



Steven G. Brown, PhD

Vice President

Department Manager, Data Science

Senior Atmospheric Scientist

Dr. Brown joined STI in 2001. His research focuses on characterizing spatial and temporal trends of ambient aerosol and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including applying factor analysis models such as positive matrix factorization (PMF) and chemical mass balance (CMB). Dr. Brown has managed and developed a number of small- and large-scale data analysis and tool development projects. These projects include conducting regional- and national-scale analyses, assessing trends, putting concentrations in perspective with meteorology and emissions changes, and analyzing near-field data, such as near-road ambient pollutant data. He has developed and conducted training workshops on data validation techniques, data analysis for ambient air quality data, and source apportionment using PMF. Dr. Brown has led the analysis of aerosol and mobile source air toxics (MSAT) data collected at schools next to major freeways in Las Vegas, Nevada, determining the impact of emissions along the freeway on air quality indoor and outdoor at schools. As part of this work, he examined how the air quality changed after a freeway expansion, and how air quality changed over time next to the roadway with changes in traffic. He used Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (AMS) data to determine the composition of near-road organic aerosol and its variation over time with traffic. These projects were supported by Dr. Brown's strong statistical background and his broad knowledge of aerosol sources, transport, and chemistry.

Dr. Brown led source apportionment efforts using air toxics data, speciated PM_{2.5} data from the Chemical Speciation Network (CSN), Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE) network, and special studies; hourly VOC data from the Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations (PAMS) program; and data from semi-continuous instruments such as the AMS. Recently, Dr. Brown led a large study using a combination of low-cost sensors and state-of-the-art instrumentation to understand differences in pollution between multiple environmental justice (EJ) and non-EJ communities in Sacramento.

Dr. Brown's research also includes performing accountability analyses of specific regulations on ambient air quality. Recent accountability projects include examining changes (1) in levels of air toxics at sites near sources affected by the maximum achievable control technology regulations, (2) in NO_x and PM_{2.5} levels in areas where the NO_x State Implementation Plan call was implemented, and (3) in local PM_{2.5} concentrations after specific point sources were shut down. Dr. Brown has published more than 20 peer-reviewed journal articles and has been a peer reviewer for a number of journals, including *Atmospheric Environment* and *Environmental Science & Technology*. His PhD work at Colorado State University (CSU) focused on near-road high-resolution aerosol mass spectrometer (HR-AMS) measurements and analysis.

Before joining STI, Dr. Brown was a Research Assistant at CSU, where he received his master's degree in Atmospheric Science. During his research, Dr. Brown became proficient in a range of air quality analysis issues, data and laboratory analysis techniques, and particulate and trace-gas pollutant monitoring equipment. Dr. Brown used gas chromatography-mass spectroscopy (GC-MS) to investigate particulate organic carbon.

Education

- PhD, Atmospheric Science, Colorado State University
- MS, Atmospheric Science, Colorado State University
- BS, Chemistry, University of California, San Diego

Memberships

- Air & Waste Management Association
- American Association of Aerosol Research
- American Geophysical Union

For a list of publications, see sonomatech.com/ResPub/SGBpub.pdf.