

**The Spectroscopy Society of Canada Presents**  
**ICASS-2004 Conference and Exhibition August 15-19, 2004**  
**Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia**

You are cordially invited to participate in the 50<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Analytical Sciences and Spectroscopy (ICASS-2004) sponsored by the Spectroscopy Society of Canada.

The Technical Program will include sessions on:  
Molecular Spectroscopy, Atomic Spectroscopy, Separation Science,  
Chemical Speciation, and Synchrotron Radiation.

For more information, please contact the Conference Chair: Marc **Lamoureux**,  
Department of Chemistry, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS B3H 3C3  
Telephone: 902-420-5652; Fax: 902-496-8104 E-mail: marc.lamoureux@smu.ca

### **OTHER MEETINGS**

#### **LC-MS/MS Advanced I Courses (LEVEL 3)**

**TORONTO, Oct. 6-7 2003 at the Ramada Hotel Toronto Airport** Presented by: LC-MS  
Pharmaceutical Development Inc. (LCMSPD Inc.), and Calibration & Validation Group (CVG)  
For further course information contact us at: Phone: (416)-266.8751 (Dr. Fabio Garofolo)  
E-mail: [fabio garofolo@hotmail.com](mailto:fabio garofolo@hotmail.com) Website: [www.cvg.ca/lcmscourses/home.html](http://www.cvg.ca/lcmscourses/home.html)

#### **FACSS the 30th Annual Meeting:**

#### **Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, USA. October 19-23, 2003**

FACSS, the Federation of Analytical Chemistry and Spectroscopy Societies, exists to combine many small meetings, previously organized by individual societies, into an annual meeting that covers the whole of analytical chemistry.

Contact Information: FACSS National Office PO Box 24379 Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Phone: (505) 820-1648; Fax: (505) 989-1073 Email: [facss@facss.org](mailto:facss@facss.org)

#### **2004 Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA. January 5-10, 2004**

Deadlines: Conference Pre-Registration Friday, October 10, 2003,

Hotel Pre-Reservation Friday, October 10, 2003,

Late Pre-Registration Deadline Friday, December 5, 2003

Winter Conference Short Courses Friday - Sunday, January 2-4, 2004,

Manufacturers' Seminars Friday - Sunday, January 2-4, 2004

Workshop on New Plasma Instrumentation Tuesday-Thursday, January 6-8, 2004.

Instrument Exhibition Tuesday-Thursday, January 6-8, 2004

For further information contact the Conference Chairman, Dr. Ramon Barnes,

Telephone: (413) 256-8942, Fax: (413) 256-3746, email: [winterconf@chem.umass.edu](mailto:winterconf@chem.umass.edu).

Or go to the conference web site: <http://www.chem.umass.edu/WinterConf2004>



There is so much current news that this Newsletter has 12 pages! The last time this happened was in the November 2001 Issue.

After 20 years as Editor of the Newsletter, I will be stepping down later this year after producing the last issue of Vol 32, 2003. **Marc Lamoureux** will take over as Editor in January 2004. The first issue of the Newsletter, *Canadian Spectroscopic News* was published in March 1974. (Does anybody remember who was the Editor of that issue?). There was also an earlier Newsletter (with the same name), published by the Canadian Association for Applied Spectroscopy. Previous Editors of *Canadian Spectroscopic News* were: Walt Dewald (1976-78), Christine Gillette (1979-80) and Bob Johnson (1981-83).

#### NEW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Following the elections held at the June AGM there has been a change in the "management" of the Society. The new executive is:

**President: Diane Beauchemin** (by acclamation).

**Vice-President: Rob O'Brien** (by majority vote)

**Ed Paski** was also nominated for Vice President.

**Treasurer: Heidi Chen** (by acclamation).

**Secretary: Teresa Switzer** (by acclamation).

Short bibliographies of Diane, Rob and Teresa are presented on Page 11 of this Newsletter.

**Ricardo Aroca** will be the new Editor in Chief of the *Canadian Journal of Analytical Sciences and Spectroscopy*.

The (edited) minutes of the May 31 National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting are on Pages 4 - 6. At the meeting a change of name for the Society was discussed. Member input is invited, (see Diane's letter on Pages 7 and 8).

#### LOCAL SECTION NEWS

##### **A new local section**

The **BC Interior Local Section** has been established with 16 members. **Rob O'Brien** is acting Chair until a meeting is held to elect the local section executive.

#### **Two Local Sections to Merge**

At the NEC meeting **Jeff Dupuis** proposed that the **Montreal** and **Quebec City** local sections be merged. Jeff will discuss the proposal with the Chair of the Quebec City section **Michel Pezolet**.

