

Second IDRC Conference – 1984

Chairman: Phil Williams



Phil Williams (Convener, IDRC II, 1984)

Why me? In an informal meeting held on the Thursday afternoon of the first IDRC conference (called a Diffuse Reflectance Spectroscopy Conference at that time), the question arose as to whether we should have another. The answer was very positive. When the question was put as to who would organize it, in the absence of any other volunteers I offered to do it, and the offer was accepted.

But first a few notes on the first ever. My first memory was going for a walk with an animal feed consultant to Pacific Scientific. He was elderly, and I think that he introduced himself as "O.C" or "O.J". We walked over the creek, past the farm, up the track and discovered what became the PYOT course, so we were the first ever IDRC attendees to hike that revered trail! But we walked on, and on, and after turning right three times found ourselves en route to Wilson College. The round trip is about 5 miles (in American, about 7.5 Km in English!). 64 people attended that first conference. After the euphoria of had abated some I circulated all of the attendees with the topics that had been discussed at the first meeting, and asked them which ones they wished to retain, which ones to drop, and to suggest any new topics. I received 46 replies (72%, which is pretty good for a survey). The first conference (arguably still the best) had 9 sessions, mornings and evenings Monday through Thursday, and Friday morning. These were:

Monday:

Physics

Chemistry

Tuesday:

Instrumentation

Data Processing

Wednesday:

Applications

Food Quality

Thursday:

Remote Sensing

FTIR

Friday:

Medical Applications

Of these the following were retained, by consensus:

Data Processing (Reduction)

Pharmaceutical Applications

Industrial Applications

Instrumentation

Chemistry

Applications in Food and Agriculture

Clinical Applications.

New topics (suggested by several people) were:

Spectroscopy, including other than NIR

Terminology and definitions.

Now to the second IDRC. The Wilson College Conference Coordinator of the first IDRC was called Gloria, a joy to work with (I had organized the dates before I left the first one). The Conference Coordinator with whom I had to work was a guy, whose name escapes me. But he was very laid back, and quite a character. I note that I sent the final reminder letters of invitation in June, 1984. The conference was attended by 96 people. Mary Lego, then of McCormick, was conference treasurer. Poor Mary, she was very embarrassed. One of the companies that had pledged \$1000.00 was very slow in paying, and when the conference was over and all the bills came in we were in the red by a few dollars. I had eventually to go to a Vice-president of the company to get the wherewithal, and get us off the hook. In the end we finished up in the black, but this was, as far as I know, the only time the IDRC came close to coming out on the wrong side of the bank!

Another feature was that Technicon Industrial Systems asked me if they could stage a hospitality suite for invited guests at the Holiday Inn, on the Sunday evening. They held it, and demonstrated their InfraAlyzer Model 400 (probably the best instrument they ever made). This was the first "semi-official" hospitality held at IDRC.

Harald Martens introduced PLS at that conference. To do so he asked me if I could get him a guitar. Somehow the Conference Coordinator got me a guitar for Harald, who, when he was introduced for his talk, strolled into the lecture theatre from the "wings", strumming a chord or two. In his introduction he used the analogy to demonstrate that we should use all of the strings (i.e. wavelengths) in calibration. The scientific sessions were garnished by several lively exchanges between Peter Griffiths and Tomas Hirschfeld, and the very upbeat atmosphere of the first IDRC prevailed.

Peter Griffiths organized volleyball on the lawn every afternoon, people went for walks and jogs, and Gaithersburg. But probably the most important social aspect of the conference was the evening excursions to the North Point Tavern, about a mile (1.62 Km) from Wilson College. For the most dedicated, these took place after the evening technical sessions, and the pleasant walk back to the college afterwards provided needed balm to the participants.

Agriculture
Canada

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des grains

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Dr. Howard Mark
Technicon Corp.
511 Benedict Avenue
Tarrytown, NY
U.S.A. 10591

Dear Howard:

This is a reminder that the 2nd International Diffuse Reflectance Symposium will be held at Wilson College, Chambersburg, PA from August 12 - 17, 1984. People interested in attending are encouraged to register in advance, since the attendance has to be limited to 150, due to auditorium accommodation. The subject matter covers data processing, instrument design, chemistry, surface effects, spectroscopy in the visible, U.V., N.I.R. and IR regions, applications in all branches of industry, and a special session on terminology. Sessions with their respective speakers are:

1. Monday, August 13, a.m. Data reduction.

Chairman: Dr. Bill Hrushka, U.S.D.A.A.R.C. Beltsville, MD.
Speakers: Karl H. Norris, U.S.D.A.A.R.C. Beltsville, MD.
Tom Nolan, Independent consultant, Silver Spring,
MD.
John Shenk, Pennsylvania State Univ., College
Park, PA.
Harald Martens, Norwegian Food Res. Inst. Aas,
Norway.
John Judge, Technicon Industrial Systems,
Tarrytown, NY.

2. Monday, August 13, p.m. Industrial Applications in the NIR.

Chairman: John Rose, E.R. Squibb & Sons, New Brunswick, NJ.
Speakers: Gerald Dull, R.B. Russell Res. Inst., U.S.D.A.
Athens, GA.

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Canada

Speakers: Richard Benson, Cargill Inc., Minneapolis, MN.
(cont'd) Patricia Turley, Olin Corp., New Haven, CONN.
Tomas Hirschfeld, Lawrence Livermore Labs.,
Livermore, CA.

