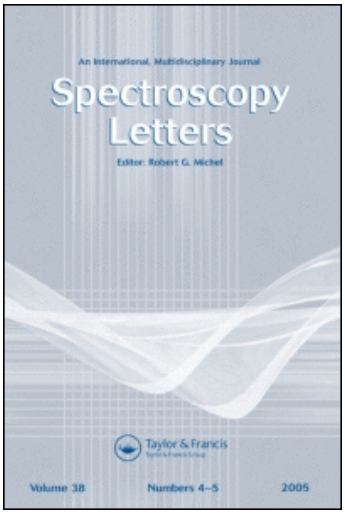

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Special Issue: Spectroscopy in The Wadsworth Center of the New York State Department of Health, Albany, NY

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Special Issue: Spectroscopy in The Wadsworth Center of the New York State Department of Health, Albany, NY

Karl X. Yang
Editorial Board

The Wadsworth Center is a science-based community committed to protecting and improving the health of New Yorkers through laboratory analysis, investigations, and research, as well as laboratory certification and educational programs. The scientists at the Wadsworth Center study public health issues, from drug resistance to emerging infections and environmental exposures; investigate basic biological processes that contribute to human health and disease; employ modern methods, such as biomarkers of exposure, and state-of-the-art technologies, among them a resource for visualizing biologically relevant molecules. As the state's public health reference laboratory, the Wadsworth Center responds to public health threats, develops advanced methods to detect microbial agents and genetic disorders, and measures and analyzes environmental chemicals. The Center operates the most comprehensive laboratory licensure program for clinical and environmental laboratories and blood and tissue banks. The Center also trains the next generation of scientists through programs for doctoral, master's, and undergraduate students, as well as specialized training for postdoctoral fellows and others. The Center currently employs about 1100 staff, including more than 175 doctoral-level scientists, in the 900,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facilities in New York State's Capital Region. There are also about 200 graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and visiting scientists working in the 20 laboratories in four scientific divisions: Environmental Health Sciences, Genetics, Infectious Diseases, and Translational Medicine. The Center won $36.5 million in external grant funding in the 2007 fiscal year, the majority of it from the National Institutes of Health.

The five papers included here in this special issue offer a glimpse of the state of the Center in its coordinated efforts in health and environmental research through employing innovative spectroscopic technologies. Dr. Hui Yah *et al.'s Studies of Atmospherically Relevant Reactions Using Differentially Pumped Mass Spectrometer and Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy* describes atmospherically relevant reactions using quadrupole mass spectrometry and Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy methodologies

in three different cases. The results provide a better understanding of atmospheric reactions at a molecular level and enable an assessment of the relative importance of the reactions in the atmosphere. Dr. Karl X. Yang *et al.'s Sensitive Measurement of Se and Te in Cloud Water and Ambient Particulate Matter* develops analytical methods to measure low levels of trace elements in cloud droplets and aerosol particulates by the use of pneumatic nebulization and hydride generation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry. Dr. Lei Zhu *et al.'s Wavelength-Dependent Photolysis of C3–C7 Aldehydes in the 280–330-nm Region* investigates the photolysis of propionaldehyde, n-butyraldehyde, n-pentanal, n-hexanal, and n-heptanal in the 280–330-nm region by the use of laser photolysis combined with cavity ring-down spectroscopy. Dr. Kamal Swami *et al.*'s *Trace Metal Analysis of Legal and Counterfeit Cigarette Tobacco Samples Using Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry and Cold Vapor Atomic Absorption Spectrometry* describes a closed-vessel microwave-digestion method for the determination of 17 metals in cigarette tobacco samples by the use of inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry and Cold Vapor Atomic Absorption Spectrometry. Dr. David Bellis *et al.*'s *Evaluation of Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry for the Quantitative Determination of Lead in Different Parts of Archeological Human Teeth* uses the lead content of teeth or tooth-parts as a biomarker of cumulative lead exposure in clinical, epidemiological, environmental, and archaeological studies through the application of laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry.