



## August 2011

### FACSS INNOVATION AWARDS

By Steven Ray, Indiana University



The 2011 FACSS Conference to be held in Reno, NV, October 2-7 will be the first venue to host a new type of scientific prize: the FACSS Innovation Award. The award was established by the FACSS governing board to highlight the most creative, insightful, and significant new research debuted at the FACSS conference each year. The award includes a \$1,500 USD honorarium and award plaque; however, its significance goes beyond these simple items.

The FACSS innovation award recognizes that as a conference expands in scope and size, it becomes ever more difficult to see all (or even most) of the science presented. With increasing numbers of presentations and posters, one has to struggle ever harder to attend the presentations that you have circled in the program, leaving little time to browse among papers not directly linked with your own research. The unfortunate consequence is that some of the most creative, new, and innovative work is often inadvertently glossed over or lost amid the abundance of research presented. Seasoned conference goers recognize that the most valuable presentations that they attend at a conference are not necessarily directly linked to their own research. It is exposure to new scientific concepts and surprising new results that fuel the creative leaps forward, sparking new research ideas or suggesting a new approach to a vexing problem. In a small way, the FACSS innovation award seeks to address this concern by selecting research with potential for significant impact and highlighting it in a special venue.

Like the award concept, the operating mechanism of the FACSS innovation award is also quite novel. When attendees submitted abstracts for the 2011 FACSS program, they had the opportunity to be considered for the innovation award. Notably, the competition is open to any author regardless of position: students, professors, professionals, and exhibitors all compete side-by-side. A selection committee then assessed each of the 170 applications to assemble a group of finalists, placing significant weight on the newness of the science or research direction. In 2011, 10 finalists have been selected, and the authors have been asked to participate in two special symposia, each of which will contain 5 entrants.

The finalists are:

#### Session #1

“Ultrasound Enhanced ATR Mid-IR Fibre Optic Probe for Spectroscopy of Particles in Suspensions”

Cosima Koch, Markus Brandstetter, Stefan Radel, Bernhard Lendl

Vienna University of Technology, Austria.

“Quantum-Cascade Laser-Based Vibrational Circular Dichroism”

Marcel Pfeifer, Steffen Lüdeke, and Peer Fischer

Institute for Intelligent Systems, Fraunhofer IPM and Max-Planck Institutes, Germany.

“Accessing Distances over 25Å... via Mid-IR T-Jump Measurements”

Igor Rubtsov, Zhiwei Lin, Valeriy Kasyanenko, Christopher Keating, Yun-Liang Li, and Victor Kireev

Tulane University.

“Large-Area Standoff Planetary Raman Measurements Using a Novel Spatial Heterodyne Fourier Transform Raman Spectrometer”

S. Michael Angel<sup>1</sup>, Nathaniel R. Gomer<sup>1</sup>, Shiv K. Sharma<sup>2</sup>, and J. Chance Carter<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of South Carolina, <sup>2</sup>University of Hawaii, <sup>3</sup>Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

“Broad Bandwidth Trace Gas and Standoff Detection with Infrared Frequency Comb Sources”

Scott Diddams, Tyler Neely, Lora Nugent-Glandorf, Florian Adler, Kevin Knabe, Paul Williams, Fabrizio Giorgetta, Esther Baumann, Alex Zolot, and Nathan Newbury

National Institute of Science and Technology.

## Session #2

“Sampling Devices Based on the Thermal Inkjet Principle: A New Approach for Plasma Spectrometry”

Nicolas H. Bings, Jan O. Orlandini v. Niessen, J. Niklas Schaper, Jan H. Petersen

University of Mainz, Germany.

“Laser Ablation Molecular Isotopic Spectrometry - New Dimension of LIBS”

Alexander Bol'shakov<sup>1</sup>, Richard Russo<sup>1,2</sup>, Xianglei Mao<sup>2</sup>, Dale Perry<sup>2</sup>, Osman Sorkhabi<sup>2</sup>, and Chris McKay<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Applied Spectra, Inc., <sup>2</sup>Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, <sup>3</sup>NASA- Ames Laboratory.

“Single Molecule Fluorescence Imaging Studies of Dynamic Processes in Reversed Phase Chromatographic Materials”

Justin Cooper, Eric Peterson, and Joel Harris

University of Utah

“Dielectrophoresis in Concentrated Suspensions”

Boris Khusid\*, Zafar Iqbal

New Jersey Institute of Technology

“Time-Correlated Multimodal Optical Studies of Single and Clustered Nanocrystals”

Jeeseong Hwang<sup>1</sup>, Leonard Pease<sup>2</sup>, HyeongGon Kang<sup>1</sup>, Matthew Clarke<sup>1</sup>, and Silvia Lacerda<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Institute of Science and Technology, <sup>2</sup>University of Utah, <sup>3</sup>US Food and Drug Administration.

