



Feb-Apr 2026

Vol 55, Issue 2

Message from the President

Dear ASP members,

As we move into the spring season, I am pleased to share an update as we approach ASP 2026 in Scottsdale. Preparations are well underway, and the energy surrounding this meeting continues to build.

Guided by our theme, From Foundations to Frontiers in Photobiology, this year's program reflects both the depth and breadth of our field. With nearly 200 abstracts contributing to a dynamic scientific program, ASP 2026 will bring together researchers, clinicians, students, and industry partners for several days of outstanding science, discussion, and collaboration. In addition to a strong lineup of plenary and award lectures, the meeting will feature expanded opportunities for trainee engagement, mentoring, and community building.

We are especially excited to welcome our newly elected Councilors and officers, and to recognize the recipients of the ASP 2026 Awards. Their contributions highlight the strength and continued evolution of our community. I also want to acknowledge the important role of our Associate Members, whose involvement in initiatives such as mentoring activities, the ASP Junior Webinar Series, and ASP Reporters continues to shape the future of the Society.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support of ASP. I look forward to seeing many of you in Scottsdale this May as we reconnect, celebrate our community, and explore the next directions in photobiology.

With warm regards,
Sherri

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sherri'.

P.S. If you notice any errors, omissions, or updates needed in this issue, we welcome your feedback and the opportunity to revise accordingly.



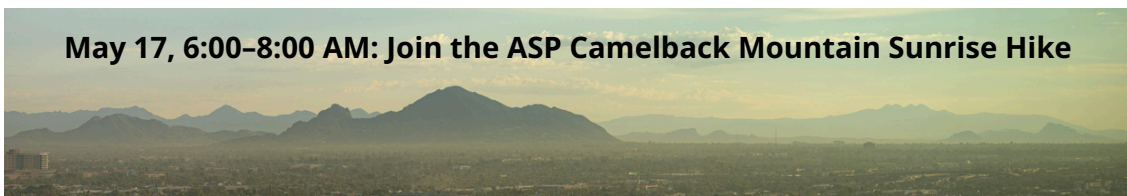
Register by April 16 to get the best deal!

Registration is in full swing for ASP 2026! We have assigned almost 200 abstracts and are still accepting poster abstracts. ASP 2026 will showcase a vibrant scientific program built from almost 200 submitted abstracts and spanning the breadth of *Foundations to Frontiers in Photobiology*.

The meeting will begin with a single-track opening afternoon on May 16, featuring plenary presentations, Come-See-My-Presentation flash talks, and the Kendric C. Smith Memorial Symposium with six ASP award lectures. Over the following three days, the program expands into 28 scientific sessions organized across four parallel tracks. In total, ASP 2026 will feature >130 oral presentations from distinguished and emerging independent investigators, 15 student platform talks highlighting the next generation of photobiology leaders, and >50 poster presentations. The program also includes plenary lectures across the meeting, including the Editor's Lecture, the ESP Presidential Lecture, and the ASP Presidential Lecture.

Newly elected ASP Councilors/Associate Councilors and Officers will join the ASP Council Meeting on May 19 from 6–9 PM.

May 17, 6:00–8:00 AM: Join the ASP Camelback Mountain Sunrise Hike



Schedule-at-a-Glance

Program by Day

Program by Session

List of Sessions

Plenary Lectures

Award Lectures

In addition to the scientific program, ASP 2026 will offer opportunities for mentoring, networking, and community engagement. ASP participants can experience the Arizona outdoors by signing up for the early-morning Camelback hike on May 17. Associate Members can sign up for the Mentoring Lunches that take place each day and will include electing new Associate Councilors on May 18. ASP Past Presidents can sign up for a special luncheon on May 17.

We encourage everyone to sign up to attend the banquet and awards ceremony on the evening of May 18, where we will celebrate the accomplishments of the ASP community with an evening of food, beverages, and entertainment. The awards banquet will also include recognition of incoming and outgoing ASP Councilors.

Enjoy Some Blasts from the Past!





Have ASP photos or other historical items to share?

Upload Here

ASP 2018 Tampa: ASP Officers start the dancing! **ASP 1989 Boston:** Boston police check out an ASP function that seemed to need attention. **ASP 1996 Atlanta:** CNN asks some ASP members to explain photobiology in 10 words or less. **ASP 1994 Scottsdale:** A plan to push Mike Rogers in the water backfires! Photos and comments kindly provide by ASP Member Dr. David Kessel.

[Click here for ASP 2026 merch!](#) Every purchase supports ASP Associate Members, helping fund their participation in the annual meeting and related activities. Your support empowers the next generation of photobiologists to connect, engage, and thrive. Official ASP merchandise is available in a variety of colors, sizes, and styles. Donations can also be made through the store.

