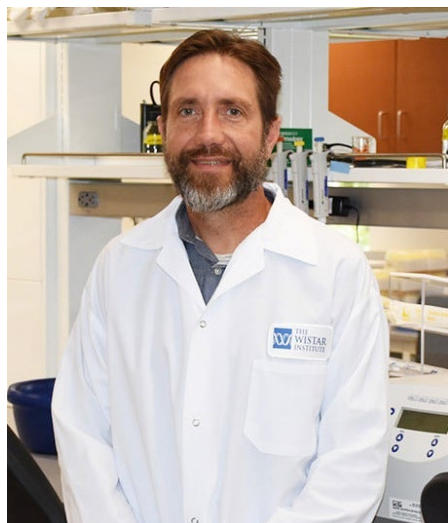


# *the Catalyst*



**ACS**  
Chemistry for Life™

*April 2026*  
*Volume 111, No. 4*



**Scholastic Achievement and Teaching Awards**  
**April 21, 2026, 5:30-8:00 PM**  
**Arcadia University**

Keynote Speaker: Dr. David Zuzga, Associate Dean of  
Biomedical Studies, The Wistar Institute

## HIGHLIGHTS

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## ADVANCE NOTICE

**Edgar Fahs Smith Lecture**  
**Nobel Laureate, Dr. Roald Hoffmann**

**Friday, May 8, 2026**

**See details on page 75 of this issue and at**  
**PhillyACS.org.**

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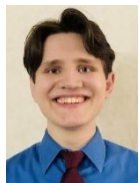
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Advertising: Victor Tortorelli, vtortorelli@ursinus.edu

**Comments**  
**From**  
**the**  
**Chair**



Dear Philadelphia ACS Members,

Spring is in the air, and with it comes a wonderful reminder of just how much our Section accomplishes when our community comes together. I am proud to share a few recent highlights and to look ahead at what promises to be an exciting season of programming.

Our 2nd Saturday Speaker Series continued to deliver engaging programming this past month, welcoming Ashley Carter, a Histologist at Roche, as our featured speaker. Ashley offered a fascinating look at the intersection of histology and the chemical sciences in an industrial research setting. Events like these reflect our commitment to connecting members across career stages and professional environments — we are grateful to Ashley for sharing her expertise and time with our community.

One of the most energizing recent events was the Career Catalyst Event, co-hosted by Women in Bio-Philadelphia Metro (WIB) and sponsored by the Philadelphia ACS Section and our Women Chemists Committee. The event was a tremendous success as attendees received personalized resume feedback from ACS Career Consultants, took advantage of professional headshots, and enjoyed the kind of organic, genuine networking that is so valuable and yet so hard to find. Events like this embody what our Section is at its best: purposeful, supportive, and focused on the professional growth of our members. A sincere thank you to everyone who organized, sponsored, and attended.

Our Section showed up strong at the ACS National Meeting in Atlanta, GA. It was wonderful to see so many Philadelphia Section members engaged in the national conversation, representing our Section with distinction. These national gatherings remind us of the broader community we are part of, and our members continue to be among its most active contributors.

As we move into spring, I am excited to share two events you will not want to miss.

Each year, this event is among the most meaningful on our calendar. We will be honoring outstanding students and educators who represent the very best of chemistry in our region. Stay tuned for details on date, location, and how to register. If you know a deserving student or educator, I encourage you to consider putting forward a nomination.

We are proud to support the 89<sup>th</sup> Intercollegiate Student Chemists Convention (ISCC), hosted this year at Ursinus University. Dedicated to the recognition of undergraduate research in the chemical sciences, the ISCC gives students the opportunity to present their work through judged oral presentations, a meaningful milestone in any young chemist's career. We look forward to celebrating the next generation of scientists. Please share this opportunity with the undergraduate students and faculty in your networks.

As always, I am grateful for the energy and dedication of our members, volunteers, and committee chairs who make everything we do possible. Our Section thrives because of you.