Panel: Lois Weyer, Hercules Inc., Wilmington, DE.

Robert Taylor, U.S.D.A. Clemson, SC.

3. Tuesday, August 14, a.m. Instrumentation.

Chairman: Ed Stark, Technician Industrial Systems,
Tarrytown, NY.

Speakers: Don Webster, Pacific Scientific Corp., Silver
Spring, MD.

Dave Funk, Dickey-john Corp., Auburn, IL.

Isaac Landa, L.T. Industries, Rockville, MD.

Tomas Hirschfeld, Lawrence Livermore Laboratories,
Livermore, CA.

4. Tuesday, August 14, p.m. Industrial Applications in the Mid-
IR.

Chairman: Peter Griffiths, Univ. of California, Riverside,
CA.

Speakers: D. Bruce Chase, du Pont Expt. Sta., Wilmington, DE.

E. Loren Fuller, Jr., Oak Ridge Nat. Labs.,

Oak Ridge, TN.

N. James Harrick, Harrick Scientific Corp., Ossining, NY

5. Wednesday, August 15, a.m. Spectroscopy including areas
Other-than the NIR.

Chairman: F.E. "Woody" Barton, Russell Res. Inst., U.S.D.A.,
Athens, GA.

Speakers: Ian Murray, Rowett Res. Inst., Aberdeen, Scotland.

Lionel Carrieria, Dept. of Chem., Univ. of Georgia. David

Himmelbach, Russell Res. Inst., U.S.D.A.,

Athens, GA.

Panel: Karl H. Norris

David Wetzal, Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS.

Russell Tkachuk, Grain Research Laboratory,

Winnipeg, Canada.

6. Wednesday, August 15, p.m. Clinical and Pharmaceutical
Applications.

Chairman: Ralph HERNICZ, Ames. Instr. Div., Miles
Laboratories, Mishawaka, ID.

Speakers: John Rose

Speakers: Alfred Free, Miles Laboratories, Elkhart, ID.
(cont'd) Marvin Genshaw, Miles Laboratories, Elkhart, ID.
A. Brunsting, Miles Laboratories, Mishawaka, ID.

7. Thursday, August 16, a.m. Chemistry and Surface Effects.

Chairman: Harry Hecht, South Dakota State Univ., Brookings,
SD.

Speakers: Ed Boudreau, Univ. of New Orleans, LA.
Frank Grum, Rochester Inst. of Technology,
Rochester, NY.

Jack Koenig, Case Western Univ., Cleveland, OH.

Panel: Wendell Mendell, Johnson Space Centre, Houston, TX.

8. Thursday, August 16, p.m. Applications in Foods, Feeds, and
Agriculture.

Chairman: Douglas MacDougall, Meat Res, Inst., A.R.C.,
Langford, Somerset, UK.

Speakers: Mutsuo Iwamoto, National Food Res. Inst.,
Ibaraki-ken, Japan.

Gerald Dull

John Shenk, Pennsylvania State Univ., College
Park, PA.

Panel: A.M.C. Davies, ARC Food Res. Inst. Norwich, U.K.
Richard Benson
Ian Murray
Brian Osborne
Harold Martens
Phil Williams, Canadian Grain Commission,
Winnipeg, Canada.

9. Friday, August 17, a.m. Terminology and Definitions.

Chairman: Karl H. Norris.

Speakers: Brian G. Osborne, F.M.B.R.A., Charleywood, UK.
Bill Hrushka.

Karoly Kaffka, Central Food Res. Inst., Budapest,
Hungary.

Panel: Dave Hopkins, Dickey-John Corp., Auburn, IL.
Gerry Birth, Russell Res. Center, U.S.D.A.,
Athens, GA.

Eugene Brach, Eng. and Stat. Support Div.,
Agriculture Canada, Ottawa, Canada.

I enclose registration forms. Please complete them as early as possible. Registration fees are payable at the

time of registration or in advance. Please make all cheques or money orders payable to "Diffuse Reflectance Symposium". Be sure to indicate your flight number and time of arrival at Washington National or Baltimore airports. Arrangements are in hand for bus transport to and from these 2 airports on Sunday, August 12, to arrive at Chambersburg at about 6:30 p.m. The informal reception will commence at Wilson College on Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m.

Accommodation is available at Wilson College for 120 delegates. Additional accommodation has been tentatively arranged in advance at the Holiday Inn, Chambersburg. We will need to know if you wish to stay at the Holiday Inn by no later than July 15, 1984.

The symposium sessions will be very informal. No proceedings will be recorded or published and no manuscripts are requested. Addresses will be limited to 3 or at the most 4 per session, to allow maximum time for discussion and audience participation. During the 2 two hour discussion periods audience participation is encouraged. Panel members will be asked to introduce themselves and their field of expertise to assist the audience in assigning questions. Questions may be addressed to the speakers, the panels, and to anyone else in the audience who is able to answer them. Members of the audience may bring up to 3 slides or other pieces of visual aid to illustrate points they wish to make from the floor.

Any queries re: the symposium may be directed to myself or to Mrs. Mary Lego, Treasurer, Diffuse Reflectance Symposium, c/o McConnich Ltd.

Plan to attend - the best in the business will be there. It will be a good one. And have fun in the afternoons.

See you in Chambersburg.

Sincerely yours,
Philip C. Williams Head, Analytical
Services and Development Section



PW/ks