An advertisement for ASP 2026 merchandise. The background is a desert landscape with saguaro cacti and mountains at sunset. The text "ASP 2026 MERCHANDISE" is prominently displayed in large, bold, blue letters. Below it, in smaller orange and white text, is "WEAR THE MISSION. SHARE THE VISION." and "43RD MEETING • SCOTTSDALE". The merchandise shown includes a grey tote bag, a grey baseball cap, and two t-shirts (one grey, one beige), all featuring the ASP logo. The logo is circular and contains the text "ASP 2026 • 43rd MEETING • SCOTTSDALE", "AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PHOTOBIOLOGY", and "FROM FOUNDATIONS TO FRONTIERS IN PHOTOBIOLOGY". A circular badge in the bottom left corner says "LIMITED EDITION ★ 2026 ★". At the bottom of the ad, there are four icons with text: a mountain icon for "INSPIRED BY SCOTTSDALE", a sun icon for "BUILT FOR PHOTOBIOLOGISTS", a globe icon for "SHARE YOUR PASSION", and a shopping cart icon for "SHOP NOW ONLINE".

ASP 2026 AWARD WINNERS

We are pleased to congratulate the ASP 2026 award recipients in recognition of their outstanding contributions to photobiology! We look forward to recognizing our ASP 2026 awardees at the Awards Banquet on May 18 in Scottsdale. [Click here](#) to see a list of the award lectures.

Congratulations!



Lifetime Achievement **Jean Cadet**

Université de Sherbrooke

I feel deeply honored to have been selected for this prestigious award. It has been a real pleasure and a privilege for me to have been involved for several decades in ASP activities.



Research **Yu-Ying He**

University of Chicago

Receiving the ASP Research Award is a tremendous honor and deeply meaningful recognition of my lab's contributions to photobiology. It inspires me to continue advancing our understanding of how ultraviolet light interacts with our skin and to inspire future innovations in photobiology.



Photon **Alexander Greer**

Brooklyn College of the City University of New York

It is an honor to receive the Photon Award from the American Society for Photobiology (ASP). Serving as president during ASP's 50th anniversary was a highlight of my career, and receiving the award only adds to a motivation to contribute to the field and society.



New Investigator **Jean-Luc Ayitou**

University of Illinois Chicago

I am deeply honored to receive the New Investigator Award from the American Society of Photobiology, and I sincerely thank the selection committee for this recognition. Being acknowledged by this community is both validating and energizing. This award will meaningfully advance our research work/program on harnessing the unique properties of photo-active materials for biomedical applications, as well as strengthen our connections within the photobiology community. I look forward to contributing to this society for many years to come.

Light Path

Clemens Burda

Case Western Reserve University



As an undergraduate at the University of Basel, I was captivated by the magic of photoscience through the teachings of Prof. Jakob Wirz, who inspired me to pursue a PhD in this field. Later, my passions were profoundly shaped by my postdoctoral advisor, Prof. El-Sayed, Laren Tolbert and Gary Schuster. I am deeply grateful for their guidance and inspiration. I would also like to thank the ASP for shepherding generations of scientists toward ... the light. I am truly humbled by this wonderful recognition.

Editor's Student Research

Serah Essang

City University of New York (CUNY), Brooklyn College



I am deeply honored to receive the ASP Student Research Award. This recognition is undoubtedly one of the most defining moments of my academic journey. I am sincerely grateful to the ASP award committee for this honor.

Photocite A

Louise Finlayson

TriTech Institute



I am honored to receive the Photocite A award and am extremely grateful to my co-authors for their expertise, collaboration and support that made this work possible. It is really encouraging to have our work recognized and to know it is contributing positively to the field. (Note: award lecture will be presented and award accepted by co-author Ewan Eadie)

Photocite B

Maurício S. Baptista

Universidade de São Paulo



Jean Cadet

Université de Sherbrooke

Alexander Greer

Brooklyn College of the City University of New York



Andrés H. Thomas

Universidad Nacional de La Plata

We are profoundly honored and thrilled to receive the Photocite B award. To have our collaborative work on photosensitized oxidation recognized in this way is not only a career highlight but also a heartwarming affirmation of our shared passion for advancing the photochemistry and photobiology community.

Urbach Student Travel

Habiba Afrin
Johon Alejandro Arboleda
Bulus Bako
Paul Danyi
Kalara Develigoda Gamage
Zeinab Fayyaz
Alexis Iverson
Akshaya Iyer
Gurleen Kaur
Nikita Kulkarni
Andrew Langley
Chris Lawson
Caitlyn Lewis
Dalton Lucas
Arghavan Mollazadeh
Broderick Nelson
Henry Politte
Ronak Shethia
Ge Shi
Brayden Stackhouse
Alisher Talgatov
Aarati Upreti
Abbas Vali
Marta Overchuk

Thank you!

We extend our sincere thanks to the ASP Awards Committee for their dedication and thoughtful efforts in this year's selection process. We are especially grateful to **ASP Councilor and Awards Committee Chair Xiaojing Yang** for her leadership, along with all committee members for their time, care, and commitment to recognizing excellence across our community.

NEW ASP COUNCILORS AND OFFICERS

We are pleased to share the results of our recent ASP election, including the newly elected Councilors who will serve from 2026–2030 and be welcomed at ASP 2026 in Scottsdale. We are also pleased to announce that **Masaoki Kawasumi** will serve as ASP President-Elect (2026–2028), with a call for nominations for the Secretary position open now.