With warm regards,  
Andrew Devany  
Chair, ACS Philadelphia Section

---

## **NEWS ATOMS—*Alan Warren***

**Karen Winey**, professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering at Penn, was elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

### **DEATHS**

**Inez Joan Stabilito**, pharmaceutical researcher, February 12, 2026 at 89. She was a lab technician at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and later was engaged in pharmaceutical research at SmithKline & French. She then joined Merck & Co. and worked on drug development research.

**George Weinbaum**, biochemist, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 93. At Graduate Hospital and the Albert Einstein Medical Center, he was involved in the earliest research in pulmonary emphysema that connected cigarette smoking to lung disease.

**Jacob Walter Gogola**, chemical technician, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 39. He worked for 13 years as a chemistry technician at Peach Bottom Power Plant.

---

## **WCC Celebrates 100 Years!**

The ACS Women Chemists Committee will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2027!

As part of the festivities, the Women Chemists Committee is going to share stories of how WCC programs (awards, networking, technical programming, etc.) have impacted scientists. Share your story (no more than 300 words) at <https://lnkd.in/gXWywG5e>.



ACS Local Section  
Philadelphia

**ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting**

April 9, 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
- V. Other Business

Those interested in being added to the agenda are kindly asked to send a request by **Wednesday, April 8, 2026** for inclusion in the agenda. All Officers will be included on the agenda to verbally report by default.

**Please Note:** If a written report or notice of a verbal report is not submitted to by the specified deadline, then all such reports will be relegated for discussion as "Other Business." Please note sufficient time for discussion in these cases cannot be guaranteed.

**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/GLgCGwh5QTO1B1FqpPrBYQ>

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

Andrew Devany  
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Section Office  
[PhilaACS@gmail.com](mailto:PhilaACS@gmail.com)

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

**American Chemical Society – Philadelphia Section**  
231 South 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Office – 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6323  
[phillyacs.org](http://phillyacs.org)

General Business



**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



### 2026 CCEW Illustrated Poem Contest Into the Woods with Chemistry

The Philadelphia Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is sponsoring an illustrated poem contest for students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Contest Deadline:** Sunday, April 26, 2026, by 11:59 PM ET

**Prizes:** \$50 for the winning poem in each category: (grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, & 9-12)

**Contact:** Greglynn Gibbs ([PhilaACS@gmail.com](mailto:PhilaACS@gmail.com))

**e-Submission:** Make sure the student's name is in the file name. Upload the entry at <https://forms.gle/VHuiox8ftBrNar6u6>

Winners of the Philadelphia Local Section's Illustrated Poem Contest will advance to the National Illustrated Poem Contest for a chance to be featured on the ACS website and to win prizes!

---

Write and illustrate a poem using the CCEW theme, "Into the Woods with Chemistry."

Your poem must be **no more** than 40 words and in the following styles to be considered:

**HAIKU - LIMERICK - ODE - ABC POEM - FREE VERSE - END RHYME - BLANK VERSE**

**Topics related to the tree theme include:**

- Photosynthesis
- Cellulose
- Glucose
- Preservation
- Chlorophyll
- Resin
- Polymer
- Carbon Dioxide

**Entries will be judged based upon:**

- Artistic Merit - use of color, quality of drawing, design, and layout
- Poem Message - fun, motivational, and inspiring about the yearly theme
- Originality Creativity - unique, clever, and/or creative design
- Neatness - free of spelling and grammatical errors

