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### Biography: Karl X. Yang

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# Biography: Karl X. Yang

## Karl X. Yang

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Karl X. Yang, formally known as Xiaodong Yang, received his B.Sc. in material science from Tsinghua University, China, in 1990 and spent three years working as an engineer in the defense industry in Beijing. His desire to pursue knowledge and a new life in the New World led him to enroll in the University of Connecticut in 1993 and complete the Ph.D. degree in chemistry in 1998, where he was mentored by Professor Robert G. Michel. His thesis was on the topics of laser ablation coupled with microwave-induced plasma atomic emission spectroscopy, determination of tin in nickel-based alloys by electrothermal atomizer absorption spectrometry, and laser excited atomic fluorescence spectrometry. He had a brief stint as a postdoctoral researcher in the chemistry department in Columbia University, New York, before starting his career at the Wadsworth Center, of the New York Department of Health of New York State, in 1999.

At the Wadsworth Center, he is a research scientist in the laboratory of inorganic and nuclear chemistry. His research interest includes chemical and instrumental method development for sensitive and accurate determination of elements in environmental samples, contamination and loss free sample preparation for analytical atomic spectrometry, and solid sampling techniques where minimum sample preparation is required before the sample is introduced into the analytical instrument. His current research interest involves the characterization of nanoparticles in the environment for exposure and risk assessment and biomonitoring of metals to allow evaluation of risks. Inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (ICPMS), inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometer (ICPOES), laser ablation, collision cell-ICPMS, and microwave digestion oven are being used in the determination of important elements such as lead, mercury, thallium, cadmium, selenium, arsenic, and antimony in various sample matrices. He has published 24 papers in science journals and presented 37 talks and posters at conferences and seminars.

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