Congratulations and Welcome!

President Elect



Masaoki Kawasumi

The Ohio State University

The American Society for Photobiology (ASP) has long fostered rigorous science, collaboration, and mentorship, and I am committed to strengthening its impact and ensuring a vibrant future in a rapidly evolving scientific landscape. Drawing on my extensive service and leadership within ASP, I will continue to expand engagement, support scientists at all career stages, and grow our community through innovative programming and inclusive initiatives. Looking ahead, I aim to deepen interdisciplinary and international partnerships while investing in the next generation of photobiologists to secure the society's long-term success.

Sherri McFarland will soon move to Past President, **Ryan McCulla** to President, and **Theresa Busch** remains Treasurer. Past President **Shiyong Wu** will rotate off Executive Council at the ASP 2026 meeting. We thank these Officers for their continued dedication to ASP! Nominations are currently open for ASP Secretary.

Councilors



Erick Leite Bastos

Associate Professor, Department of Fundamental Chemistry,
Institute of Chemistry
University of São Paulo

I am honored to be part of ASP and to contribute as a Councilor. I look forward to helping modernize the Society's online presence, supporting the organization of ASP and joint ASP/LatASP meetings, and contributing to the development of educational and outreach materials under the Society's brand.



Carlos E. Crespo-Hernández

Professor of Chemistry and Associate Dean for Research, College
of Arts and Science
Case Western Reserve University

I hope to strengthen the American Society for Photobiology by broadening collaboration among its founding disciplines—biology, chemistry, physics, and medicine—and expanding into emerging scientific fields. I am committed to upholding and enhancing the Society's excellence in publishing and to fostering diversity, inclusion, and mentorship for early-career scientists. By promoting impactful communication and engagement, I aim to help advance the Society's mission and sustain its leadership in the broadly defined fields of photochemistry, photobiology, and photomedicine.



Eduardo Ruvolo

Beiersdorf, Inc.

I am honored to have been elected as a Councilor of the American Society for Photobiology. I would like to sincerely thank the ASP community for their trust and support, and I look forward to contributing to the continued growth and impact of the Society. As a Councilor, I look forward to supporting ASP in several key areas: promoting emerging scientific areas in photobiology, including visible light biology and extended photoprotection; strengthening collaboration across academia, industry, and regulatory communities; contributing to the development of high-impact scientific programs and symposia; enhancing ASP's visibility and relevance in translational and applied photobiology

I believe ASP plays a unique and important role in advancing both fundamental science and its practical applications. I am committed to working collaboratively with fellow Council members to support the Society's mission and to help expand its scientific reach and impact.



Cristian C. Villa

Universidad del Quindío - Colombia

I aim to strengthen ASP's global engagement by fostering collaborations between established photobiology communities and emerging research groups, particularly in underrepresented regions. I will also work to support early-career scientists through inclusive training, mentoring, and interdisciplinary initiatives that connect photobiology with applied fields such as biomaterials, food science, and biotechnology.



David Welch

Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology
Columbia University Irving Medical Center

As a Councilor, I hope to support the planning of the ASP meetings and seminars which give researchers a platform to share their discoveries. I also hope to support social and networking functions with the goal of welcoming new members.

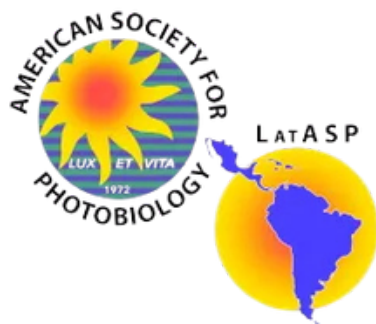
Thank You to Our Outgoing Councilors

We extend our sincere thanks to the Councilors whose terms will conclude at the ASP 2026 Biennial Meeting: **Dae Joon Kim, Jon Lovell, Xiaojing Yang, Youngjae You,** and **Girgis Obaid**. We are deeply grateful for their service, leadership, and contributions to ASP, and we look forward to recognizing them in Scottsdale.

SUBMIT ASP SECRETARY NOMINATIONS NOW!

ASP is now accepting nominations for the Secretary position, with submissions open through April 15. Self-nominations are welcomed. This is a key leadership role within the Society, supporting governance, overseeing official records and meeting minutes, coordinating election-related communications, and working closely with the Secretariat to ensure smooth operations. It's a great opportunity to get involved in ASP leadership and contribute to the Society's continued growth and impact. Interested candidates should submit a short CV or biosketch along with a brief statement outlining how they would like to contribute in the role of Secretary. The ballot will open shortly after the nomination period and close at the end of April.

NEW LatASP COUNCILORS AND OFFICERS



We are proud to announce that the election of new officers for our society has been successful. We congratulate and welcome **Denis Fuentealba**, the newly president-elect, and the new council members: **Carolina Aliaga, Adriana Casas, Nancy Pizarro, Thiago Teixeira Tasso, Cristian Villa** and **Jesús Morales**. Below is the complete list of LatASP officers for the period 2026-2027.

