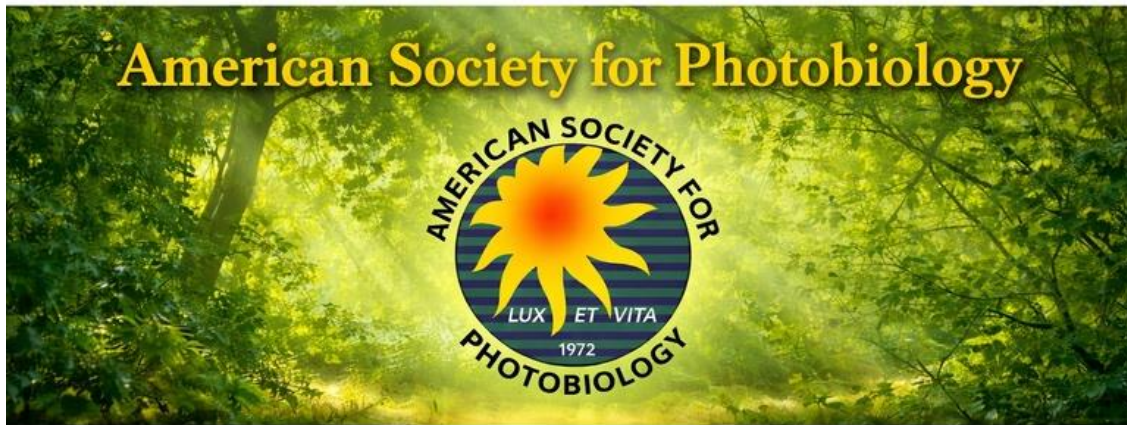




Summer 2026

Vol 55, Issue 3

Message from the President

Dear ASP members,

As I reflect on the success of the 43rd ASP meeting in Scottsdale, I am filled with gratitude for the enthusiasm, engagement, and sense of community that defined the 2026 meeting. From outstanding scientific presentations and thought-provoking discussions to meaningful networking and mentorship opportunities, the meeting truly showcased the strength and vitality of our Society. I would like to extend a special thank you to Sherri McFarland for her exceptional service and leadership in organizing this meeting. Sherri's dedication, attention to detail, and countless hours of effort were instrumental in creating a memorable and impactful experience for all who attended.

As I begin my term as ASP President, I am honored by the opportunity to serve this remarkable organization. Looking ahead, I believe our next meeting in Miami will be especially important to the future health and growth of the Society. The scientific landscape continues to evolve, and opportunities to come together, share ideas, develop new collaborations, and engage the next generation of photobiologists have never been more critical. With that in mind, I encourage all members to make plans to join us in Miami. A strong turnout will help ensure that ASP remains vibrant, relevant, and well-positioned to advance our mission in the years ahead. I look forward to working with all of you as we build on the momentum from Scottsdale and continue to strengthen our community.

Thank you for your continued support of ASP. I look forward to seeing many of you in Miami as we celebrate our accomplishments, shape the future of our Society, and advance the frontiers of photobiology together.

My Bests Wishes,
Ryan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan McFarland".

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



HIGHLIGHTS

The meeting began with a single-track opening afternoon featuring plenary presentations, Come-See-My-Presentation flash talks, and the Kendric C. Smith Memorial Symposium with six ASP award lectures. On the following three days, the program expanded into 28 scientific sessions organized across four parallel tracks, more plenary presentations, Outreach program for >60 local high school and undergraduate students. The meeting also included ASP traditions and signature community events, such as the Camelback hike, Banquet with live music, the President's Pizza Party, Past Presidents' Luncheon, and Editor's Dinner.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 183 attendees representing 20 countries
- 49 internationally affiliated attendees, representing 26.8% of attendance
- 134 U.S.-affiliated attendees, representing 73.2% of attendance
- 207 scientific presentations across 28 technical sessions
- 13 plenary lectures
- 6 award lectures
- 143 oral presentations
- 45 poster presentations
- 30 "Come See My Presentation" elevator pitches
- 12 poster prizes awarded to 26.7% of the poster presentations
- \$2,350 awarded through poster prizes
- 3 Best Short Presentation Audience Awards of \$100 each
- 15 total poster and short-presentation award recognitions, totaling \$2,650
- 2 BWMedTek Poster Awards totaling \$1,000
- 2 Wiley Poster Awards totaling \$250
- 4 Elsevier Bioinorganic Poster Awards totaling \$500
- 4 ASP Division Poster Awards totaling \$600
- 7 ASP scientific achievement awards
- 24 ASP Urbach Travel Awards
- 45 attendees in trainee or early-career registration categories
- 3 mentoring lunches offering career development
- Kendric C. Smith Memorial Symposium featuring six award lectures
- Kendric C. Smith reception with dinner buffet
- Special ASP-ESP Joint Symposium honoring Prof. Miguel Ángel Miranda
- Dedicated Poster and Networking Reception
- ASP Gala and Awards Banquet featuring a dinner buffet and live music
- Industry exhibits, sponsor participation, and translational-science programming

