

# *the Catalyst*



*February 2026*  
*Volume 111, No. 2*

**ACS Philadelphia Section**



Saturday Career Speaker Series –  
Careers in Biotechnology  
Saturday February 7, 2026, 1 PM

Speaker **Rebecca Aversa** is the Associate Director of  
Laboratory Operations and Sample Management at  
Roche Innovation Center Philadelphia

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Published monthly except July, August and December by the Philadelphia Section of the American Chemical Society. All views expressed are those of the editors and contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Philadelphia Section of the American Chemical Society. Editorial matters should be sent to the attention of the Editor-in-Chief c/o the Philadelphia Section ACS, Department of Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania, 231 South 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6323 or PhilaACS@gmail.com.

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***Comments  
From  
the  
Chair***



**Andrew Devany**

Dear Philadelphia ACS Members,

The Section recently hosted its “Meet Our Committees” event, bringing together members from across the region for an engaging and welcoming evening. The event saw a strong turnout, with representation from students, early-career chemists, and long-standing members alike.

The discussion was lively and productive, giving attendees the opportunity to learn more about the Section’s committees, ongoing initiatives, and volunteer opportunities. Committee leaders shared insights into their missions and goals for the year, while participants asked thoughtful questions and exchanged ideas on how to further strengthen engagement across the Section. We were especially pleased to welcome new faces, many of whom expressed interest in becoming more involved with committee activities in the coming months.

Events like this highlight the collaborative spirit of the Philadelphia Section and reinforce our commitment to building an inclusive, connected, and active chemical community.

As we move forward, there are several upcoming events that members can look forward to. One of the Philadelphia Section’s most distinguished traditions, the Edgar Fahs Smith Lecture will once again feature an outstanding speaker whose work has made a significant impact on the chemical sciences.

The local Chemistry Olympiad exams are an exciting opportunity to support and inspire the next generation of chemists. The Education and Outreach Committee plays a critical role in making this program a success, and we look forward to another strong year of student participation and achievement.

The ACS Philadelphia Section remains committed to fostering scientific engagement, professional growth, and community involvement. We thank all who participated in the Meet Our Committees event and look forward to continued momentum through these upcoming programs.

## NEWS ATOMS—*Alan Warren*

### DEATHS

**G. Hulings Darby**, chemist, in 2025 at age 85. He was retired from the Franklin Institute Research and Development Laboratories. He wrote about potential occupational hazards for the National Institute for Occupational Safety.

**Michael K. Kovacs**, retired chemist, July 11, 2025 at 75. He held positions with Vulcan Materials as a technician (1972-1973), Amchem Products as a chemist in the Steel Group Automotive Section (1973-1979), and Ashland Chemical as a supervisor in the new product development-specialty chemicals division (1979-1982). He then moved to Oakite Products as research projects and business manager (1982-1989), PQ Corporation as market development manager (1989-1998), and General Electric Water and Process Technologies. The last firm was taken over by Hercules where he was senior technical marketing project engineer (1999 until retirement). He was active in a Pennsylvania Civil War re-enactment group.

**Wallace L. Knepper**, retired chemistry teacher, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 87. He taught high school chemistry in Bucks County for 35 years. He was also a high school swimming coach and American Red Cross instructor.

**Evanda Gale Jefferson**, pioneering analytical and environmental black chemist, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 77. She served as chemistry lab assistant while attending Randolph-Macon College. Jefferson was a supervisor and then senior chemist at Gulf Oil Corp. She represented Gulf in magazine advertisements and at industry conferences and meetings. She was also a local and regional leader of the Association of Desk and Derrick Clubs of North America, an industry group for women in gas and oil. After retiring from Gulf, she was engaged in missionary work as a member of the National Missionary Baptist Convention.

**Richard John Hinchey**, retired inorganic chemist, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 87. He taught chemistry briefly at Purdue University and then worked in industry for Portland Cement, Union Carbide, Katalytics, Universal Oil Products, and PQ Corporation.

**Susan C. Saltzman**, retired chemist, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 85. Following positions at Rohm and Haas and DuPont for 30 years, she served as president of Saltzman Consulting Services for 8 years. The firm specialized in shipment of hazardous materials. After retiring she was a volunteer with the Science History Institute and the Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society.