Executive committee:

President: Mauricio Baptista (Univeridade de São Paulo, Brazil)

Past-President: Andrés Thomas (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina)

President-Elect: Denis Fuentealba (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile)

ASP President: Sherri McFarland (University of Texas at Arlington, USA)

Council:

Councilors for professors/researchers:

Daniel Gonzalez-Maglio (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina)

Carolina Lorente (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina)

José Robinson-Duggon (Universidad de Panamá, Panama)

Carolina Aliaga (Universidad de Santiago de Chile, Chile)

Adriana Casas (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina)

Nancy Pizarro (Universidad Andrés Bello, Chile)

Thiago Teixeira Tasso (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais)

Cristian Villa (Universidad del Quindío, Colombia)

Councilors for associate members:

Manuel Alejandro Herrera Lopez (Univeridade de São Paulo, Brazil)

Jesús Morales (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina)

Update provided by: Andrés Thomas & Mauricio Baptista

Upcoming ASP Webinar

64th ASP Webinar

Thursday, April 16, 2026

1:00–2:00 pm Eastern Time

[**REGISTER NOW**](#)

Alexey Gusev, Ph.D.
Co-Founder and CEO of Ultrafast Systems



Gentler Ultrafast Spectroscopy: Maximizing Information While Minimizing Photodamage

About the webinar: Time-resolved studies of light-sensitive biological systems are often constrained by photodamage and the limitations of traditional techniques such as step-scan transient absorption and flash photolysis. This seminar introduces a unified pump–probe approach that utilizes the information obtained from every laser pulse, enabling high-quality measurements from femtoseconds to seconds while significantly reducing sample exposure.

Continuous delay scanning allows rapid, high-fidelity ultrafast measurements on sensitive samples, while additional acquisition modes extend pump–probe spectroscopy into the microsecond-to-second regime—eliminating the need for high-intensity flash photolysis and preserving full spectral information throughout the experiment.

Attendees will see how these developments enable a significantly more efficient and sample-friendly way to study biological dynamics across a wide temporal range.

About the speaker: Alexey Gusev, Ph.D., is the Co-Founder and CEO of Ultrafast Systems, a company specializing in advanced instrumentation for time-resolved spectroscopy. He received his Ph.D. in chemistry from Bowling Green State University under the guidance of Michael Rodgers and completed his postdoctoral research at Northwestern University with Michael Wasielewski. Following his postdoctoral work, Dr. Gusev served as a Research Professor at the Ohio Laboratory for Kinetic Spectrometry, where he focused on ultrafast spectroscopic methods and instrumentation. He later co-founded Ultrafast Systems together with Michael Rodgers, where he has led the development of widely used transient absorption spectrometers for applications in chemistry, materials science, and biology. His work is centered on advancing ultrafast measurement techniques, improving data quality, and enabling reliable studies of complex and sensitive systems.

Recent ASP Webinars

Don't forget that as an ASP member, you have access to our archive of past webinars. Be sure to check out the latest recordings from 2026, featuring timely topics and insights from leaders across the photobiology community.

[ACCESS PAST WEBINARS HERE](#)

Thank You to Our 2026 Webinar Speakers!

63rd ASP Webinar

Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 1:00–2:00 pm Eastern Time

Speaker: **Fabienne Dumoulin**, PhD, FRSC

Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering,
Acibadem University, Turkey

Title: Phthalocyanines: unique chemical playground for photodynamics



62nd ASP Webinar

Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 1:00–2:00 pm Eastern Time

Speaker: **Kathrin Brenker**, PhD

Co-Founder & CEO, opto biolabs GmbH, Germany

Title: Illuminating a Path outside of Academia



61st ASP Webinar

Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 1:00–2:00 pm Eastern Time

Speaker: **Bernhard Spingler**, PhD

Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of
Zurich, Switzerland

Title: From Metallo-Porphyrins to BODIPYs – Colourful surprises with Photodynamic and Photothermal Agents



ASP Membership 2026 is Now Underway

The 2026 ASP membership year runs from January 1 through December 31, and we invite you to renew or join if you haven't already. Your membership supports ASP's mission to advance photobiological research, strengthen our scientific community, and nurture the next generation of photobiologists through student travel awards, mentoring, and professional development.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

Enjoy the many benefits of being part of the ASP community!

- Online access to our journal *Photochemistry & Photobiology*
- Reduced registration rates for ASP and ESP meetings
- Access to travel awards to attend ASP and ESP meetings
- Eligibility for ASP awards and nominations
- Access to ASP Webinar Series recordings
- Networking events, workshops, and travel awards ...and more!

Leadership & Membership Opportunities

ASP is always looking for Members interested in becoming Councilors and Officers. These positions play a vital role in shaping the Society's scientific programs, outreach, and future direction. Please reach out if you'd like to get involved. We'd love to hear from you!