 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 Recap

The Kendric C. Smith Memorial Symposium was one of the most meaningful and scientifically significant events of the 2026 American Society for Photobiology Biennial Meeting. The symposium honored the life and legacy of Dr. Kendric C. Smith, founder of the American Society for Photobiology, whose vision helped establish photobiology as a vibrant interdisciplinary field and whose passing in November 2024 marked the end of an era for the ASP community.

The program featured six prestigious award lectures spanning a broad range of topics. ASP Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Jean Cadet presented a comprehensive perspective on DNA photochemistry. New Investigator Award recipient Jean-Luc Ayitou showcased novel light-responsive sulfur-based materials. Research Award recipient Yu-Ying He discussed groundbreaking discoveries related to the molecular mechanisms of UV damage response, skin cancer development, RNA modification, and new therapeutic opportunities for cancer prevention and treatment. Light Path Award recipient Clemens Burda explored the use of cancer-targeted nanoparticles and nanotechnology-enhanced photodynamic therapy, demonstrating how innovative delivery systems can improve the precision and effectiveness of photomedical treatments. Photon Award recipient Alexander Greer reflected on a career that bridges fundamental photochemistry and translational research, illustrating how mechanistic studies have led to advances in photodynamic therapy, antimicrobial technologies, and wound care. Finally, Photocite A Award recipient Ewan Eadie highlighted the successful application of Monte Carlo radiative transfer modeling, originally developed for astrophysics, to clinical photomedicine, improving understanding of light transport in tissue and advancing photodynamic therapy dosimetry.

The symposium also shared some light-hearted stories from those who knew Kendric for his rigor as a scientist and sense of humor. These included a conference favorite of Kendric roaring in laughter in his hospital room when he was informed that the ASP executive council had voted 3-2 in favor of wishing him a speedy recovery after a medical procedure.

Technical Sessions Highlights

The technical sessions covered a range of topics central to photobiology including:

Photomedicine, Photodynamic Therapy, and Clinical Translation: 7 sessions

Cancer Photobiology & Skin Cancer : 5 sessions

Molecular Phototherapy, Photosensitizers, and Bioimaging: 4 sessions

Optogenetics, Photoreceptors, and Light-Controlled Biology: 4 sessions

Emerging Technologies, Computational and Quantum Photobiology: 3 sessions

Environmental, Microbial, and Applied Photobiology: 3 sessions

Photochemistry, Photophysics & Molecular Mechanisms: 2 sessions

Work and Play in Scottsdale



ASP 2026 AWARD WINNERS

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

Poster Awards

- Ge Shi — BWMedTek Award for Best Student Poster Overall
- Chris Lawson — BWMedTek Award for Best Student Poster in Photodynamic Therapy
- Jared Head — Wiley Best Poster Award, First Place
- Akshaya Iyer — Wiley Best Poster Award, Second Place
- Andrew Langley — Elsevier Bioinorganic: Imaging and Probes
- Alisher Talgatov — Elsevier Bioinorganic: Therapeutics
- Tazrin Islam Tonny — Elsevier Bioinorganic: Interactions and Mechanisms
- Gurleen Kaur — Elsevier Bioinorganic: Innovation in Bioinorganic Chemistry
- Bulus Bako — ASP Division: Photochemistry, Photophysics and Phototechnology
- Kira DeVore — ASP Division: Photosynthesis and Photoconversion
- Chathuna Bodahandi — ASP Division Poster Award: Photomedicine and Photodermatology
- Naveena Sikakumar — ASP Division: Environmental Photobiology and UV Radiation Effects

Thank you!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the ASP Awards Committee for their dedication, diligence, and thoughtful efforts throughout 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.

