

April 2026 Newsletter



Expanding the Reach of SAS

Contributed by John Wasyluk

April continued the momentum of a strong spring for the Society for Applied Spectroscopy. Following SAS's successful presence at Pittcon 2026 and the announcement of the 2026 Lippincott Award recipient, the Society had even more to celebrate with recognition of several distinguished members. Two of our longtime SAS members, **John Chalmers** and **Geoffrey Coleman**, were honored with the Emeritus SAS Membership Award. Both are retired from active research, but each has played an important role in shaping the direction of SAS over many years. In addition, **Jürgen Popp**, **Mike Carrabba**, and **Heidi Goenaga-Infante** were recognized as Honorary SAS Membership Award recipients for their significant lifetime contributions to spectroscopy. We congratulate all five award winners for their years of dedication to advancing the field, and I encourage you to take a look at their impressive biographies on the [SAS website](#).

On April 9, SAS hosted its fourth annual virtual Slam Event. The audience enjoyed a series of three-minute presentations from postdoctoral researchers, graduate students, and STEM students who are expanding the reach of spectroscopy and who will help lead SAS in the years ahead. Most of the presenters will also be showcasing their work at SciX 2026, and more details on those presentations will be shared before the conference. Several of the STEM students will present at EAS as well and will receive gift certificates in recognition of their impressive research. Travel support was generously provided by Coblenz, SciX, and SAS to help these young scientists share their work more broadly.

Speaking of SciX 2026, members are encouraged to book travel early and take advantage of early registration discounts. The [SciX Conference website](#) also has plenty of information on things to do in and around Sparks, Nevada, so arrive early and stay late!

Another development that is sure to benefit the broader scientific community is Spec Academy. Our SAS Secretary, Ellen Miseo has worked tirelessly with MJH Life Sciences to help get this educational initiative off the ground. We expect it to introduce many new scientists to spectroscopy while also helping others deepen and expand their knowledge AND capabilities. [Join the early access list!](#)



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ECIG Member of the Month: Marisia Fikiet

Contributed by the Early Career Interest Group (ECIG)

Introducing our latest ECIG Member of the Month, Marisia Fikiet.



Marisia Fikiet

Assistant Professor
University of New Haven

Years at SAS: 9

THE BIGGEST BENEFIT OF SAS MEMBERSHIP?

“The people I have met at meetings!”

CHILDHOOD DREAM JOB?

“Ballerina”

WHAT MADE ME FALL IN LOVE WITH SPECTROSCOPY?

“The fact that I get to tell people my job is to shoot lasers at things”

FAVORITE PART OF MY JOB?

“Getting to follow my passions in research with my students”

WHAT SCIENTIST, PAST OR PRESENT, WOULD I MOST LIKE TO MEET?

“Marie Curie: 2 Noble prizes and a true science role model ”

Would you like to be featured as the ECIG Member of the Month? If so, please complete our [short online survey](#).

ECIG Networking Roundtable at Pittcon 2026

Contributed by the Early Career Interest Group (ECIG)

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who attended the ECIG Early Career Panel at Pittcon 2026. The session, titled So Many Opportunities: Demystifying Career Paths for Early Career Spectroscopists, gave our panelists the chance to share a little about their own career journeys, and the audience brought thoughtful questions that made for an engaging and valuable discussion.

We always appreciate the strong turnout and thoughtful engagement at these early career events, and we hope to see the same enthusiasm again at a similar event during SciX 2026.





Contribute to the Newsletter!

Interested in contributing to our newsletter? Please send your article as a word file to our newsletter editor Dr. Ayush Agarwal at ayush.agarwal@epfl.ch, with a subject "SAS Newsletter - [Contributing Section Name]"
