established by our treasurer, Bruce Chase) and will be allowed to grow from its inception to 2018. In 2018, growth from the original capital (the corpus) will become available to the then-Society President to invest in activities for the benefit of the Society and its members. By establishing a fund where only the income is available to spend, the Society will have a fund that is there for the long haul. I hope that donations by today's spectroscopists will benefit future generations of spectroscopists. The initial timing of the fund will allow it to align with the 2020 vision for the Society and allow for preparatory activities in 2018 and 2019 in support of 2020 activities. Current President Diane Parry conducted a first meeting on the Society's 2020 strategic plan at Pittcon 2015. For more information please call the SAS Office at 301-694-8122. [SAS 2020 Initiative](#).

As I noted in my President's reflection piece in December's Applied Spectroscopy when this fund was originally announced, the goal for the fund is to reach a level of \$100,000 by 2018. I am happy to say that the 2014 EC donated the first \$1500 in 2014 to start this fund and we have received more notices of incoming funds from committee members. Now it is your turn! The Society is a 501(c)(3) organization, and your donations to the Society are tax deductible.<sup>1</sup> Whether you can afford to make a \$10 or a \$10,000 donation, these funds will help support the Society for years to come.

Please consider pledging a donation to your Society's "SAS 2018 Strategic Fund"—Your Society Needs You.

Ian R. Lewis  
SAS President 2014

<sup>1</sup>Donations to the Society are deductible in the United States to the full extent allowed by law.

## ICAVS 8 Summary Vienna, Austria, July 12–17, 2015

The 8th conference in the ICAVS (International Conference on Advanced Vibration Spectroscopy) series was held this year in Vienna, Austria. General Chair, Bernhard Lendl, and Program Chair, Mike George, with the support of the various volunteer committees, put on an excellent conference covering current major areas of vibrational spectroscopy. Attendees came from over 40 countries and totaled over 600. ICAVS was able to provide 50 student bursaries to allow a new generation of spectroscopists to highlight their early scientific work. Vienna welcomed attendees with unseasonably warm weather—mid-90s many days and that provided for lots of open air eating at the various restaurants in the immediate area.



The conference started on Sunday with workshops for attendees, exhibitor set-up, and an informal conference opening networking mixer held in the evening.



The mixer was well attended and provided an opportunity to meet and network with established colleagues and meet new ones. Pictures from the events of the first day and from each subsequent day can be found on [Flickr](#).

On Monday morning, representatives of the Technical University of Vienna, the conference venue, and Professor Lendl officially opened the conference noting that the University was celebrating its 200th anniversary. Professor Peter Griffiths was the first plenary session chairman with two talks focused on nano-spectroscopy (from Rainer Hillenbrand and Mikhail Belkin). Following the morning plenary talks, the program split into four parallel sessions, concluding the day with a poster session of more than 100 posters. The exhibition was distributed throughout the venue with the majority of booths located by the session rooms, poster space, or registration. Each day the conference team produced a short video of events and interviews with some of the 600+ attendees and the plenary speakers. These can be viewed at the [ICAVS YouTube channel](#).



Tuesday started with plenary talks from Zhenchao Dong (Single-molecule Raman spectromicroscopy) and Nathalie Picqué (Laser frequency combs). Additional parallel sessions and another excellent poster session concluded the technical program for the day. Tuesday also saw the arrival of Professor Mike George who had been stranded in China due to a typhoon and was unable to arrive in Vienna for the start of the meeting. The evening featured a conference dinner for organizers and invited speakers and a Young Scientist event. An invited speakers dinner was held on the 11th floor of the university building that was expertly organized by Bernhard's wife, Pily. This unique venue provided unparalleled views of Vienna's skyline. After the dinner, a significant group of attendees moved to the Young Scientist event, which was open to all attendees and included a number of activities and informal networking opportunities (check out the pictures on Flickr).

