SAS Technical Sections

The Society for Applied Spectroscopy has well established local sections that offer members the opportunity to interact. More recently, the Society has established technical sections that allow members with similar scientific interests to promote meetings and related activities. SAS Technical Sections may be affiliate societies, such as the Coblentz Society (vibrational spectroscopy). Alternatively, they may be chapters of SAS, such as the Atomic Spectroscopy, Imaging, Near-Infrared, and Biomedical Sections.

Considerable activity has been underway with the technical sections. Nancy Miller-Ihli served as interim chair of the Atomic Spectroscopy Section, and created a questionnaire to establish possible activities for the section, including student awards, meetings at conferences, and sponsored symposia. The section is currently seeking a permanent chair – please contact the SAS Office if you are interested.

Emil Ciurczak is serving as the Chair of the Near Infrared Technical Section. In conjunction with the Council for Near-Infrared Reflectance Spectroscopy (CNIR), the section is sponsoring two sessions at the 2005 FACSS Meeting in Quebec City. The SAS group and CNIR will work together to promote this technical area.

The Biomedical Technical Section is being chaired by Max Diem. Max and Tony Shaw are organizing three sessions on Biomedical Spectroscopy for the Quebec FACSS meeting. Details on the sessions should be forthcoming on the FACSS web site (http://facss.org).

The Imaging Technical Section seeks to promote interactions between practitioners in the area of applied spectroscopic imaging. The section will soon unveil a website where members can discuss instrumentation, software, recent developments and reports in the literature; tap into the expertise of the community to solve particular problems and learn about various people and research in the applied spectroscopy community. The section is also seeking to develop guidelines to allow greater clarity in the communication and exchange of spectroscopic imaging data. The activities are aimed towards facilitating interactions between users and commercial companies and we will welcome participation from both communities. The section is actively looking for volunteers and participants. Interested members should contact Rohit Bhargava (chair), Douglas Elmore (chair-elect), Frederick Kohler (treasurer) or Carrie Lendon (secretary) for more information.

The Coblentz Society (http://www.coblentz.org/) of course has a long and proud tradition of independent activities in vibrational spectroscopy. However, its role as a technical section allows closer collaboration between SAS and Coblentz. Although it is not possible to list all of the activities of the society, examples include the sponsoring of technical sessions at FACSS (e.g., sessions on Infrared Imaging, Process Analytical Spectroscopy, and Highly Automated Methods Using Infrared Spectrometric Detection in Portland), the presentation of several major awards (Coblentz, Williams-Wright, Bommel-Michelsen, and Lippincott (joint with SAS and the Optical Society of America), Coblentz Student Awards, and as a sponsoring society of FACSS.

Comments to newsletter@s-a-s.org