



Editor's Note

Once this newsletter goes to print, Pittcon will have come and gone. Our SAS membership will likely be in the midst of submissions for SciX 2020 in Sparks, Nevada. We hope our readership will thoughtfully consider submitting an abstract or two to make SciX 2020 the best one yet! As always, feel free to reach out to me with any news you are interested in sharing with the SAS membership.

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SAS and Coblenz Seeks New Volunteers for Education Committees

SAS and the Coblenz Society (a technical affiliate of SAS) are both seeking volunteers for their respective Education Committees. Both societies would appreciate folks with technical expertise in Raman spectroscopy to serve on the committee to round out the vibrational spectroscopy expertise already on the committees. If interested, please contact Ellen Miseo.




Contributed by Ellen Miseo
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IRDG Christmas Meeting 2019

I was lucky enough to be in London for the 2019 Infrared and Raman Discussion Group (IRDG) Christmas meeting. The IRDG (<http://www.irdg.org/>) in the UK is in many respects a sister organization to SAS and the Coblenz Society. It was founded in 1950, and is an active FACSS member, organizing sessions at SciX. The current IRDG chair is Karen Faulds (University of Strathclyde).

The IRDG traditionally has an all-day Christmas meeting, attracting a large (~150 people) attendance, and was held this year at University College, London (UCL). It increasingly attracts speakers and attendees from outside the UK, with the largest international contingents this year coming from Austria (led by Bernhard Lendl) and the US. SAS was well represented in terms of both attendees and speakers (Curt Marcott, Fay Nicholson, Andrew Whitley), with Sergei Kazarian, the editor-in-chief of Applied Spectroscopy, also being present, one of Sergei's former post-docs speaking, and many familiar faces from SciX meetings.

The talks covered a broad range of topics, from the latest in simultaneous micro-infrared/micro-Raman instrumentation and applications, through a variety of biological and biomedical studies, the life of a "museum spectroscopist" at the Victoria and Albert, to green photochemistry and reaction monitoring.



**Infrared and Raman Discussion Group Meeting
Christmas 2019**

Programme for the 225th IRDG meeting to be held on Thursday 19th December 2019.
University College London in the Wilkins Old Refectory
(Use Gower Street entrance - <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/irmpa/downloads/ucl-central-london.jpeg>)

10:00	Registration and Coffee <i>Wilkins South Cloisters</i>
10:25	Welcome and Introduction
10:30	Keynote Lecture - Curt Marcott (Light Light Solutions, USA) <i>Simultaneous Raman and Optical Photothermal IR Spectroscopy at Submicron Spatial Resolution</i>
11:00	Fay Nicholson (Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, USA) <i>Non-Invasive In Vivo Imaging of Cancer Using Surface Enhanced Spatially Offset Raman Spectroscopy</i>
11:20	Francesca Palombo (Exeter University, UK) <i>Evaluating the Micromechanical Signatures of Collagen Hydrogels as Tissue Phantoms</i>
11:40	Martin & Willis Prize winning lecture - Laura Moran (Exeter University, UK) <i>Using Astrophysics to Improve Breast Cancer Detection</i>
12:00	Lucia Burgio (Victoria and Albert Museum, University College London, UK) <i>Have You Ever Wondered What a Museum Scientist Does?</i>
12:30	Christmas Lunch <i>Four Course Christmas Lunch</i>
14:50	Keynote Lecture - Andrew Whitley (HORIBA Scientific, USA) <i>Cinderella and the Beanstalk – A Not So Raman Story</i>
15:20	Mike George (Nottingham University, UK) <i>Towards Greener Photochemistry</i>
15:40	IRDG AGM
16:00	Poster Session <i>Wilkins South Cloisters for Scientific Discussion, Drinks and Nibbles</i>
18:00	End

The luncheon is known to be good, with Christmas Crackers (hence the funny hats), wine freely available, and so the "after-lunch" slot has tended to be somewhat lighthearted to stave off soporific tendencies. This year, that talk was given by Andrew Whitley, supported by Scott Rudder and Fay Nicholson.

The Thespians: Andrew, Fay, and Scott

For readers unfamiliar with the British holiday "pantomime" tradition, it would take too much space to try to explain it. Suffice it to say that the theme was "Jack and the Beanstalk", with Andrew appearing as Dame Lumpydaws, Scott as Jack, and Fay as Cinderella. Pavel Matousek and Mike George had cameos as the evil tax collector and the giant, respectively. Nonetheless, there was scientific content during Andrew's talk, including the reproduction of letters written by Sir C.V. Raman to the instrument company, Spex in 1966, when Spex was in its tenth year of producing one of the first instrument company technical newsletters, the "[SPEX Speaker](#)". That issue focused on the then new field of laser Raman spectroscopy.



The winner of the 2019 Norman Sheppard Award was Professor Howell Edwards (University of Bradford), a long-time prolific Raman spectroscopist, who has worked on applications as varied as art conservation and development of spectroscopic instrumentation for Mars rovers. Tragically, Professor Edwards' wife passed away suddenly just before the meeting and so he was unable to attend. His former graduate student, Ian Lewis, accepted the Award on his behalf and gave a brief summary of Professor Edwards' career and academic lineage.

Finally, Professor Roy Goodacre gave an overview of the [Spring SciX meeting](#), to be held at the University of Liverpool in April 2020.



As I wrote last year, if any SAS or Coblenz Society members are in London around mid-December, then going to this meeting is highly recommended, both for its scientific and social content!

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SAS Represented at the 2020 Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry

SAS Member Htoo Paing staffed the SAS booth at the 2020 Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry during the week of 12–18 January 2020 in Tucson, Arizona.



**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.**

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