## PHILADELPHIA SECTION EVENTS

Saturday February 7, 2026, 1 PM

### Saturday Career Speaker Series – Careers in Biotechnology

This year the **Philadelphia Section of the ACS** will be introducing a new online event, our Saturday Career Speaker Series, for undergraduates, graduates, postdocs, academic advisors, and those looking to make a career pivot. This series will feature professionals at different career stages who will talk about what they do, the path that led them to their careers, and how anyone interested in their field can make a career pivot or get started. A Question & Answer session will follow each speaker.

Join us online, at 1 PM on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> for our Inaugural Speaker, Rebecca Aversa, Associate Director of Laboratory Operations and Sample Management at Roche Innovation Center Philadelphia, formally Spark Therapeutics, as she shares her journey into the field of Biotechnology.

While this program has been developed to educate and inform members, friends, and colleagues about careers, it serves the dual purpose of providing a professional platform to promote those in Chemistry, Biotech, Pharma, and other fields represented by the American Chemical Society. If you, or someone you know, would like to be a speaker for our Saturday Career Speaker Series. Please contact the CMA and Programming Chair at: [ggibbs.acs@gmail.com](mailto:ggibbs.acs@gmail.com).

This event is being sponsored by Philly Biotech Connect. Please be sure to follow them on LinkedIn! <https://www.linkedin.com/company/philly-biotech-connect/>

Further details on future speakers in the fields of Histology, Regulatory, QA/QC, and Validation, as well as the registration link will be provided on social media and the Section site at: <https://phillyacs.org/>.

### About the Speaker



**Rebecca Aversa** is the Associate Director of Laboratory Operations and Sample Management at Roche Innovation Center Philadelphia, formally Spark Therapeutics. She has 7 years of experience leading a team responsible for day-to-day laboratory support and has collaborated on operational readiness during several laboratory buildouts. Rebecca formerly worked at WuXi Apptec in Philadelphia, PA for 12 years developing custom Virology based assays as well as Lentiviral and Adeno Associated Virus (AAV) platform assays. Prior to that she worked for 3 years at Lohmann Animal Health in Vineland, NJ, manufacturing avian vaccines. Rebecca is very passionate about providing collaborative support to ensure that all scientists have what they need to successfully do now what patients need next.

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Community Building, Collaboration and Engagement



Join the Philadelphia Section of the ACS and the Chemical Consultants Network, as our Chair, Andrew Devany hosts a conversation on community building, collaboration, and engagement across the greater Philadelphia chemical ecosystem.

**Abstract:** The Philadelphia Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is one of the largest in the nation by membership and encompasses professionals with diverse backgrounds, career paths, and areas of expertise. Engaging such a broad and multifaceted membership presents both opportunities and challenges. In 2026, the Section's leadership is prioritizing a wide range of programs and events designed to better serve and engage this expansive audience across the greater Philadelphia region. Therefore, the Philadelphia ACS seeks to strengthen collaboration with Chemical Consultants Network to foster community, enhance interdisciplinary engagement, and expand the collective impact of the scientific enterprise.

**Biography:** Mr. Andrew Devany is a native of Philadelphia, having attended St. Joseph's Prep followed by pursuing a bachelor's degree in chemistry at Widener University. After graduation, he began working at International Flavors and Fragrances (IFF) in Wilmington, researching process and product design of modified polysaccharides in the personal care market. Andrew became Secretary of the Philly ACS in 2024, Chair-elect in 2025, and now Chair in 2026.

Youwen Xu is the founder and CEO of AccuroTherapeutics, the current Chair of Chemical Consultants Network.

**Reservation:** Click here to register: <https://chemconsultants.org/event-6453047/Registration>

**The Zoom link will arrive via email**

**Location:** Online via Zoom! (registration required)

Thursday, February 19, 2026

## 2026 Lunar New Year Celebration



Join the Philadelphia Section of the ACS this year as we celebrate The Year of the Horse at the 2026 Lunar New Year Celebration. This event will take place at The Ocean Harbor, located at: 1023 Race St, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

This event is being co-sponsored by the East Chapter of the CACS, CACA, and the Delaware Section of the ACS.

Further details and a registration link will be provided on socials and the Section site at: <https://phillyacs.org/>.