Community & Mentoring

ASP Educational Webinar Series

Introduction to Photoscience

REGISTER HERE

ASP Educational Webinar Series: Introduction to Photoscience

This five-part virtual program is designed to help trainees and early-career researchers build foundational knowledge across the diverse field of photoscience. It aims to bridge knowledge gaps and prepare participants to engage more confidently with scientific presentations at the ASP 2026 Biennial Meeting.



Dates: Monday, April 27, 2026 – Friday, May 1, 2026 (5 consecutive days)

Time: 10:00–11:00 AM U.S. Eastern Time (EDT)

Topics and Speakers:

1. Environmental Photobiology and Ultraviolet Radiation Effects (Masaoki Kawasumi)
2. Photomedicine and Photodermatology (Gal Shafirstein)
3. Photosensory Biology (Xiaoqing Yang)
4. Photochemistry, Photophysics and Phototechnology (Alexander Greer)
5. Photosynthesis and Photoconversion (Jean-Luc Ayitou)

Want to Learn More about Photobiology?

Looking to deepen your knowledge in photobiology? We encourage ASP members to explore the European Society for Photobiology Photobiology School, an excellent educational initiative offering structured training across key areas of the field. This program complements ASP's educational webinar series by providing in-depth lectures and learning modules designed for students, trainees, and researchers alike. It's a valuable opportunity to expand your expertise and engage with the broader international photobiology community. Learn more and explore upcoming sessions at the Photobiology School website.



European Society for Photobiology



ESP PHOTOBIOLOGY SCHOOL

**15-20 June 2026
Brixen/Bressanone, Italy**

<https://www.photobiology.eu/photobiology-school>

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Join a supportive space for junior researchers to share challenges and exchange peer advice at ASP 2026. Events you won't want to miss include:

Camelback Hike (open to all)

Sunday, May 17 | 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM

Associate Member Mentoring Lunches (Associate Members)

Sunday, May 17 | 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM (location Kiva)

Monday, May 18 | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM (location Kiva, Election)

Tuesday, May 19 | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM (location Kiva)

Poster and Networking Reception (open to all)

Sunday, May 17 5:15 – 7:15 PM (location Hacienda I)

President's Pizza Party (Associate Members + ASP Councilors)

Sunday, May 17 | 7:15 – 9:15 PM (location TBD)

Awards Banquet and Celebration (open to all)

Monday, May 18 | 6:00 – 10:00 pm (location Paloma Garden)

Student Platform Sessions (open to all)

Tuesday, May 19 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM & 3:15 PM – 5:15 PM (location Kiva)

Associate Councilor Nominations & Election – ASP 2026

Nominations for Associate Councilors will take with brief 1–2 minute introductions at the Mentoring Luncheon on Monday, May 18 (12:00–1:00 PM, Kiva). The election will follow immediately. Associate Councilors play an important role in shaping trainee engagement within ASP. This includes helping to plan and support mentoring activities at the Biennial Meeting, contributing to Associate Member events, and guiding initiatives such as the ASP Junior Webinar Series and ASP Reporters. A limited number of positions are available. We encourage Associate Members who are interested in getting involved and helping strengthen our trainee community to consider standing for nomination.



EDITOR'S CORNER

Dr. Alexander Greer, Editor-in-Chief
Photochemistry and Photobiology
Email: agreer@brooklyn.cuny.edu



Please take a moment to explore the [Editorial](#) in the January/February 2026 (Issue 1) edition of ASP's journal *Photochemistry and Photobiology*. In this issue, Editor-in-Chief Alexander Greer highlights recent publication trends, the ongoing impact of special issues, and several exciting themed issues planned for 2026. He also outlines updates to the Author Guidelines and introduces a new In Memoriam article type.

Top Pick



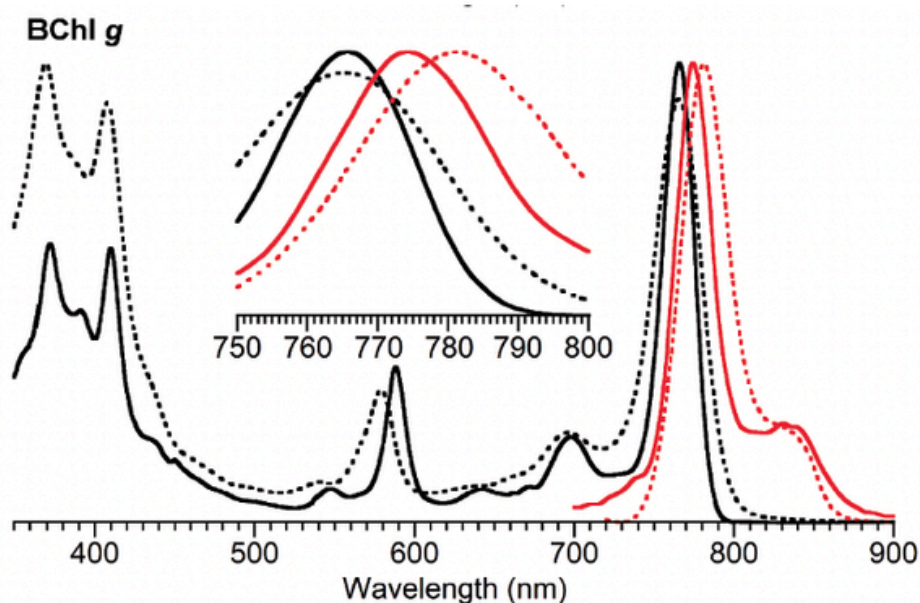
RESEARCH ARTICLE | [Open Access](#) |

Database of low-temperature absorption and fluorescence spectra of native photosynthetic tetrapyrrole macrocycles

