

the Catalyst



September 2025
Volume 110, No. 7



**September Meeting
Younger Chemists Committee
Fall Poster Symposium
Carolyn Lynch Lecture Hall
University of Pennsylvania**

HIGHLIGHTS

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ADVANCE NOTICE

Ulliyot Lecture and Award: Sir David W.C. MacMillan

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 | 6 PM-8 PM EST

**Science History Institute
315 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia PA 19106**

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Advertising: Victor Tortorelli, vtortorelli@ursinus.edu

Comments From the Chair



Dear Philadelphia ACS Members,

September marks a fresh start—a time to embrace learning, exploration, and strategic planning for the year ahead. After a rejuvenating summer break, we are reenergized and eager to build on the vibrant momentum of our chemical community.

This past June, we hosted the highly successful CCN Summer Social Event (also see [LinkedIn post](#)), a lively gathering that united members from across our Section to network, share ideas, and celebrate our shared passion for chemistry. Attendees enjoyed engaging discussions, delightful refreshments, and an inspiring atmosphere that fostered new connections and strengthened existing ones. This event showcased the collaborative spirit of the Philadelphia Section and set an enthusiastic tone for our summer activities.



A highlight of the evening was our heartfelt celebration of our 50-, 60- and 70-year members (link to more [Event Photos](#)). These remarkable individuals have shaped the field of chemistry through decades of dedication, serving as mentors, innovators, and leaders. During the ceremony, we honored their enduring contributions with tributes and presented special awards recognizing their lifelong commitment to advancing the chemical sciences. Their legacy continues to inspire our community, and we were privileged to celebrate their milestones alongside so many colleagues and friends.



We also take this moment to offer our heartfelt appreciation for the life and legacy of Dr. Kathleen Thrush Shaginaw, a cherished member of our community who passed away recently. Kathy was a champion of encouraging women and girls in science for over 30 years, leaving an indelible mark through her establishment of the Expand Your Horizons program in 1994, later renamed PAGES™ (Philadelphia Area Girls Enjoying Science). Her dedication to empowering the next generation of scientists was matched by her exemplary service to the ACS, both in national governance roles and in various capacities within our section. We are deeply saddened by her loss and are committed to honoring her impactful contributions. We welcome suggestions from our members on how to memorialize Kathy's legacy in meaningful ways.

In August, many of our members, including myself, attended the ACS Fall National Meeting in Washington, DC, a remarkable week of scientific exchange and collaboration. Our Section was thrilled to be a finalist for two ChemLuminary Awards: "Outstanding Engagement with K-8 Students" and "Outstanding Performance by a Local Section Very Large Size Category." We are proud to have won the "Outstanding Engagement with K-8 Students" award, with recognition during the ACS Board Open Session and ChemLuminary Award Ceremony on Sunday, August 17, 2025. Additionally, I was honored to present the development progress of the [Transformative Natural Polymers Convergent Chemists Community \(CCC\)](#) at the DAC committee meeting, highlighting the impactful work our Section has been leading through our monthly webinar series. This series has driven robust discussions and established our Section as a leader in innovative polymer research.

Over the summer, our Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) welcomed new co-chairs, Dr. [Kunyu Wang](#) and Dr. [Andres Vazquez-Kopez](#), who have taken on leadership with enthusiasm. They have been collaborating with the Philadelphia Chemical Innovation Council (PCIC) and the Chinese American Chemical Society ([CACS](#)) YCC to organize the YCC **Fall Poster Symposium**. This exciting event will provide a dynamic platform for attendees to explore careers and cutting-edge

chemistry research through invited talks by senior professionals, including Dr. [Vere Archibald](#), a distinguished Site Leader at DuPont's Experimental Station, and [Prof. Shu Yang](#), the Joseph Bordogna Professor of Engineering and Applied Science and Chair of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania. Prof. Yang is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, American Physical Society, National Academy of Inventors, and Materials Research Society. Participants will also have opportunities to engage in one-on-one career workshops, network with peers, and connect with industry mentors. We warmly invite both students and young industrial professionals to join us. Please check the flyer in this issue for more details and save the date!

As we dive into this new season, let's carry forward the energy from our summer events, the national meeting, and the recognition of our award-winning members to learn, collaborate, and shape the future of our section. Looking ahead, please note that the abstract submission deadline for the 2026 ACS Spring National Meeting is March 22-26, 2026.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Warm regards,

Wei Gao

Chair, Philadelphia Local Section of American Chemical Society

NEWS ATOMS—*Alan Warren*

Joseph S. Francisco, professor of earth and environmental science at Penn, received the American Chemical Society's Linus Pauling Award for his pioneering studies of the chemistry of Earth's atmosphere.