Recent ASP Webinars

The recording of past ASP Webinars are available for ASP members. Please go to the ASP Webinar webpage <https://photobiology.org/webinars/>, click "Sign in on this page" to view recordings of past webinars," and log in with your member number.

Thank You to Our 2026 Webinar Speakers!

72nd ASP Webinar

Thursday, July 2, 2026, at 6:00–7:00 pm Eastern Time

Speaker: **Kiarash Khosrotehrani, MD, PhD, FACD**

St Baker-Soyer Chair of Dermatology, Frazer Institute,
The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

**Chemoprevention: interrupting the journey from UV
exposure to skin cancer**



71st ASP Webinar

Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 1:00–2:00 pm Eastern Time

Speaker: **Judy Wu, PhD**

Thomas A. Albright Professor of Chemistry, University of Houston

**Benzene in the Excited State: A Playground for Photochemical
Transformations**



70th ASP Webinar

Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 1:00–2:00 pm Eastern Time

Speaker: **Alexey Gusev, PhD**

Co-Founder & CEO, Ultrafast Systems

**Gentler Ultrafast Spectroscopy: Maximizing Information While
Minimizing Photodamage**



69th ASP Webinar

Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 1:00–2:00 pm Eastern Time

Speaker: **Gabriel Adewunmi Dedeke, PhD**

Professor of Animal Eco-Physiology, Department of Pure and
Applied Zoology, Federal University of Agriculture, Nigeria

Pondering on Light: A Friend or A Foe?



ASP Educational Webinar Series: Introduction to Photoscience (April 27–May 1, 2026)

The ASP Mentorship, Education, and Outreach Committee organized a new educational webinar series designed for trainees and early-career researchers interested in photoscience.

This five-part webinar series took place prior to the American Society for Photobiology (ASP) 2026 Biennial Meeting and was intended to help junior trainees build foundational knowledge across the diverse areas of photoscience. Our goal was to help you feel more confident and prepared to fully engage with scientific presentations at the ASP 2026 meeting.

Photoscience spans a wide range of disciplines, including photobiology, photochemistry, photophysics, and photomedicine. Many trainees are exposed to only part of this landscape. These webinars were designed to bridge knowledge gaps, for example, by introducing photochemistry concepts to biology trainees and biological principles to physical scientists.

1. Environmental Photobiology and Ultraviolet Radiation Effects

Monday, April 27, 2026, at 10:00–11:00 AM U.S. Eastern Time

Masaoki Kawasumi, MD, PhD

UV-Induced DNA Damage and Skin Cancer

2. Photomedicine and Photodermatology

Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 10:00–11:00 AM U.S. Eastern Time

Gal Shafirstein, DSc

Light Delivery and Dosimetry in Photomedicine

3. Photosensory Biology

Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 10:00–11:00 AM U.S. Eastern Time

Xiaoqing Yang, PhD

Structures, Functions and Photochemistry of Photoreceptors

4. Photochemistry, Photophysics and Phototechnology

Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 10:00–11:00 AM U.S. Eastern Time

Alexander Greer, PhD

Probing Light and Dark Reactions in Photochemistry: A Look at Reactive Oxygen Intermediates and Mechanisms

5. Photosynthesis and Photoconversion

Friday, May 1, 2026, at 10:00–11:00 AM U.S. Eastern Time

Jean-Luc Ayitou, PhD

Photochemical Reactions and Photoconversion Using Organic Chromophores

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!



Announcements

Funding Opportunity \$\$

Blueprint Biosecurity has recently launched its SAFE-UVC Request for Proposals, awarding roughly \$8M in grants for further research on the safety profile of far-UVC (222nm) exposure.

Far-UVC is a promising tool for reducing concentrations of infectious airborne pathogens in indoor spaces. Research to date has demonstrated its ability to inactivate a wide range of pathogens. A better understanding of the safety of continuous human exposure in the built environment will inform whether far-UVC can be responsibly used in occupied indoor spaces, and how.

