



**October Meeting
2025 Philadelphia Section Award
Dr. Spiridoula Matsika
Professor of Chemistry
Temple University**

HIGHLIGHTS

Comments from Chair	123
News Atoms	124
2025 Philadelphia Section Award	126
Science History Museum Event	127
Directory of Services	133

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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CONTENTS

Comments From the Chair	123
News Atoms	124
October Board of Director's Meeting	125
2025 Philadelphia Section Award	126
Science History Museum for Undergraduates	127
Ulliot Lecture and Award	128
Opportunities to Volunteer	129
Committee on Minority Affairs Seeks Volunteers	129
ACS Career Consultants	129
Obituary: Kathleen Shaginaw	131
Chemical Consultants Network October Meeting	132
Directory of Services	133

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Comments From the Chair



Dear Philadelphia ACS Members,

October brings a vibrant autumn energy—a season to reflect on our recent successes, deepen collaborations, and propel our strategic initiatives forward. Building on the reenergized spirit from September, our chemical community continues to thrive by creating opportunities to promote talent recognition and development through technical and professional forums and networking events for all members in the Philadelphia area.

One of the standout highlights from last month was the resounding success of our YCC Fall Poster Symposium on Friday, September 26 [LinkedIn post](#). Over 93 undergraduates and graduate students attended and 54 showcased their cutting-edge research during a vibrant poster session from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM, sparking lively discussions and peer inspiration. The event kicked off from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM with two exceptional speakers: [Dr. Wenxuan Li](#), Senior Scientist at Merck & Co. and recent recipient of the ACS “Outstanding Leadership in Mentoring” recognition, and [Mr. Vere O. Archibald](#), Site Leader at DuPont’s Experimental Station. Their insightful talks on career journeys and professional experiences captivated attendees, providing invaluable guidance for emerging chemists. We were thrilled to recognize three outstanding poster award winners—Kristin Osika, Marie Nikolov and Kimberly Liu. Our heartfelt thanks go to the volunteer mentors who provided one-on-one career consulting, enriching the experience for attendees. The event concluded with a celebration of the award winners and volunteers, underscoring the strength of our community. Special appreciation goes to our YCC co-chairs, [Dr. Kunyu Wang](#) and [Dr. Andres Vazquez-Kopez](#), along with our partners from the Philadelphia Chemical Innovation Council (PCIC) and the Chinese American Chemical Society (CACS) YCC <https://www.cacshq.org/>, for orchestrating this dynamic platform. Events like this bridge academia and industry, and the enthusiastic feedback on the networking and mentorship opportunities continues to resonate.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue the legacy of Dr. Kathleen Thrush Shaginaw through the [PAGES™](#) (Philadelphia Area Girls Enjoying Science) Fall Mini-Conference, led by Drs. [Jessica Meyers](#) and [Gwenny Go](#). This inspiring event, scheduled for Saturday, October 4, 2025, at Villanova University, will engage sixth-grade girls in hands-on science activities guided by inspiring role models, furthering Dr. Shaginaw’s mission to empower women and girls in science.

On the same day, October 4, we will host a fun and informative chemistry [networking event for undergraduate students at the Science History Museum](#). This event offers a unique opportunity to meet chemists, gain resume tips, explore career paths, and connect with peers, fostering the next generation of chemical professionals.

On October 23, we will celebrate the [2025 ACS Philadelphia Section Award](#), honoring [Dr. Spiridoula Matsika](#), Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Temple University's Science Education and Research Center. Dr. Matsika's contributions to the chemical sciences are a testament to the excellence within our Section, and we look forward to recognizing her achievements.

As we embrace October's opportunities, let's channel our collective passion to innovate, advance chemical sciences and technologies, mentor, and recognize others in our daily work and professional activities. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Warm regards,

Wei Gao

Chair, Philadelphia Local Section of American Chemical Society



Mr. Vere Archibald's talk at the YCC Fall Poster Session.

NEWS ATOMS—*Alan Warren*

DEATHS

Michael N. Greco, medicinal chemist, January 9, 2025 at 67. He worked for 29 years at Johnson & Johnson, engaged in all aspects of drug discovery, and moved from scientist up to research fellow. He then joined Beta Pharma for nearly 10 years where he served as vice president of research and development.



ACS Local Section
Philadelphia

ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting

Oct 9th, 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
- IV. Committee Reports
 - a. Young Chemists Committee (YCC) – Andres Vazquez and Kunyu Wang
 - b. Woman Chemists Committee (WCC) – Brisa Hurlocker and Jessica Myers
- 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=STIwTy9paENWS1Myd2ZXQk4wSHVidz09>

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

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American Chemical Society – Philadelphia Section
231 South 34th Street, Office – 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6323
phillyacs.org

General Business



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.

Exact location and time to be shared at www.PhillyACS.org and on all social media.



ACS Local Section
Philadelphia

Science History Museum for Undergraduate Students

Please join us for this event as you will be able to:

- Talk to senior chemists who have used and seen the evolution of our science discipline in the museum's displays
- Pick the brains of other members of the Philadelphia section on questions of careers, school and life as a scientist.
- Receive resume evaluation by Career Consultant
- Meet other chemistry undergraduates from other schools.

