Workshop Report
2026 ASMS Conference, San Diego, CA

**Young Mass Spectrometrist Interest Group – Open Q&A Session**

**Monday, June 1st, 5:45 pm-7:00 pm**

Coordinators: John Stutzman (Chair 2026) and Savannah Snyder (Chair 2027)

Moderators: John Stutzman
Savannah Snyder

Panel: **Chris Anderton** (Pacific Northwest National Lab)
**Hsi-Chun Chao** (University of Oklahoma)
**Alanna Condren** (BASF)
**Helen Sun** (Thermo)
**Laura Meuhlbauer** (Lilly)
**Angela Kruse** (Ohio State)

Audience Composition: Primarily young students, with a few looking to move out of a post-doc, into academic or industrial positions.

John Stutzman and Savannah Snyder started the workshop with brief opening remarks, including an introduction to the workshop, format, and self-introductions (background and research). The focus of this year's workshop was truly an open Q&A, and despite the moderators having prepared numerous stand-in questions, there was no need for seeded questions due to audience engagement, and even ran over time. Panelists gave a brief introduction of their background and research before the microphones were open for questions in the crowd, after ~10-15 minutes from moderators and panelists. Each of them clearly represented different sectors of possible employment for mass spectrometrists from instrument companies, the pharmaceutical and chemical industries, national labs, and new professors.

While no structured session topics were focused on, it allowed the audience to get the most of the time, by asking any questions they were hopeful to have answered by the diverse panel. Chris was asked how he chose to move into a National Lab, and what that journey looked like. Others asked why the panelists moved to pharma/chemical companies, and how that experience has been vs. academia. Chris shared that after his post-doc at NIST and professorship, he soon after became one of the youngest Team Leads that PNNL ever had. Moving upward at PNNL was an opportunity that was offered to him, and the panel agreed that jumping at opportunities, even when we might not feel 100% ready, can be great for your career. Alanna seconded this throughout, and shared she doesn't know what her next step will be, and its okay if the group also doesn't know. Some asked about work-life balance, and Helen shared her background with children and a job that travels. Hsi-Chun and Angela shared a lot on how they found their professorships, and that interview process, per the audiences questions. Overall, the panel discussed imposter syndrome with the audience, and jumping at opportunities, not being afraid to take a new path, and the need for staying flexible and open minded throughout your career.

The session went about 5-15 minutes over, with no seeded questions needed as all audience members were very engaged. This then naturally transitioned into roughly 1 hour of additional 1-on-1+ discussions between panelists and the audience members that had additional topics they

wanted to discuss in a smaller more comfortable setting. Despite many questions being already answered, many stayed after to discuss more intimately, and connect outside of the workshop.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Stutzman (Chair 2026) and Savannah Snyder (Chair 2027)

Pictures:

