



# School of Medicine

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## **MASS SPECTROMETRY RESEARCH CENTER**

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Dear AIMS.2024 participants,

We are thrilled to have you be a part of our upcoming Advanced Imaging Mass Spectrometry course at Vanderbilt University. We have been hard at work planning a curriculum that will provide as much practical information as possible. A detailed agenda for the course is attached for your review. As you will notice, most lectures are paired with a workshop that will demonstrate the key techniques that we employ in our own work. It is our hope that you leave with the confidence that will allow you to perform even the most advanced Imaging Mass Spectrometry experiments in your own laboratories.

### **Travel to Vanderbilt**

Many of you have already arranged travel to Nashville and have made arrangements to stay at a local hotel, most of which are within walking distance of Vanderbilt. Registration starts at 7:45 am Tuesday morning and we will additionally provide coffee and tea before the start of the program at 8:30 am.

If you would prefer to drive to the University, we have attached a map that shows the location of the nearest public parking garage, Wesley Place Parking Garage, and the location of the course registration.

Springtime in Nashville often means unpredictable weather. There is usually a possibility of rain during the day. Typical daytime temperatures are in the high 70s and nights are in the 50s. Please plan accordingly.

### **Monday Tutorial Lectures**

For those of you who will be attending one of the Monday tutorial lectures, we will have registration open at 3:30 pm at the School of Nursing prior to the tutorials. You will be able to pick up your registration materials there. The address for the School of Nursing is 461 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, South, if you would like to use GPS to guide you to the location.

When you arrive, if you need any help finding the School of Nursing or get turned around on campus, please call Amanda Renick-Beech at 615-343-9207 or Garrett Ellison at 615-343-2700 for assistance.

### **Course Registration**

At registration, there are two very important items that you will receive, your identification badge and your course book/USB stick. Your badge is important for two reasons; first it identifies you as part of the course and authorizes you to be on-site. Second, it identifies your workshop group assignment. We will be holding

workshops on sample preparation, matrix application, and data processing. We have assigned each of you to a color-coded workshop group to facilitate moving to the various stations. We will explain more about these logistics on Tuesday, but your group assignment is your key to knowing where to go during the workshops.

Since the course will cover an enormous amount of material, it would be very difficult to take detailed notes on all the lectures. For your convenience, we are providing a pdf copy of all the lecture slides, outlines of the workshop materials, a bibliography, lists of materials and supplies, contact information, maps, etc. For those of you who purchased a printed course book, it will be available for pickup at the registration table. This book will be an important resource.

### **Data Processing Workshops**

We are pleased to present data processing workshops this year on Friday morning. In order for you to get the most out of them, we strongly recommend that you bring a laptop for the workshops. You will be given practice data files and instructions for downloading some R tools on a flash drive at registration.

### **Workshop Safety and Liability**

AIMS.2024 is unique because we are spending so much time in the lab showing and allowing you to participate in performing experiments. For this reason, liability and safety is a concern. You will be asked to sign a liability waiver at registration in order to participate in the workshops. Our demonstrations were designed with your safety in mind, and we have taken great care to avoid any laboratory situations which might cause harm to any participant. However, basic laboratory safety practices will be enforced.

At all times, safety glasses must be worn in the laboratory. We will provide a pair of basic safety glasses for each participant to wear in the lab. However, we will spend a number of hours in the lab each day. **If you have a particular style of glasses that you prefer for comfort or because they fit over your prescription eye-wear, then we encourage you to bring your own safety glasses.** Protective garments will be provided to cover your clothing if you are participating directly in a laboratory exercise.

### **Vendor Demonstration Days**

We are honored to have the support of a number of the companies that we work very closely with to further Imaging Mass Spectrometry. Our sponsors for AIMS.2024 are Bruker Daltonics, Waters, and HTX Imaging. You will notice that Wednesday afternoon and Thursday afternoon have been reserved for Vendor Demonstrations. These times are set aside specifically for you to interact with the vendors and for you to learn about specific instrumentation that interests you. We are NOT assigning groups, but we are allowing you to sign up to see whatever it is that interests you most. Most vendors have structured this time into 30 minute blocks. You may sign up to see a demonstration of any of the instrumentation that you would like during these blocks of time. Each vendor is responsible for their own schedule, so you may sign up for a vendor demonstration at the vendor's booth, found in the break area. Some of the vendors may contact you before the meeting to give you some additional information about the products that they are going to demonstrate on this day.

### **Reception**

We are pleased to announce we will be holding a Dinner Reception for all attendees on Thursday night at the Frist Art Museum. We will provide transportation to and from the dinner, and we will provide more information during the day on Thursday.

## **Bruker Symposium**

We are also pleased to announce a Symposium and Open House on Friday, May 3, 2024 to highlight the new Bruker-Vanderbilt Mass Spectrometry Center of Excellence housed in the MSRC Core Labs. Everyone registered for AIMS.2024 will be registered for this half-day symposium to celebrate the groundbreaking strategic partnership between Bruker and Vanderbilt University to provide world-class mass spectrometry services within Vanderbilt. We hope you stay to enjoy the symposium talks as well as a catered lunch.

## **Additional Questions?**

The primary purpose of AIMS.2024 is to answer all of your questions about Imaging Mass Spectrometry and give you all of the information that you need to perform these experiments in your own lab. We realize that even though there is a generous amount of time in the workshops, you may have more questions. For this reason, we have scheduled time at the end of Tuesday and Wednesday called "Meet the Speakers." This is a time for you to ask additional questions in an informal setting to both the lecturers and workshop leaders. Additional consultations with the speakers and vendors may be scheduled Friday afternoon after the symposium and after the course has officially concluded.

We are excited that you have chosen to be a part of AIMS.2024 and are looking forward to meeting you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle L. Reyzer".

Michelle L. Reyzer, Ph.D.  
AIMS Course Director