**Contest rules:**

- All poems must be no more than 40 words, and in one of the following styles to be considered: Haiku, Limerick, Ode, ABC poem, Free verse, End rhyme, and Blank verse.
- Entries are judged based upon relevance to and incorporation of the CCEW theme, word choice and imagery, colorful artwork, adherence to poem style, originality and creativity, and overall presentation.
- All entries must be original works without aid from others. Poems may be submitted by hand on an unlined sheet of paper not larger than 11" by 14" or scanned and sent via email. Illustrations may be created using crayons, watercolors, other types of paint, colored pencils, or markers. The illustration may also be electronically created by using a digital painting and drawing app on a computer, tablet, or mobile device.
- The text of the poem should be easy-to-read and may be typed before the hand-drawn or digital illustration is added, or the poem may be written on lined paper, which is cut out and pasted onto the unlined paper with the illustration.
- No clipart or unoriginal images can be used.
- Only one entry per student will be accepted; all entries must include an entry form.
- If the illustration is created using a digital painting or drawing app, the name of the program must be included on the entry form (No AI).
- Acceptance of prizes constitutes consent to use winners' first name and last initial, along with the name of the ACS Local Section, on the ACS web pages and, in the magazine, Chemical & Engineering News



## PHILADELPHIA SECTION EVENTS

Tuesday April 21, 2026

### 2026 Academic Awards Ceremony



Please join us on **April 21, 2026**, from **5:30 PM - 8:00 PM** (check-in at **5:00 PM**) at Arcadia University in the magnificent Grey Towers Castle, as we celebrate the recipients of the 2026 Awards for Excellence in Pre-College and Undergraduate Teaching in the Chemical Sciences. We will also be honoring the best and brightest of the Section's graduating seniors for their Scholastic Achievements in the Chemical Sciences.

**Cost:** \$25

**Registration Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/mvthvcjz>

Sunday, May 8, 2026,

Edgar Fahs-Smith Lecture, University of Pennsylvania, Carolyn Hoff Lynch Lecture Hall



Photo of Roald Hoffmann by Michael Grace-Martin

The Edgar Fahs Smith Lecture was established in 1929 to honor the first modern chemist at the University of Pennsylvania, who was a former Provost of the University and President of the American Chemical Society. This lectureship is the oldest lectureship in the country under the joint sponsorship of a university and a section of the ACS.

**This year's lecture will be given by Nobel Laureate, Dr. Roald Hoffmann.**

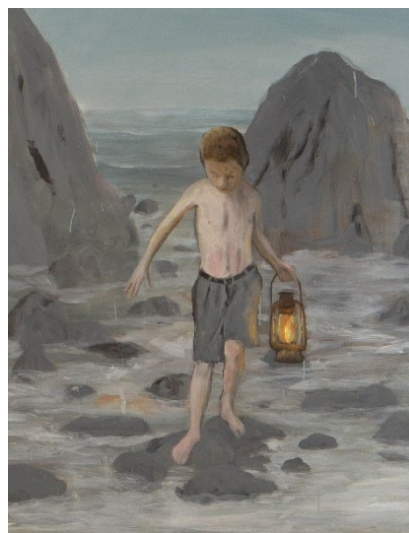
### Abstract

#### *Pebbles/Kamushki: The Commonalities and Divergences of Art and Science*

**Roald Hoffmann, speaking also for Aleksandr P. Svitin, and Enrique Martínez Celaya**

*I do not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me. - Isaac Newton*

A flood of technological advances washes over us. Yet artists and scientists remain beacons for the spirit, emblematic of creation. Without romanticizing them, or complaining how little society rewards them, what can we say about the relationship of their creative labors? What can we say that has not been said before?



This is not “The Two Cultures” redux. Roald Hoffmann, a chemist and a writer, Aleksandr Svitin, a philosopher with origins in science, and Enrique Martinez Celaya, an artist with science in his background, lay out a reasoned, richly illustrated analysis of the commonalities and differences of creative work in science and art. Where these creative enterprises separate, even conflict, is as important as where one can perceive their similar roots in human consciousness. We choose to see many sides of these pebbles, as we urge you to cast your own.