#### SOCIETY CONFERENCES

**49<sup>th</sup> ICASS (2003)** The meeting, held at Carleton University, Ottawa, June. 1-4, 2003, was a great success. **Nimal DeSilva** was the Chairman of the conference. Please see page 6 for Nimal's report.

**50<sup>th</sup> ICASS (2004)** **Marc Lamoureux** is the Chairman of the 50<sup>th</sup> ICASS to be held at St. Mary's University, Halifax, NS, August 15 to 19, 2004. Marc has organized a committee (**Cory Pye** and **Bob Berno**) to get ICASS 2004 started.

**51<sup>st</sup> ICASS (2005)** The 51<sup>st</sup> ICASS will be held in conjunction with the **FACSS** meeting in Quebec City in 2005. **Denis Boudreau** will be the ICASS chairman.

**52<sup>nd</sup> ICASS (2006)** The conference chair will be **Rob O'Brien** and the meeting will be held at Okanagan University College in Kelowna, BC.

#### STUDENT CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

**Milithza Silva**, an M.Sc. student at Queen's University will be the new student representative replacing **Tina Mann** on the NEC for one year. A Student Bursary Award has been introduced (see Page 9 of this Newsletter). The application form is available on page 10.

#### SOCIETY AWARDS

The 2003 **Gerhard Herzberg Award** winner is **Ricardo Aroca**, University of Windsor. The award presentation at ICASS 2003 was attended by the Ambassador of Chile (Ricardo is Chilean).

The 2003 **Barringer Spectroscopy Award** winner is **Roger Guevremont**, formerly from NRCC, now with a spin-off company called Ionalytics (which he founded). This year the **Barringer Award** was sponsored by **Smiths Detection**, who recently purchased Barringer Laboratories. The name of the award will likely be changed. **Ralph Sturgeon** (a former recipient of both the Barringer and Herzberg Awards) spoke at the award ceremony.

**Distinguished Service Awards** were presented to **Mike Hinds** and **Roy Smith**.

## **Minutes of the National Executive Committee Meeting held at Carleton University, May 31, 2003.**

**Present:** Diane Beauchemin (Vice-president and Editor-in-Chief), Victor Benham (Director – Ottawa), Heidi Chen (Treasurer), Ewa Dabek (Member-at-Large), Richard Denis (Secretary and National Programs), Nimal De Silva (ICASS Chair and Member-at-Large), Jeff Dupuis (Chair – Montreal Section), Marc Lamoureux (President), Mark Saffari (Chair – Vancouver/Victoria Section), Joy Sen Gupta (Journal Manager), and Mylaine Tardif (Chair – Ottawa Section).

### **BUSINESS ARISING**

Mylaine Tardif awarded two \$25 prizes (and three plaques) on behalf of the SSC at the Ottawa Valley Science Fair.

Distinguished Service Awards will be presented to Mike Hinds and Roy Smith.

Tina Mann (in consultation with Diane Beauchemin and Richard Denis) has put together a package for the student bursary award. The first recipient will be announced at ICASS 2004 (Halifax).

### **CONFERENCES**

**49<sup>th</sup> ICASS:** Conference Chair Nimal De Silva reported that registration data is not yet available, but that the short courses have been very well attended.

**50<sup>th</sup> ICASS:** August 15 to 19, 2004 are the dates for 50<sup>th</sup> ICASS in Halifax. Marc Lamoureux will distribute the formal announcement at the SSC booth at the ICASS Exhibit. Marc has organized a committee (Cory Pye and Bob Berno) to get ICASS 2004 started. The new facilities at St. Mary's University will be used for the meeting. Diane already has 25 people for a session for Jean-Michel Mermet.

**51<sup>st</sup> ICASS-FACSS:** To be held in Quebec in October 2005. Denis Boudreau will be the Conference Chair. A more formal set of details is to be included in the President's report.

**52<sup>nd</sup> ICASS:** Rob O'Brien has reiterated his interest in hosting the 2006 ICASS in Kelowna, BC.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Newsletter and Directory:** Gus Shurvell has re-stated his wish to step down as Editor. Marc Lamoureux has volunteered to become the new Editor as of January 2004.

**International Liaison:** Marc suggested that for 2003/2004 we look to exchange speakers within Canada. Marc will pitch the idea to Doug Goltz. Richard Denis suggested that the ties with the SAS are important and further recommended that the Canadian tour speaker option be invoked only if there are problems reaching the SAS Liaison person. Marc suggested that the SSC seek a sponsor to defray the costs.

