

June 2026 Newsletter

Highlights of the Spring 2026 Governing Board Meeting
Contributed by John Wasylyk

The Spring 2026 Governing Board meeting ran as smoothly as ever, especially considering the extensive list of reports on the agenda. These reports covered the work of many committees that oversee everything from membership to the status of our journals. I would like to bring your attention to a few highlights from the meeting.

For *Applied Spectroscopy*, Editor-in-Chief Karl Booksh has appointed Benjamin Manard as a new editor. Following Richard Crocombe's official resignation from *Applied Spectroscopy Practica*, the journal's new Editor-in-Chief, Mary Kate Donais, has named Xiaoyun "Shawn" Chen and Mustafa Culha as two new editors on her team. Both journal reports indicated a slight uptick in submissions for 2026, although it is still early in the year. Our publisher, SAGE, also provided valuable statistics on submission sources, review timelines, final acceptance, and ways to increase submissions, expedite the review process, and gain readership. Like many professional journals across the sciences, both SAS journals are navigating a broader decrease in academic publishing activity. SAS members are encouraged to submit manuscripts to our journals and to encourage colleagues outside of SAS to do the same.

The Awards Committee, along with committees such as the Fellows Committee, provided updates on the many awards SAS offers each year. These awards have been highlighted on the SAS website, in newsletters, and through eblasts. Please take the time to review the announcements and congratulate the many recipients.

The first Peter Griffiths Award will be presented at SciX 2026 in Sparks, Nevada. The following Peter Griffiths Award will be presented at Pittcon 2027, during the conference's 70th anniversary celebration in Pittsburgh, the city where Pittcon began. This is especially fitting given Peter's work involving spectroscopy and chromatographic techniques, as well as their applications in the commercial market.

On the marketing front, Ellen Miseo has been doing double, and sometimes triple, duty. SpecAcademy, developed in conjunction with MJH, was announced at Pittcon 2026, with an official launch and website nearing completion. A series of courses is ready, covering introductions to vibrational spectroscopy, general interest topics, and data analysis. The list of future courses is extensive.

The newly named SAS Distinguished Spectroscopist Invited Lecture, formerly known as the Tour Speaker Series, began in March with Mary Kate Donais, who spoke on the application of portable spectrometers in the characterization of archaeological and cultural heritage materials. The next lecture will feature Igor Lednev on 18 June at 12 noon. Be sure to mark your calendars, as we all know Igor will give an exciting lecture.

Alexis Weber and Michael George are working on a strategic plan to take SAS into the future by expanding our membership and ensuring that we continue to provide the best value to our members. They are taking a tactical approach to identify, target, and track what SAS has to offer and where impactful improvements are needed.

Gloria Story reported on the new quarterly Literature Newsletter, which will focus on specific topics from our two journals. This initiative will bring together related high-impact articles with the goal of benefiting current members while also reaching future members.

A quick note on the financial status of SAS: like many societies, we are challenged by the changing landscape of advertising and increases in general costs. Our strength is in our members, our journals, and our networking opportunities. New initiatives such as SpecAcademy, the SAS Distinguished Spectroscopist Invited Lecture, and the Literature Newsletter will help expand our reach, attract new members, and generate funds. In the last few years, we have kept a very watchful eye on our budget and made adjustments as needed. We will continue to be innovative in our approach, just as we are in our scientific endeavors.

The meeting ended with a serious discussion about transparency within the Society and ways to ensure that all members feel they are part of SAS. Much of this involves opening up meetings so more voices can be heard, while also avoiding marathon events. We are looking at best practices from other organizations to improve how we communicate with and engage our members.

On another important note, the issue of privacy has been brought to our attention. The Society has begun evaluating and strengthening its approach to member privacy. A new privacy document is being developed to safeguard members' personal information and follow guidelines set by the General Data Protection Regulation.

"The best way to predict our future is to create it."

Peter Drucker.

