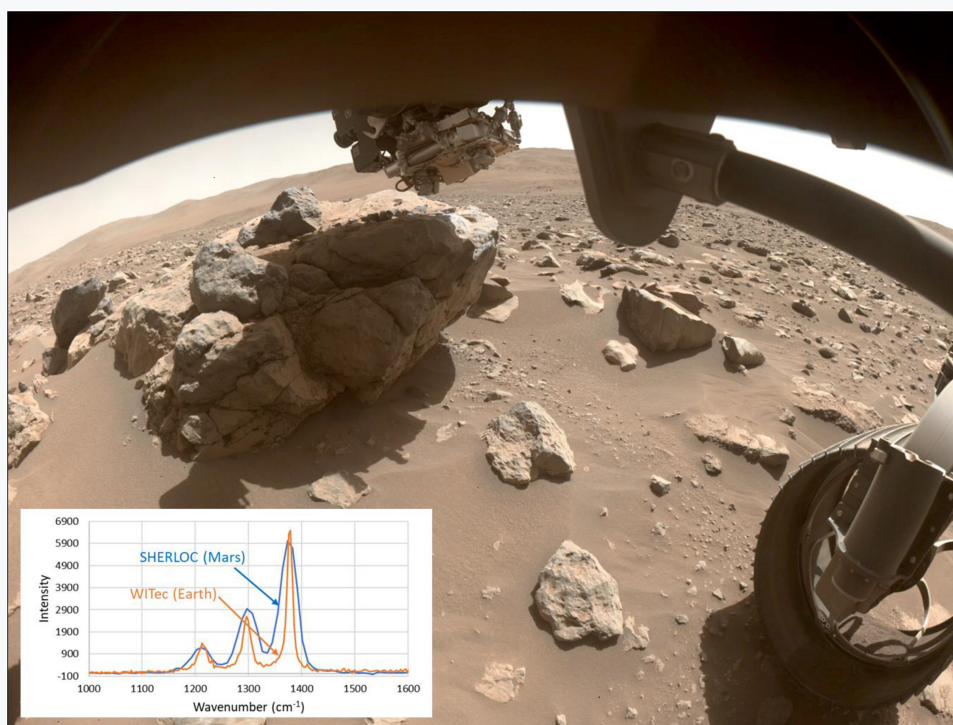


May 2026 Newsletter

Meggers Award Winner: Ryan Jakubek, lead author of the 2025 top publication in Applied Spectroscopy

Contributed by John Wasylyk

The Society for Applied Spectroscopy and our Journal, Applied Spectroscopy, are pleased to announce Ryan Jakubek as the 2026 Meggers Award winner for the publication '[Calibration of Raman Bandwidths on the Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals \(SHERLOC\) Deep Ultraviolet Raman and Fluorescence Instrument Aboard the Perseverance Rover](#)' published in June of 2025. Ryan and co-authors were selected as the top publication in Applied Spectroscopy in 2025 and will receive their award at SciX 2026 in Sparks, Nevada this October.



At the conference, Ryan will deliver a talk covering recent work developing novel data processing techniques utilized to extract as much information as possible from Martian SHERLOC data with detailed discussion on the topic of calibrating SHERLOC bandwidths. Bandwidth calibration has enabled deconvolution of the SHERLOC Raman intrinsic bandwidths, separating the effects of instrument artifacts. This allows for Raman bandwidths to be directly correlated to sample properties and compared between SHERLOC and terrestrial analogue instruments. The abstract for the presentation will be available on the SciX 2026 website and the SAS website.



Ryan Jakubek received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh in 2019 under the advisement of Dr. Sanford A. Asher. His doctoral research focused on using Raman spectroscopy to study polyglutamine protein misfolding and its relationship to neurodegenerative diseases. Upon graduation, Ryan joined Jacobs Technology (now Amentum Technology) as a contract scientist in the Curation Department at NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC). At JSC, he applies Raman spectroscopy in support of NASA's Astromaterials Acquisition and Curation Office and conducts research across a wide range of planetary science topics. These include the characterization of meteoritic organic carbon, investigations of lunar icy regolith, development of Raman instrumentation and data-processing techniques, and support of the SHERLOC deep-UV Raman and fluorescence instrument aboard the Perseverance rover. His work on SHERLOC includes ground-truthing flight data using a terrestrial analog instrument and developing analytical and data-processing methods to maximize the scientific return from Raman data acquired on Mars. We hope to see you at SciX2026 and Ryan and his team are recognized as the 2026 Meggers Award recipients.