## LOCAL NEWS

Thursday April 9, 2026

### Seminar: *Better Living Through Chemistry - Fluasterone and Cancer, Type 2 Diabetes and Obesity*

John R. Williams PhD, Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus at Temple University will be giving a seminar entitled Better Living Through Chemistry based on the old DuPont motto, during which he will give the talk *Fluasterone and Cancer, Type 2 Diabetes and Obesity*.



**Where:**

4:00 PM

Speakman Hall, Room 112

School of Tourism and Hospitality (SHTM), Temple University

1831 N 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia 19122

Fluasterone prevents and treats Cancer, Type 2 Diabetes, and Obesity in animals. Although it has passed Phase 1 safety tests, does it work in humans?

During this seminar, Dr. Williams will also provide 5 examples of career options for Chemistry Graduates, as well as career advice based on his 65-year long career in chemistry.

---

*Originally from Australia, Chemistry has allowed me to live the American dream.*

---

A former organizer for the 1974 Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) Chemical Program, Dr. Williams also taught a course on the “Woodward Hoffman Rules” for the local ACS Section and served as Chair of The Philadelphia Organic Chemists’ Club (POCC).

Highlights of his career, education, and life include: Littorine and Templetine - NIH Lucky Break. Steroid Photochemistry, the oxa-di-pi-methane rearrangement. Syntheses of novel steroids for testing by NIH, Litwack and Schwartz. Singlet Oxygen, “Williams Crap Zapper”, wife Patent Lawyer for SK&F. Photochemical Synthesis of Zonarene. Fluasterone Treats and Prevents Cancer, Type 2 Diabetes, Obesity and is Anti-Aging in animals. Pavoninins as Shark Repellents. My \$3 Billion Heroes at Temple. Temple’s Nobel Prize Winner by the back door.

To learn more about Dr. Williams, and his numerous publications, visit: <https://cst.temple.edu/directory/john-r-williams>

Sunday, April 12, 3:00 PM

## Dr. Stefanie Horovitz, *The Isotope Lady*: A Presentation by Dr. Stephen Cohen

Join us for a fascinating evening of science, history, and Jewish memory. Co-sponsored with the [Royal Society of Chemistry](#), Society Hill Synagogue member Dr. Stephen Cohen will bring to life the remarkable story of Dr. Stefanie Horovitz — the brilliant Viennese Jewish chemist whose groundbreaking experiment provided the first proof of isotopes.

Horovitz's discovery reshaped modern chemistry, yet her name has all but disappeared from the scientific record. Why?

This compelling lecture will explore Horovitz's pioneering work, her intellectual circle, and the dramatically different paths taken by her colleagues as Europe descended into World War II and the Holocaust. It is a story of discovery, erasure, resilience, and the moral responsibility of remembering.

This program is open to the public. Admission is included with Society Hill Synagogue membership and/or membership in the Royal Society of Chemistry.

**Location:** Society Hill Synagogue, 418 Spruce St.

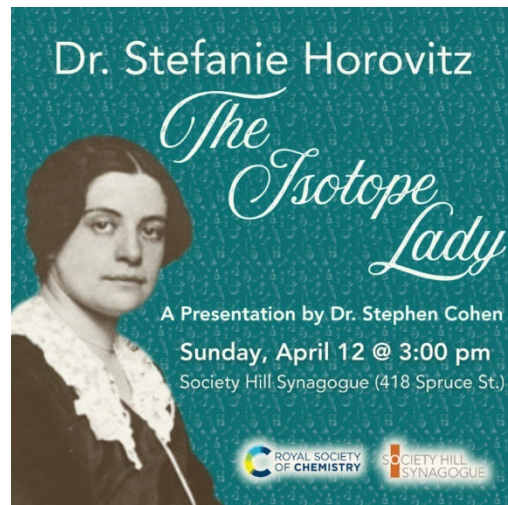
**Cost:** General admission \$18,

**Registration:** <https://tinyurl.com/msf8zec2>

### About the Presenter



Stephen Cohen has been involved with the history of chemistry for three decades. He received his PhD in Physical Chemistry at Rice University in Houston, TX. His research into chemical history includes chemical literature in the Yiddish language. He has written and published books and academic papers, including *O Mg! How Chemistry Came to Be* (World Scientific Press, 2022), a graphic novel on the history of chemistry; and *America's Scientific Treasures*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Oxford University Press, 2020), a travel guide to science and technology sites around the USA. He contributed an entry in



the *Shalvi-Hyman Encyclopedia of Jewish Women* on Maria the Jewess. Cohen is a Board member of the Royal Society of Chemistry-US Section, a member of the Philadelphia Section of the American Chemical Society, and he hosted the popular podcast, “The History of Chemistry,” from 2022-2025. He is the recipient of the 2026 James T. Grady-James H. Stack Award for Interpreting Chemistry for the Public from the American Chemical Society. Cohen is also the Treasurer of the Midwest Jewish Studies Association, with publications on the history of Jewish calligraphy, history of Jewish choral music, and literary criticism of a 1980 Yiddish science-fiction novella.

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Saturday, April 18, 2026

### Ursinus College 89<sup>th</sup> Intercollegiate Student Chemists Convention (ISCC)

The Department of Chemistry at Ursinus College is pleased to host the 2026 ISC Convention (ISCC), one of the oldest, continuously-meeting annual conventions of its kind. ISCC is dedicated to the support and recognition of undergraduate research in the chemical sciences, providing students the opportunity to present their work through judged oral presentations. Presentations are 15 minutes total with 12 minutes for a PowerPoint talk and 3 minutes for questions. A light breakfast, lunch, and keynote address are included. Contributions from all areas of chemistry are welcome and encouraged.

The inaugural ISC Convention was held in 1926 at Haverford College and has been hosted by more than two dozen different institutions since that time. We are proud to host the ISC Convention for the 9<sup>th</sup> time and we thank you for joining us.

Registration opening soon at: <https://www.ursinus.edu/academics/chemistry/intercollegiate-student-chemists-convention/>



## REGIONAL NEWS

Sunday, May 17 – Tuesday, May 19, 2026

### Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society MARM 2026

The **54<sup>th</sup> Middle Atlantic Regional ACS Meeting** will be held on May 17-19, 2026 at the Hershey Lodge Convention Center, Hershey, PA. Discounted early registration is available until Friday, April 3, 2026.



The Philadelphia Section Committee on Minority Affairs will be hosting the **MARM 2026 Opening Luncheon** with Keynote Speakers Howard and Sally Peters who will be presenting “Chocolate Food of the Gods” on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 12 PM.

Further details visit: <https://marm2026.com/>



## The POCC 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium

POCC invites you to join us for a symposium honoring our 80<sup>th</sup> year of great seminars in Philadelphia! Food and POCC swag will be provided to all attendees and, thanks to strong sponsorship, attendance is free to all. Hope to see you there!!



**Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 2026**



**3:00 PM – 9:00 PM**



**The University of Pennsylvania  
Chemistry Department**

231 S 34th St, Philadelphia, PA 19104  
CHEM 102 and Lynch Lecture Halls

### Symposium Details and Schedule

- **3:00 – 4:00:** Guest arrival/light fare served
- **4:00 – 5:30:** Afternoon seminar sessions (Prof. Ting, POCC Travel Award winner; Lynch Hall )
- **5:30 – 6:30:** Social hour, dinner served
- **6:30 – 8:50:** Evening seminar session (Dr. Voight, Prof. Jacobsen; CHEM102 Hall)
- **8:50 – 9:00:** Closing remarks by the chair

### Symposium Speakers



**Prof. Chi Ting**  
Early Career  
Award Lecturer



**Dr. Eric Voight**  
Industrial Keynote  
Lecturer



**Prof. Eric Jacobsen**  
Academic Keynote  
Lecturer



Thank you to the generous sponsors for making this symposium possible...



