

GUEST EDITORIAL

PITTCON 2011: Are you attracted to science . . . Attend Pittcon—the magnet for scientific innovation!

If you have never been to Pittcon, you may ask “What is the value in attending?” The answer to that is different for everyone, regardless of whether you are a first timer or a long-time attendee. Some conferees will tell you that the world-class exposition is the main reason that they come. Others will say it is the diverse Technical Program and exposure to the latest research; and yet many others will insist it is the best venue for networking with leading scientists and colleagues from around the world. Some will argue it is definitely for the educational aspect of our

economical and cutting-edge Short Courses. Whatever your attraction, you won't want to miss Pittcon 2011—the magnet for scientific innovation!

After a 13-year hiatus, Pittcon will be returning to the great city of Atlanta, Georgia, the entertainment and cultural center of the South. Atlanta is home to a robust food and beverage industry, one of the largest concentrations of colleges and universities in the southern United States, and the site of a rapidly expanding biotech and pharmaceutical region. If you haven't been to Atlanta in the past three years, you haven't seen it.

From March 13 to March 18, more than 18,000 members of the global scientific community will attend Pittcon, the largest annual conference and exposition for laboratory

PENNY GARDNER: PITTCON 2011 PRESIDENT



Pittcon 2011 President Penny Gardner retired from Chester Labnet in 1992. Throughout her career, she has worked in a supervisory capacity in the environmental industry. As laboratory director at Chester Labnet, she was responsible for managing a commercial environmental laboratory with annual sales of \$3.8 million and a staff of 55 professionals and technicians. Gardner began her profession as a chemist for the Allegheny County Department of Laboratories in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania working with gas chromatographic analysis of potable water, food, and pesticide and herbicide extractions and analyses. In 1987, she

worked for NUS Corporation supervising and organizing the analysis of pesticides and PCBs for the EPA Superfund Contract Laboratory Program (CLP). She was also responsible for training staff in CLP methodology.

Penny graduated Cum Laude and with Departmental Honors in Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh as a chemistry major with a minor in mathematics and psychology.

As a member of the Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP) and Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh (SSP), she served as SSP chairman during the 2005–2006 year. She is very active in the societies' educational outreach programs including grants and the Elementary School Science Olympiad Program.

Prior to her nomination for the 2011 presidency, Penny has had diverse experience working on various Pittcon committees such as Exposition, Program, Registration, Publicity/Marketing, Housing, Activities, and Committee Arrangements.

Penny is an advocate for children with disabilities and their families, especially individuals on the Autism Spectrum. Penny serves on the Allegheny County Local Task Force on the Right to Education and is a member of the Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders (ABOARD). She is also a member of the Western Pennsylvania Coalition of Advocates and the Education Mentors of Pennsylvania.

Penny and her husband, Chuck, and their son, Bryan, live in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania, where they are active participants in their local high school marching band and enjoy spending time together camping, attending musicals, and exploring flea markets, bookstores, and outlet malls for those “great and hard to find, must have items!”

science. This year's exposition is expected to attract 1000 exhibitors from more than 90 countries, showcasing the latest innovations in laboratory equipment and technology. On the exposition floor, Centennial Park will not only provide a place to relax and network but will also include an interactive Coca-Cola display, informative exhibitor videos, and complementary copies of leading industry publications. As social networking becomes increasingly popular among the scientific community, new this year will be the Twitter Café, located in the Pittcon booth (5079). Here, conferees will be able to send Pittcon tweets to a live feed that will be displayed on large-screen monitors in Stone Mountain Park.

The Technical Program is designed to provide the latest information and findings impacting all areas of laboratory science, with emphasis on topics critical to today's research, production, and operations. We are very pleased to have Professor Chad A. Mirkin, Director of the International Institute for Nanotechnology at Northwestern University, deliver the plenary lecture, "Polyvalent DNA Architectures: New Modalities For Intracellular Gene Regulation and Detection." Dr. Mirkin is listed as the most cited chemist in the world (Thomson Reuters) and the top-most cited nanomedicine researcher in the world (Nanomedicine Registry). Other highlights from the Technical Program include a workshop entitled Lab Manager Boot Camp, a session addressing the environmental impact of oil spills, and Conferee Networking Sessions offering a wide variety of topics such as pharmaceutical, food quality, forensics, analytical chemistry, mass spectrometry, and more.

Conferee Networking Sessions are a major component of the unique networking opportunities available and are free to all registered attendees. These Sessions are designed to provide an open forum to meet and collaborate, establish new

friendships, and brainstorm new ideas—all in an informal environment. It is a perfect venue for conferees, exhibitors, sales, and technical people to come together to discuss topics of mutual interest or solve problems specific to certain instrumentation. If you are looking for less structured networking, add the Sunday Night Mixer and Poster Session to your agenda. Additional social activities include Exposition Mixers on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Short Courses are another excellent and most affordable way to share your experiences with peers and interact with instructors who are experts in their fields. Short Courses range in length from half-day to two-day sessions and offer skill-building training in a classroom setting. There are several new and exciting changes this year, including the expansion of advanced courses, as well as new beginner and intermediate courses. Discounts are extended to students, and February 14 is the deadline for attendee discounts of 30% or more. In addition, the Pittcon 2011 registration fee will be waived for those who take three or more Short Courses.

Visit www.pittcon.org to get all the details and the most up-to-date information about the Exposition, Technical Program, Short Courses, and Registration. Register by February 14, 2011, and save 50%, and be sure to take advantage of discount hotel rates through PittconHousing.com.

This year's conference and exposition promises to be a one-of-a-kind conference and exposition for laboratory science. So join us March 13–18 in Atlanta, Georgia, for a magnetic week of scientific adventure complemented by down-home southern hospitality.

PENNY R. GARDNER
PITTCO 2011 PRESIDENT