[Dariusz M. Niedzwiedzki](#), [Masahiko Taniguchi](#), [Jonathan S. Lindsey](#) ✉

First published: 10 August 2025 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/php.70018> | [VIEW METRICS](#)

In this work, Lindsey, Taniguchi et al. report low-temperature absorption and fluorescence spectra for 12 naturally occurring photosynthetic compounds, including porphyrins, chlorophylls, and bacteriochlorophylls. Stokes shifts measured at 77 K ranged from approximately 30 to 300 cm^{-1} . These data have been incorporated into the highly useful PhotochemCAD database. The accompanying image shows absorption spectra (black trace) and fluorescence spectra (red trace) of a bacteriochlorin-type bacteriochlorophyll (BChl g) measured at 293 K (dashes) and 77 K (solid line) in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran.



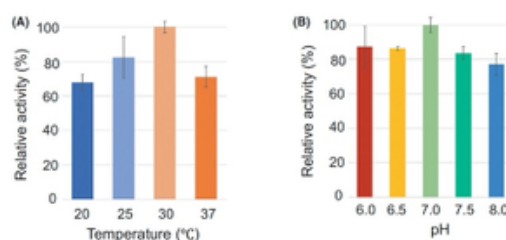
RESEARCH ARTICLE | [Open Access](#) |

Characterization of luciferase from an Indian firefly *Abscondita* sp. (Coleoptera: Lampiridae)

[Yasuo Mitani](#) ✉, [Shusei Kanie](#), [Sosmitha Girisa](#), [Ajaikumar B. Kunnumakkara](#), [Sunil C. Kaul](#), [Yoshihiro Ohmiya](#)

First published: 18 June 2025 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/php.70001> | [VIEW METRICS](#)

Mitani et al. describe the enzymatic characterization of the *Photinus pyralis* luciferase expressed as a recombinant protein following cloning of the gene. Firefly luciferase emission typically depends on pH, with red-shifted emission often observed with lower pH. In this study, luciferase from an Indian *Abscondita* firefly species was characterized and found to have an optimal temperature of 30 °C and an optimal pH of 7.0. The emission wavelength was 570 nm at both pH 6.0 and pH 8.0, with no significant red shift observed."



(Left) Photograph of the Indian firefly used in the study: Ventral view, the specimen on the left is female and on the right is male. Scale bar = 5 mm. (Right) Enzymatic characterization of the Indian firefly luciferase. Luciferase activity at different temperatures (A) and pH (B).

ASP REPORTERS

ASP Reporters is a student-focused outreach initiative that highlights emerging voices in photobiology. Junior photobiologists, including graduate students and undergraduates, summarize and comment on recent photobiology-related research articles, building skills in critical reading and scientific communication. Selected reports are featured on [ASP's LinkedIn platform](#), increasing student visibility while showcasing timely and impactful advances across the field.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!



Balaka Ghosh
ASP Reporter
UIC



A thiophene coumarin-based near-infrared fluorescent probe with large Stokes shift for detecting endogenous hydrogen peroxide in cellular mitochondria

Xun Ji^{1,†}, Xue-Zhi Chu^{1,†}, Ying-Kun Liu¹, Ling Wang^{1,†}, Jian-Yong Wang^{1,†}

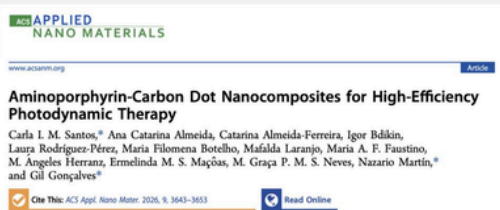


“A thiophene-coumarin-based near-infrared probe (CouPy-CN-H₂O₂) enables selective detection of H₂O₂ in cells and targeted mitochondrial imaging, with a large Stokes shift that reduces background interference. This ratio-type probe demonstrates excellent polar sensitivity and pH tolerance, enabling reliable H₂O₂ detection under complex physiological conditions.”

HOT OFF THE PRESS!



