

Problem Solver: Using Investigative and Analytical Chemistry in the Real World

Carolyn Otten

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**Chemistry
Seminar on
Analytical
Chemistry in the
real world**

**Monday
September
23 at 4 pm in
303 Schrenk**

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Abstract: Ever wonder what's the "secret ingredient" in a fuel additive that results in increased octane rating in a race car application? Or how would you design an experiment to investigate the root cause of cracking of blades in portable fans sold to consumers? What if you were asked to explain why a product is marketed as "SLS-free" when its ingredients contain sodium coco sulfate? These are some of the questions that we are asked to answer every day as investigative analytical chemists. This talk takes you through a day in the life of an analyst at Eurofins EAG Laboratories, using case studies to demonstrate how spectroscopy, chromatography, thermal analysis and microscopy are used to help solve clients' problems.

About the speaker: Carolyn Otten, Ph.D.

- Currently, Senior Manager, Analytical Services
- First job: 1991, research with David McCurdy at Truman State University (high school)
- B.S. Chemistry, 1997 University of Missouri – Rolla (MO S&T)
- A.M. Chemistry, 2000 Washington University in St. Louis
- Ph.D. Chemistry, 2004 Washington University in St. Louis (Inorganic Materials Chemistry)
- 19 years of industrial experience
- Specializes in analytical investigations, contaminant ID's, polymer characterization & deformulations
- Scientific Technical Consultant and Manager
- Favorite responsibility: Recruiting