SAS Awards and Fellows
Contributed by John Wasylyk

For years, the Society for Applied Spectroscopy has offered a number of awards in recognition of the time and dedication that members put into making our Society the very best it can be. As described in the April newsletter, **John Chalmers** and **Geoffrey Coleman** were recognized as our newest [Emeritus SAS Membership Awardees](#), while **Jürgen Popp**, **Mike Carrabba**, and **Heidi Goenaga-Infante** were recognized as [Honorary SAS Membership Award recipients](#).

Another key award we wish to highlight in this newsletter is the SAS Fellows Award, a lifetime honor within the Society. This award recognizes sustained excellence and leadership in spectroscopy by members who have helped shape the direction of the field through research, innovation, and service to the Society.

This year, five members are being recognized as SAS Fellows: **Derek Quarles**, **Benjamin Manard**, **Carol Korzeniewski**, **Siva Umapathy**, and **Suresh Kumar Kailasa**. Details on each Fellow Awardee have been published on the [SAS website](#).

As we enter the summer season and find time to catch up on our reading, we should also begin to consider who our next awardees might be. There is no reason why any member of the Society cannot suggest potential candidates for SAS awards, including Fellows, Honorary Membership, Emeritus Membership, and others. Our Policies and Procedures list the awards and provide details on which groups oversee and approve them, as well as the relevant nomination deadlines.

A number of award nomination deadlines are on 1 December. The timing works well, as many of our members gather at SciX, where we can hear directly about the tremendous work our members contribute to science and to the Society. This also brings up another important point: consider joining the Awards Committee, or any other SAS committee, to have your voice heard and contribute to the betterment of the Society.

Our strength is in our membership, and as a volunteer organization, we are always looking for members to bring new ideas to the table. If you decide to volunteer for a committee and do not hear back in a reasonable amount of time, please remind us. Emails and names can sometimes get lost in the shuffle as we all balance work, life, and the Society.

Finally, thank you to all those who have worked behind the scenes to nominate and select our award winners. Maybe we should have an award to recognize them!

SAS Members to be Recognized at EAS 2026
Contributed by Richard Crocombe

Two SAS members will be recognized with awards at the Eastern Analytical Symposium later this year.

Professor Brooke Kammrath of the University of New Haven will receive the EAS Award for Outstanding Achievements in Vibrational Spectroscopy.

Dr. Richard Crocombe of Crocombe Spectroscopic Consulting, LLC, will receive the NY/NJ Section of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy Gold Medal Award.

The 2026 EAS awards will be presented during a special award session on 17 November 2026, as part of the Eastern Analytical Symposium and Exposition in Plainsboro, New Jersey. Congratulations to Brooke and Richard on these well-deserved honors.

Kevin Wilkinson Receives the 2026 Lester W. Strock Award
Contributed by Steven Ray

The International Atomic Spectrometry Association and the New England Section of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy are pleased to announce **Professor Kevin Wilkinson** of the Université de Montréal as the 2026 recipient of the Lester W. Strock Award.

The award recognizes a selected publication involving substantive research in, or application of, analytical atomic spectrochemistry in the fields of earth science, life sciences, or stellar and cosmic sciences.

Professor Wilkinson is a Professor in Environmental Chemistry at the Université de Montréal. His research focuses on gaining a molecular-level understanding of contaminant bioavailability and mobility, especially for colloidal particles and trace metals in water, air, soils, and biota. He has established a world-class laboratory at UdeM that uses advanced analytical infrastructure to study complex environmental problems.

Wilkinson has authored more than 200 publications, has received more than 17,000 citations, and has an h-index of 72. He serves as Associate Editor for *Environmental Chemistry and Environmental Science: Nano*. In 2018, his research was recognized by the Canadian Institute of Chemistry with the Dima Environmental Research Award.

Professor Wilkinson will receive the award at the 2026 SciX Conference in Sparks, Nevada, where he will deliver a keynote lecture and organize a special awards symposium. Please join us in celebrating this remarkable achievement and his continued contributions to advancing scientific understanding and innovation.

2028 Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry
Contributed by Steven Ray

The International Atomic Spectrometry Association has announced that the 2028 Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry will be held from **7 to 13 January 2028** at the Hilton Beachfront Resort and Spa on Hilton Head Island.

The scientific program will include a full week of plenary, invited, contributed, and heritage talks, along with posters, short courses, awards, user meetings, a large instrument and scientific exhibition, and member receptions. The conference venue is located directly on the beach and offers access to resort amenities, golf, tennis, bike riding on the beach, offshore fishing, and opportunities for day trips. Additional information is available through IASA, with announcements about exhibitor sign-up, early-bird registration, and short course availability expected over the coming year.

ECIG Member of the Month: Benjamin Manard
Contributed by the Early Career Interest Group (ECIG)

Introducing our latest member of the month: Benjamin Manard from Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Ben will be participating in ECIG's planned career panel session at SciX 2026!



Benjamin T. Manard
Senior Scientist
Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Years at SAS: 16

THE BIGGEST BENEFIT OF SAS MEMBERSHIP?

"Networking, including scientific collaborations, mentors, and friends."

CHILDHOOD DREAM JOB?

"Meteorologist."

WHAT MADE ME FALL IN LOVE WITH SPECTROSCOPY?

"Data. Being able to collect data and use it to solve problems / help others solve problems."

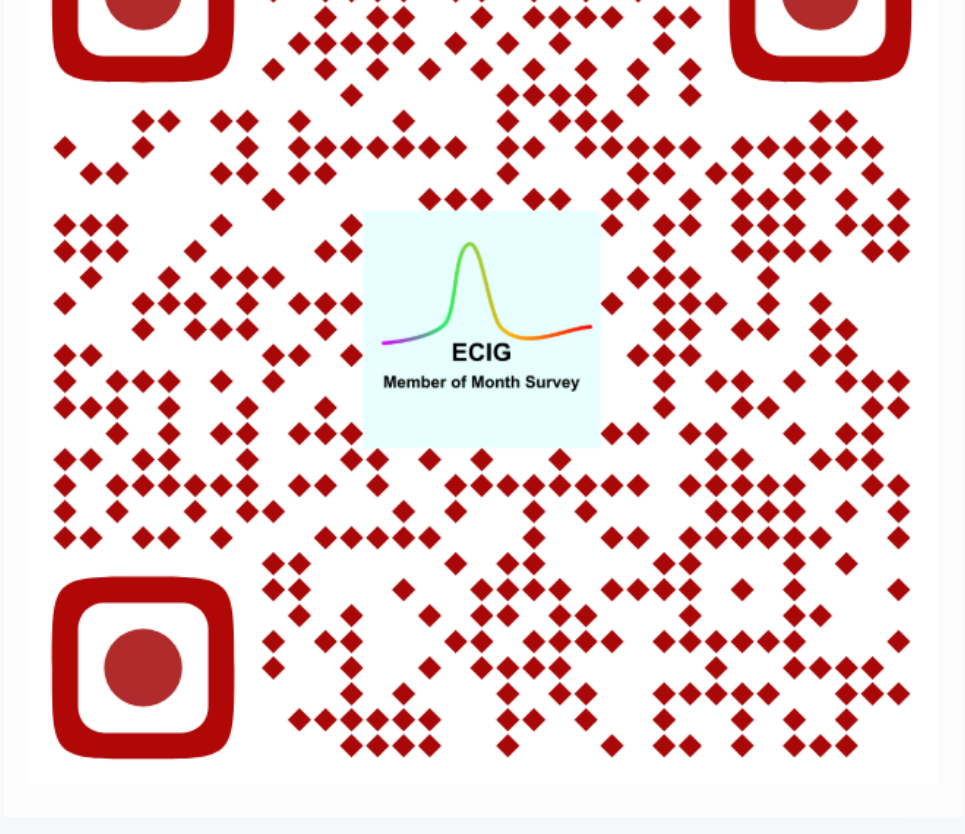
FAVORITE PART OF MY JOB?

"Using analytical atomic spectrometry to tackle challenging problems in diverse application spaces. It's fun going from measuring trace elements in spores one day, to biodiesel the next, to nuclear materials the following."

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

"Alvin Weinberg - he first coined "Big Science" and known for his quote "Good people from diverse fields working together can make discoveries that would be denied to a genius working alone" - He really shaped the National Laboratory System."

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]"