

# SOCIETY FOR APPLIED SPECTROSCOPY

January 2025 Newsletter



## **Cleveland Section May 2025 Conference**

The Microscopy Society of Northeastern Ohio (MSNO) jointly with the Society of Applied Spectroscopy (SAS) – Cleveland Section, the Akron Council of Engineering and Scientific Societies (ACCESS), and American Chemical Society (ACS) – Akron Section will be hosting the 67th annual May Conference.

Please save the date for **21 May 2025 at John Carroll University**.

We are excited to announce that the keynote speaker is Dr. Larry Drummy, who does research at the Air Force Research Laboratory. We are looking forward to several invited speakers spanning biology to physical sciences as well as vendors who are involved in microscopy and spectroscopy. Please check out our website [here](#) which will include more details in early 2025.

Contributed by Coleen McFarland

# SAVE THE DATE

## THE 67<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MAY CONFERENCE

*Jointly hosted by the Society of Applied Spectroscopy - Cleveland Section, the Microscopy Society of Northeastern Ohio (MSNO), the Akron Council of Engineering and Scientific Societies (ACCESS), and American Chemical Society (ACS) - Akron Section*



**WEDNESDAY  
MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>**



**KEYNOTE FROM  
DR. LARRY DRUMMY-  
AIR FORCE RESEARCH  
LABORATORY**



For More Information  
<https://www.msneo.org/>



### **New York/New Jersey SAS Gold Medal Award Program: 2024 Honoree Dr. Mark Witkowski, FDA**

The Gold Medal Award was established in 1952 to recognize outstanding contributions to the field of Applied Spectroscopy and continues to be presented at a special award symposium at the Eastern Analytical Symposium (EAS). To provide context for this coveted award, the first awardee was Dr. William F. Meggers in 1952, and in the following year, the award was given to Dr. William W. Coblentz. Over the years, the award program has continued to honor leading spectroscopists who have contributed to the advancement of this science and who have had an inspiring influence on the careers of others. A link to see the Gold Medal Award winners over the past 72 years can be found on the SAS website or [here](#).

This year, the NY/NJ Section of SAS is pleased to announce that the 2024 Gold Medal recipient is **Dr. Mark Witkowski** from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dr. Witkowski received a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry under the direction of Dr. William G. Fateley from Kansas State University. At Warner-Lambert, he was responsible for the analysis of suspect counterfeit pharmaceutical products and established near-infrared (NIR) technology to routinely identify over 100 different pharmaceutical materials. In 2000, he joined the FDA and is currently in the Trace Examination Section of the FDA's Forensic Chemistry Center (FCC). Dr. Witkowski represents the FDA, both internally and externally as an expert in vibrational spectroscopy, optical microscopy, and field deployable instrumentation and evaluates novel technologies and methods. As a recognized expert, he is regularly called to testify in court at the local and federal level.

The Gold Medal Award symposium was held at EAS on 19 November. The topic for this symposium was “Applied Spectroscopy and How It Is Used Throughout the FDA to Protect Public Health.” All of the invited speakers were from the FDA, and each speaker spoke on different applications of spectroscopy within their respective departments:

“Using Alternate Light Sources to See the Unseen”

*Speaker:* Mark Witkowski, NY/NJ SAS Gold Medal Awardee Presentation

“Advancing Food and Dietary Supplement Safety with 15 Years of Spectroscopic Methods at FDA/CFSAN”

*Speaker:* Betsy Yakes

“Pharma in Focus: Spectroscopic Imaging for Physicochemical Insights”

*Speaker:* Daniel Willett

“Analysis of Unknown (Unlabeled/Mislabeled) Drug Products for Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients at Remote Sampling Sites by FDA’s Satellite Laboratory Program”

*Speaker:* Adam Lanzarotta

Nominations for the 2025 NY/NJ SAS Gold Medal are being accepted. The award symposium will be held at the Eastern Analytical Symposium (17-19 November). Submit nominating letter(s), a biographical sketch, and a list of publications by **15 February**. Nominations can be uploaded directly on the [SAS website](#). For more information about the Gold Medal Award Program click, [SAS Awards](#).

Contributed by Deborah A. Peru (NY/NJ SAS Secretary) and Dana Garcia (NY/NJ SAS Chair Elect)



Dr. Mark Witkowski was awarded the 2024 Gold Medal from the New York/New Jersey SAS Section

**Happy New Year from the Early Career Interest Group!**



Contributed by Anthony Stender, Early Career Interest Group (ECIG)

### **Changes to Advertising Sales**

The Society for Applied Spectroscopy (SAS) and MJH Life Sciences, publisher of *Spectroscopy* magazine, are expanding their long-standing partnership. Building on our history of virtual symposia collaborations, MJH will begin managing SAS advertising sales in 2025, transitioning from Ed MacMillan as he retires. MJH will have responsibility for advertising sales for the *Practica* flipbook, email marketing, and Corporate Partnerships. MJH's established industry relationships we expect to maintain advertiser continuity and grow our corporate partnership program. With their marketing and sales expertise, this partnership promises new revenue opportunities and capabilities to advance several long-term Society projects.