### What is the best-kept secret of the Delaware Valley?

*That chemists can pursue graduate-level chemistry courses or obtain a **Master of Science in Chemistry and Molecular Technology at Rutgers University–Camden**, just across the Ben Franklin Bridge! The campus offers secure on-site parking and is easily accessible via the **PATCO High-Speed Line**.*

The **M.S. in Chemistry and Molecular Technology** program at Rutgers–Camden is designed for working professionals and recent graduates seeking to deepen their knowledge of modern chemistry and its technological applications. The department's small size and flexible structure foster close mentorship and hands-on experience in state-of-the-art research laboratories. Students gain practical and theoretical skills that enhance their careers in **industry, government, or education**. The 30-credit program accommodates **full-time or part-time** students, with **evening courses** designed for working scientists. Two advanced degree tracks are available: one emphasizing **research with a faculty mentor** (18 lecture credits required) and another focusing primarily on **coursework** (27 lecture credits required), both culminating in a written and oral presentation.

**Prospective graduate students may obtain information at:** <https://graduateschool.camden.rutgers.edu/chemistry/>

**Deadline Application: April 1 if interested in academic scholarships.**

For further information, contact: Dr. David Salas-de la Cruz: 856-225-6142; [david.salas@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:david.salas@camden.rutgers.edu), <https://chemistry.camden.rutgers.edu/>.



**ACS** Local Section  
Philadelphia

## ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting

February 12, 2026  
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 – Andrew Devany - Update
  - b. Immediate Past Chair – Wei Gao - Update
  - c. Chair-Elect – Greglynn Gibbs - Update
  - d. Secretary – Matt Irwin
  - e. Treasurer – Ivona Sasimovich Macor
  - f. Chair of Council Affairs – Deborah Cook
- IV. Committee/Affiliate group Reports
  - a. Communications Committee - Catalyst Update
- 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/meeting/register/GLqCGwh5QTO1B1FqpPrBYQ>

Zoom Meeting ID: 870 6871 0252

Password: 305155

**By Phone:**

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

Access Code: 870 6871 0252

Password: 305155

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[PhilaACS@gmail.com](mailto:PhilaACS@gmail.com)

Cc: Officers & Directors  
Councilors & Alternate Councilors  
Committee & Group Chairs

**American Chemical Society – Philadelphia Section**

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[phillyacs.org](http://phillyacs.org)

General Business

## News from National (new and updated items at top)

### ACS' 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On April 6, 2026, ACS will reach its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary milestone mark!

Visit the webpage at [www.acs.org/ACS150](http://www.acs.org/ACS150)

- View the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary [video](#).
- [Visit this link](#) and answer the question, What does "Chemistry is Everything" mean to you

### Volunteers at Your ACS Youth Events Must Have Up-to-Date Background Checks

All volunteers at ACS Youth Events must [complete a background check](#). ACS Background checks are updated each month and are valid for 12 months. Volunteers who completed their backgrounds check last year may need to renew their background checks in advance of youth events that our section is planning. . Please review the [ACS Youth Protection Policy](#) and complete your background check today.

### Free Lab Safety e-Textbook Available Now!

The ACS Office of Safety Programs encourages chemistry instructors everywhere to explore the free [Laboratory Safety for Chemistry Students \(LSCS\) e-Textbook](#). This resource is designed for flexible incorporation into an undergraduate chemistry curriculum and contains eight chapters based on the RAMP Risk Assessment Framework. The e-Textbook also contains a customizable quiz at the end of all 73 sections and aligns with the [ACS Guidelines for Bachelor's Degree Programs](#). Contact our Office at [safety@acs.org](mailto:safety@acs.org) with any questions!

### ACS PRF – Making Our Future Brighter Through Fundamental Hydrocarbon Research

The ACS PRF accepts research proposals from **Monday, February 9, 2026 to Friday, March 6, 2026**. Proposals must focus on fundamental petroleum research, including research related to petroleum-derived materials in one of ten specified subject matter areas. It is important to note that while the PRF Trust imposes restrictions, PRF currently funds various topics of interests in sustainability and green chemistry.

