

Celebrating 60th Anniversary of Atomic Spectroscopy Journal: New Technology of Atomic Spectroscopy & Mass Spectrometry

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In 1962, Dr. Walter Slavin founded the “Atomic Absorption Newsletter” (AANL), used to demonstrate the utility of the early PerkinElmer atomic absorption spectrometer (AAS) instruments (*e.g.*, Model 214 and 303) to users and potential customers. In 1980, with the development of the Inductively coupled plasma (ICP) related techniques, such as ICP-optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES) and ICP-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS), Dr. Walter Slavin changed the name of the journal to “Atomic Spectroscopy” (AS). In 1990, Dr. Anneliese Lust officially became the Editor-in-Chief of the journal and had overall responsibility for operations until the end of 2019. Since 2020, the ownership of this journal has been transferred to Atomic Spectroscopy Press Limited (ASPL), Hong Kong, China. A Chinese team took over and ushered in a new era, expanding its

publication scope from the AAS and ICP related techniques to the whole field of atomic spectroscopy. In the past three years, the journal’s academic influence has improved significantly. AS has become one of the most important international journals in the atomic and mass spectroscopy field.

Organized by Xian-Hua Li (Institute of Geology and Geophysics, CAS), Wei Hang (Xiamen University), Zhaochu Hu (China University of Geosciences, Wuhan), Shenghong Hu (China University of Geosciences, Wuhan), and Wei Guo (China University of Geosciences, Wuhan), the 60th Anniversary for Atomic Spectroscopy (AS) celebrations were held on April 20–22, 2023 at the China University of Geosciences, Future City Campus, Wuhan. Atomic Spectroscopy & Mass Spectrometry

Fig. 1 Attendees of the celebrating 60th anniversary of AS journal.

Fig. 2 Warm blessings, memories, and expectations for AS journal.

(ASMS) is a powerful tool that enables chemical information of elements and isotopes related investigations into their bulk and/or in-situ distribution in various samples. ASMS is a classic yet a vibrant and rapidly developing area of research that attracts scientists from numerous fields including life sciences, environmental sciences, earth and planetary sciences, food safety, semiconductors and high-purity materials, forensics, instrumentation development, and beyond. This conference was timely and highly successful, with 125 invited researchers (Fig. 1) from multiple disciplines and academic, industrial, government labs and analytical instrument companies in attendance. The conference was comprised of three parts, including celebrating the 60th anniversary of AS, academic activities, and the future development of AS journal.

In the first section of the celebration (Fig. 2), AS received warm blessings, memories, and expectations from Dr. Walter Slavin (founding Editor-in-Chief, 1962-1989), Dr. Anneliese Lust (former Editor-in-Chief, 1990-2019), Professor Xian-Hua Li (current Editor-in-Chief, 2020-), Professor Shucheng Xie (Academician of the CAS), Professor Shaoyong Jiang (Assistant Principle of China University of Geosciences, Wuhan), and Dr. Bing Zhu (Vice President of PerkinElmer). AS also received the online blessings from AS distinguished authors including Professor Benli Huang (Academician of the CAS), Professor Zhifang Chai (Academician of the CAS), and Professor Guibin Jiang (Academician of the CAS).

The focus of the academic activities (the 2nd section) was on “New Technology of Atomic & Mass Spectrometry: New Developments & Applications, R&D of Instrument and Microanalytical Techniques for Extraterrestrial Samples.” A total of 14 invited lectures (Fig. 3) and four short talks led to active discussions about current state-of-the-art technologies, key challenges, and emerging applications in the field of ASMS.

Professor Hang Wei (Associate Editor) chaired the 3rd session of this conference (Fig. 4). After Professor Guo Wei (Executive Editor) reported on the development status of the AS journal over the past three years, the AS editorial board members and invited experts had an in-depth discussion of the future development, challenges, and suggestions for this journal. Finally, Editor-in-Chief Professor Xian-Hua Li stressed that improving the scientific and cultural spirit of journals is as important as journal quality.

Many attendees also enjoyed the informal and relaxing environment of the AS Conference, with ample opportunities to mingle and interact with the conferees over a coffee break or an evening reception session. The pleasant weather, crystal-clear lake, and built-in free time during Sunday afternoons encouraged the exploration of the beautiful scenery in the surrounding area. The meeting ended with a sumptuous lunch featuring the expectations and wishes of the atomic spectroscopy researchers.

Fig. 3 Academic activities on the topic “New Technology of Atomic Spectroscopy & Mass Spectrometry”.

Fig. 4 An in-depth discussion of the future development, challenges, and suggestions for AS journal.

In closing, the conference organizers appreciated the AS Editorial Board Members and invited experts for supporting this meeting on such a timely and important topic. We thanked the State Key Laboratory of Biogeology and Environmental Geology (BEGE), China University of Geosciences, PerkinElmer company and other analytical instrument manufacturers for the

financial support. It was also important to acknowledge the hard work of the 26 volunteers during the entire planning process and their help in making the conference proceed smoothly. We thanked all the conference attendees for their participation and for making the meeting a great success.

AUTHOR INFORMATION



Wei Guo received his B.S. degree in Chemistry (2003), M.S. degree in Analytical Chemistry (2007), and Ph.D. degree in Geochemistry (2011) from the China University of Geosciences, Wuhan. He is a professor at the State Key Laboratory of Biogeology and Environmental Geology, China University of Geosciences, Wuhan. His research focused the analytical techniques of elemental and isotopic analysis and their applications to biogeology and environment geology. He is working as Executive Editor for *Atomic Spectroscopy*. He published over 60 peer-reviewed scientific papers in SCI journals.



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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.