

February 2026 Newsletter



Society Update, February 2026

Contributed by John Wasyluk, SAS President

Hopefully this note finds everyone healthy, happy and not stuck in airports or at home as extreme cold and snowy weather in the US, heavy snow in Japan, flooding in parts of Europe and Australia impact our daily lives. Of course, there are parts of the world that are drier and warmer than usual, but I for one, am not in any of those locations.

The Society is continuing to examine and enact ways to improve our website, provide resources and increase our impact on development opportunities for all spectroscopists. Check the SAS website, Newsletter and eblasts for additional info on what's happening.

As previously announced, the [Peter Griffiths Award](#) selection committee chose Dr Sara Fraser-Miller, Flinders University, Australia, and co-authors Mitchell C. Chalmers, Teemu Tomberg, and Keith Gordon, for their paper "Discriminating Model Microcalcifications Immersed and Under Varying Depths of Wax Using Deep Low-Frequency Raman Spectroscopy." This is worth repeating and rereading the article (Vol 2, Issue 4).

Spectroscopy Academy is closer to becoming a reality as Ellen Miseo, in collaboration with MJH (think Spectroscopy magazine) is bringing education to the next level and expanding our sphere of influence. All introductory courses are completed and fully recorded and the official launch will be forthcoming. This brings us to the point that Ellen and MJH are now beginning to look for lecturers in new technical areas. Don't be shy, if you are willing to contribute for the betterment of our spectroscopists inside and outside of our Society please let us know, and believe me, it is painless to help!

[The Tour Speaker Series](#), now a virtual Web-based series, is moving forward with its first presentation on **March 19, 2026, from 12 – 1 PM EDT**. The speaker is Professor Mary Kate Donais and her presentation is titled "Spectroscopic Characterization of Historic Fabrics and Fibers." This is one you won't want to miss and make sure you tell your friends about it!

Please take note of the [Annual Student and Early Career SLAM](#). The deadline for abstracts is **March 20th, 2026** and the live virtual event will take place on **April 9th at 12noon EST**.

Finally, SAS will be active at [Pittcon 2026](#). We are [sponsoring a session](#) (worth repeating) that links spectroscopy with sustainability and features several SAS and Coblenz members to be held Monday morning, March 9. In addition, Fay Nicolson will be holding a panel discussion titled “So Many Opportunities - Demystifying Career Paths for Early Career Spectroscopists.” This event helps answer so many questions early career spectroscopists have about setting a path forward for success. This event will be held on Monday, March 9th from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM in Room 006D.

AND FINALLY...[abstract submission is open for SciX 2026](#).



Pittcon®

Conference and Exposition

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Spectroscopy and Sustainability: A Perfect Match at Pittcon 2026

Contributed by SAS

Pittcon 2026 heads to San Antonio, Texas, 9-11 March 2026. This year's conference builds on Pittcon 2025's emphasis on eco-friendly practices in the analytical sciences and remains a premier event for analytical research, scientific instrumentation, and applied spectroscopy.

On the opening morning of conference sessions at 8:30am, room304B, one session to highlight is “Spectroscopy and Sustainability: A Perfect Match,” sponsored by the Society for Applied Spectroscopy. This session is sponsored by the Society for Applied Spectroscopy, which builds on the American Chemical Society's Green Chemistry Initiative, and covers advances in spectroscopy and its acceptance in an ever-widening range of applications. Applications span biomedical research and pharmaceutical development; hyperspectral imaging on unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for crop monitoring; monitoring and control of simple to complex synthesis of toxic and hazardous materials; identifying chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) materials; and extraterrestrial studies.

Planned talks include:

- Lyufei Chen on A-TEEM® Spectroscopy, which streamlines complex analytical workflows through rapid, small-volume measurements and data-rich molecular fingerprints. Its low-impact design supports protein

- characterization, formulation monitoring, and broader chemical analysis.
- Rohith Reddy on photothermal mid-infrared spectroscopic imaging (MIRSI), which provides microscopy-level spatial resolution for label-free, quantitative tissue characterization. Combined with machine learning, MIRSI can reveal subtle biochemical and structural signatures that traditional methods often miss, improving diagnosis of conditions such as lupus nephritis, ovarian cancer, osteosclerosis, and bone marrow fibrosis.
 - Carson Roberts on hyperspectral and LiDAR data from UAV crop surveys, including challenges such as intensity striping driven by bidirectional reflectance distribution function (BRDF) effects in hyperspectral datasets and extraneous points in LiDAR.
 - Luisa Profeta on portable spectroscopy for CBRNE applications and how these tools-while not always designed with “sustainability” in mind-can inform future development and help educate users about opportunities for sustainability gains.
 - Hannah Schorr on a modular, automated system for preparing and analyzing solvent standards at the lab scale, featuring automated moisture analysis and rapid near-infrared (NIR) model development. This approach reduces manual labor, enables unattended operation, and eliminates toxic reagents to support safer, more efficient analyses
 - Michael George will cover non-invasive spectroscopy-based techniques applied to flow, photo-, and electrochemistry. in addition to new PAT approaches that exploit autonomous flow reactors and self-optimisation with the aim of improving sensitivity, specificity, dynamic range and the speed of data acquisition, to be coupled with AI innovations.
 - John Wasylyk will focus on the impact of spectroscopy on sustainability and its alignment with the Twelve Principles of Green Chemistry, and how it can be used as a framework for designing chemical processes and products that minimize environmental impact. Examples presented will range from terrestrial to non-terrestrial applications. This session promises an engaging look at the ways spectroscopy can contribute to greener analytical chemistry at Pittcon 2026.