For more information on supported research areas, interested individuals are encouraged to contact a PRF program officer or [PRFsupport@acs.org](mailto:PRFsupport@acs.org). Applications are made through a web-based portal, and [additional information](#) can be found at [www.acsprf.org](http://www.acsprf.org)

### ACS Is Enhancing Your Account Security: Here's What's Changing

To enhance account security, ACS will be updating its username and password requirements starting in Q425. As part of this update, users who haven't changed their password in the past 365 days will be prompted to do so upon login. New password guidelines including length and special character requirements will be clearly displayed via on-screen instructions on Account Creation screen to help guide users through the process.

### Empowering the Next Generation of Chemical Scientists

The ACS Catalyst Scholarship provides support to undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need or hardship. It is intended for those pursuing chemistry-related majors who exemplify academic excellence, leadership, and a commitment to life-long learning. This program provides \$10,000 in funding, with the possibility of renewal in future years, to help students continue their academic journey. [Apply NOW](#) Applications close **March 1, 2026**.

## **2025 Lam Excellence in Medicinal and Chemistry Award—*Montana McAlorum***

The [Baruch S. Blumberg Institute](#) presented the 2025 Lam Excellence in Medicinal and Chemistry Award recently to Dan Nguyen, BS, senior research scientist in medicinal chemistry, Blumberg Institute and Mark E. McDonell, PhD, director of chemistry, Fox Chase Therapeutics Discovery.

Mark McDonell has been with FCTDI for over 14 years. Previously Dr. McDonell worked at Johnson & Johnson for 18 years. Currently he serves as a principal investigator on a Phase II SBIR-funded project directed to the discovery of new treatments for Chagas disease.

Dan Nguyen has been with the Blumberg Institute as senior research scientist of medicinal chemistry since 2024. He has extensive experience in the design, multi-step synthesis, purification and characterization of organic molecules for various biological targets. Prior to joining the Institute, he was senior scientist of medicinal chemistry at Arbutus Biopharma.

The Blumberg Institute presents the Lam Excellence in Medicinal and Chemistry Award annually in recognition of Patrick Y.S. Lam, PhD, distinguished professor at the Blumberg Institute. Dr. Lam has established a strong model for medicinal chemists that embodies two essential areas. First, as group leader of discovery of Eliquis, a world top-selling drug that helps to alleviate human suffering. Second, as co-discoverer of the powerful Chan-Lam Coupling Reaction used in synthesizing/manufacturing of biologically active compounds.

The Lam Award was created in 2021 by Yanming Du, PhD, professor and director of medicinal chemistry at the Blumberg Institute.



**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS  
2026 ACS PHILADELPHIA SECTION  
AWARD**

Notice is hereby given that the ACS Philadelphia Section invites its members, as well as Regional and Topical Groups, to nominate candidates for the 2026 ACS Philadelphia Section Award.

This Award shall be presented “to one member of the Section, or in exceptional circumstances to two members of the Section jointly, who by conspicuous scientific achievement has made important contributions to the field of chemistry and thereby aided the public appreciate of the profession.” (ACS Philadelphia Section Bylaw X, §1.)

Any member of the ACS Philadelphia Section may be nominated. Recent awardees include Spiridoula Matsika (Temple University), Ron Levy (Temple University), Rick Ewing (Rapafusyn Pharmaceuticals), Anthony W. Addison (Drexel University), and Marsha I. Lester (University of Pennsylvania). A full list can be found here: <https://phillyacs.org/philadelphia-section-award/>

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING A NOMINATION**

- 1) Nominators should provide a CV of the nominee showing education; employment and/or academic history; a list of publications, presentations, and patents; and a record of other accomplishments pertinent to consideration for this award.
- 2) One or two seconding letters (at least one of which should be from a person in an organization other than that of the nominee) should be requested in support of the nomination.
- 3) Nominators and seconders should be identified with addresses, e-mail and telephone numbers so that they can be contacted, if necessary, for additional information.
- 4) Unsuccessful nominees from previous years may be renominated. In fairness to the nominee, however, renominations must be accompanied by an updating of the nominee's biographical data and a list of accomplishments to make the nomination competitive. Unsuccessful nominees who have been considered three years in a row should not be renominated for the fourth year in succession without prior consultation by the nominator with the Chair of the Awards Committee.

