

# Ambitions for SST Are (Sky) High

By Kim H. Esbensen (Editor)

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**I**t is a pleasure to welcome readers to the second issue of Sampling Science and Technology. There is a lot to be satisfied with – first of all, a steady influx of high-quality manuscripts covering a wide field of topics.

- This issue begins with a down-to-earth example of practical applied sampling – literally down on the earth and in the field – in this issue’s feature article “Development and evaluation of efficient field deployable sampling preparation: fit-for-purpose representative pXRF”.
- Theoretical reflections re. TOS, in this case related to how to conduct heterogeneity testing, an opening salvo deliberately intended to start a debate. There are three articles collected around this topic, one in which is presented a phenomenological whifferrill regarding the ‘liberation factor’ (is it needed or not) as well as an immediate response hereto. If these three articles do not succeed starting a debate, the editor does not know what will! Readers are welcome to weigh in ...
- Alan Rawle, sampling historian *extraordinaire* continues his erudite series on “Sampling Giants”, this time featuring D.W. Brunton, an early sampling legend.
- The sampling standard “Representative Sampling – Horizontal Standard”, DS3077, has been launched in an augmented 3<sup>rd</sup> revision (Oct. 2024). Even better, it is already commencing a journey with the aim to become an ISO standard. This has been a goal for IPGSA since 2008; today everybody rejoices.

**International Pierre Gy Sampling Association (IPGSA).** In this issue readers will find a comprehensive report on the 11th World Conference on Sampling and Blending (WCSB11), complete with the Pierre Gy Sampling Gold Medal committee’s justification for the two 2024 awardees (the number breaking with a long tradition) along with IPGSA President Ralph Holmes’ justification for IPGSA’s first ever Distinguished Service Award.

**From our own little world.** SST#2 is the first issue produced by our now complete editorial team: editor, editorial assistant and publisher (see the journal ‘Imprint’). In the same context, we are finally able to present SST’s inaugural **Editorial Board**, which commences activities as soon as this issue has been released. SST is proud of this highly experienced and impeccably competent collegium of sampling experts from industry, academe, consultancies – and beyond. The seven board members are presented on page 51. With this scientific sounding board in place, SST has very high ambitions to become a premier scientific magazine. **Readers are encouraged to contribute to this development!**


Finally, readers will undoubtedly appreciate early insight regarding the venue and dates for **WCSB12** (2026), at the Camborne School of Mines, University of Exeter, Penryn Campus, Cornwall, UK (why not plan a family holiday in Cornwall as well?)

**Editor’s scope.** Since 2017 the IPGSA takes care of the world sampling community with organisational efficiency and elan. While the ‘Sampling Column’ in Spectroscopy Europe/world (2015–2023) is now defunct (see SST#1), as is the erstwhile TOS Forum, our community is now in the satisfactory position to enjoy continuation of both endeavours in the form of ‘Sampling Science and Technology’. The path forward for IPGSA, the WCSB conferences and our new scientific magazine is on the absolute right track – and all have (sky) high ambitions for the development of our science!

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