

**FEATURE**

## 2020 Pittcon Conference and Exposition was a success in Chicago

The 71<sup>st</sup> Pittcon was held from March 1 to 5 in McCormick Place, Chicago, and although the specter of the COVID-19 virus loomed and questions about the possible impact of the virus at that time remained largely unanswered, the conference still attracted a very engaged group and the exposition was a real achievement, although many international exhibitors and show attendees were unable to attend due to various government and personal travel restrictions.



Aerial view of the Pittcon 2020 Exposition – Photo Pittcon2020

The Wallace H. Coulter Lecture was presented by John A. Rogers, professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Biomedical Engineering and Medicine at Northwestern University, where he is also Director of the newly endowed Center for Bio-Integrated Electronics. The Wallace H. Coulter Lecture is a distinct feature of the annual Pittcon conference and exposition.



Professor John A. Rogers presenting the Wallace H. Coulter Lecture 2020 – Photo Pittcon2020

The 2020 Coulter Lecture was entitled “Soft, Skin-interfaced Microfluid Systems for Capture and Analysis of Sweat”. The topic follows Dr. Rogers’ research, which emphasizes such themes as nano-fabrication, techniques for unusual electronic and photonic devices, and bio-integrated and bio-inspired systems.



Dr. Ziva Cooper presenting the Plenary Lecture – Photo Pittcon2020

The 2020 Plenary Lecture ‘Cannabis Constituents as Novel Strategies to Tackle the Opioid Epidemic’ was delivered by Dr. Ziva Cooper, Research Director of the UCLA Cannabis Research Initiative in the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior and Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences. Dr. Cooper’s research focuses on understanding the neurobiological, pharmacological, and behavioral variables that influence both the positive and negative potential of cannabis and cannabinoids. She has served on the National Academies of Sciences Committee on the Health Effects of Marijuana, serves on various editorial boards and is President of the International Study Group Investigating Drugs as Reinforcers.

The two above-mentioned lectures accentuated Pittcon 2020’s 67 Short Courses, 34 Networking Sessions, and 1,575 Technical Program presentations. Many attendees took part in Pittcon 2020’s technical programming and continuing education elements.

The 2020 Short Courses took place from 29<sup>th</sup> February – 5<sup>th</sup> March. With over 80 options to choose from and offered at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels, these range from one-half day up to two-days. There were a wide variety of classes covering relevant analytical topics, such as, food science, environmental, life science, pharmaceutical, among others. Courses for broad-based application and general lab functions included lab management, quality control, technical writing, statistics, data analysis and lab safety. Also, this year several new courses have been added to the schedule covering topics such as Raman spectroscopy and imaging, cannabis testing, chemometrics chromatography, sample preparation, multi-spectral imaging, and many more.

The exposition attracted 509 exhibitors occupying 925 booths, all displaying the latest innovations in laboratory science and laboratory technologies. The exposition hall, located at Chicago’s McCormick Place convention center, was open March 3, 4, and 5, to a noteworthy 9,011 attendees. Exhibiting companies and attendees alike from numerous chemistry specialties within the bioanalytics, cannabis and hemp, energy, environmental, food science and agriculture, forensics and toxicology, industry and manufacturing, life science, nanotechnology and material science, and pharmaceutical fields.



Aerial view of the Pittcon 2020 Exposition – Photo Pittcon2020

The two ‘Live Demo’ areas on the exposition floor offered scheduled 15-20 minute interactive product demonstrations by leading exhibitors. These sessions also gave attendees an opportunity to engage

technical experts in question and answer sessions. The demos were open to all registered attendees.

In the Pittcon 2020 App, the official conference and exposition mobile app, attendees found valuable information to help plan and navigate the conference and exposition. It acted as an all-inclusive real-time show guide with details on exhibiting companies, technical sessions, Conferee Networking sessions, Short Courses, DemoZones, NEXUS Theaters, and much more.

Pittcon 2020 also marked the beginning of a new Pittcon tradition — the Pittcon Party. Held at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, the event attracted 1,250 guests and featured exclusive access to the museum, refreshments, music, dancing, and a stirring welcome speech from Pittcon 2020 President, Dr. Jane Chan.

The 'Pittsburgh Conference Achievement Award' at Pittcon 2020 was given to Professor Livia Schiavinato Eberlin, who is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at The University of Texas at Austin. This award is presented annually to a researcher that made a significant and independent impact in an area of analytical chemistry, within the first ten years of their academic career. Prof. Eberlin was chosen based on her inventive research, strong collaboration, and development of diagnostic tools for cancer detection.



Professor Livia Schiavinato Eberlin winner of the 'Pittsburgh Conference Achievement Award'  
Photo Pittcon2020

## About Pittcon



Pittcon is the premier annual conference and exposition on laboratory science. This event not only covers analytical chemistry and spectroscopy, but also showcases developments made in the fields of food safety, environmental sciences, bioterrorism and pharmaceuticals.

Founded in 1950, Pittcon works in collaboration with the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh (SSP) and the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP) to assist in the development, research and future excellence of science education and its implementation.

Pittcon, a vital resource for knowledge, happens yearly to help keep you informed of, connected to and up-to-date on these significant ongoing findings and new instrumentation.

**Pittcon 2021 will be held March 6 – 10, 2021, in New Orleans, Louisiana at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.**