Sarita Rawool
ASP Reporter
UIC



Aminoporphyrin-Carbon Dot Nanocomposites for High-Efficiency Photodynamic Therapy

Carla I. M. Santos,^{*} Ana Catarina Almeida, Catarina Almeida-Ferreira, Igor Bdkin, Laura Rodrigues-Pêrez, Maria Filomena Botelho, Mafalda Laranjo, Maria A. F. Faustino, M. Angeles Herranz, Emelinda M. S. Macôas, M. Graça P. M. S. Neves, Nazario Martín,^{*} and Gil Gonçalves^{*}

Cite This: ACS Appl. Nano Mater. 2020, 9, 3643–3653

Read Online



“Aminoporphyrin-Carbon dot nanocomposites have been demonstrated as efficient platforms for photodynamic cancer therapy, where CDs enhance photosensitizer stability and cellular uptake. The hybrid nanostructures generate high levels of reactive oxygen species, enabling effective tumor cell ablation.”

HOT OFF THE PRESS!



Ansh Jagota
ASP Reporter
UT Dallas

Migrasomes constrained by a homologous-targeting photodynamic nanoplatform: enhancing intratumoral CD8⁺ T-cell-associated antitumor immunity in oral squamous cell carcinoma

Lejia Zhang^{1,2}, Hui Gao^{1,2}, Wanning Ju^{1,2}, Fangyang Shi^{1,2}, Xun Chen^{1,2}, Kuangwu Pan¹, Runze Li^{1,2}, Jie Wu^{1,2}, Kuntao Li^{1,2}, Wei Zhao^{1,2}, Yi He^{1,2} and Dongsheng Yu^{1,2*}

“MOF-919@CCM is a biomimetic nanoparticle that uses homotypic targeting by coating itself in MOC1 cancer cell membranes, improving tumor adhesion. Upon laser activation, it generates singlet oxygen to oxidize and degrade cholesterol in the migrasome membrane, while its Cu/Al core provides catalase-like activity to combat tumor hypoxia. This cholesterol depletion inhibits migrasome formation because migrasomes have PD-L1 on their surface, which they use to hide from the immune system. Degradation of cholesterol leads to CD8⁺ T-cells infiltrating the tumor. This makes MOF-919@CCM a useful strategy for immunotherapy in oral squamous cell carcinoma.”



HOT OFF THE PRESS!



Aarya Namburi
ASP Reporter
UT Dallas

ADVANCED THERAPEUTICS

PERSPECTIVE

Implanted Miniature Light Devices for Phototherapeutics


Hailey S. Sanders, Catherine G. Pisco, Ana F. de Almeida Barreto, Sureshkon Riba, Thomas D. O'Sullivan, Bradley D. Smith

First published: 22 December 2025 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/adtp.202500492> | [VIEW METRICS](#)




“Phototherapy is minimally invasive but restricted by shallow light penetration into deep tissues. Sanders and colleagues highlight implantable miniature light devices, wired micro-LEDs and wireless RF systems, that deliver light directly to deep disease sites. These implants overcome tissue attenuation, enabling precise photodynamic therapy while addressing challenges such as power efficiency, thermal management, and biocompatibility. Looking ahead, multifunctional “smart” implants integrating light delivery with diagnostic sensors could enable real-time feedback and metronomic, on-demand therapies that improve treatment outcomes.”

HOT OFF THE PRESS!



Andrew Langley
ASP Reporter
Tufts University




ACS Photonics

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In Vivo Assessment of Benzoporphyrin Uptake and Singlet Oxygen Generation in Mice for Photodynamic Therapy Monitoring
Vikas Vikas,* Baoshu Lu, Weibing Yang, Brian C. Wilson, Timothy C. Zhu, and Robert H. Hadfield

Check This! ACS Photonics 2025, 13, 342-400




“Singlet oxygen luminescence at 1270 nm is a direct dosing metric of photodynamic therapy, though the signal is inherently weak. The integration of single-photon detectors into portable instrumentation has enabled more accurate isolation of this luminescence signal from background autofluorescence in vivo, thereby facilitating real-time monitoring of PDT efficacy.”

HOT OFF THE PRESS!




Jutsum Amon
ASP Reporter
CUNY Graduate Center



JBO Journal of Biomedical Optics


J Biomed Opt. 2025 Dec 22;30(Suppl 3):534116. doi: 10.1117/1.JBO.30.53.534116

Beyond light scattering: the effects of intralipid on benzoporphyrin derivative-sensitized photodynamic treatment in ovarian cancer cells
Marta Ovenshuk*, Albert H. Choi*, Gavin A. E. Whitby*, Huang-Chiao Huang**, Albert W. Girotti*, Imran Rizvi**




“Intralipid is a light-scattering medium to enhance the penetration and distribution of light for photodynamic therapy. Rizvi and coworkers provide insight into the role of intralipid as a competing scavenger for reactive molecular species (RMS), thereby delaying RMS-mediated cytotoxicity and subsequent cell death. An interesting pronounced cytotoxic effect was observed in OVCAR-5 and OVCAR-8 cells, which correlates with a delayed post-irradiation cytotoxic response, likely driven by hydroperoxidized lipids contributing to subsequent cell killing.”

HOT OFF THE PRESS!