...and all our sponsors over this past year!



[@POCC\\_Chem](https://twitter.com/POCC_Chem)



[@POCCChem](https://twitter.com/POCCChem)



## **The Chromatography Forum of Delaware Valley**

**CFDV Short Courses – April 15, 2026 (Wed)**

**CFDV Symposium – April 16, 2026 (Thu)**

including **Student & Young Professional Poster Session**

**The Inn at Swarthmore** 10 S Chester Rd, Swarthmore, PA 19081

### **Learning Chromatography in Chromatograms**

Instructor: **Martin Gilar**

- Learn to interpret chromatograms
- Diagnose separation behavior & peak shapes



### **Advanced Topics in HPLC**

Instructors: **James Grinias & Justin Godinho**

- Expand beyond HPLC fundamentals
- HILIC, ion-exchange & SEC separations



**Learn more about CFDV and all its events & register at:**

**[www.cfdv.org/symposiums/CFDV+Symposium+2026](http://www.cfdv.org/symposiums/CFDV+Symposium+2026)**

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

### ACS Founding Day Celebration

Log on to [ACS.org](https://www.acs.org), **Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM EDT** for a hybrid 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Invite the entire scientific community to join and mark this milestone. Pre-registration will be required for access to the celebration. Keep an eye out for registration details.

### 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](https://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.

### Join us at the 2026 ACS Regional Meetings!

**MARM 2026** registration is now open for the May 17–19 meeting. Register by April 3 to secure early-bird rates.

### Call for Nominations

The ACS Committee on Nominations and Elections invites nominations for candidates to stand for election to the following positions:

ACS Elected Committees  
Council Policy Committee  
Committee on Committees  
Committee on Nominations and Elections  
ACS Board of Directors  
Director-at-Large  
District Director, I-VI  
District Director, International  
President-Elect  
Councilor Positions  
Zone Councilor

**Submit your nomination today!** Please send any questions you may have to [nomelect@acs.org](mailto:nomelect@acs.org).

### ACS Events Hub

**ACS Events** is the one-stop shop for all ACS events happening globally, online, in-person and on-demand. Filter by location and connect to events happening near you. Search conferences, workshops, volunteer opportunities, social gatherings and more!

### ACS Online Certificate in Scientific Leadership Newsletter

Register Today for the ACS Online Certificate in Scientific Leadership! Elevate your career and make a bigger impact with the ACS Online Certificate in Scientific Leadership! You will learn how to:

- Communicate with influence to move science forward
- Lead with agility to impact science's future
- Develop empathetic conflict resolution that delivers results.

The best part? It's flexible and self-paced, to fit your schedule. You'll walk away with practical, proven strategies and transformative leadership skills! Enhance your leadership skills and drive results! ACS members get an exclusive discount—don't miss out.

## Nominations for ACS Fellows

Nominations are now open for the ACS Fellows Program, a prestigious honor recognizing ACS members for exceptional achievements in the chemical sciences and exemplary service to the Society. As officers of Local Sections, Divisions, and International Chemical Sciences Chapters, you play a key role in identifying and advancing members whose leadership and sustained volunteer impact have strengthened your communities.

Each chapter and division has the opportunity to put forward outstanding candidates who reflect the best of ACS service and professional excellence. We encourage you to consider potential nominees and initiate your chapter's nomination process or share this opportunity with members who should be recognized. [Nominate here.](#)

## Support Chemistry Educators Through BCCE 2026

The Biennial Conference on Chemical Education (BCCE 2026)—ACS's premier conference for chemistry educators—will be held July 26–30, 2026, in Madison, WI, with a focus on reflecting on past progress while shaping the future of chemistry education.

