

March
2016

2016 HPLC and GC Training Courses Include New Advanced Classes!



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Greetings to all of our extended Axion family near and far. Thanks to you, after 18 years of providing HPLC and GC training to every major pharmaceutical, chemical, and petroleum company in the US, 2015 was our busiest year yet! 2016 promises to be even more exciting with new instruments and new advanced HPLC and GC courses. We'd love to have you back for another fun session of learning at our hands-on training facility in Chicago.

2016 CLASS SCHEDULE

Time to come back?

Advanced GC and Advanced HPLC pick up where our "Fundamentals" courses leave off!

Here's a list of our courses that have already been scheduled in 2016. [Register Today!](#)

GC	HPLC	Advanced HPLC	Advanced GC
2/23/16	3/1/16	5/10/16	6/28/16
3/15/16	5/3/16	9/6/16	12/19/16
5/17/16	8/9/16		

7/26/16	9/20/16		
10/4/16	10/25/16		
11/1/16			

AXION LABS IS CARBON NEUTRAL!

Even with chilly Chicago winters upon them, Lee and Mary Beth do their best to keep Axion Labs an office with a carbon-neutral commute. Lee runs the three miles from his humble abode into the lab each day, while Mary Beth chooses to bike her four-mile trek. After all, they have to find some way to combat their mutual fondness for pizza and burgers! Lee doesn't seem to mind the cold (-6 F is his personal record), but he does refrain from running in on teaching days (out of respect for those sitting in the front row). Mary Beth prefers to avoid the icy conditions and single-digit temperatures that make biking hairy. Our other instructors tend to walk over from the hotel on teaching days, so Axion is officially carbon neutral!



Lee explains GC via a shopping mall analogy

NEW VIDEOS (ON OUR NEW WEBSITE)

We've added video content to our website! Stay tuned for more videos and possible blog posts as a feature on the site, which has been redesigned in 2016. Feel free to check out all of AxionLabs.com including the entire schedule of this year's courses. We welcome anyone looking for a refresher course or a foray into a new technique.

NEW INSTRUMENTS



Agilent Infinity 1260 HPLC with Refractive Index Detector

We've acquired a new HPLC with an RI detector in order to support our ongoing renewable energy/renewable chemicals project. The RID is often referred to as a "universal" detector for HPLC because it can detect anything (other than the mobile phase). This makes it useful for analytes that have no UV chromophore (sugars, salts, surfactants, lipids, etc.). It is a great addition to our growing list of instrumentation.



Agilent G1888 Headspace Autosampler

Capable of handling up to 70 samples with an oven that holds 12 vials at a time, this apparatus accurately represents how headspace GC is used in industry applications. From blood alcohol analysis to volatiles in paint samples, pairing a headspace sampler with one of our 6890 model GCs broadens the horizons of this technique.

Renewable Energy Success Story - Helios Scientific, LLC

Axion's primary scientific specialty is clearly chromatography, but my other scientific passion has always been renewable energy. I helped start a company a few years ago (Helios Scientific) to develop the technology needed to unlock the energy stored in waste plant material (cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin). Since there is more cellulose in the world than crude oil, this technology could provide an unlimited supply of clean burning (and greenhouse-gas-reducing) transportation fuel! Without going into the gory (and proprietary) details, let me put it this way: After decades of R&D, the best technology currently available takes approximately 40 minutes to "pretreat" the incoming biomass. Helios "Sunburst" technology can do it in less than 10 seconds! Not only is it significantly faster, but the resultant product is better in nearly every measurable way (like 10x lower inhibitors!).

The great news is that Helios was acquired in 2015 (technology, pilot plant and all) by one of the leading renewable energy/renewable chemical companies in the US. As a businessman, it was a great day. But on a much deeper level, it was exciting as a scientist to see our technology "baby" take its first steps towards commercialization. The first commercial facility is set to break ground by the end of 2016. I will keep my hand in the technology as it develops, but I will continue to enjoy my day job of teaching chromatography here at Axion to all who are willing to listen!

Lee N. Polite - Founder and President Axion Analytical Labs, Inc.



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