

July 2026 Newsletter

Important Notice: Proposed OMB Changes

Contributed by John Wasylyk

On May 29, the Office of Management and Budget released a sweeping proposed rule that, if enacted, would have a major impact on how funding for scientific research is awarded, managed, and enforced. This proposal, published in the *Federal Register*, would revise the framework for grants, cooperative agreements, and other financial support mechanisms for scientific research. The entire proposal can be found under Regulations for Federal Financial Assistance. Some of these changes may impact the science that individuals and groups in our Society engage in.

They include:

- Broad prohibitions on international scientific collaboration
- Applicants being denied based on organizational affiliations, with OMB having direct oversight
- Curtailment of open-access fees and funding for conference attendance
- Non-science-based appointees potentially taking control of grant awards and limiting grant competitions
- Peer review no longer being binding

These proposed changes may affect some of our members to varying degrees. Proposed changes to funding and support occur from time to time, and 2026 is no exception. Please review the document in the [Federal Register](#), and if it potentially impacts your work, you can voice your opinion. All comments are due by **July 13**.

SAS Journal Staff Update

Contributed by John Wasylyk

SAS has been making changes over the last few years in order to stay ahead of the shifting financial environment we face. Each year, we work assiduously to advance our Society, offer value to our members, and maintain our two journals.

Last month, SAS instituted a significant change in its publication structure to meet the challenges of the modern and rapidly evolving publishing landscape. This change means that the position of managing editor for Applied Spectroscopy has been made redundant and removed as of June 15, 2026. Day-to-day communication with submitting authors for both *Applied Spectroscopy* and *Applied Spectroscopy Practica* will now occur through two dedicated publication assistants assigned to the journals by our publishing partner, SAGE.

This staffing change does not affect the way authors submit articles or communicate with the journals. This restructuring does, however, change the staff responsibilities for those contacts. As always, SAS members and submitting authors are also welcome to reach out to our editorial staff and editors-in-chief directly with any questions about manuscripts.

This decision by the executive officers and cognizant standing committees of SAS was not undertaken lightly. We thank **Kristin MacDonald** for her many contributions to the Society and to both scientific journals. She has been a stalwart resource and a steadying presence, and we wish her well in her next endeavor. This was not an easy decision to make, but it had to be made so that we can fully utilize SAGE's capabilities while putting SAS in a more favorable financial position. Please keep in mind that we feel this is the right decision as we strive to make SAS vibrant in its offerings and sustainable as we head into the future. Kristin's last working day is July 10, and she will be missed.

As the SAS journals evolve into modern digital scientific research platforms, we remain committed to maintaining excellent content and the highest standards of integrity. We are confident that these changes in publication structure will support the financial health of SAS going forward and allow us to reposition resources in ways that will significantly enhance member benefits.

IRUG16: 16th Conference and Workshop of the Infrared and Raman User's Group

Contributed by Rosie Grayburn and Caelin Celani

Vibrational spectroscopy plays a crucial role in safeguarding our shared history. From October 7–9, 2026, the international heritage science community will gather at the historic Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library in Delaware for IRUG16. For over three decades, IRUG has been a premier forum for advancing infrared and Raman spectroscopy in cultural heritage conservation.

This year's program features a keynote by Dr. Roger Turner (Science History Institute) exploring "Spectroscopy as Cultural Heritage," alongside cutting-edge sessions on data science and machine learning for library matching, non-invasive analysis of modern materials, and advanced pigment degradation studies. Attendees can register for either the in-person event or join virtually. General registration closes September 22, 2026. Learn more and register at winterthur.org/irug16.

ECIG Member of the Month: Alexis Weber

Contributed by the Early Career Interest Group (ECIG)

Introducing our latest member of the month: Alexis Weber. Alexis will be one of the speakers for ECIG's career panel session at SciX 2026!



Alexis Weber

Field Application Scientist
PerkinElmer
Years at SAS: 7

THE BIGGEST BENEFIT OF SAS MEMBERSHIP?

“The ability to volunteer and build your network at different conferences.”

CHILDHOOD DREAM JOB?

“Forensic scientist at the FBI or run the Trace Evidence section of a crime lab ”

WHAT MADE ME FALL IN LOVE WITH SPECTROSCOPY?

“My undergraduate forensic analytical classes, it felt like I was solving a puzzle every time I was working with spectroscopy equipment.”

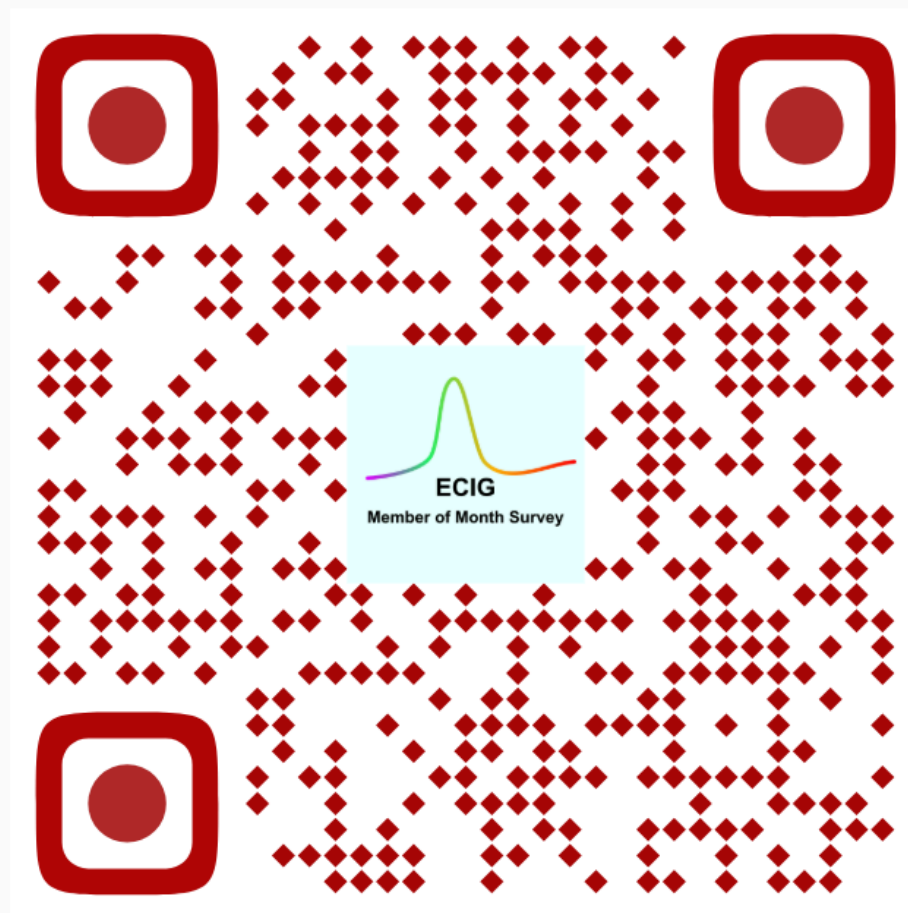
FAVORITE PART OF MY JOB?

“I love being able to travel for my job, I enjoy learning and I get to see so many different applications for spectroscopy around the US. My day-to-day life is different every day so I never get bored. ”

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

“Alma Levant Hayden! She was one of the first African-American women to gain a scientist position at a science agency in Washington, D.C. at the NIH!! And she became the Chief of the Spectrophotometer Research Branch in the Division of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It is just so deeply impressive.”

Would you like to be featured as the ECIG Member of the Month? If so, please complete our [short online survey](#) by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code below.



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]"