**Journal:** Diane Beauchemin reported that the first two issues of 2003 are out. The first issue was a 124 page issue in honour of Ian Butler, the second issue contained papers from the 48<sup>th</sup> ICASS, the third issue contains regular papers, the fourth issue will be the last issue for the 48<sup>th</sup> ICASS, the fifth issue is in honour of Chak Chakrabarti and the sixth issue will contain papers from Spectr'Atom. Next year the first issue will contain regular papers and the second issue will contain papers from the 49<sup>th</sup> ICASS. CJASS is now back on schedule! Standards have been raised and 40% of submissions are now rejected.

**National Programmes:** Richard Denis is working on organizing tours of breweries in Edmonton and Vancouver.

**Awards:** Jim MacLaren is stepping down as head of the Awards Committee. Marc Lamoureux proposed adding the Student Bursary Award to the mandate of the Awards committee. The award presentation will be attended by the Ambassador of Chile (the Gerhard Herzberg Award winner, Ricardo

Aroca is Chilean) and Ralph Sturgeon (last year's recipient of the Barringer award) will also be present.

**Web Site:** Alison Holliday reports that there have been 1,819 "hits" since June 2002. Marc suggested that corporate sponsors for both SSC and CJASS should be listed on the SSC website and links be created to the company profiles. Marc has asked Alison to put sponsor's logos on the web site. Alison seeks feedback on the website. Joy Sen Gupta complemented Alison on the web site.

**Student Affairs:** Tina Mann has finished her studies (for now!) and will leave the post of student representative. Marc wants to find a replacement quickly. Ideally, the student representative would be a post-graduate student. The group reviewed the application form for the SSC Student Award. It was suggested that the amount (\$400) be specified on the application. The application was modified slightly and will be circulated to the group with the minutes.

### **REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT**

In his report, Marc Lamoureux suggested the exercise of caution when working with partners for ICASS. Mark proposed that \$5000 USD (as opposed to \$4000 USD) should be requested by the Society for the ICASS contribution to FACSS in 2005. He also stressed that scheduling conflicts between ICASS and FACSS should be avoided (he cited the example of the Herzberg Award lecture competing with the free beer event at the 1999 FACSS meeting in Vancouver). Mark stressed the need to focus on new memberships and to look for opportunities for the Society to increase its membership. He noted that there are a limited number of societies for analytical chemists. Marc extended his thanks to the NEC members for their work and support during his term of office.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Membership dues:**

It was proposed that membership dues for Canadian members be raised from \$40 to \$60 (with a sliding scale of discounts for advanced payment for multiple years). Marc Lamoureux pointed out that higher membership fees for USA and International memberships are due to additional postage costs. Student memberships will stay the same (but with the requirement of proof of student status). Marc argued that at \$60, the SSC offers excellent value and the rates could stand being raised further. Richard Denis suggested that the entire fee increase be set aside for local section activities. Marc proposed that part of the increased revenue go to membership activities (awarded to projects of merit as judged by the NEC). The balance would cover increased costs of operating the Society.

The motion to increase the membership fees was proposed by Mylaine Tardif and seconded by Ewa Dabek. The proposal will be put to the AGM for approval.

## **Report by Nimal De Silva on the 49<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Analytical Sciences and Spectroscopy (ICASS-2003) Carleton University, Ottawa, June 01-04, 2003**

The 49<sup>th</sup> ICASS-2003 sponsored by the Spectroscopy Society of Canada (SSC) was held from June 01-04 at Carleton University, Ottawa. The meeting was held in conjunction with the International Workshop on Alcohol Beverage Authentication organized by the Laboratory and Scientific Services Directorate of Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, and the annual meeting of the Canadian Thermal Analysis Society (CTAS).

Over 320 participants with a good mix of delegates attended the meeting from industry, government laboratories and universities from 21 countries. 30 oral sessions and a poster session covered over 220 technical presentations in a wide area of analytical sciences and spectroscopy. An instrument exhibition by 20 exhibitors was held from Sunday evening till Wednesday.

During the weekend immediately prior to the main conference, 11 professional development short courses were offered, which were very successful with 108 attendees. The conference banquet was held on Tuesday and was well attended by over 250 participants. The social highlight of the final day of the conference was an outdoor barbecue, which allowed the participants to enjoy the typical fine weather in June in the Nation's Capital. In addition to its scientific quality, the meeting appears to be one of the most financially successful ICASS conferences ever.

Nimal De Silva, Conference Chair,  
Carleton University

## CHALLENGE TO ALL SSC MEMBERS!

From Diane Beauchemin.

As the newly elected President of the Spectroscopy Society of Canada, my main goal will be to revive the Society, to make it flourish as it did many years ago. Since the membership has been steadily decreasing (now down to 180 members!), my first goal will therefore be to increase the number of members. So, **I am hereby challenging each SSC member to convince one colleague to join the SSC by the end of 2003.**

To help you convince someone, here is a reminder of the benefits of being an SSC member:

- **A COMPLIMENTARY SUBSCRIPTION** to the Canadian Journal of Analytical Sciences and Spectroscopy, the bilingual International Journal of the SSC, which is published bimonthly and distributed world-wide.
- **A COMPLIMENTARY NEWSLETTER**, the Canadian Spectroscopic News, which is published three or four times a year.
- **SPECIAL EVENTS** organised by your local section, such as workshops, tour speakers, visits to relevant industries or government agencies, and even social parties!
- **DISCOUNTS** on the registration fee to workshops as well as to the International Conference on Analytical Sciences and Spectroscopy (ICASS), which is organised annually by the SSC.

Please point out that new memberships received from October will remain valid until December of the following year, and that there is also a discount on multiple-year memberships (membership application forms can be found in the journal and on the website <http://www.s-s-c.ca>).

Given the present financial status of the SSC, I cannot offer any reward in return (other than the satisfaction of having done something positive for the SSC!). However, the greater the number of members, the more likely there will be rewards (in the forms of more benefits) in the future. An example of such benefits is discounts on the registration fees to other conferences than ICASS. In fact, one such discount has already been negotiated for the 2004 Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry (see enclosed coupon).

Also, I will endeavour to find out what would make the SSC more appealing so that people spontaneously join it. We need to publicise it so that people know it exists and see the benefits of joining. I need help from current members in identifying its current strengths and weaknesses:

- Why are you a member of the SSC?
- What would you like to see changed or would make it even more attractive?
- **How would you feel about the SSC changing its name to something like SSASC (Society for Spectroscopy and Analytical Sciences of Canada/Société des sciences analytiques et de spectroscopie du Canada)?**

There has been some debate at the NEC level about the latter question and I would like to hear the views of the membership on this issue. As for any change, it would present several advantages and disadvantages:

**ADVANTAGES:**

- it would bring the name of the Society in line with the focus of its journal and annual conference;
- it would broaden the base of membership by providing a 'niche' for analytical chemists who are not or do not consider themselves spectroscopists, while still including spectroscopists;
- we should be able to compete with the CIC for membership;
- with a declining membership, we must clarify our identity: one important step is to re-define the name of the SSC;
- it is always a difficult task to attract new memberships but constraints due to our current name make it an even greater challenge.

**DISADVANTAGES:**

- some financial implications (change of registration with federal government, bylaws stationary, logo, web-site address, etc.), some of which is non trivial but does not appear to be prohibitively expensive (see the minutes of the last NEC meeting);
- the actual name of the society has little bearing on its constituent membership (i.e. people will always find a reason not to join);
- we would have to find awards that are not specifically for spectroscopists;
- the SSC has a distinct identity and by changing its name, we risk losing that identity along with established members;
- vitality (i.e. what is being done) is more important than what our name is i.e. we must give people more reasons to join the Society by promoting activities at the local section level (like a tour speaker, workshops, etc.).

The SSC is in bad shape. Yet, it is **our** society. Please help me heal it by convincing one person to join, and answering the above questions. I will be more than happy to read 179 e-mail messages if you all reply! The information would allow the NEC to direct its energy where you want, whether it is a change of name or another issue. So, please let me know your views. I would also encourage you to contact your local section Chair or division Director (see the cover of this newsletter) with suggestions on what could be done at the local level.

With best regards,

Diane Beauchemin  
President of the Spectroscopy Society of Canada  
Queen's University  
Department of Chemistry  
Kingston, ON K7L 3N6  
Phone: 613-533-2619 (Fax: -6669)  
e-mail: beauchmn@chem.queensu.ca



## The Spectroscopy Society of Canada Student Bursary Award

The Spectroscopy Society of Canada (SSC) established the Student Bursary Award (consisting of \$400) in order to recognize exceptional students at either the undergraduate or graduate level. Applicants are evaluated on the basis of their interest and/or involvement in the SSC, academic and research accomplishments, and financial need. Applications must be received by **February 15<sup>th</sup>** at the following address and the winner will be announced at the annual International Conference for Analytical Sciences and Spectroscopy (ICASS). The ICASS is usually held in August.

Contact Person: Chair, Awards Committee  
Spectroscopy Society of Canada  
PO Box 332, Station A,  
Ottawa, ON K1N 8V3

More information about the award can be obtained from [www.s-s-c.ca](http://www.s-s-c.ca) or by contacting the President of the SSC, Diane Beauchemin, at 613-533-2619 or [beauchmn@chem.queensu.ca](mailto:beauchmn@chem.queensu.ca).