DEATHS

John Edwin Baldwin, retired physical organic chemist, May 26, 2024 at 86. He taught for 16 years at the University of Oregon, including serving 5 years as dean of arts and sciences. In 1984 he moved to Syracuse University where he taught, chaired the department of chemistry, and was involved in the creation of the Life Sciences Complex. He received awards from the John Simon Guggenheim and Alexander von Humboldt foundations.

He held several board and advisory committee positions including the President's Science Advisory Committee, the Medicinal Chemistry Study Section of the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation's Chemistry Division Standing Review Panel, the executive committee of the ACS Division of Organic Chemistry, and the advisory board of the Petroleum Research Fund of the ACS. In 2010 he received the ACS James Flack Norris award.

David J. Prescott, emeritus professor of biology, May 9, 2025 at 85. From 1970 until 2005, he taught biochemistry and biology courses at Bryn Mawr College. During 1984-1986 he chaired the biology department. He was also a guest lecturer at Villanova and Drexel Universities. Prescott was regarded for his expertise in neurochemistry, environmental toxicology, fatty acids, and

sensory systems of insects among other subjects. He was active in the Philadelphia Lipid Club, the ACS, the AAAS, and helped establish the Philadelphia chapter of the Society for Neuroscience.

James Philip Friend, retired researcher and professor, May 10th at 94. He was the first atmospheric chemist in the academic community and taught at New York University and Drexel University. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and authored several papers in such areas as the effect of chlorofluorocarbons on the ozone layer, potential climate implications of volcanic eruptions like the one at Mount St. Helen's, and the climate effects of nuclear war.

Walter Raymond Pavelchek, retired chemical engineer, June 10th at age 100. For six years he taught at Tufts University and then took an R&D position at American Viscose (later FMC Corp.) in Marcus Hook. He served as process engineer, project manager, engineering superintendent, and senior project engineer, retiring in 1986. He served as a national director of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

Kathleen Thrush Shaginaw, industrial chemist and teacher, June 18th at 68. She worked at several multinational industrial firms in the areas of materials and manufacturing processes and held several patents. She then moved to teaching positions at Ursinus and Villanova, followed by 15 years at the Community College of Philadelphia. She contributed to several college chemistry textbooks and founded a consulting business, advising firms on manufacturing processes.

Kathy was active in the ACS at the local and national levels as well as the American Association of University Women. She was involved with the Delaware Valley Science Council for many years and gave time and energy to Cops' n' Kids Delaware Valley. She was a mentor to youngsters and promoted the Philadelphia Area Girls Enjoying Science (PAGESTM).

Lawrence Kee Low. 50-year ACS member in 2019. Involved with polyalphaolefins for food and pharmaceutical applications. No further details are available.

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

Younger Chemists Committee Program and Event Planning Volunteers: The Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) is a committee of the Philadelphia Local Section focusing on the needs of undergraduate, graduate, post doc, and early career chemists under 35 years old. The committee is looking for volunteers to help with program planning this year! This is an excellent opportunity for students and early career chemists to assume leadership roles and network with likeminded scientists within the ACS community. The estimated time commitment would be less than 1 hour per week.

All interested individuals can reach out to Isaac Choie at: yongsuk.isaac@temple.edu



ACS Local Section
Philadelphia

ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting

Sept 11th, 2025
Via Teleconference

CODE OF CONDUCT

As members of the Philadelphia Section of the ACS, we shall abide by the Chemists' Code of Conduct which states in part that "Chemical professionals should seek to advance chemical science while striving for the highest standards of scientific integrity. Chemical professionals should treat others with respect and will not engage in discrimination, harassment, bullying, dishonesty, fraud, misrepresentation, coercive manipulation, censorship, or other misconduct. Such actions apply to all professional, research, and learning environments."

AGENDA

(Meeting will convene at **7:00 PM** and end promptly at 8:00 PM.)