## Apply Now for the 2026 ACS LEADS Conference in Washington DC

This conference convenes leading chemists, scientists, industry professionals, and Nobel Laureates for an immersive experience designed to foster career development, mentorship, networking, and in-depth technical discussions. Eligible applicants include current undergraduate juniors and seniors, as well as individuals pursuing a master's, Ph.D., postdoctoral research, or those in the early stages of their chemistry careers. Travel and lodging expenses will be covered by ACS. The event is tentatively scheduled for November 12th–14th, 2026, in Washington, DC. [Apply Now!](#)

## 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 Resources!

The [Laboratory Safety for Chemistry Students e-Textbook](#) is designed for incorporation into a four-year undergraduate chemistry curriculum, containing eight chapters and quizzes at the end of all 73 sections.

[Foundations of Chemical Safety and Risk Management](#) is a 17-unit courses designed for undergraduate students with general and organic chemistry laboratory experience based in the RAMP Risk Management Framework.

[Foundations for Storing, Organizing, and Disposing of Chemicals in Educational Settings](#) is a six-unit course for secondary school educators and graduate students who manage chemical storerooms. A Certificate documenting ten hours of Professional Development is available upon completion.

Contact [safety@acs.org](mailto:safety@acs.org) with questions.

## 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.

## 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.*

ABSTRACTS OPEN- Close March 27<sup>th</sup>.



[Colloids2026.org](http://Colloids2026.org)

**ACS-CSSS 2026**  
**100<sup>th</sup>** meeting of the  
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Leave with a Lab Safety Plan, a 30/60/90 day action plan, grant-ready safety language, and a budget template for safety items.

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Learn how to apply the RAMP® framework to What-If analyses, observation checklists, and near-miss learning systems.

#### Mentorship Training

Develop practical skills for coaching, giving feedback, and building accountability.

#### Networking

Connect with a national network of peers committed to research excellence and student well-being.

#### Financial Support and Recognition

\$500 honorarium available, as well as certificates of participation or recognition letters upon request.

### WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Faculty who **supervise research groups, mentor graduate students, or influence departmental safety expectations** are invited to apply for this 3.5-hour in-person Workshop!



Scan QR Code to apply by June 1!



**August 23, 2026**  
2:00 PM - 5:30 PM CT



**ACS Fall 2026**  
Chicago, Illinois



Contact [safety@acs.org](mailto:safety@acs.org) with questions.

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

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Teleconference Meeting

**Call to Order and Code of Conduct**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:01 PM by Andrew Devany, who initiated recording for transcription purposes. A quorum was confirmed. The ACS Chemists' Code of Conduct was read aloud.

**Roll Call**

Roll call was conducted verbally.

**Present:** Andrew Devany; Deborah Cook; David Cichowicz; Lee Hoffman; Melissa Cichowicz; Vic Tortorelli; Judith Currano; Wei Gao; Ivona Macor; Ann Valentine; Andres Vazquez-Lopez; Greglynn Gibbs; Amy Brown; Christie McInnis; Sharon Haynie.

**Excused:** Matthew Irwin; Steve Fleming; Catherine Bentzley.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The January 2026 Board Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

- **Motion:** Andrew Devany
- **Second:** Ivona Macor
- **Vote:** Approved
- **Abstention:** None recorded.

The January minutes were approved as presented.

**Officer Updates**

**Chair – Andrew Devany** Andrew provided several governance updates:

**Council Affairs Committee:** Deborah Cook was elected Chair of the Council Affairs Committee. A correction was made regarding counselor service terms; David Cichowicz was serving overlapping roles as both an Alternate Councilor and a full Councilor, so Rick Ewing was asked to serve the remainder of the Alternate Councilor term for the 2026 year.

**Committee Nominations:** A solicitation email was sent seeking nominations for the chairs of the **Public Relations, Government Affairs, and Member Affairs** committees. Andrew noted that these roles, previously held by Alan Heldon, had not been active, and filling them presents a great opportunity to get more members active on the board.