### **Eligibility Requirements:**

1. Canadian Citizenship or landed immigrant status
2. Member of the SSC
3. Undergraduate or graduate student doing a research project in a spectroscopy related field
4. Demonstration of academic excellence
5. Demonstration of financial need
6. If no applications meet the standards of the reviewing committee then the bursary will not be given for that year

### **Applications must include:**

1. The completed application form
2. A one page statement from the applicant summarizing financial need, involvement or interest in the SSC, and academic achievements
3. A copy of the applicant's curriculum vitae
4. Transcripts from the applicant's post-secondary institution(s)
5. One reference letter

Note: All information submitted by the applicant must be on letter size paper using at least 10 pt font with standard 1" or 2.5 cm margins.



**Application Form for the Spectroscopy Society of Canada  
Student Bursary Award**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Given Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City/Town Province

\_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code Country

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number Work Phone Number E-mail address

Current Academic Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Program and Year of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Research Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Short Description of Research Project: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The number of years as an SSC member: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **BIOGRAPHIES OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY**

### **Diane Beauchemin - President of the Society**



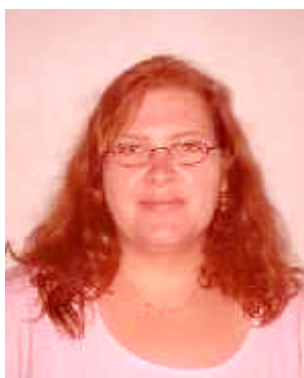
Diane is an analytical chemist specializing in atomic spectroscopy (inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry, in particular) and long-time member of the SSC. She joined the Department of Chemistry at Queen's University in 1988 and was promoted to Full Professor in 2001. She became a member of the SSC National Executive Committee in 1992 when Conrad Grégoire (then President) asked her to Chair the Conference Committee. She has been Editor-in-Chief of the Canadian Journal of Analytical Sciences and Spectroscopy during the period of 2000-2003 and was Vice-President from 2001-2003. Diane received a Distinguished Service Award from the Society in 2001.

### **Rob O'Brien - Vice-President**



Rob is an analytical chemist with over 15 years experience in applications of analytical mass spectrometry. He is currently Chair of the Chemistry Department at Okanagan University College (OUC) and Coordinator of OUC's Applied Trace Analysis Facility. He is a member of numerous societies and associations including the Spectroscopy Society of Canada (SSC) and the American Society of Mass Spectrometry (ASMS). Rob's research interest is centered on analytical applications of Mass Spectrometry, especially GC/MS with Negative Chemical Ionization, GC/MS/MS, and GC/IRMS. Typical applications include chemical fingerprinting, monitoring persistent organic pollutants, speciation of organometallic compounds and sourcing by isotope ratio variation.

### **Teresa Switzer - Secretary**



Teresa is currently working as the ICP-MS Scientist for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, where she started in May 2002. She is actively involved in method development and research in both ICP-MS and ICP-OES. One of the key projects will be to bring a DRC II ICP-MS online for the determination of metals in drinking water, which will provide lower detection limits than are currently possible. Prior to the MOE she spent eight years at Lakefield Research Ltd. working with both environmental and mining samples in many different capacities. Some of the key projects Teresa carried out at Lakefield Research include the determination of Se and Te in geological concentrates by ICP-MS; the determination of Hg by USN-ICP-MS, and the use of lithium borate fusions in ICP-MS.

Teresa completed her honours BSc. in chemistry from Trent University in May 1995, and is currently working on her M.Sc. Her Masters thesis deals with arsenic contamination, and speciation using LC-ICP-MS.

*The Following Companies and Organizations were Sponsors  
of the 49 ICASS*

***Gold Sponsors***

SCP Science  
Thermo Finnigan  
CAEAL

***Sponsors***

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MANDEL Scientific  
Thermo Instruments Canada  
Agilent Technologies  
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Waters Limited  
Chromatographic Specialties Inc  
Health Canada  
Natural Resources Canada  
Environment Canada  
Carleton University

*The Following Companies and Organizations were Exhibitors  
at the 49 ICASS*

Air Clean Systems Canada  
Burgener Research  
GV Instruments/Leeman Labs  
London Scientific Ltd  
Metler Toledo  
NETZSCH Instruments  
Perkin Elmer Instruments Canada  
Phoenix Bio-Tech Corp  
ProSpect Scientific  
SCP Science  
Setaram Inc  
TA Instruments  
Thermo Instruments Canada  
Thermo Finnigan  
Transition Technologies  
Varian Canada  
Waters Limited