

## Announcements

### ASMS Sanibel Conference

#### Ion Activation: Fundamentals, Applications and New Frontiers

January 30 - February 2, 2014  
Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort  
Clearwater Beach, FL

#### Organizers

Ryan Julian, UC Riverside  
Richard Vachet, UMASS, Amherst

<http://www.asms.org/conferences/sanibel-conference>  
See announcement to follow for more details.



### 62nd ASMS Conference on Mass Spectrometry and Allied Topics

June 15 - 19, 2014  
Short Courses - June 14 and 15  
Baltimore Convention Center  
Baltimore, MD

Further information may be found at <http://www.asms.org/conferences/annual-conference/annual-conference-homepage>



## The Nuts and Bolts of Organizing the ASMS Annual Conference Program

In response to numerous questions from interested participants, Professor Jennifer S. Brodbelt, Vice President for Programs, has prepared a short FAQ outlining how the 3,300+ submitted abstracts are arranged into the conference program.

### How are topics for oral and poster sessions selected?

Selection of the topics for the oral and poster sessions is one of the major duties of the Vice President for Programs. The topics are largely driven by feedback from the interest groups and individual members, typically by suggestions made in the interest group reports and the post-conference surveys or by



correspondence directly with the VP of Programs. The proposed topics are presented by the VP of Programs to the rest of the ASMS Board during the summer executive board meeting during which additional feedback is obtained. Topics that are carried over from year to year are popular ones as evidenced by large numbers of submitted abstracts and high attendance at the sessions. Some of these topics are revised, updated, and refined each year before eventually being retired. Other new topics are added to the program each year, and this is why recommendations from the interest groups and member feedback via the post-conference surveys are so critical. Even a single suggestion for a new topic is enough to land it on the program for the following year. Let your voice be heard!

### How are Chairs of oral sessions selected?

Selection of the Chairs of oral sessions is a second major duty of the VP of Programs. Repeating oral session Chairs from year to year is strongly discouraged, so that means there is a constant hunt for fresh faces. Maintaining diversity within the Chairs is also important: age, gender, nationality, career track, etc. Compiling a list of potential Chairs is an ongoing activity of the VP of Programs; many names are suggestions from the interest groups and individual members.

### How are speakers selected?

Speakers are selected by the oral session Chairs based on the submitted abstracts. The Chairs review the submitted abstracts and select six based on the abstracts that showcase interesting and novel science. Chairs are also reminded to keep diversity at the forefront when selecting abstracts (age, gender, nationality, career track, etc.). Unlike many other conferences, ASMS does not have “invited” sessions; all sessions are based on submitted abstracts. Popular sessions might garner upwards of 50 abstracts, so competition for the six oral slots is stiff. The session Chairs remain anonymous throughout the submission and review process to minimize the chances of speaker lobbying. Chairs are not allowed to select their own abstracts, nor abstracts submitted by collaborators or co-authors, in order to minimize conflicts-of-interest.

### How are poster abstracts reviewed?

All abstracts submitted for poster sessions and those not selected for oral sessions are reviewed en masse by a committee of ~20-25 members who are sent stacks of abstracts (based on topic) immediately after the abstract submission deadline. The committee convenes for a day-long review session during which abstracts are reviewed for overly commercial content, duplication, failure to disclose results, and lack of results. Abstracts are grouped by topics and divided into more

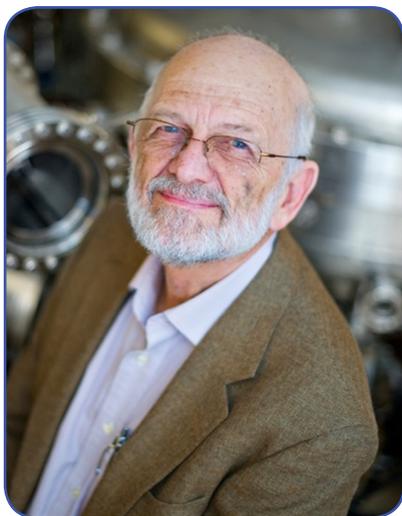
manageable sub-topics. The poster sessions are scheduled based on distributing the topics across the four days of the conference. The acceptance rate for posters is very high (usually greater than 90%).

#### How are the oral sessions arranged in the schedule?

The oral sessions are arranged to minimize overlap with similar and complementary topics.

## Awards

Professor R. Graham Cooks, the Henry Bohn Hass Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at Purdue University has received the Dreyfus Prize in the Chemical Sciences, awarded for 2013 in the field of chemical instrumentation, by the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation. "I am particularly pleased by the fact that the Foundation chose Chemical Instrumentation as the topic of the prize," Cooks stated, "because it is an emphatic recognition of the importance of instrumentation in the chemical enterprise." The Dreyfus Prize in the Chemical Sciences is awarded biennially to an individual in a selected area of chemistry to recognize exceptional and original research that has advanced the field in a major way. Cooks was nominated for his impact in mass spectrometry and instrumentation development, which he has conducted in the Wetherill Laboratory of Chemistry at Purdue University since 1976.



