

Lifelines

Catherine Maidment is a research associate at New Zealand Leather and Shoe Research Association with research activities focusing on the study of molecular components in skin and hide, particularly proteins and glycosaminoglycans, and how they affect leather quality. In 2019 she graduated from Massey University, New Zealand with a master's degree in biochemistry.

Meekyung Ahn graduated from Massey University with a PhD in synthetic organic chemistry in 2007, followed by a post-doctoral position working on the proteomic characterization of processed hides. From 2009 to 2017, Meekyung was employed as a research scientist by LASRA (Leather and Shoe Research Association, NZ) and was part of a team trying to relate the molecular building blocks of animal hides and skins to their physical properties. She was also interested in and researched the use of microbes to convert waste materials from the leather industry into high value materials.

Rafea Naffa, see *JALCA* 114(1) 38, 2019

Trevor Loo is a laboratory manager that oversees the operation of the mass spectrometry facility at Massey University and a core member of the protein structural biology group, plays an active role in research and involves in regulatory compliance, maintenance and equipment training around School of Fundamental Sciences. Trevor majored in biochemistry and has extensive experience in cloning, expression, purification and characterization of proteins from bacterial, fungal and mammalian sources by mass spectrometry, biological assays and structural approaches.

Gillian Norris, see *JALCA* 110, 379, 2015

Ricardo Tournier earned a degree in Chemical Engineering from Universidad de la República, Montevideo, Uruguay in 1968 and a MSc in Chemical Engineering from University of South Carolina, USA in 1971. In 1974 he attended a Dyestuff Course at the Chemistry Department of Turin University and a Practical Course on hide tanning at Instituto "Baldracco," Turin, Italy. Started in the leather industry in 1971 at Lanza Tannery, Uruguay, for 9 years. Later he worked for 20 years as Technical Manager at Paycueros Tannery, a member of SADESA Group. From 2000 to 2012 he was Technical Assistant to the General Manager at Zenda Leather, Uruguay. His works on leather problems and defects have been published in regional journals. He is currently working as a freelance consultant.

Patricia Janković graduated in Biotechnology at the Department of Biotechnology, University of Rijeka (Croatia) in 2017. She received the Master in Pharmaceutics and Drug Design from the Department of Biotechnology, University of Rijeka (Croatia) in 2019. During her studies, she has worked as an intern at the Medical University of Lodz in 2018 and at the A3 Leather Innovation Center in 2019.

Reno Spinosi is Doctor in chemical science at the School of Advanced Studies of the University of Camerino. I have an undergraduate degree in Chemistry from the University of Camerino. Since 2017 he performed a post-doctoral stay at the A3 Leather Innovation Center. In the last year, the two projects in which he was involved were focused on the evaluation and reuse of residue coming from the leather sector.

Silvia Sorolla is Doctor in Chemical Engineering by Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya. Since 2012 she has been working as a Researcher and Project manager at A3 Leather Innovation Center. She is mainly involved in the development of R&D projects at National and European level focused on the evaluation and reuse of residues from the leather sector.

Anna Bacardit graduated in Industrial Engineering Organization at the Technical University of Catalonia (Spain) in 2003. She got his Ph.D. degree in Chemistry at the University of Barcelona in 2005. She received the Master in Tanning Technical Management from the Technical University of Catalonia (Spain) in 2001. From 1995 to 1999 she has been working in the Technical Laboratory at BASF-Curtex in L'Hospitalet (Spain). Since 1999 she has been working as a lecturer at the Igualada Industrial Engineering Technical School – Igualada Tanning School at the Technical University of Catalonia. Now is full professor at Escola Politècnica Superior (UdL). She is mainly involved in the development of cleaner and innovative leather processing methods.

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