- Blueprint is seeking proposals for 10 technical areas spanning three groups: **Improved General Characterization of Far-UVC Exposure:** Multi-year human exposure, biomarkers of alternative damage mechanisms, and real-world dosimetry of far-UVC to human tissue
- **Eye-Specific Exposure Safety:** Conjunctival effects, mechanisms of eye irritation, and dry eye and ocular surface disease impacts
- **Skin-Specific Exposure Safety:** Age-related variation, skin type and melanin effects, photosensitizing medications, and wound and disrupted-skin exposure

Blueprint Biosecurity

Blueprint Biosecurity is a nonprofit organization focused on strengthening global preparedness for future pandemics and biological threats. It advances practical, pathogen-agnostic countermeasures, meaning solutions that can help protect against a wide range of infectious diseases rather than a single pathogen. The organization conducts research, supports strategic projects, and develops evidence-based policy recommendations to help governments, researchers, and industry deploy effective biosecurity measures. Its current areas of focus include innovations such as far-UVC light disinfection, improved personal protective equipment (PPE), indoor air treatment technologies, and other scalable public health interventions. Through partnerships with academia, government, philanthropy, and private industry, Blueprint Biosecurity works to ensure society can better detect, prevent, and respond to future disease outbreaks before they become major pandemics

EDITOR'S CORNER

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



Please take a moment to explore the [Editorial](#) in the July/August 2026 (Issue 4) edition of ASP's journal *Photochemistry and Photobiology*. In this issue, Editor-in-Chief Alexander Greer highlights several Journal metrics and trends from 2025. He also updates the online attention to the Journal's research output, as measured through social media, news outlets, blogs, and online reference managers, which are encouraging.

Top Pick

Received: 7 February 2025 | Revised: 28 November 2025 | Accepted: 30 November 2025
DOI: 10.1111/php.70096

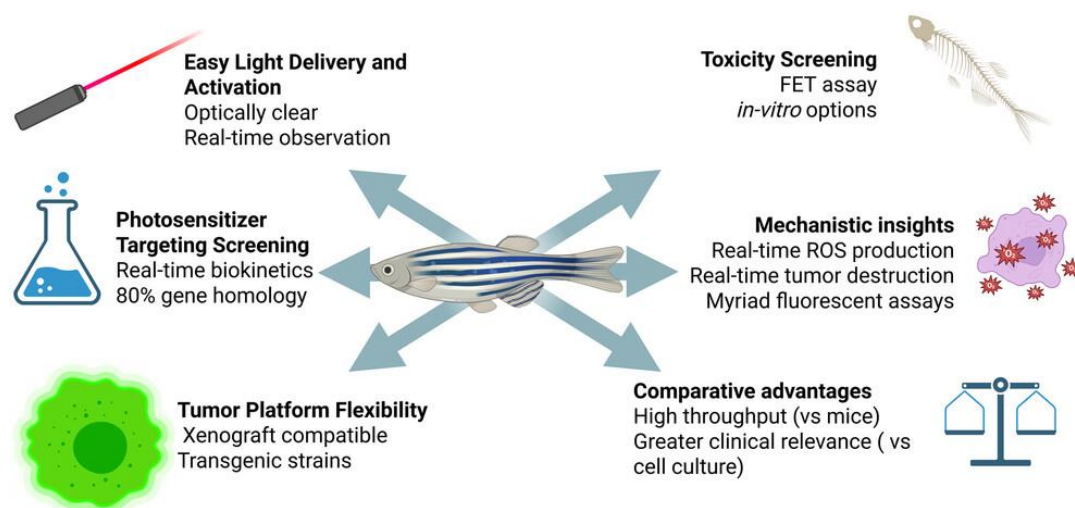


INVITED REVIEW

Zebrafish as a practical and convenient model for the study of photodynamic and photothermal therapy of solid tumors: A scoping review

Ethan Wilson¹ | Alexander Fiorentino¹ | Brian W. Booth² | Valery Bliznyuk³ | Diana Ivankovic^{1,4} | Luigi Boccuto¹

In this work, Wilson and colleagues review the literature on the use of zebrafish as a model for studying the photodynamic therapy and photothermal therapy of tumors. Because zebrafish are optically transparent, they enable direct observation of sensitizer dispersal and the effects of phototherapy. The accompanying image shows potential advantages of using zebrafish in this manner. These include the ease of sensitizer screening, reactive oxygen species and tumor imaging, as well as mechanistic and toxicity evaluations.