Contributed by Adam Hopkins



### **Virtual Student Slam 2025**

Each Graduate Student will provide a three (3) minute synopsis of their research to be followed by a 30-minute Q&A session. Topics range from *Analysis of Automotive Paint Smears* to *Understanding Titan's Minerals* to *Single Molecule Detection*, all using various types of spectroscopy. Speakers are from Graduate Programs in the United States and Europe and is held completely virtual.

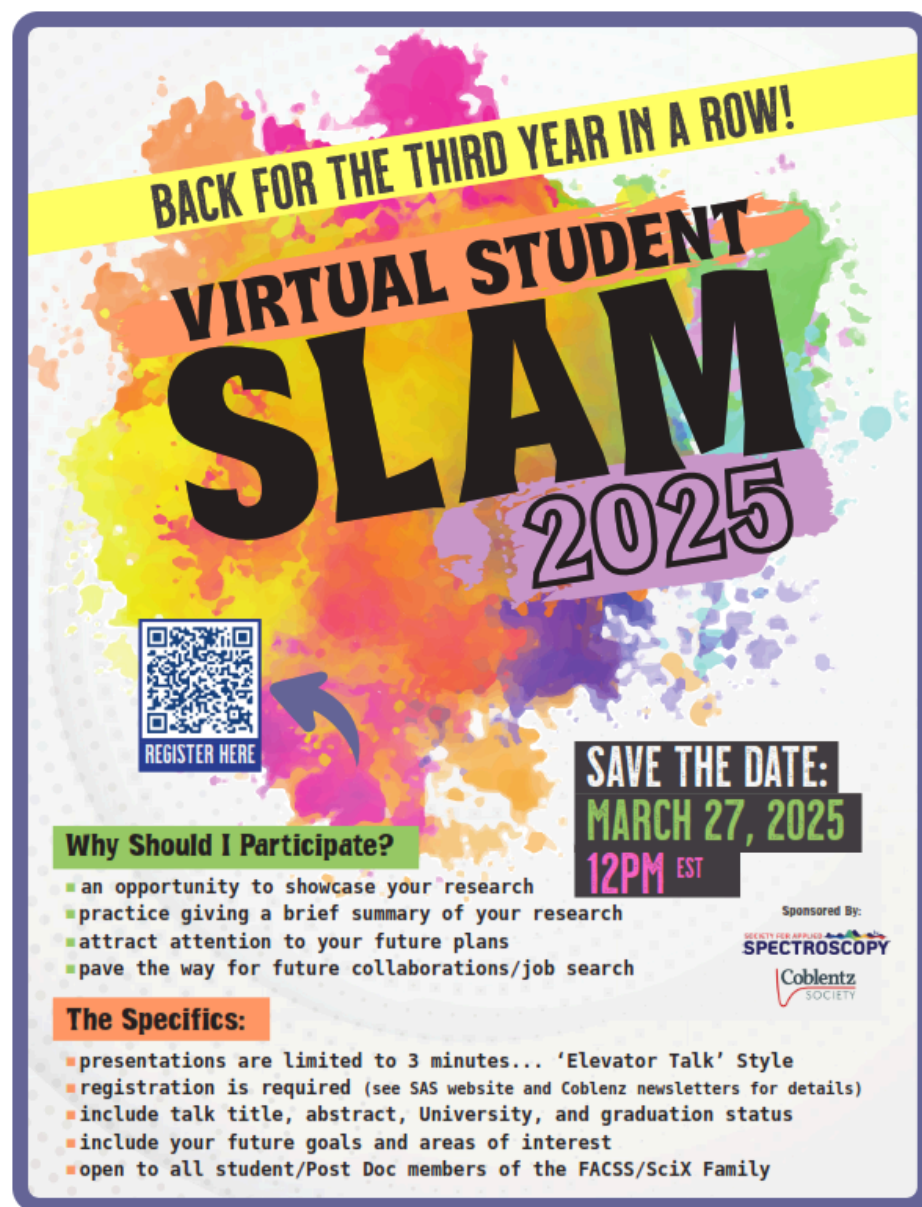
Join us 27 March 2025 at 12:00 PM EST. The event is free to attend.

Register by 1 March 2025 [here](#) or use the QR code in the flyer below.




Sponsored by the Coblenz Society, the New England Regional Section of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy, Cleveland Section of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy, and the New York Regional Section of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy

Angela Gordon and John Wasylyk



**BACK FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW!**

# VIRTUAL STUDENT SLAM 2025

  
REGISTER HERE

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**MARCH 27, 2025**  
**12PM EST**

Sponsored By:  
**SPECTROSCOPY**  
Coblenz SOCIETY

**Why Should I Participate?**

- an opportunity to showcase your research
- practice giving a brief summary of your research
- attract attention to your future plans
- pave the way for future collaborations/job search

**The Specifics:**

- presentations are limited to 3 minutes... 'Elevator Talk' Style
- registration is required (see SAS website and Coblenz newsletters for details)
- include talk title, abstract, University, and graduation status
- include your future goals and areas of interest
- open to all student/Post Doc members of the FACSS/SciX Family