At the FACSS conference, each author will be asked to present his/her paper in front of a special blue-ribbon panel of three judges. These judges will consider each candidate on basis of:

- Innovation/Novelty: Is the science novel, or simply a continuation or extension of current practice?
- Impact: Does the science address an important analytical challenge?
- Creativity: Is the science clever and insightful?
- Transformative potential: Does the work have the potential to significantly impact other disciplines of science?
- Technical Merit: Is the science carried out with good analytical practice?

The program has been constructed to allow ample time for the audience and judges to address questions to the authors. Based upon the judges' assessment, two FACSS Innovation Awards will be presented at the 2011 conference.

## Gordon F. Kirkbright Bursary Award, 2012

The Gordon F. Kirkbright bursary award is a prestigious annual award that enables a promising student/non-tenured young scientist of any nation to attend a recognised scientific meeting or visit a place of learning.

The fund for this bursary was established in 1985 as a memorial to Professor Gordon Kirkbright in recognition of his contributions to analytical spectroscopy and to science in general. Although the fund is administered by the Association of British Spectroscopists (ABS) Trust, the award is not restricted to spectroscopists.

Applications are invited for the 2012 Gordon Kirkbright Bursary Award. For further information contact John Chalmers at email: [vibspecconsult@aol.com](mailto:vibspecconsult@aol.com).

**The closing date for entries is 31 December 2011.**

## Call for Nominations for the Coblentz Award and the Craver Award

**About the Coblentz Award.** The Coblentz Award is presented annually to an outstanding young molecular spectroscopist. First awarded in 1964, the Coblentz Award honors William W. Coblentz, whose youthful contributions to infrared spectroscopy contributed greatly to the study of molecules. Candidates must be under the age of 40 on January 1 of the year of the award.

Nominations for the 2012 Coblentz Award must include a detailed description of the nominee's accomplishments, a curriculum vitae or resume, and a minimum of three supporting letters. Nominations close on September 30, 2011. Files of candidates will be kept active for 3 years or until the age of eligibility is exceeded. Annual updates of candidate files are encouraged and will be solicited from the nomination source by the award's committee chair.

**About the Craver Award.** The Craver Award is presented annually to recognize young spectroscopists for efforts in applied analytical vibrational spectroscopy. Nominations for the Craver Award are being accepted through August 30, 2011. Candidates must be under the age of 45 on January 1 of the year of the award. The candidate's work may include any aspect of infrared (NIR, MIR, or Far), and/or THz, and/or Raman spectroscopy in applied analytical vibrational spectroscopy. The nominees may come from an academic, government lab, or industrial background. (Nominations follow similar guidelines as the Coblentz Award.)

**Please send nomination packages (email is preferred) to:**

Professor Karl Booksh  
Nominations Committee Chair

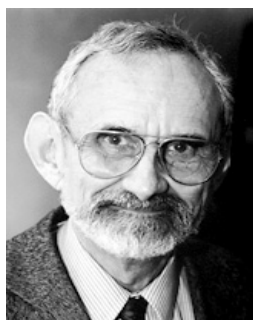
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## August Historical Events in Spectroscopy by Leopold May, Catholic University

August 23, 1933



Robert F. Curl, Jr., a researcher in microwave and infrared spectroscopy, was born on this day. He shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1996 with Harold W. Kroto and Richard E. Smalley, who were honored for their discovery of fullerenes.

August 27, 1915

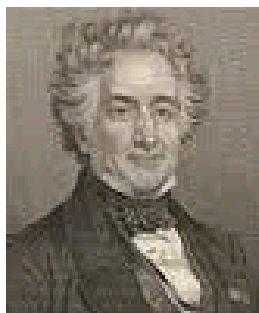


Norman F. Ramsey, who was born on this date, received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1989 for the invention of the separated oscillatory fields method and its use in the hydrogen maser and other atomic clocks. He shared the Prize with Hans G. Dehmelt and Wolfgang Paul who developed the ion trap technique.

August 29, 1834

Hermann J. P. Sprengel was a researcher in discharge tubes and invented the vacuum pump. He was born on this date.

August 31, 1786



Michel E. Chevreul, who was born on this date, was a researcher on dyes.

*Comments to [david.butcherATanalytchem.org](http://david.butcherATanalytchem.org)*