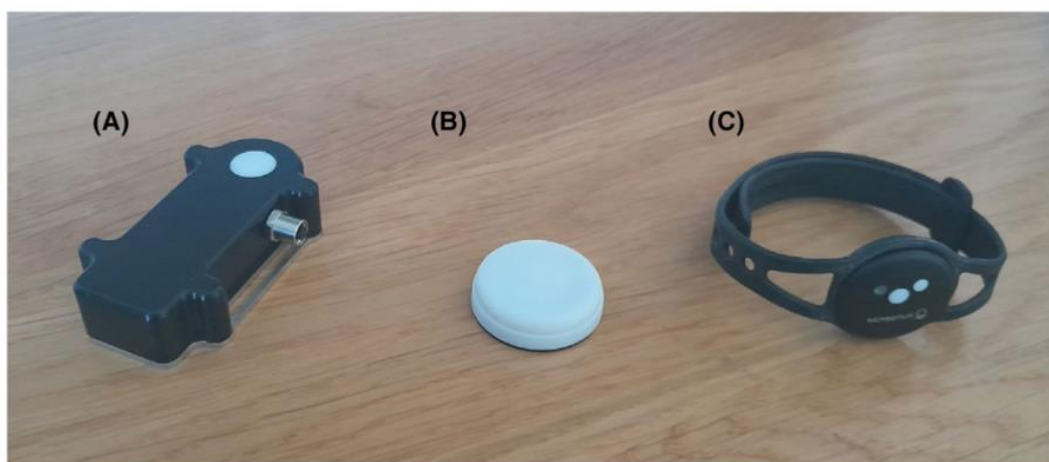


RESEARCH ARTICLE

Spectral characterization of three wearable electronic ultraviolet radiation dosimeters

Leevi August¹ | Gregor Hülsen² | Juha Peltoniemi¹ | Petri Kärhä¹ |
Erkki Ikonen^{1,3}

In this study, August et al. report on a wearable UV dosimeter for better quantification of individuals' exposure to solar UV-radiation. Because the spectral distribution of solar radiation varies, spectral mismatches can occur between dosimeters and erythral radiation, requiring correction. The three commercially available wearable UV dosimeters used in the study were: (A) SgLux's UVMicrolog, (B) Scienterra's Wave-band, and (C) Sunsense's Pro dosimeter, as shown below. Correction factors were applied for erythral radiance across a range of solar zenith angles and ozone levels under cloud-free conditions. The work highlights various challenges and demonstrates a need for standardized characterization methods.



Become Involved!!



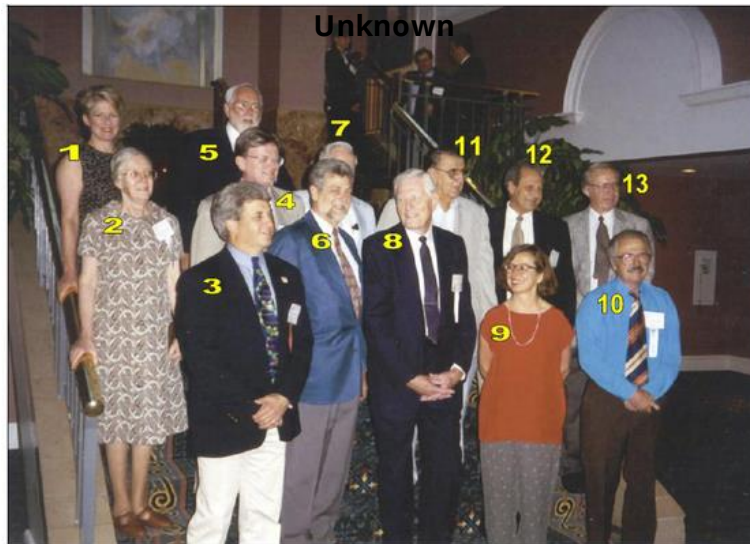
Interested in helping preserve the history of ASP? If you have stories or materials from the past, please [contact us](#). We would love to hear from you.

Interested in helping organize the 2028 meeting in Miami? We would love to hear your ideas for sessions or potential events: [contact us](#). We would love to hear from you.

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
2. Michelene Matthews-Roth
3. Frank Gasparro
4. Tom Coohill
5. Walter Shropshire
6. Angelo Lamola
7. John Jagger

8. Kendric Smith
9. Irene Kochevar
10. Meyrick Peak
11. Fred Urbach
12. John Hearst
13. Nick Geacintov