

# SOCIETY FOR

# applied spectroscopy

## GUEST EDITORIAL

### **Pittcon 2015**

**Spectroscopy . . . Be in Your Element**

**March 8 – 12, 2015**

**Ernest N. Morial Convention Center**

**New Orleans, Louisiana**



Welcome to the world's largest annual conference and exhibition for laboratory science, which will be held in the culturally rich city of New Orleans, March 8-12, 2015, at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Louisiana is home to legacy sectors such as chemicals and refining, and the emerging prospects of the biofuels and food processing industries, which provide an ideal venue for Pittcon. The region also houses emerging and expanding companies in the agribusiness industry.

The diverse Technical Program kicks off on Sunday, March 8, and will include the Wallace H. Coulter Lecture, "Plasmonics: Shedding Light on Cross-Cutting Science and Technologies," presented by Naomi J. Halas, Stanley C. Moore Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Rice University. Dr. Halas's research is in the field of plasmonics, creating the concept of the "tunable plasmon" and inventing a family of nanoparticles with resonances spanning the visible and infrared regions of the spectrum. These tiny structures called "gold nano-shells," may someday help treat tumors.

Presentations will bring to light advances in Raman spectroscopy, separation with capillary liquid chromatography (LC) and two-dimensional LC; operation of miniature mass spectrometers (MS); application of mass spectrometry in the biopharmaceutical industry; isotope innovations for metabolomics; and new developments in ion chromatography—to name a few.

The following is a sample of a few of the symposia titles that will be offered at Pittcon 2015:

- Advances in Raman
- Atomic Tools as Solutions to Molecular Problems
- Emerging Trends in Plasma Spectrochemistry
- Imaging Mass Spectrometry of Biological Samples
- New Developments and Challenges in Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy
- SAS–Atomic Spectroscopy: Going Strong in the 21st Century

This year, Pittcon is pleased to participate in 2015—The International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies (IYL), as proclaimed by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly 68th Session. IYL 2015 is a cross-disciplinary educational and outreach project with more than 100 partners from over 85 countries. Pittcon, an associate sponsor of IYL, will include two special symposia celebrating the IYL initiative:

- "Fundamental Science-Driven Infrared Spectroscopic Imaging for Clinical Diagnostic Systems," will be presented by the SAS (Society of Applied Spectroscopy).
- "New Perspectives on the History of Infrared Instrumentation," will be presented by the Chemical Heritage Foundation.

In addition, there will be more than 600 technical presentations covering topics relevant to spectroscopy.

Get complete details on these and all technical sessions at [www.pittcon.org](http://www.pittcon.org).

The exposition will also host an interactive display, "Timeline of Light Technologies," sponsored by Ocean Optics, the leading supplier of solutions for optical sensing—fundamental methods of measuring and interpreting the interaction of light with matter. The display, a museum-type theme, will show the history of light technologies over the years and bring awareness for the problem solving potential of light technology.

The dynamic exposition begins on Monday, March 9, and promises to be an exciting hub of live demonstrations, product seminars, technical collaboration and much more. This once-a-year venue provides the perfect opportunity to compare and evaluate products and services from leading companies from over 30 countries. From consumable products, such as glassware to sample preparation equipment to the most sophisticated and innovative pieces of equipment such as optical emission or fluorescence spectrometers and UV-Vis, FT-IR, atomic absorption and mass spectrometers. Pittcon has something for everyone. Technical experts will be on hand to offer tips on techniques, troubleshoot problems, and provide answers to critical questions.

This vast and all inclusive array of the latest instrumentation used by spectroscopists will provide solutions to laboratory challenges in a wide variety of applications such as fuels-oil-petroleum, food & beverage, forensics, genomics, proteomics, drug discovery, environmental science, water/wastewater, and materials, to name a few.

The Pittcon experience doesn't stop with the exposition and the technical program, but is further enhanced by continuing education courses. You will find a wide variety of affordable short courses will be offered at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Topics include traditional basic techniques in MS to the latest methods used in analyzing proteins. There are more than 80 courses covering topics relevant to spectroscopy such as the latest in Raman, FT-IR, X-ray, ICP-MS, lasers, optics, regulatory issues and more. These courses, taught by experts in their fields, range from half-day up to two-days in length.

The following is a sample of some of the Short Courses:

- Analytical Organic Mass Spectrometry
- Side Illuminated Optical Fibers as a Multiplexing Element of Spectroscopic Systems
- LC-MS-MS Analysis of Emerging Contaminants (EDCs, PPCPs and PFCs) and Nanomaterials in the Environment
- Fundamentals of Particle Size Analysis with an Emphasis on Light Scattering Techniques

A great way to connect with members of the scientific community who share similar interests will be to participate in Conferee Networking sessions. These two-hour discussions provide a unique networking opportunity to meet and resolve problems, discuss new techniques, or brainstorm new ideas in an informal setting. There will be 35 sessions in total, running from Sunday through Wednesday afternoon, all of which are included in the cost of registration.

The Pittcon mobile app is currently available for free download to iOS and Android devices and will help attendees manage all aspects of the conference and exposition before, during, and after the event. The app includes enhanced networking, search, and agenda functions and displays the most up-to-date details on exhibiting companies, technical program and short courses. New for this year, a gaming feature based on a point system will be included in the app.

Visit [www.pittcon.org](http://www.pittcon.org) to subscribe for updates, register and to get complete exhibitor, Technical Program and Short Course listings. Make a small investment for a huge return—the cost to attend is only \$175 (before February 20; \$350 after February 20) and entitles a conferee to weeklong unlimited access to the exposition floor, technical sessions, and all conference amenities. Take advantage of discount hotel rates and other benefits at [PittconHousing.com](http://PittconHousing.com).

So join thousands of your colleagues, and we'll see you in New Orleans for jazz and science pizazz.



Charles L. Holifield  
Pittcon 2015 President