ECIG Networking Roundtable at Pittcon 2026

Are you planning to attend Pittcon in March? Are you looking for some Early Career content at Pittcon? Once again, the Early Career Interest Group is sponsoring a networking roundtable event at Pittcon. The event is titled “So Many Opportunities - Demystifying Career Paths for Early Career Spectroscopists”. It will be held on Monday, March 9 from 1:30 – 3:00 PM in room 006D. Panelists will share their personal career journeys and insights, followed by open discussion and time for Q&A with the audience. This will be a wonderful opportunity to explore new directions, gain practical advice, and connect directly with professionals who have successfully navigated a variety of paths in the field of spectroscopy. We hope to see many of you in San Antonio in March!

More details on this session can be found on the [here](#).

Atomic Sessions at Pittcon

Don't miss out on hearing from SAS members in [Atomic Spectroscopy: Beyond the ICP](#) on Monday, 9 March starting at 2:30pm, room 302B.

Presentations include:

New Microwave Plasmas Used for Atomic Emission Spectrometry:
Applications and Opportunities.

Steven Ray, State University of New York at Buffalo

Modern Problems, Old Solutions? Reigniting Laser-Induced Breakdown
Spectroscopy for Advanced Nuclear Reactor Applications

Hunter Andrews, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Micro- and Nano-Particle Characterization via Glow Discharge Spectrometry:
Fast Direct-Solid Analysis Down to the Single-Particle Level

Gerardo Gamez, Texas Tech University

Coupling of the LS-APGD Microplasma and Orbitrap Mass Spectrometry:
Elemental and Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry Without Chromatography

R. Kenneth Marcus, Clemson University

ECIG's Member of the Month

Introducing our latest member of the month: George Affadu-Danful.



George Affadu-Danful

Scientist
Vibrational Spectroscopy and
Chemometrics
Arkema

Years at SAS: 4

THE BIGGEST BENEFIT OF SAS MEMBERSHIP?

"Networking"

CHILDHOOD DREAM JOB?

"Doctor"

WHAT MADE ME FALL IN LOVE WITH SPECTROSCOPY?

"I fell in love with spectroscopy because it reveals what materials are doing at the molecular level. The power to turn light into meaningful insight and solve real problems across disciplines became even more compelling when paired with chemometrics."

FAVORITE PART OF MY JOB?

"Solving real problems using spectroscopy and chemometrics, turning complex data into clear, impactful solutions."

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

"William Herschel, whose discovery of infrared light fundamentally shaped modern spectroscopy. Speaking with him about how he first realized that invisible radiation carried scientific meaning would be fascinating."

Would you like to be featured as the ECIG Member of the Month in 2026? If so, please complete our [short online survey](#).

SAS, Applied Spectroscopy, and Applied Spectroscopy Practica were proud sponsors of the industry/professional poster awards at the [2026 Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry](#) (WCPS).

Please join us in congratulating the winners!

Tuesday Poster Prizes

Professional

1st Place Winner (\$175 Sponsor: SAS)

Antonio R. Montoro Bustos from National Institute of Standards and Technology

TP-39 “Derivation of Particle Number Concentration from the Size Distribution: Theory and Applications”

Co-authors: Natalia Farkas, John Kramar, George Caceres, Monique E. Johnson, Karen Murphy, Michael Winchester



Left to right: Gerardo Gamez, Antonio R. Montoro Bustos, Mary Kate Donais

2nd Place Winner (\$125 Sponsor: SAS)

Anika Retzmann from University of Calgary

TP-15 “Automated Purification meets Nitrogen Plasma: Direct and Reliable Fe Isotopic Analysis with MC-MICAP-MS”

Co-authors: Hadasah Dubois Recin, Michael Wieser



Left to right: Gerardo Gamez, Anika Retzmann, Mary Kate Donais

Wednesday Poster Prizes

Professional

1st Place Winner (\$175 Sponsor: SAS)

Zuzana Gajdosechova from National Research Council Canada

WP-46 "Replacing Gravimetry: A Metrological Route For Aerosol Mass Calibration Using ICP-MS"

Co-authors: Kelvin Risby, Cyprine Hugues Dominique Jordain, Adam Meyer Boies, Timothy A. Sipkens, Jalal Norooz-Oliaee, Joel C Corbin

Unfortunately, Zuzana was feeling under the weather and she could not attend the awards ceremony.

2nd Place Winner (\$125 Sponsor: SAS)

Guillermo Grindlay from University of Alicante

WP-21 "Revisiting aerosol transport in single particle inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry: solvent, ions, and nanomaterials"

Co-authors: Daniel Torregrosa, Antonio Montoro-Bustos, Luis Gras



Left to right: Gerardo Gamez, Guillermo Grindlay, Mary Kate Donais

Undergraduate Poster Prizes

1st Place Winner (\$100 Sponsor SAS; Book voucher Sponsor: RSC – Americas)

Emily Schorr from University of Arizona

WP-37 “Chemical Characterization of Pressed Pellets Using Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy”

Co-authors: Zach Yang, Tyler Wilson, Joseph Lee, David Hahn, Daviel Diaz



Left to right: Gerardo Gamez, Emily Schorr, Mary Kate Donais

Thursday Poster Prizes

Professional

1st Place Winner (\$175 Sponsor: SAS)

Messay M. Wolle from USFDA

ThP-24 "Vitamin B12 Measurement in Dietary Supplements by HPLC-ICP-MS"

Co-authors: non listed in program



Left to right: Gerardo Gamez, Messay M. Wolle, Mary Kate Donais

2nd Place Winner (\$125 Sponsor: SAS)

Alicia Stell from CEM Corp

ThP-23 "Efficient Trace Metal Analysis in Complex Food Matrices Using ICP-MS and Microwave Digestion"

Co-authors: Samuel Heckle, Michael Howe

Unfortunately, Alicia Stell had to return home before the ceremony on Thursday so we do not have a picture of her receiving the award.

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]"
