

SAS SPECTRUM eNEWS

Newsletter Editor's Note

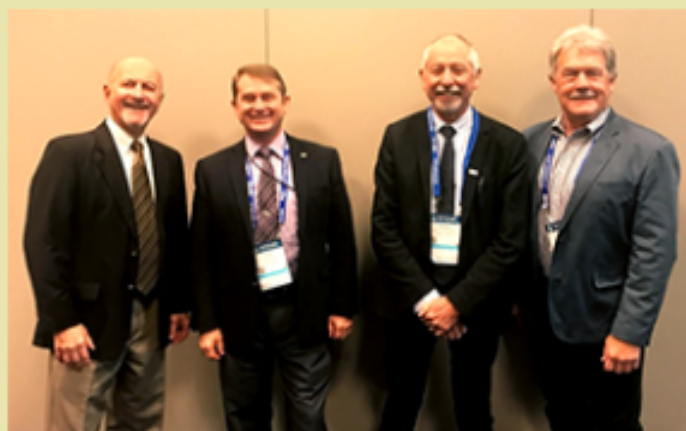
Pittcon 2017 is now behind us. The articles in this month's Newsletter are about SAS-related events, one from President Greg Klunder on the two SAS-sponsored technical sessions, and one from our Student Representative, David Bryce, on the annual Pittcon student event. I last attended Pittcon six years ago, and while the event was as interesting as before, there were fewer molecular spectroscopy-related sessions in the technical program. Another difference for me this time is that I spent about one-third of my three days at Pittcon in SAS-related meetings such as the Executive Committee meeting, the Publications Committee Meeting, and joint Membership Committee and Publicity Committee meeting.

To be honest, I was not expecting so many meetings when I inherited this role of Newsletter Editor. These meetings, however, turned out to be very informative and quite interesting, and gave me insight into most of the behind-the-scenes activities of the Society. As such, I want to share a few of the things I learned. There are a lot of worries associated with keeping a mostly volunteer-based organization functioning well—the funding and budgeting, getting volunteers to make time out of their busy schedules to carry out their tasks, and ensuring the organization remains relevant and up to date, just to name a few. Different people with the same goal to improve SAS can have very different opinions, and the debate as to which road to follow can become quite heated at times. There was also a lot of great discussion about the Society's journal, *Applied Spectroscopy*. It currently has a slight backlog in accepted papers awaiting publication, so expect upcoming issues to be thick. It is great to see that everyone is dedicated to maintaining it as a premier journal in this field, as I do regularly submit to it myself. Other interesting topics include SAS 2020 Vision and the new certification program. There was also much discussion on how to bring more benefits to SAS members and how to engage, attract, and retain new members. I encourage more members to volunteer to be on various committees and to get more engaged. Last, but not least, you should help SAS by spreading the word about your experiences and by guiding colleagues and friends who can benefit from SAS to become a member!

Contributed by Xiaoyun (Shawn) Chen
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SAS-Sponsored Sessions at Pittcon in Chicago

The Society continued its tradition of having two sessions at the Pittsburgh Conference, with one focused on atomic and one on molecular spectroscopy. This year a unifying theme was how spectroscopy can be used in human health. The morning Atomic session was focused on Metallomics and was a tribute to the late Joe Caruso, a founder in the field who passed away in November 2015. Joe is missed by so many colleagues and friends. The speakers highlighted several techniques that provide valuable chemical information, including laser ablation for chemical imaging, high-resolution mass spectrometry, novel MS detection, and laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy. The afternoon session entitled Molecular Spectroscopy for Disease Detection brought together leaders in the field that discussed applications of IR and Raman chemical imaging. These talks demonstrated how the fundamental advancements in instrumentation are truly advancing the state-of-the-art for health care and further understanding and diagnosing diseases. Many THANKS to all the speakers for presenting their cutting edge research and representing SAS in these sessions.



SAS Session on Metallomics speakers Gary Hieftje, Scott Tanner, Norbert Jakubowski, and David Koppenaal (Not pictured: Steve Rehse).



SAS Session on Molecular Spectroscopy for Disease Detection speakers Christa Brosseau, Nicholas Stone, Jean-Francois Masson, Rohit Bhargava, and Michael Walsh.

SAS Pittcon Student Event

There was a flurry of student interest in the Society at Pittcon this year, both from students interested in starting new SAS student chapters and from those in attendance at the Pittcon Student event. The Pittcon student event was held in the game room of the Chicago Athletic Association, drawing a crowd of approximately 25 student members, both new and returning, as well as several non-student Society members. Food and beverages were provided to students and guests as they socialized over games of foosball and bocce. Overall, the event was a great success, helping to illustrate the social and professional benefits of Society membership to the student members! A big thanks from the students must be extended to the Society for continuing to support this event!

*Contributed by David Bryce,
SAS Student Representative (bryced@chem.utah.edu)*



SAS as a Career Networking Vehicle

I am on my way home from another successful Pittcon. In my new professional role, one of the reasons I was attending was to interview candidates for positions.

As we all know it is a very stressful situation to be hunting for a new position. When you are a new graduate, searching for a position is a new experience. How do I differentiate myself from all the other applicants? How do I make myself stand out?

From an employer's perspective, how do I find the right people? How do I make sure that the person who looks good on paper is actually good? How can I make sure that I spend my time wisely chatting with people? Although I was specific on the skill set and experience I was looking for, I was inundated with applicants. How was I to sort through all the people who wanted to interview? Too much experience for the position, not qualified in the appropriate technical area. One of the ways I sorted through this dilemma was to use my professional network from the Society for Applied Spectroscopy. I started by asking if we could identify anyone interested in the positions I have open through contacts in the Society. Were there PI's who had graduate students finishing soon? Did anyone in regional sections know the people who applied for the positions? From that approach, I was able to identify a short list of much better candidates.

Beyond that, networking through the Society helped immensely. I was introduced to a student by our regional and technical section chair. Although the candidate's experience was not appropriate, later in the week she brought a friend over to speak to me who had a very appropriate background. Unfortunately for my company (Illuminate), the young woman took a job with another company, but I found someone I never would have even been able to talk to.

Finding a job is a lot more complicated than responding to a job listing. In my entire career, I have only had one job that I found by responding to a listing. Although interesting, it was not a position that I would have considered challenging and given me opportunities for growth. However, I have found challenging growth opportunities by networking. Those positions were the ones that I stayed at for a reasonably long time. All but one of the opportunities that presented themselves were through networking with Society members.

*Contributed by Ellen Miseo,
2016 SAS President*

Don't forget to submit your nominations for the SAS Graduate and Undergraduate student awards, as well as the Kowalski Award and Regional Section Poehlman Award. Deadline for submissions is May 15.

Click [here](#) for more information on our award.

**Do you have something spectroscopy-related you want to discuss in the newsletter?
Or something that will help our membership such as career tips or application tips?
Please let us know by emailing xchen4@dow.com.**

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