The plenary speaker for Wednesday included Shigeki Yamamoto who presented on Peptide conformation with ROA and Klaus Gerwert on vibrational imaging for biomedical applications. Parallel sessions and a lunchtime vendor's "What's New" session concluded Wednesday's scientific program. Wednesday afternoon featured four conference excursions (two walking tours, a bus and palace tour, or a cruise on the Danube) and a combined event at the Heuriger Fuhrgassl-Huber (wine tavern, pictured below) with an address from the Mayor of Vienna.



Thursday's plenary talks were on SERS for tissue diagnostics and perspectives on PAT from Sebastian Schlucker and Rudolf Kessler, respectively. Professor Kessler talked about the affect that PAT can have on a variety of industries and produced the biggest laugh at the conference when he drew a conclusion on causality regarding people from France, Japan, the UK, and the USA and their consumption of alcohol and fat intake. Apparently, diet is unimportant; it is speaking English that has the greatest impact on life span!



On Thursday, between the two plenary speakers, I was asked to say a few words on FACSS and its member organizations. The time slot was provided because FACSS had provided limited sponsorship to the ICAVS organizers to help support three speakers who attended the meeting. (Maria Jose Ayora-Canada from Universidad de Jaen, Spain, spoke on Monday on "On-site Non-Invasive Investigations of Polychrome Decorations Using Raman Spectroscopy: Achievements and Limitations"; Gerard Wysocki, from Princeton University on "Broadband High-Resolution Multi-Heterodyne Ro-Vibrational Spectroscopy of Gases with Quantum and Interband Cascade Lasers" spoke on Tuesday; and Kathy Gough from the University of Manitoba on "High Resolution FT-IR

Tomographic Imaging of Single Cells" spoke on Friday.)

During my 10 minute timeslot, I introduced attendees to FACSS (Federation of Analytical Chemistry and Spectroscopy Societies), its conference SciX (next in Providence, Rhode Island, in Sept 2015), and the member organizations of FACSS. In the interest of time, I was only able to highlight one of those member organizations—SAS. Using slides from the SAS slide deck (available from the SAS website to all members), I highlighted the mission of the society and the importance of our journal, Applied Spectroscopy, for the publication of key milestones in the field of vibrational spectroscopy. It was also noted that the Editor of Applied Spectroscopy, three of the eight Assistant Editors, and approximately half of the Editorial Advisory Board was present. In addition, at least eight past-presidents of SAS, a number of Society Fellows (spotted wearing their distinctive SAS pins), several award winners, and many members were present. SAS members have a clear affinity for ICAVS!

After the Thursday plenaries, there were 12 sessions (four parallel sessions in three timeslots), with the Thursday scientific program concluding with another large poster session. Thursday's conference activity, however, was not over. Thursday concluded with a formal conference dinner hosted at the former Austro-Hungarian Empire's stock market building. Entertainment for the evening included a musical ensemble and an opera singing troupe, and concluded with dancing. In the picture below Mike George (right) and Bernhard Lendl (left) addressed the attendees after dinner.



Friday's program included plenary talks from Tahei Tahara (Femtosecond Vibrational Spectroscopy) and Martin Zanni (Advances in robust 2D IR Spectroscopy and an example of its application to type 2 diabetes), a special invited single session, an invitation from the organizers of ICAVS 9 to attend the next meeting in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, in 2017, student award announcements and presentations, and thanks to members of the ICAVS 8 organizing team (the local organizing team is pictured below).

In conclusion, let me join others in thanking the ICAVS 8 team for their hospitality, the interesting program, for providing opportunities for fruitful discussion, and great organization.

### **Final Thought: An Enhanced Focus on SAS**

The Society's mission remains aligned with ICAVS attendees, but we could have done more to promote the Society's membership benefits and our journal, Applied Spectroscopy, to attendees. We did have a section of the FACSS tabletop for SAS items, and logo recognition on the ICAVS website and in the program. However, it was recognized by SAS people in Vienna that we could do much more. This recognition has already resulted in a number of SAS Executive Committee discussions, led by President-Elect Ellen Miseo, on how to best market Society membership, the journal, and our mission at the shows we attend, and the level of engagement with the attendees we want to create. Look for the results of this at a tradeshow near you soon!

Ian R. Lewis  
SAS President 2014



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Telephone: 301-694-8122  
FAX: 301-694-6860

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