The completed packet of nomination materials should be e-mailed to [PhilaACS@gmail.com](mailto:PhilaACS@gmail.com) or mailed by **August 1, 2026** to the Chair of the Awards Committee at:

ACS Philadelphia Section  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6323



**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS  
2026 ACS PHILADELPHIA SECTION  
AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN PRE-COLLEGE TEACHING**

Notice is hereby given that the ACS Philadelphia Section invites its members to nominate candidates for the 2026 ACS Philadelphia Section Awards for Excellence in Pre-College Teaching.

The Awards honor two outstanding science teachers. One Award will be given to a full-time educator involved in teaching science in grades K-8. The second Award will be given to a full-time educator at the secondary level (grades 9-12) who teaches chemistry. Nominees must teach in the geographic territory of the ACS Philadelphia Section (Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties in Pennsylvania; and Burlington and Camden counties in New Jersey).

**PLEASE NOTE! Nominations for 2026 will be accepted until March 1, 2026.**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS**

- 1) **A Nominator Recommendation** of not more than 750 words submitted by the nominator.
- 2) **A current curriculum vitae or resume** that includes a list of the nominee's honors, professional activities, and additional evidence of service to the profession. This must be limited to no more than two pages, and the activities listed must have occurred within the past five years.
- 3) **A statement by the nominees** of not more than 500 words that describes the nominee's teaching philosophy or commitment to the profession.
- 4) **At least one, but not more than three, letters of support.** One letter, of no more than 400 words must be from the teacher's current principal or supervisor. Additional letters of support, of no more than 400 words, may be sent by colleagues, members of the ACS who are familiar with the nominee's achievements, or former students and parents of former students.
- 5) **The total nomination package should not exceed 30 pages.**

The nomination package may be e-mailed or sent to:

ACS Philadelphia Section  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6323  
(267) 485-1792; e-mail [PhilaACS@gmail.com](mailto:PhilaACS@gmail.com)

**The Award Recipient will be honored at our April Section meeting with a plaque and an honorarium**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### 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 like-minded scientists within the ACS community. The estimated time commitment would be less than 1 hour per week.

All interested individuals can reach out to Kunyu Wang [Kunyuwang95@gmail.com](mailto:Kunyuwang95@gmail.com); Andres Vazquez [a.vazquez1120@gmail.com](mailto:a.vazquez1120@gmail.com)

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

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The Communications Committee is seeking proof editors for *the Catalyst*. It is published nine times annually. If you would like to join, please contact the Editor, Robin Davis at [robin.davis1@verizon.net](mailto:robin.davis1@verizon.net).

### 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](mailto:acsphillycareerservices@gmail.com) to set up an appointment.*

**775<sup>th</sup> ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting**

Tuesday, 12-16-2025

Teleconference Meeting

**Present:** Wei Gao; Matthew Irwin; David Cichowicz; Deborah Cook; Jim Murray; Melissa Cichowicz; Sharon Haynie; Victor Tortorelli; Amy Brown; Andrew Devany; Ivona Macor (joined later)

**Excused:** Ann Valentine; Judith Currano; Ann DeMasi; Greglynn Gibbs; Catherine Bentzley

The 775<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of the Philadelphia Section, ACS, was called to order at 7:00 PM, and Wei Gao read the ACS Code of Conduct aloud.

**Roll Call**

Roll was taken verbally at the start of the meeting. Ten members were present at roll call, constituting a quorum.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Jim Murray to approve the minutes from the October and November board meetings. The motion was seconded by Sharon Haynie. The minutes were then approved by a voice vote.

**Officers' Reports**

**Chair – Wei Gao**

Wei presented a comprehensive year-end overview of Section activity:

**Recent Activities & Highlights:**

- The November Ulliyot Lecture was cited as a particularly strong and well-attended event.
- Two webinars were held in collaboration with the **Transformative Natural Polymers/CCC initiative**, one in November and one in December.
- The **Chemical Consultants Network (CCN) 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** was held on December 9<sup>th</sup> and was described as a successful and meaningful event, highlighting the long history of CCN within the Section.
- Wei emphasized the value of in-person gatherings for relationship-building and volunteer retention.
- One volunteer, Marie Nikolov, from Temple University who helps run the Buckets and Beakers program, expressed interest in deeper involvement and was encouraged to attend the upcoming **ACS Leadership Development Institute (LDI)** training in January 2026.

