

Dear AIMS.2018 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. Since many of you are staying at the Embassy Suites, we have arranged for shuttle transportation for the group on Tuesday morning. Two representatives from Vanderbilt will meet you in the lobby of the hotel and travel with you to the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, the location of the course registration and the site of the course lectures. Registration starts at 7:45 am Tuesday morning and we will additionally provide a light breakfast before the start of the program at 8:30 am. We will only provide escorts on Tuesday morning, so please arrange your shuttle transportation on Wednesday-Friday with the front desk.

If you have made alternative hotel arrangements or 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.

Course Registration

At registration, there are two very important items that you will receive, your identification badge and your course book. 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, the course books contain all the lecture slides, outlines of the workshop materials, a bibliography, lists of materials and supplies, contact information, maps, etc. This book will be an important resource.

Data Processing Workshops

We are pleased to present data processing workshops this year on Thursday morning. In order for you to get the most out of them, we strongly recommend that you bring a laptop for the workshops. We have prepared some files for you to download for the R data analysis workshop. It will give users a very brief introduction to the open-source Cardinal in R for basic data pre-processing and analysis tasks and includes some MSRC in-house developed functions for data analysis. You can find these files and download them from: <https://github.com/nhpatterson/aimsMSRC>. This program will work with both Mac and PC plat

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. We have pre-arranged shuttle transportation to Vanderbilt at 3:30 pm from the Embassy Suites hotel for the tutorial lectures (which start at 4:00 pm), and Vanderbilt personnel will accompany you to the University.

Construction

The main entrance to the School of Nursing will be closed due to construction during AIMS. The shuttle buses from the Embassy Suites will drop you off at the Medical Research Building III driveway, but we will have signs directing

you around the construction. If you are walking to the University, please be on the lookout for these signs. We will also have Vanderbilt personnel around to help guide you into the School of Nursing classroom. We apologize for this inconvenience!

Workshop Safety and Liability

AIMS.2018 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.2018 are Bruker Daltonics, Waters, Thermo Scientific, and HTX Technologies. You will notice that Wednesday morning 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.

Gala Dinner

We are pleased to announce we will be holding a Gala Dinner for all attendees at the historic Bridge Building Thursday night. The Bridge Building is a historical landmark located on the waterfront in downtown Nashville and offers beautiful views of the city. Entertainment will be provided by Street Corner Symphony, an *a capella* group based in Nashville that attained international recognition by making the final round on the second season of NBC's The Sing-Off. We will be providing shuttle transportation to and from both Vanderbilt and the Embassy Suites hotel. Dinner will be a casual buffet, and afterwards all attendees will be free to watch the show.

Additional Questions?

The primary purpose of AIMS.2018 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.

We are excited that you have chosen to be a part of AIMS.2018 and are looking forward to meeting you.

Best regards,



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