If your school or students are interested, please email Michael Castaldi at castaldimj@gmail.com

Join the American Chemical Society (student member)
<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/membership.html>

Program Information

11:00 AM - Arrival at Museum

11:15 AM - Breakout into small groups

11:30 - 1:00 PM - Museum Tour

1:30 - 3:30 PM - Lunch and Small group Discussions at The Bourse Food Hall

3:00-4:30 PM - Walking tour of Philadelphia with Prof. Castaldi (Optional)

There is no fee for the museum visit while lunch is pay as you go.



315 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106



Saturday October 4, 2025



Your Hosts:

The Philadelphia Local ACS
The Senior, Younger, Disabilities,
Women's, and Career Chemist
Committees
Jefferson Chemistry Students &
Faculty

www.phillyacs.org

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 November issue of *the Catalyst*.

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 Andres Vasquez-Lopez at:
andres.vazquez.lopez.acs@gmail.com



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

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.

Join Chemical Consultants Network – Help Shape Its Future!

After more than 30 years of dedicated service supporting chemists, chemical engineers, and related professionals in their transition into consulting, the Chemical Consultants Network (CCN) is preparing for a transformation to better adapt to today's business environment and explore new opportunities.

We are seeking passionate and energetic professionals to join us. You may participate as a member to witness CCN's next chapter—or take a more active role by joining our Steering Committee to help shape its future directly.

If you are interested, please contact Youwen Xu (yxu@zmail.com) or any other member of the Steering Committee listed here: <https://chemconsultants.org/about.html>.

Thank you, and we look forward to building the future of CCN together!



OBITUARY: KATHLEEN SHAGINAW—C&EN

Kathleen Shaginaw, 68, of Yardley, Pennsylvania, died June 18, 2025.

“Kathy was born in Detroit, Michigan. A graduate of Oakland University, Kathy went on to earn her PhD in chemical physics at the University of Texas at Austin in 1984. She worked for several large multinational chemical firms, specializing in materials and manufacturing processes. Kathy held more than a dozen patents. She subsequently taught at several prestigious institutions, including Ursinus College and Villanova University, and then 15 years at the Community College of Philadelphia. During these years, she contributed to several college chemistry textbooks, and she founded and ran a consulting business.”—Deborah Cook, friend


Most recent title: Adjunct professor of chemistry, Community College of Philadelphia

Education: BS, chemistry, Oakland University, 1978; PhD, chemical physics, University of Texas at Austin, 1984

Survivors: Husband, Richard J. Shaginaw; stepsons, Joseph R. Shaginaw and Benjamin N. Shaginaw; brothers, Christopher Thrush, Daniel Thrush, and Kenneth Thrush

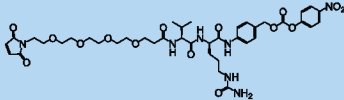
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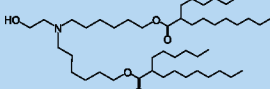


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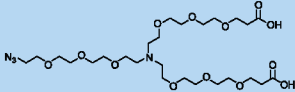
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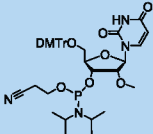
Lipids in Drug Delivery



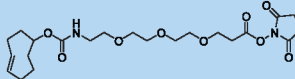
PEG Linkers



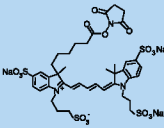
Nucleoside & Nucleotide



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CHEMICAL CONSULTANTS NETWORK MEETING

OCTOBER 15, 2025

A CONSULTANT'S GUIDE TO GENERATIVE AI FOR CHEMISTRY

Fan Li, Ph.D. Apex 974 R&D AI & Digital Consulting

DATE & TIME: Wednesday October 15, 2025, 6:30 PM

[Click here to register](#)

Location: Online via Zoom! (Registration required, see below)

Abstract: Generative AI is rapidly transforming how we approach discovery, design, and decision-making in chemistry. From literature review and molecular synthesis to experiment planning and regulatory assessments, these tools create new opportunities for consultants and clients to work more efficiently and strategically. Yet, the complexity of chemistry, and the need for reliable, domain-aware solutions, make it crucial to separate hype from practical value. In this talk, I will provide an overview of how generative AI is being applied in chemical R&D, highlighting both current capabilities and emerging trends.

Biography: Fan Li, PhD, is the founder of Apex 974 LLC, a consultancy specializing in AI and digital solutions for chemical R&D. He has over 15 years of experience in bridging research and technology, including serving as the first Data Scientist in DuPont's Central R&D organization. Trained as a chemist (PhD, University of Minnesota) and computer scientist (MS, University of Delaware), Fan connects chemistry and materials science with AI, data engineering, and knowledge management. Passionate about empowering R&D teams, he has designed and implemented enterprise-grade AI and digital solutions that support thousands of researchers worldwide.

[Click here to register to attend the event](#). This session is **FREE**.

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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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Chemical Consultants	
Network	130
BroadPharm	131
ACS	133
Micron Analytical Services	133
Robertson Microlit Labs	133

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