Over the past five decades, Prof. Cooks has mentored 300 graduate students, post-docs and visiting scientists, and has served as major professor to 127 PhD students. He has received numerous awards in recognition of his pioneering and innovative contributions to the field of mass spectrometry, including the 1985 Thomson Medal from the International Mass Spectrometry Society, the 1984 American Chemical Society Division of Analytical Chemistry Award in Chemical Instrumentation, the 1991 Field and Franklin Award and the 1997 Award in Analytical Chemistry from the American Chemical Society, the 2006 Distinguished Contribution Award in Mass Spectrometry from the American Society for Mass Spectrometry, and the 2008 Robert Boyle Medal in Analytical Chemistry and the 2011 Centennial Prize from the Royal Society of Chemistry. In 2010, he was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Science, and was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2011.

## 2012 ASMS Research Award Winner Article 'Highlight'

The ASMS annually presents two Research Awards to academic scientists within four years of joining the tenure track faculty or equivalent in a North American university. The purpose of these awards, fully sponsored by Thermo Scientific and Waters Corporation, are to promote academic research by young scientists in mass spectrometry. The award winners in 2012 are Dr. Sharon J. Pitteri, Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiology at Stanford University, and Dr. Ileana M. Cristea, Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular Biology at Princeton University.

Here, we are pleased to highlight a research article published in this month's issue of *JASMS* by one of the 2012 ASMS Research Awards award winners, Dr. Sharon Pitteri. Her publication was supported by her proposal entitled 'Mass Spectrometry-Based Identification, Quantitation, and Characterization Methods of microRNAs for Ovarian Cancer Early Detection'. The article, authored by Majlinda Kullolli, Emily Knouf, Maria Arampatzidou, Muneesh Tewari and Sharon J. Pitteri, and entitled 'Intact MicroRNA Analysis Using High Resolution Mass Spectrometry', describes the results from a proof-of-concept study to evaluate the utility of high resolution mass spectrometry and tandem mass spectrometry methods coupled with on-line liquid chromatography for the effective sequence analysis of microRNA, and for the characterization of their modified 3' variants.

Research in the Pitteri Laboratory is focused on identifying molecules in the blood that are indicative of disease state, particularly of cancer risk, diagnosis, progression, and recurrence. As a member of the Canary Center at Stanford for Cancer Early Detection, Dr. Pitteri is particularly interested in identifying circulating markers for breast, prostate, and ovarian cancer early detection. Her laboratory is using state-of-the-art proteomic technologies, predominately liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry, to identify blood proteins that are differentially



Pitteri lab members (left to right): Dr. Majlinda Kullolli, Prof. Sharon Pitteri and Dr. Maria Arampatzidou

regulated and/or post-translationally modified with disease state and confounding conditions. Dr. Pitteri has extensive experience in analysis of the large quantity of data generated from proteomic experiments and integrating various data sources to study cancer biology including tumor development and progression. Using human plasma samples, tumor tissue, cancer cell lines, and mouse models, the Pitteri laboratory is investigating the expression and biological functions of proteins and pathways of interest. Furthermore, they are exploring new classes of molecules, including microRNAs, and molecular analysis techniques for cancer diagnostics.

Dr. Pitteri received a BA degree from Carleton College, Northfield, MN in 2001, and earned a PhD in Analytical Chemistry from Purdue University in 2005, in the laboratory of Prof. Scott McLuckey. She then moved to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, WA to pursue postdoctoral research in molecular diagnostics with Dr. Samir Hanash. In 2010, Dr. Pitteri was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiology at Stanford University, where she is also a member of the Canary Center at Stanford for Cancer Early Detection. To date, Dr. Pitteri has been the author or co-author of 45 publications, and has received funding for her research from several sources, including a recent Innovative Development and Exploratory Award from the California Breast Cancer Research Program.

#### April 6 - 9, 2014

**US HUPO Annual Conference**  
Seattle, WA  
<http://www.ushupo.org>

#### May 12 - 15, 2014

**3rd International Vitamin Conference**  
Washington, DC  
<http://www.vitaminconference.com>

#### August 10 - 14, 2014

**IUPAC Int'l Congress on Pesticide Chemistry**  
San Francisco, CA  
<http://www.iupac2014.org/>

#### August 24 - 29, 2014

**20th International Mass Spectrometry Conference**  
Geneva, Switzerland  
<http://www.imsc2014.ch/>

## Related Events

ASMS is pleased to offer announcements for other non-profit organizations. Please email details including website to [cindi@asms.org](mailto:cindi@asms.org). Visit [www.asms.org](http://www.asms.org) for additional listings.

#### February 6 - 9, 2014

**Australasian Proteomics Society 19th Lorne Proteomics Symposium**  
Lorne, Great Ocean Road, Victoria, Australia  
<http://www.australasianproteomics.org/lorne-proteomics-symposium-2014/>

#### February 18 - 23, 2014

**Keystone Conference on "Omics Meets Cell Biology"**  
Taos, NM  
<http://www.keystonesymposia.org/14B3>

#### March 1 - 5, 2014

**Mass Spectrometry Applications to the Clinical Laboratory**  
San Diego, CA  
<https://www.msac1.org/>

#### March 30 - April 2, 2014

**11th Uppsala Conference on Electron Capture & Transfer Dissociation**  
Oberurgl, Austria  
<http://www.uibk.ac.at/organic/uppcon2014>