**Leadership Development & Future Planning:**

- Wei strongly encouraged identifying and supporting future Section leaders to participate in future LDI training.
- Wei noted that Greglynn Gibbs, the incoming Chair-Elect, will be unable to attend upcoming training due to personal obligations but has attended the LDI multiple times in the past. This created an opportunity to support new candidates.
- Wei emphasized the importance of continuing committee meet-ups and volunteer-focused events.

**Upcoming & Forward-Looking Items:**

- April will include the Section Awards Program.
- Wei noted that the 2024 Lunar New Year banquet was very well received and expressed interest in organizing a future Lunar New Year banquet.

- She mentioned recent programming with the Chinese American Chemical Society (CACS), Eastern Chapter, held in New Jersey.
- She raised the possibility of participating in an IUPAC Women-related event, potentially in collaboration with WCC.

## **Delaware Valley Chromatography Forum (DVCF):**

- Wei reiterated discussions with the Delaware Valley Chromatography Forum, a very active regional chromatography organization.
- DVCF hosts an annual conference and has expressed interest in joint efforts with the Section.
- Wei raised the question of whether DVCF should be invited to become a topical or affiliate group of the Philadelphia Section.
- This item was identified as a future discussion and potential Board action.

## **Immediate Past Chair – Matthew Irwin**

Matt reported no formal items as Immediate Past Chair.

He noted that budget-related items would be addressed later in the meeting under the Budget and Finance discussion.

## **Chair-Elect – Andrew Devany**

Andrew reported no formal updates at this time, noting that budget-related topics would be discussed later in the meeting.

## **Secretary – Anne DeMasi**

Anne was excused.

Wei took a moment to express appreciation for Anne DeMasi's service and leadership, noting her impact on the Section and suggesting that future recognition or appreciation mechanisms may be worth discussing, potentially in coordination with WCC.

## **Treasurer – Ivona Macor**

Ivona joined the meeting partway through and presented the Treasurer's report.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

#### **Project SEED Discussion:**

- Income reported: \$28,660
- Expenses exceeded income by approximately \$5,000.
- Explanation:
  - \$2,000 contribution from the Section
  - Additional checks from Temple University and another host were expected but not yet received.
- Ivona will follow up on missing checks and report back.

### **Approval:**

**Motion:** Victor Tortorelli

**Second:** Sharon Haynie

**Vote:** Approved

**Abstention:** Ivona Macor

## **Year-End Note:**

- Ivona requested that all outstanding reimbursement requests be submitted promptly so they can be processed before year-end; otherwise, they will roll into 2026.

## **Council Affairs – Deborah Cook**

Deborah provided a brief Council Affairs update:

- Registration for the ACS National Meeting in Atlanta is now open.
- Housing registration has also opened.
- With the new year, the Section will need to elect a Chair of Council Affairs, an annual process.
- Deborah suggested that Andrew send a request to Councilors soliciting nominations for this role.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Career Services – Jim Murray**

Jim reported that:

- A Career Services event is planned for the first week of February (Tuesday or Thursday).
- The event title is tentatively “Acronyms Then and Now”, focusing on:
  - Acronyms needed to earn a degree
  - Acronyms commonly encountered in professional careers
- J.P. Northrop is expected to serve as the primary speaker.
- A local university is being contacted to host the event; confirmation is pending.

### **Budget & Finance Committee – Victor Tortorelli**

Victor presented a **preliminary draft of the 2026 Section budget**, emphasizing that the document was **for discussion only** and that **no vote would be taken** until the January Board Meeting.

#### **Overview and Context**

- The proposed budget remains incomplete and will be refined by the Budget & Finance Committee before final Board consideration.
- Victor noted that the January Board Meeting is the appropriate venue for a formal vote, following committee-level review in early January.

#### **Projected Income**

- ACS National allotment: \$30,079 (confirmed by Ivona)
- Councilor reimbursement: \$40,000
- Local section dues: Estimated at approximately \$13,000 (based on prior-year trends)
- Total projected income (excluding carryover): Approximately \$88,000
- Victor noted that carryover funds from 2025 remain uncertain pending completion of the November Treasurer’s report, but historically have ranged as high as \$40,000.

