

NanoLytics 2026 Spring Symposium

Advances at the Interface of the Life Sciences, Energy, and the Environment

April 30, 2026

[iStock.com/Dmitiris66](https://www.iStock.com/Dmitiris66)

Session 1 – Invited Presentations (Chairs – Drs. Byron Gates, Andy Ahiabu, Walter Cicha)

8:00 – 8:45 (PDT) – Welcome reception

8:45 – 9:00 – Welcome and Introductory Remarks

9:00 – 9:25 – **“From Lipid Composition to Drug Permeability: Insights from Human-Mimetic Artificial Cells Membranes”**

- *Dr. Katherine Elvira, Associate Professor, Canada Research Chair Tier 2 in Microfluidics for Drug Discovery and Health Care, University of Victoria*

9:25 – 9:50 – **“Plasmonic Detection of Mercury via Amalgamation on Surface Modified Gold Nanorods”**

- *Dr. Ying Bao, Associate Professor, Western Washington University, United States*

9:50 – 10:15 – **“Self-assembly of Hierarchically Structured Fibers”**

- *Dr. Amy Blum, Professor, Department of Chemistry, McGill University, Canada*

10:15 – 10:45 – Coffee Break (sponsored by STEMCELL Technologies)

10:45 – 11:10 – **“Standards, Models and Analytical Considerations for Describing Nanoparticle Biocompatibility”**

- *Dr. David Kennedy, Senior Research Officer at Metrology Research Centre, National Research Council Canada*

11:10 – 11:35 – **“Matrix-Tolerant LC–MS/MS for Streamlined Sample Preparation in Complex Matrices”**

- *Dr. Erasmus Cudjoe, Principal Field Application Scientist, Perkin Elmer*

11:35 – 12:00 – **“Faster Application and Longer Performance from A New Class of Dynamic Aminopolyolefins for Cleaner Industrial Applications”**

- *Dr. Damon J. Gilmour, A2O Advanced Materials*

12:00 – 1:00 – Lunch Break (catered lunch provided within the venue)

Session 2 – Networking Event (Chairs – Drs. Byron Gates, Andy Ahiabu, Walter Cicha)

1:00 – 1:45 – Networking Event

Session 3 – Contributed Poster Presentations (Drs. Byron Gates, Andy Ahiabu, Walter Cicha)

1:45 – 3:35 – Student Poster Presentations on the Main Stage

2:30 – 3:00 – Coffee Break, Meet the Exhibitors

Session 4 – Invited Presentations (Chairs – Drs. Byron Gates, Andy Ahiabu, Walter Cicha)

3:35 – 4:00 – **“Integrated Nanophotonics with Solution Processed Materials”**

- *Dr. Arka Majumdar, Professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering, University of Washington, United States*

4:00 – 4:25 – **“Advancing the Battery Value Chain: Analytical Instruments for R&D and Raw Material Analysis with a Focus on Metal Testing”**

- *Aaron Hineman, Inorganic Market Development Manager, PerkinElmer*

4:25 – 4:30 – **“The National Research Council’s Battery Value Chain Initiative”**

- *Dr. Walter Cicha, Industrial Research Assistance Program at the National Research Council of Canada*

4:30 – 4:55 – **“Computational and Machine Learning Approaches to Electrocatalyst Discovery”**

- *Dr. Mohammadreza Karamad, Simon Fraser University, Canada*

4:55 – 5:20 – **“Optimizing Lithium Extraction and Refining Technology for Canadian Application”**

- *Benjamin Sparrow, MBA, P.Eng., Saltworks Technologies, Canada*

Session 5 – Awards, Networking, and Social Period (Drs. Byron Gates, Andy Ahiabu, Walter Cicha)

5:20 – 5:40 – **Awards Ceremony for Student Presentations and Further Acknowledgements**

5:40 – 6:30 – **Further Networking and Open Social Period**