ECIG 2026 Travel Grants

Contributed by the Early Career Interest Group (ECIG)

It's quickly approaching that time of year when the SAS-ECIG offers Early Career members the opportunity to apply for travel grants. These awards are only available to current members of the SAS who are also Early Career members and are preparing to present their research at a conference before the end of 2026. If you are an Early Career member, click [here](#) for application and eligibility details.

ECIG Member of the Month: Mahesh Dobariya

Contributed by the Early Career Interest Group (ECIG)



Mahesh Dobariya

Analytical Development Scientist
Aspire Pharmaceuticals

Years at SAS: 1

THE BIGGEST BENEFIT OF SAS MEMBERSHIP?

"It brings all the education related to spectroscopy into one place"

CHILDHOOD DREAM JOB?

"Always a scientist"

WHAT MADE ME FALL IN LOVE WITH SPECTROSCOPY?

"Its application as a unique approach for determination."

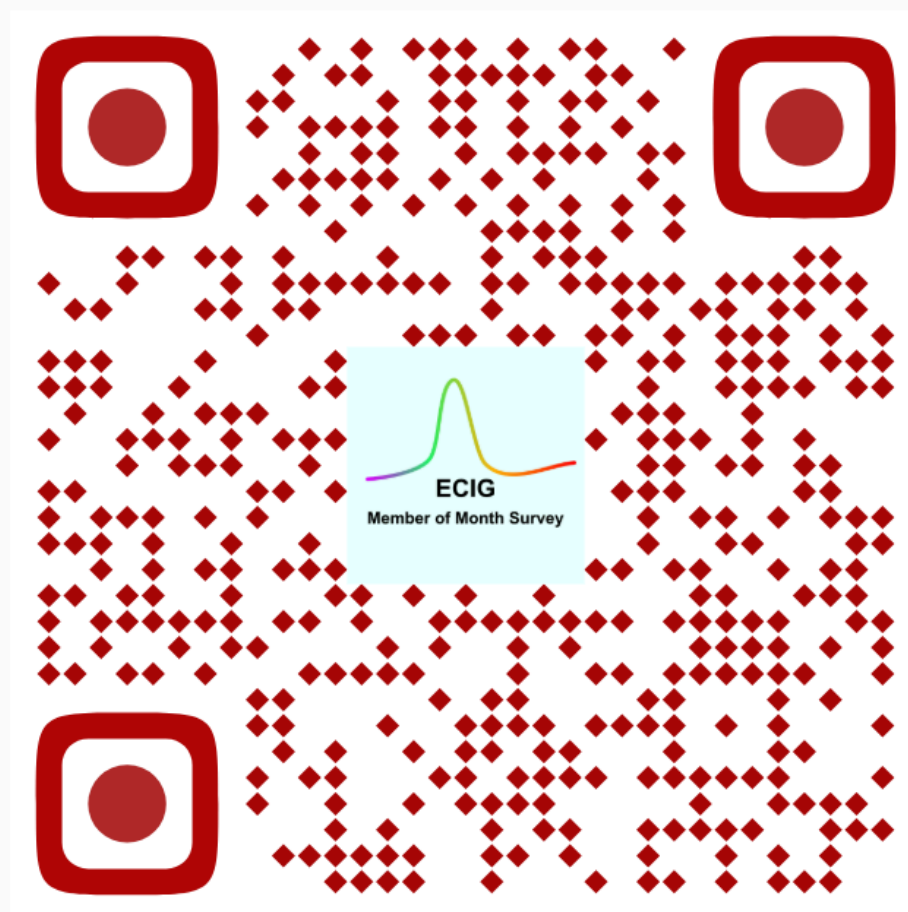
FAVORITE PART OF MY JOB?

"Identify the root cause with the utilization of different aspects of analytical techniques."

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

"Nikola Tesla to discuss his revolutionary work on electrical systems.."

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.



The 5th Annual New York Capital Region (NYCR) SAS Symposium

Contributed by Jared Viggers, NYCR Chapter President

The 5th Annual NYCR SAS Symposium was a great success this year! Dr. Glen Jackson and Dr. Brooke Kammrath and all the student participants gave excellent presentations. Congratulations to Jacob Aubrey and Amanda Thompson both from RPI for winning first place for the best oral presentation and best poster presentation respectively.

Thank you to the NYCR SAS Student Chapter Executive Board: Jared Viggers, Cody Silverman, Carlos Nogales and Savanna Ward Grip, for their hard work and effort to putting this symposium together! Thank you to the sponsors as well for backing the event and we look forward to next year's symposium!



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]"
