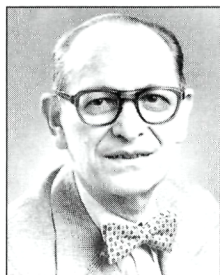


## PEOPLE

**Abraham Savitzky**

Abraham H. Savitzky died on February 5, 1999, in Naples, FL, after a long illness. He



retired from Perkin-Elmer in 1985, where he had worked for 35 years, the last 10 as a principal scientist. At Perkin-Elmer, he focused on the role that computers would play in analytical instrumentation.

*Savitzky, circa 1985.* As a result of his incisive and unflagging research, Perkin-Elmer was one of the first companies to embed a microprocessor within an instrument. Abe was born in New York City in 1919. He got his undergraduate degree in chemistry in 1941 from New York State College for Teachers-Albany (now SUNY-Albany). He served in the U.S. Army Air Force as a radar officer from 1941 to 1945, retiring as captain. He attended Columbia University, where he received his Ph.D. in physical chemistry in 1949, working in IR spectroscopy. While at Columbia, he co-invented the Savitzky-Halford ratio recording spectrophotometer, which was manufactured by Perkin-Elmer as the Model 13.

Savitzky joined Perkin-Elmer in 1950. In addition to his work on the Model 13, he participated in the design of various IR process control and dispersive systems, as well as important accessories. He developed Perkin-Elmer's first prototype chromatograph, which eventually led to a wide range of instrumentation.

By 1960, he had begun to apply computer methods for IR instrumentation in ever more sophisticated ways, many using time-share methods. When it became clear that microprocessor chips could replace large segments of expensive, complicated electronics, he was ready to help design them into instruments. During his long interest in computer instrument opportunities, he collaborated with Marcel Golay, the Swiss mathematician, using computers to smooth electronic data and reduce the influence of noise on spectroscopic signals. His *Analytical Chemistry* paper with Golay, which described the Savitzky-Golay smoothing function, is reportedly among the most widely cited papers from the journal.

He held 7 patents and was an author on some 60 publications. In 1983, he received the Medal of the New York Section of the

Society for Applied Spectroscopy. He shared the Williams-Wright Award of the Coblenz Society in 1986 for his numerous contributions to IR spectroscopy. And in 1996, he received the Honorary Membership Award of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy for innovative work in IR spectroscopy and computer applications.

When Abe left Perkin-Elmer, he set up a consulting business with his wife, Evelyn, called Silvermine Resources, which is concerned mostly with microprocessor-based computing systems for analytical instrumentation and bibliographic information retrieval. The Savitzky Family Science and Technology Fund was created at the Wilton (Connecticut) Public Library, honoring Abe and Evelyn.

*Walter Slavin*

## Year 2000 Division of Analytical Chemistry Awards

The ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry (DAC) seeks nominations for its year 2000 awards. Eligibility is not restricted to members of the division, and nominations for these awards may come from non-DAC members.

The Award for Distinguished Service in the Advancement of Analytical Chemistry, sponsored by Waters, is given to an individual who, through professional service in activities such as teaching, writing, research, and administration, has substantially and uniquely enhanced the field of analytical chemistry. Because the purpose of the award is first and foremost to recognize distinguished service, eligibility is restricted to individuals whose contributions have not already been specifically recognized by another ACS or DAC award.

The Award in Chemical Instrumentation, sponsored by Dow Chemical, is given to an individual who has advanced chemical instrumentation and has achieved one or more of the following: developed unique instrumentation, demonstrated innovative use of instrumentation in chemical measurements, stimulated use of instrumentation among other researchers, or published research papers or books that have influenced chemical measurement.

The Award for Excellence in Teaching, cosponsored by DAC and DuPont, recognizes a scientist who has enhanced the professional development of analytical chemistry students in the following ways: published an influential textbook, designed and implemented a new approach to teaching, encouraged a significant number of students to be-

come analytical chemists, developed and published innovative experiments, designed improved equipment for teaching labs, or published widely quoted articles on teaching analytical chemistry. Teachers who have been full-time faculty members for at least five years at U.S. or Canadian colleges or universities can be nominated for the award.

The Awards in Spectrochemical Analysis (sponsored by Perkin-Elmer) and Electrochemistry (sponsored by EG&G Princeton Applied Research) are presented to individuals who have advanced the fields of spectrochemical analysis and electrochemical analysis, respectively. Candidates must have achieved one or more of the following: conceptualized and developed unique instrumentation, developed novel and important instrumental events or processes important to the field, or published research papers or books that influenced the development of the field.

The Arthur F. Findeis Award for Achievements by a Young Analytical Scientist, sponsored by the Philip Morris Companies, recognizes outstanding contributions in the field of analytical chemistry by a young analytical scientist who has accomplished one or more of the following: conceptualized and developed unique instrumentation that has substantially advanced the field; developed significant analytical methodologies for use in the chemical sciences; elucidated fundamental events or processes pertinent to analytical chemistry; authored books, patents, and/or research papers that have had an influential role in the development of analytical chemistry; or made other significant contributions that have furthered analytical chemical sciences. To be eligible, the awardee must have earned his or her highest degree before Jan. 1, 2000.

Each award consists of a \$4000 honorarium, a plaque, and a \$1000 travel allowance for the Fall 2000 ACS National Meeting, where the awards will be presented. The Findeis Award will be presented at the Eastern Analytical Symposium in November 2000.

Nominating documents should include a letter of recommendation, one or more seconding letters, and a brief biographical sketch emphasizing the candidate's accomplishments. Nomination materials, which should not exceed 12 pages of text, should be sent in one package by Sept. 1, 1999, to J. Michael Ramsey, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, P.O. Box 2008, Bldg. 45005, Rm. C158, MS-6142, Bethel Valley Rd., Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6142 (423-574-5662; fax 423-574-8363; ramseyjm@ornl.gov).