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes
- III. Officers' Reports:
 - a. Chair – Wei Gao
 - b. Immediate Past Chair – Matt Irwin
 - c. Chair-Elect – Andrew Devany
 - d. Secretary – Anne DeMasi
 - e. Treasurer – Ivona Sasimovich Macor
 - f. Chair of Council Affairs – Deborah Cook
 - Councilor Talking Points
 - Councilor reimbursement
- IV. Committee Reports
 - a. Young Chemists Committee (YCC) – Kunyu Wang / Andres Vazquez
 - b. Ulliyot Committee – Deborah Cook
 - c. Communication Committee- Lee Hoffman
- V. Other Business

For those participating by teleconference: All Officers and Directors should have received a Google Calendar invitation with a Zoom Link. For those who have not received this information as well as for your convenience, please use the following information to access the teleconference:

By Internet: register by following this link:

<https://american-chemical-society.zoom.com/j/86436282837?pwd=STIwTy9paENWSlMyd2ZlXQk4wSHVidz09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 864 3628 2837

Password: 568816

By Phone:

Phone Number: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592

Access Code: 864 3628 2837

Password: 568816

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Philadelphia



VAGELOS
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Younger Chemists Committee Fall Poster Symposium

Explore Careers & Chemistry Research

Join us for a dynamic symposium featuring **invited talks** by senior professionals, **poster presentations** by Philadelphia-area students and industrial professionals, and a one-to-one **career workshop**.

Network with peers and industry mentors!



The Lynch Lecture Hall & The Pit
Department of Chemistry,
University of Pennsylvania
231 S 34th St,
Philadelphia, PA 19104



Date: Fri–, September 26, 2025



Time: 3pm – 4pm Invited Talks
4pm – 6pm Poster Session
5pm – 6 pm Career Consulting



Poster Abstract Submission Deadline: September 12th, 2025

Scan QR code to register!

www.phillyacs.org

ACS Transformative Natural Polymers CCC ([ACS-NP-CCC](#))

[Webinar Series](#)

Learning from nature and collective wisdom for a brighter future

Qiong Yuan, PhD
Director, Strategic Alliances, CAS

DATE & TIME: Thursday Sept 18th, 2025, 7:00 PM ET

Location: Online via Zoom. Please use the [link](#) or scan the QR code to register.

Abstract: For over a century, CAS and its hundreds of scientists have been curating, connecting and analyzing the world's published science to accelerate discovery. The CAS Content Collection™, the largest human-curated collection of scientific information in the world, includes millions of journal articles and patents related to macromolecular (natural polymers, plastics, carbohydrates, etc.) R&D since the late 1800s. We will provide an overview of natural polymer-related literature and share insights from our analysis of leading natural polymer research, including uses and development worldwide. This work highlights the importance of learning from nature and the value of knowledge sharing and collaboration – leveraging the collective wisdom embedded in scientific publications – to address global sustainability challenges.

Biography:

Dr. Yuan currently works in CAS Sales Division and focuses on identifying external key stakeholders and building up partnerships for developing transformative scientific information solutions to help R&D professionals accelerate innovation breakthroughs. CAS is a division of American Chemical Society. Since joined CAS in 1999, she served the organization through various roles in Product Management, Sales, Research and SciFinder Product Development. Dr. Yuan received her PhD from Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry (SIOC), Chinese Academic of Sciences. She initiated and led multiple strategic projects that shaped CAS flagship products (SciFinder, STN and Customer Services) and established CAS/ACS local representations.

Co-Hosts:

[The Philadelphia Local Section of ACS](#)

[ACS](#) technical Divisions of [POLY](#), [PMSE](#), [AGFD](#), [ENVR](#) and [CARB](#)

[ACS GCI Natural Polymer Consortium](#)

[Chinese American Chemical Society](#)

Zoom meeting ID: 835 7523 3229, Passcode 613618

Zoom registration: [https://american-chemical-society.zoom.us/join/3rnfMKMtT5qW8nMqURLrA?opti-](https://american-chemical-society.zoom.us/join/3rnfMKMtT5qW8nMqURLrA?opti-mizely_user_id=ce4c6154ec7d46b48731646ac52393eff/registration)

[mizely_user_id=ce4c6154ec7d46b48731646ac52393eff/registration](https://american-chemical-society.zoom.us/join/3rnfMKMtT5qW8nMqURLrA?opti-mizely_user_id=ce4c6154ec7d46b48731646ac52393eff/registration)





2025 Philadelphia Section Award

Honoring

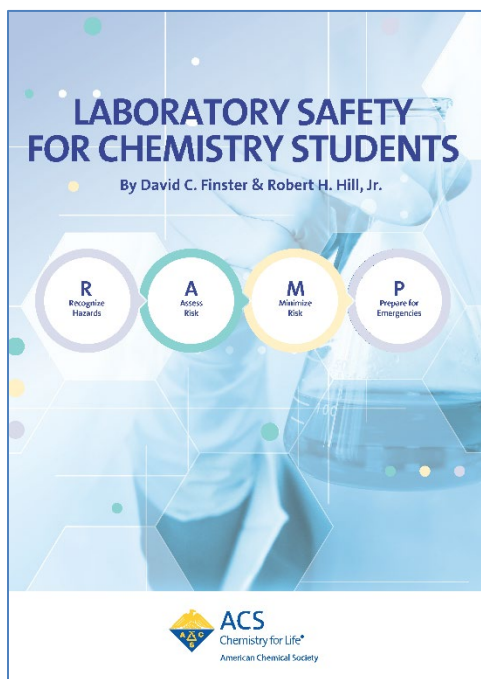
Dr. Spiridoula Matsika
Professor of Chemistry, Temple University

to be held on

October 23, 2025 at Temple University

The lecture is free and open to the public. The lecture will be preceded by a reception and followed by an optional dinner.