Akshaya Iyer
ASP Reporter
Brooklyn College, NY




Photochemistry and Photobiology

INVITED REVIEW | Open Access

Redefining cancer photodynamic therapy with gold nanoparticles
Zoey A. Lockwood, Michael B. Irwin, James P. Basillon, Clemens Burda

First published: 01 April 2025 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpp.14099> | VIEW METRICS



“Gold nanoparticle-based delivery of photosensitizers improves photodynamic cancer therapy by enhancing drug solubility, tumor accumulation, and reactive oxygen species generation. Surface functionalization enables passive and active targeting through the enhanced permeability and retention effect and ligand-receptor interactions. Bioresponsive and theranostic gold nanoparticle systems allow spatial activation and real-time imaging of treatment response. These properties support greater therapeutic precision while limiting tissue damage.”

Send us a message if you'd like to contribute as an ASP Reporter or recommend a junior photobiologist you know.

Thank You to Our ASP Reporters Program Coordinators!



Bhavana Sudula is a sophomore at UT Dallas. Her research focuses on synthesizing solid lipid nanoparticle formulations to enhance drug delivery for photodynamic therapy (PDT).



Aarya Namburi is a freshman at UT Dallas. His research focuses on developing light-activated lipid nanoparticles to enhance targeted drug delivery and stimulate immune responses in cancer therapy.

COMMUNITY INVITATION

Interested in helping preserve the history of ASP? If you have stories or materials from the past, please [contact us](#). We would love to hear from you.

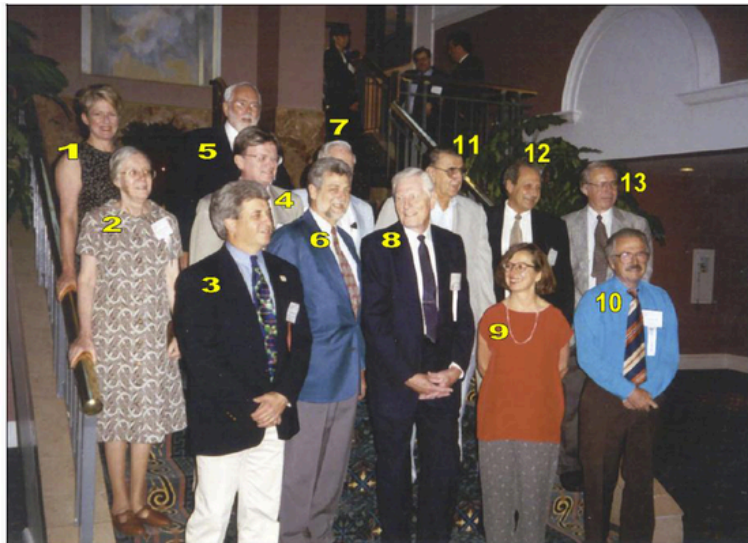
ASP Flashback · Scottsdale 1994



Left to right: ???, Meyrick Peak, Charles (Chuck) Gomer, ???, Tom Coohill, Mike Rodgers

We are still requesting the help of the ASP Community! If you recognize anyone in the photo above —or have memories from the 1994 meeting you'd like to share—we would love to hear from you. If you know the year the photo below was taken, we'd love to know! Email us [here](#).

13 Past ASP Presidents · Year Unknown



- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Margaret Kripke | 8. Kendric Smith |
| 2. Michelene Matthews-Roth | 9. Irene Kochevar |
| 3. Frank Gasparro | 10. Meyrick Peak |
| 4. Tom Coohill | 11. Fred Urbach |
| 5. Walter Shropshire | 12. John Hearst |
| 6. Angelo Lamola | 13. Nick Geacintov |
| 7. John Jagger | |

Kendric Smith receiving sundial from Pres Mathews-Roth 1990-1991



Does anyone know if this photo was taken at the 19th ASP Meeting (1991) in San Antonio, TX or the 18th ASP Meeting (1990) held in Vancouver, Canada?

Dr. Kendric C. Smith (1926–2024) was a pioneer of photobiology and the founding President of the ASP. His scientific contributions and leadership profoundly influenced generations of photobiologists. This is why we have ASP today!

ASP 2026 • Kendric C. Smith Memorial Symposium & Reception

The Kendric C. Smith Symposium has long been a valued part of the ASP scientific program. At ASP 2026, this symposium will be held in memorial for the first time, marking the Society's first meeting since Dr. Kendric C. Smith's passing. This special designation reflects the profound impact of Dr. Smith's scientific leadership, mentorship, and service to ASP. The memorial symposium and accompanying reception will provide an opportunity for the ASP community to reflect on his enduring influence and honor the legacy he leaves within photobiology and the Society he helped build. Members interested in Dr. Smith's reflections on his career and the evolution of photobiology are encouraged to revisit his [2014 Meet a Photobiologist interview](#).

Members who knew Dr. Smith personally, collaborated with him scientifically, or were influenced by his mentorship are warmly invited to participate. If you would like to share a brief remembrance, speak during the Kendric C. Smith Memorial Reception, or contribute stories, photographs, or other materials that help preserve ASP's history, please contact [us](#). We would be honored to include voices from across the ASP community as we celebrate Dr. Smith's legacy.

Hope to See You All in Scottsdale!



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