

The CNIRS Awards Committee Picks Peter R. Griffiths for the Gerald S. Birth Award

For his outstanding work in advancing the Art and Science of Near Infrared Spectroscopy, the Council for Near Infrared Spectroscopy (CNIRS) recognizes Dr. Peter R. Griffiths for his work in developing the procedure to calibrate a wavelength standard across the total NIR region more accurately than previously possible. This work is documented in these two papers: (1) Effect of resolution on the wavelength determination of a putative standard to be used for near infrared diffuse reflection spectra measured on grating spectrometers and (2) Effect of resolution on the wavenumber determination of a putative standard to be used for near infrared diffuse reflection spectra measured on Fourier transform near infrared spectrometers, both published in published in the Journal of Near-Infrared Spectroscopy, Vol. 11 No. 4 (2003). Coauthors were Husheng Yang, Tomas Isaksson, and Richard S. Jackson.

Peter is senior author of these papers, which present very fine work in spectroscopy, and lay a foundation for excellent spectroscopy that was the vision of Gerald S. Birth. In addition, Peter has been a firm supporter of the CNIRS. As a frequent attendee of the International Diffuse Reflection Conference, he has enlightened the discussions and enlivened the sessions. He is Professor of Analytical and Environmental Chemistry, and Chemistry Department Chair, at the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho. Peter obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree and earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree from Oxford University. His interests focus on dif-fuse reflection in the NIR and mid-IR spectral regions and other aspects of infrared and Raman spectrometry. His research interests have been in the application of vibrational spectrometry to the solution of problems of analytical, environmental and structural chemistry. The current projects that are being worked on by members of his research group include the development of a completely automated open-path FT-IR spectrometer, investigations into the theory and practice of surface-enhanced infrared absorption, applications of an ultra-rapid-scanning FT-IR spectrometer, the study of the feasibility of the standoff detection of chemical warfare agents and the study of catalytic reactions by diffuse reflection infrared spectrometry.

The Gerald S. Birth Award is presented as a reward and recognition of outstanding work in advancing the science of Near-Infrared Spectroscopy and furthering the goals of the Council for Near Infrared Spectroscopy. The award-winning work must be in press, or have been published, between one meeting of the IDRC and the next. The award is sponsored by Unity Scientific, and presented at the biannual International Diffuse Reflectance Conference (IDRC) held in Chambersburg, PA. The awardee is invited to present the award work at the IDRC. The award consists of travel expenses, a cash honorarium, and a plaque.

The CNIRS is pleased to present the first Gerald S. Birth Award to Peter R. Griffiths. The award will be presented at the Award Banquet of the International Diffuse Reflectance Conference, Chambersburg, PA, August 12, 2004.

More information about the Conference is available at: www.idrc-chambersburg.org

