



## Editor's Note: An Introduction

At the time of my writing, I am sitting on my pool deck, sipping a not-so-piping hot cup of methylxanthine alkaloid extract most spectroscopists down by the gallon through the rigors of graduate school and our careers. The lyrics of Bing Crosby's *Mele Kalikimaka* (literally a translation of "Merry Christmas" into Hawaiian), come to mind,

*That's the island greeting that we send to you from the land where palm trees sway  
Here we know that Christmas will be green and bright  
The sun to shine by day and all the stars at night.*

Appropriate for Christmas and the New Year here in the sunshine state of Florida as well: The sun is out, the palm trees are swaying, and the closest hint of snow is approximately 900 miles away.

The SAS readership prepares to close out the 2019 calendar year and gears up for the endeavors that 2020 will bring once the clock strikes midnight on December 31, 2019. SAS volunteers, find the time off from business life as a valuable time to catch up on our Society duties we've put off since we were tasked with them at SciX 2019 (I can hear both the chuckles and laments in those volunteers reading this currently!).

For myself, this baton of steering the SAS Newsletter starting in 2020 is both one I accept with joy, excitement, honor, and a dash of anxiety wondering to myself, "How did I manage to rope myself into another volunteer effort?" My inner dialogue replies instantly, "Give what you have been given. A young spectroscopist out there reading this Newsletter needs to know that an older, more experienced spectroscopist wants them to succeed, persevere through school, and excel at their future career."

This is why I stepped up to the challenge of being the SAS Newsletter Editor. Once upon a time, I was the bright-eyed, driven, aspiration-seeking graduate student who wanted to know that someone cared about my professional development. SAS injected that into my life, and I would not be the professional spectroscopist I am today without those precious, compassionate, and insightful spectroscopists who volunteered their time and efforts to SAS. For those young spectroscopists reading this, know that you are welcome to reach out to me for whatever you need answered. Perhaps your question might spur a Newsletter article, because, often, you're not the only person who has this question. Shawn Chen took much pride in making the Newsletter relevant and insightful for *young* and older spectroscopists as well, and my hope is to continue this effort.

Some reading may wonder what I do besides volunteer for SAS? I also volunteer for the Coblentz Society (a technical section of SAS) as our Secretary and serve as a chair for the *Next-Generation Spectroscopic Technologies* conference that takes place at the SPIE.DCS meeting each spring. To keep a roof over my head, I am a Senior Research and Development Chemist at Field Forensics, Inc., interfacing with our diverse customer base and accomplishing many tasks that I cannot publish in peer-reviewed journals. When I'm not on the phone, emailing, or traveling for work or toiling as a volunteer, I spend time with my husband (not a spectroscopist, but he could probably give you a decent explanation of spectroscopy) and my three intelligent, loquacious, energetic kids ages 7, 5, and 3, who all have a love for nature, Lego, and Star Wars. That spare time is also spent doing stuff like powerlifting, running, swimming, crocheting, camping, reading, volunteering for my daughter's Girl Scout troop, and of course, cooking.

In short, I keep myself busy, but I am always interested in hearing suggestions to keep the SAS Newsletter modern and pertinent to our *Applied Spectroscopy* readership each month!

*Contributed by Luisa T.M. Profeta*  
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## Updates on SAS-Organized Symposia at PITTCON 2020 in Chicago

The Symposium "Smartphone Spectroscopy for Analyses and Assays in Low Resource Areas" will take place on the Monday afternoon of the Conference (March 2, 2020).

The Symposium "Portable Spectroscopy in 2020" will take place on the Tuesday afternoon of the Conference (March 3, 2020). Both sessions will start at 1:30pm.

Unfortunately, Debbie (Schatzlein) Griggs has had to withdraw from the Symposium because of illness. Her place, discussing the state-of-the-art in portable elemental spectroscopy, will be taken by Amy Bauer from TSI.

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## Applied Spectroscopy Talks at SPIE.DCS

SPIE will be holding the "Next-Generation Spectroscopic Technologies XIII" Conference from April 27–30, 2020 in Anaheim, California, as part of the broader SPIE Defense and Security Conference (SPIE.DCS). This Conference provides a venue for a range of innovative spectroscopic developments including portable and handheld technologies, THz spectroscopy, and CBRNE detection systems. The broader SPIE Meeting includes a wide range of spectroscopic-related presentations with information on innovative fields of measurement science.

This year the NGST conference will have two different joint sessions with the CBRNE Sensing (Tuesday afternoon) and the Micro- and Nanotechnology Sensors, Systems, and Applications conferences (Thursday morning). All SAS members are invited to attend this compelling conference and to consider submitting abstracts for the 2021 conference to be held in Orlando, Florida.

For details of the accepted talks, please visit the conference page:  
<https://spie.org/SI/conferencedetails/next-generation-spectroscopic-technologies?webstatus=f>

*Contributed by Steve M. Barnett and Luisa T.M. Profeta  
Conference Chairs, Next Generation Spectroscopic  
Technologies XIII Conference*

## Tip of the Month: Double Stick Tape for ATR Analysis

Have you ever tried to collect a spectrum of a sample using ATR and as you apply pressure to the sample, it shoots out from under the clamp and fly across the room? Or tried to run a transmission spectrum of a thin film and not had a good holder? Double stick tape is our friend!

When you have an irregularly shaped sample, it is sometimes hard to apply pressure with an ATR clamp. The problem is not that you can't apply pressure, but that the sample slips. ATR vendors sometimes provide a conical tip for the pressure clamp but if your ATR does not have a tip like that, put a piece of double stick tape on the clamp. As you apply pressure, the tape will hold the sample in place until the clamp pressure takes over, saving you from hunting for that small sample.

For the film, you can use the tape to adhere the sample to any type of holder that will fit into the sample slide. Make the sample taut in your make-shift holder and you are ready to collect a spectrum.

In all these cases you should be careful not to get the tape in the optical path. And it is good practice to get a spectrum of the tape and adhesive, so you don't wind up interpreting the spectrum of the tape accidentally.

*Have a spectroscopy tip that our readership would appreciate? Submit it to the Newsletter and be credited for your contribution!*

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**Do you have something spectroscopy-related you want to discuss in the newsletter?  
Or something that will help our membership such as career tips or application tips?  
Please let us know by emailing [luisaprofeta@gmail.com](mailto:luisaprofeta@gmail.com).**

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