Free Laboratory Safety eTextbook



The 3rd Edition of *Laboratory Safety for Chemistry Students* is now free to chemistry students and instructors worldwide as an eTextbook. The first two editions of the textbook, published by Wiley in 2010 and 2016, laid the foundation for chemistry lab safety education. Authors Dr. David Finster and Dr. Robert Hill Jr. have generously donated the 3rd edition to ACS, making the textbook accessible to the global chemistry community.

Online Learning Platform Access

Access to the eTextbook requires registering for a free ACS ID and completing a short registration form. After registering, instructors will have the ability to invite students and manage classes on the free learning platform that hosts the eTextbook and quizzes.

Comprehensive Coverage of Chemistry Lab Safety

Laboratory Safety for Chemistry Students covers a wide range of safety topics that all undergraduate chemistry majors should be familiar with by graduation. The eTextbook is structured into introductory, intermediate, and advanced topics, making it a versatile and complete resource for integrating chemical safety instruction into the four-year undergraduate curriculum. The content aligns with the [ACS Guidelines for Bachelor Degree Programs](#), as developed by the ACS Committee on Professional Training (CPT), ensuring that students receive a thorough and up-to-date education in lab safety practices.”

[Learn more and access this eTextbook](#)

ACS CAREER CONSULTANTS

Would you like to speak to a local ACS Career Consultant? The Philadelphia Section career consultants can provide one-on-one career advice, resume reviews, or mock interviews. Please send an email request to acsphillycareerservices@gmail.com to set up an appointment.

ULLYOT LECTURE and AWARD

SIR DAVID W.C. MACMILLAN

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 | 6 PM-8 PM EST

Science History Institute

315 Chestnut Street

Philadelphia PA 19106



The 2025 Ulliyot Public Affairs Lecture and Award will feature Nobel laureate Sir David W.C. MacMillan. A Q&A session and the presentation of the Liberty Bowl will follow MacMillan's lecture.

The Path to Invention and Discovery in Catalysis

This lecture will first discuss the advent and development of asymmetric organocatalysis in the MacMillan Laboratory. It will also include the exploration of the concepts of chemical reactivity, catalysis, and the asymmetry of organic molecules, as well as the impact of organocatalysis on modern synthetic chemistry and the real-world applications of this technology. We will then look to the future and consider how organocatalysis may continue to influence scientific research and society. The second part of the talk will be a lighthearted discussion of the life-changing experience of becoming a Nobel Prize winner, and the ways in which this experience shapes your perspective of science and society.

Agenda


6 PM–7 PM | Lecture

7 PM-8 PM | Reception

More information will be provided in the October issue of *the Catalyst*.

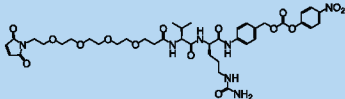
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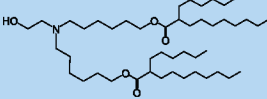


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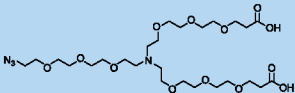
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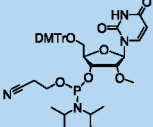
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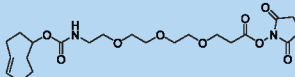
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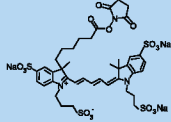
Nucleoside & Nucleotide



Click Chemistry Tools



Fluorescent Dyes





The Committee on Minority Affairs is seeking members. If you would like to join, please contact cma.philaacs@gmail.com to learn more.

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CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Being a part of one of our teams can help you develop organizational and meeting skills as well as help you to network with people from the largest area companies. Public Relations, such as sending out meeting notices and press releases, can help you to develop a network and help you get noticed!

All committees are looking for new members and several are looking for "take charge" chairs. Some, like the Teller's Committee, involve minimal work—one night per year and pizza provided. Others, like positions on Communications or Social Committees, involve one or two hours per month.

Committee details can be found at:

www.membership.acs.org/p/philadelphia

or by calling the Philadelphia Section Office (215) 382-1589.

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