

As Director of the Spectroscopy Institute, I am making a formal request for a renaming of the existing “Spectroscopy Institute” to “The Institute for Optical Sciences”, aka *iOS*. The newly developed mission statement is:

The Institute for Optical Science (iOS) goals are the creation of an OSU community of multidisciplinary researchers in the optical sciences, coordinate on-campus and regional focus groups and centers that eliminate traditional academic boundaries at the research level and identifies strengths in interdisciplinary photon science research.

The change in name is to reflect the broader mission statement for the OSU community and the changing scientific landscape. Historically, President Kirwan and the Board of Trustees established the “Spectroscopy Institute (SI)” in 1998. The Institute was an interdisciplinary venture focused on capitalizing and coordinating OSU excellence in spectroscopy. The founding Director was Prof. Terry Miller, Ohio Eminent Scholar and Professor of Chemistry. The specific goals of the SI was (1) solidify OSU as the world-wide center of molecular spectroscopy, (2) build upon OSU emerging strength in ultrafast technology and (3) bring together the appliers of these technologies with the creators of the underlying sciences.

The SI effectively served its mission in the early years of its inception by bringing ties between Chemistry and Mechanical Engineering but shifts and advancements in the frontiers of interdisciplinary optical science lessened the impact of the Institute on campus and as an external flagship for OSU. In short, the Spectroscopy Institute became less effective although interdisciplinary activities in optics and photonics increased locally and nationally. The rebranded “Spectroscopy Institute” primary aim is to reorganize, identify and facilitate OSU faculty to capitalize on national interdisciplinary initiatives in the optical sciences. The new Institute for Optical Sciences casts a broader net than in the past and will maintain sufficient fluidity to react to emerging areas.

Spectroscopic applications remains a major interest throughout the OSU campus and represented by the Institute for Optical Sciences. However, in the last decade new faculty in the Arts & Sciences College (ASC) and the College of Engineering (CE) have pushed several emerging areas in the optical sciences. Several examples include quantum information science, ultrafast spectroscopy, high intensity science, ultrafast x-ray science and photonics. We believe that there is sufficient evidence that federal investments will grow over the next decade and the *iOS* can prepare and leverage the strengths of OSU faculty for capitalizing on these initiatives.

Under the new Director, Louis DiMauro, the Institute has already made efforts along these lines. The Institute is establishing an interdisciplinary seminar series in the optical and quantum information sciences. A committee composed of faculty in ASC and EC will identify the speakers, mainly OSU faculty. The 2018/2019 seminar committee is Dan Gauthier (Physics), Robert Baker (Chemistry) and Ron Reano (ECE). In July 2018, the Institute hosted a 2-day workshop between faculty at OSU, U Michigan and Denison University. The purpose was to build connections between these institutions and identify future opportunities. The *iOS* will continue to develop these connections via workshops with other regional laboratories/universities, e.g. AFRL-Dayton. Finally, a webpage is under development for disseminating information (<https://spectroscopy.osu.edu/>).

The rebranding of the Institute’s name is a clear and consistent reflection of these efforts for the future. Upon approval of the name change, the Institute’s webpage will be altered and a logo developed. Thus, I kindly request approval of the Institute for Optical Sciences name change be granted in a timely matter.

From: [Harris, Brad](#)
To: [Reed, Katie](#)
Subject: FW: question about a research center
Date: Monday, January 14, 2019 1:03:57 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

FYI



Brad A. Harris
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From: Weisenberger, Jan <weisenberger.21@osu.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 11:46 AM
To: Smith, Randy <smith.70@osu.edu>; Bielefeld, Eric <bielefeld.6@osu.edu>
Cc: Harris, Brad <harris.54@osu.edu>
Subject: FW: question about a research center

Randy and Eric,

See email from Jeff Walline of Optometry below, indicating that they do not object to a name change for the Spectroscopy Institute to the Institute for Optical Sciences.

Thanks,
Jan

From: Walline, Jeffrey <walline.1@osu.edu>
Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 3:06 PM
To: Weisenberger, Jan <weisenberger.21@osu.edu>
Cc: Zadnik, Karla <zadnik.4@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: question about a research center

Hi Jan-

I spoke with faculty in the College of Optometry regarding the proposed name change of the Spectroscopy Institute to the Institute of Optical Sciences. While some discomfort was expressed, not one faculty member outright objected to the proposed name change.

The College of Optometry wishes the Institute of Optical Sciences the best, and thanks CAA for

considering our opinion in the matter.

Jeff Walline



Jeffrey J. Walline, OD PhD

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Hi Karla,

The Spectroscopy Institute, headed by Lou DiMauro in Physics, has submitted a request to CAA to change the name of the institute. The new proposed name is the Institute of Optical Sciences, consistent with the desire to expand the focus of the center to encompass photon-based research across a broader landscape. Most of the work is high-energy lasers.

CAA has asked whether there would be any objection from the College of Optometry to this name change. Do you see any issues here?

Thanks,
Jan

Janet M. Weisenberger, PhD

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