

# SAS SPECTRUM eNEWS

## SAS Sessions for 2019 Pittcon

We are pleased to announce that SAS has had two symposia approved for the 2019 Pittcon! The symposium titles are "New Frontiers and Challenges in Clinical Spectroscopy" and "Current and Emerging Methods for Optical Trace Gas Analysis". Stay tuned for full details of the speakers and presentation titles, which will be announced this fall.

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## Annual election of SAS Officer and Governing Board Delegates

The Annual Election of SAS Officer and Governing Board delegates will be held electronically from June 28–July 29, 2018. All regular, non-student members in good standing are eligible to vote and will receive an email with voting instructions and login information from our online election provider Elections Online. Please check your spam folders for this email if you do not receive it or contact the SAS office at [sasadmin@s-a-s.org](mailto:sasadmin@s-a-s.org) or 301-694-8122.

We have two candidates running for the SAS president: (Richard Crocombe and Fred Haibach, and six candidates running for Governing Board delegates: Michael Blades, Karen Esmonde-White, Linda Kidder-Yarlott, Ellen Miseo, Scott Rudder, and Andrew Whitley. Due to the space limit, only the biographies for the governing board delegates are included in this newsletter.

The following are the election profiles for each candidate for your review.

### **President** **Richard Crocombe**

Richard Crocombe graduated from Oxford University, and the University of Southampton (PhD). He has worked for Bio-Rad/Digilab (lab FT-IR), Axsun Technologies (NIR), Thermo Fisher Scientific (XRF, Raman, FT-IR, NIR), and PerkinElmer (GC-MS), is now an independent consultant.



### **Why should you be elected President?**

I am a long-term member of the society, have been a board member, local section chair, tour speaker, and special issue editor for the Journal. In addition, I've organized a number of conferences, symposia, and sessions at conferences. With that broad perspective and experience, I believe I can move the Society forward. In particular, we still have long-term financial trends operating against us, and my decades of business experience will help address those. We also need to improve the Society's presence and having worked in marketing and business development over my career, I can see the path forward there.

### **What is SAS doing well and why?**

The Journal is obviously the Society's star. It's well-edited, well-produced, and has timely papers. The Focal Point Reviews are very valuable (and I'm in the process of writing one myself!). The advertising revenue is a very important contributor to the Society's balance sheet.

The second major success is participation in scientific conferences, principally FACSS/SciX (and potentially overseas), but also Pittcon and others.

As part of the SciX activities, the Society sponsors a number of awards, and those for early stage spectroscopists are significant in attracting and retaining those young scientists.

### **What does SAS need to do better and how?**

There are a large number of items here: most importantly, generate more income and ensure the long-term financial health of the Society, but also modernize our communications, including significantly higher social media presence; have more topical membership communications; build up our membership; give more value to members who can't attend SciX and other conferences; attempt to revitalize local sections, again for those members whose travel may be limited; improve the website and add more scientific content, including seminars and webinars; look at initiatives for the Journal (e.g., "virtual" topic issues or collections), stabilize, or improve advertising revenues).

### **What initiatives do you hope to pursue?**

In a one-year term (or a three-year involvement as president-elect, president, and past-president), you have to focus on a limited number of targets. As noted above, the long-term financial health of the Society is absolutely critical. The Society has undertaken a number of actions in this area in recent years, and these efforts must continue.

Also, as noted above, we need to improve our member communications and especially service to members whose travel and conference attendance is limited or non-existent.

We need to make the Society, and its web site, the "go to" location for authoritative, practical, and timely spectroscopic information. Why is SAS membership important?

It's important to be a member of an active spectroscopic community, whether you are in academia or in industry, as scientific work has become increasingly collaborative, and you need to have a peer community in which to make those connections. For young researchers, the networking opportunities provided by a group such as SAS and the SciX meeting are invaluable in career development. Hosted social events and poster sessions provide a low-key environment to facilitate those kinds of interactions, and awards, with award sessions, highlight major advances and those who have made them.

### **President Fred Haibach**



I have been a practicing spectroscopist starting in 1991. I have worked with dynamic companies, some small, some large, and using my passion for the field in science, marketing and business development. Analysis, synthesis, and creative thinking are my hallmarks.

### **Why should you be elected President?**

It is an honor to be nominated for President of the SAS. I am proud of the service of SAS officers past and present.

Each President brings new qualities and balance to the Society leadership. I like to think of myself as passionate about Spectroscopy in all of its forms, having some insight into the organization and its objectives, a vision of what the Society should become, a willingness to invest effort into achieving those objectives, the ability to listen to and discuss new ideas, and devise methods of implementing the best ones to further the mission and health of the Society.

### **What is SAS doing well and why?**

The SAS is maintaining its membership and finances. Inwardly focused efforts and sacrifices are commendable and necessary, but are not necessarily apparent to the membership-at-large. We have mechanisms to monitor member engagement. Outwardly, the Society has been effective as a steward of SAS-sponsored sessions at SciX and Pittcon and maintaining the Journal. Local sections are performing needed outreach as well. The Purdue chapter should be congratulated for its recent success. It needs to be acknowledged that there are other partner societies and non-profits that expand this effort.



## What does SAS need to do better and how?

Maintenance is not where the SAS needs to be. Our membership and finances should be growing. The number of practicing spectroscopists is at least an order or two of magnitude greater than our membership. Many of those scientists are not aware of the Society, and when they are, they are not aware of the advantages of being members of our Society. Engaging, enrolling, and keeping more members is a path forward.

## What initiatives do you hope to pursue?

Being a SAS member can be exciting. *Spectroscopists Helping Spectroscopists* is one of those efforts.

First, we need to engage the membership. We need create opportunities to allow those members to demonstrate their passion.

Second, the Society needs to prioritize communication with the broader scientific and technical community outside the Journal.

Third, increase sharing of member successes.

## Why is SAS membership important?

Members should feel fulfilled both professionally and personally. The SAS can be a vehicle for professional advancement and for personal passions. As a volunteer organization, the SAS is what you make it. While we are glad to have paying members, participating is the route to personal satisfaction. That is why I am an active member and seeking to expand my role.

## Governing Board Delegate Candidates

### Michael Blades

Michael Blades is currently a Professor of Chemistry at The University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. He received a BSc from St. Mary's University in 1972, a PhD from the University of Alberta in 1981 working under Dr. Gary Horlick, and he was a postdoctoral fellow in Gary Hieftje's lab in 1980–1981. His research interests are in the general area of bioanalytical chemistry, specifically applications of Raman spectroscopy.



### Karen Esmonde-White

Karen Esmonde-White has served SAS as a member of the Governing Board (2016–current), Awards Committee (2009–2011, chair 2010, 2016–current), Meggers Award Committee (2012), Nominating Committee (2012–2014), Tellers Committee (2013–2014, chair), and is eager to continue serving the Society as a Governing Board member.



### Linda Kidder-Yarlott

After receiving a PhD in chemistry, Dr. Linda Kidder decided that basic research wasn't for her. At her NIH postdoc, she was introduced to molecular spectroscopy and fell in love with instrumentation. She discovered a career *not* on the top 10 list in elementary school—the development, use, and marketing of analytical instrumentation. The rest is history. She is currently strategic product leader–marketing for Shimadzu Scientific.



## Ellen Miseo

Ellen V. Miseo, PhD, is actively involved in the spectroscopy community. In 2015, she served as the president-elect, in 2016 as president and in 2017 as past president of SAS. She is a board member of the Coblentz Society. She is co-running an effort, Spectroscopists Helping Spectroscopists, to help academic spectroscopy in Puerto Rico.



## Scott Rudder

Scott Rudder is VP of marketing and sales for Innovative Photonic Solutions. He has a BS in optics from the University of Rochester and an MS in technology management from the University of Pennsylvania. Scott has >30 years of experience developing high-tech products for defense, security and sensing. He worked for the US Army, Sensors Unlimited, and Princeton Lightwave. Scott co-founded Innovative Photonic Solutions in 2003 to provide laser sources for spectroscopy applications. Scott holds three patents and he continues to innovate and develop new products for the spectroscopy market.



## Andrew Whitley

My career has focused on spectroscopy marketing. I am currently VP of sale and business development at HORIBA in New Jersey. After my PhD at Durham University, I worked for Bruker, Renishaw, and HORIBA. I have authored numerous spectroscopy papers and articles, and I am a regular presenter and session organizer at SciX, plus many other scientific conferences. I am very active with both SAS and SciX, and currently coordinating marketing, including our web modernization, and the 60th anniversary of the Society.



**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 [xchen4@dow.com](mailto:xchen4@dow.com).**

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