## Ulliot Lecture and Ulliot Fund

- **Fund Withdrawal and Contribution:** Vic Tortorelli reported that a review of the Ulliot Fund archives revealed a stipulation that only 90% of the interest generated should be spent. With projected interest around \$4,700, the allowable withdrawal from the fund for next year is approximately \$4,500. To maintain the Section's traditional contribution level and relationship with the Science History Institute, the Board agreed to supplement the \$4,500 fund withdrawal with \$500 from the Section's general funds, keeping the total payment to the Institute at \$5,000.
- **Additional Costs:** In addition to the monetary contribution, the Section covers the cost of the commemorative bowl, stand, and engraving, estimated between \$600 and \$800. Deborah Cook confirmed that the inscription on the bowl and plaque explicitly states it is a gift from the Philadelphia Section.
- **Current Fiscal Year Expenses:** Vic noted a discrepancy in the current year's expenses, which will show a total of \$10,875. This is because the Institute billed the Section immediately for the recent lecture, causing payments for both the previous year's and the current year's lectures to fall within the same fiscal year.
- **Investment Strategy:** Regarding the fund's growth, it was clarified that the Ulliot Fund is invested primarily for income to generate the necessary cash flow for the award, rather than for growth like the other Section award funds.
- **Future Collaboration:** Deborah Cook suggested that the Section discuss further programming collaborations with the Science History Institute to maximize resources and avoid scheduling conflicts.

## Projected Expenses

- Preliminary projected expenses total approximately \$109,000, noting that this figure is conservative and may increase as additional committee requests are received.
- Victor emphasized that a difference between projected income and expenses is not unusual at this stage and depends heavily on final carryover and committee allocations.

## Committee and Program Allocations

Victor reviewed major committee requests and line items, including:

- **Career Services:** \$360
- **Chemical Consultants Network:** \$3,000
- **Delaware Valley Enzymology Group:** \$2,400 (consistent with prior year)
- **Education Committee:** Requested funding consistent with prior year, including support for National Chemistry Week
- **Planning / Programming:** \$3,000 placeholder (new line item)
- **Senior Chemists:** \$500 (supported by a National grant)
- **Women Chemists:** Increased request from prior year; clarification pending
- **Younger Chemists Committee:** \$1,500 (reduced from prior year)
- **Edgar Fahs Smith Award:** \$1,500 stipend plus approximately \$150 for plaque and related expenses
- **Philadelphia Section Award:** Confirmed stipend of \$1,500; 2025 underpayment was identified and will be corrected by Ivona

## PAGES Program

- Victor identified **PAGES** as the **largest single program expense**, with total costs exceeding \$6,000 for a one-day event.
- Approximately \$5,000 of this cost is attributed to catering.

- Victor raised sustainability concerns and requested additional information regarding:
  - Number of student participants
  - Venue selection
  - Potential alternatives to reduce catering costs
- It was noted that PAGES remains a highly successful and impactful program; the discussion focused on long-term financial sustainability rather than program value.

## **Intercollegiate Student Chemists Convention (ISCC)**

- ISCC will be hosted locally in **2026**.
- A request for **\$750 in seed funding** was presented.
- Victor noted this is a periodic expense that typically occurs once every 10 years.

## **Project SEED**

- As also noted in the Treasurer's report, Victor reviewed 2025 Project SEED finances, noting:
  - \$28,660 received
  - Approximately \$33,000 expended
  - The difference included a \$2,000 Section contribution and expected but not yet received checks.
- The Board discussed whether and how best to continue Section support for Project SEED.
- **Consensus:** Continue **\$2,000** in Section funding for Project SEED in 2026.

## **Awards and Meals Accounting**

- Discussion occurred regarding how meals for student and award-related events are categorized within the budget.
- Victor and Ivona agreed to resolve line-item placement at the committee level to ensure consistency with prior years.

## **Next Steps**

- The Budget & Finance Committee will:
  - Clarify outstanding committee requests
  - Resolve accounting categorization questions
  - Finalize carryover estimates
- A **final budget proposal** will be presented for **formal Board approval in January**.

## **Additional Comments and Updates**

No additional comments were raised.

## **Next Meeting**

### **January 2026 Board Meeting**

(Date to be confirmed; expected second Thursday of January)


The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:27 PM.

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