**Awards Committee Membership:** Andrew reported difficulty obtaining responses from several current committee members regarding term continuation, with members either stepping down or not responding. Nominations are being solicited for the organic, inorganic, physical, medicinal, analytical, and chemical education positions. Deborah Cook clarified that **Awards Committee terms historically rotate on a 3-year basis and do not all expire simultaneously**. She suggested reviewing individual term

expirations and reminding unexpired members of their agreed service commitment to reduce the need to fill all six positions at once.

**Ullyot Lecture Representation:** A motion was raised to formally appoint Deborah Cook as the Section's representative to the **Ullyot Lecture Selection Committee** at the Science History Institute, with a newly defined **three-year renewable term**.

**Motion:** David Cichowicz

**Second:** Vic Tortorelli

**Vote:** Approved. Deborah Cook abstained, but it was noted by Judith Currano that she was eligible to vote for herself.

**Bylaws Update:** Amy Yam from ACS National sent an email with comments on the bylaws. Andrew, Matt Irwin, and Jim Murray will review the adjustments. The primary hurdle is coordinating a **Section-wide vote** on the revised bylaws within the required 15-month window (by May 2027), which will require coordination with Steve Fleming.

## External Collaborations

**Science History Institute (SHI):** Andrew and Greglynn met with SHI representatives David Cole, Clancy D'Isa, and Grace Sharples. SHI is highly interested in increasing ACS member attendance at their bi-weekly in-person events. Collaboration opportunities were discussed for **Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (May)** and **National Chemistry Week (October)**.

**Delaware Valley Chromatography Forum (DVCF):** Andrew spoke with Steve Lehotay, who indicated DVCF is not interested in becoming a formal topical group, but is open to a **handshake agreement** to promote mutual events. Wei Gao suggested implementing a written memorandum to ensure the collaboration continues if leadership changes.

**Chemical Consultants Network (CCN):** Andrew met with CCN leadership and members, noting a strong desire for in-person events and potential collaboration with SHI, while keeping a balance of hybrid programming.

## National ACS Meeting in Philadelphia – Discussion

A discussion arose regarding the ACS National Meeting returning to Philadelphia. Deborah Cook and Greglynn Gibbs confirmed that **Philadelphia is permanently off the National Meeting rotation list**.

The decision is entirely due to cost and union restrictions at the convention center (e.g., exhibitors are not allowed to plug in their own equipment without an electrician or use the loading docks without drayage workers), making it unpopular with exhibitors. The last meeting scheduled for Philadelphia in 2020 was canceled due to COVID.

Discussion shifted toward focusing on **local and regional programming**, such as boosting the Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) and collaborating with nearby sections like Rutgers-Camden.

Vic Tortorelli raised a **point of order**, noting that extended discussion of national site decisions was outside the Board's control and thus out of order according to Robert's Rules. The Chair agreed, and the Board moved forward.

## Upcoming Events & Administration (Wei Gao)

**Lunar New Year Banquet (Feb 19):** Sponsorship interest has been expressed by DuPont and Dow. The Section currently cannot process direct credit card payments, so Ivona Macor is working on a solution for future events. Wei Gao encouraged Directors to attend to introduce the local section to attendees.

**Annual Report:** With the deadline approaching in a few days, Wei Gao requested that members send comments or summaries on activities to be included in the administrative report. Andrew noted that event details could also be pulled from *the Catalyst*.

**Chair-Elect / Programming – Greglynn Gibbs** Greglynn provided a detailed programming update utilizing a slideshow presentation:

**Saturday Speaker Series:** The February event featured a speaker from Roche, drawing 25 registrants and 11 active participants. The recording is currently under legal review by Roche before it can be released. The March speaker will be Ashley Carter, a histologist from Roche. Greglynn requested suggestions for speakers outside of Roche to better reach the large population of pharma and biotech members in the region.

**Women in Bio Event (Mar 25):** A combination recruitment and networking event scheduled at the Cira Centre (Riverview Room). The cost is \$15 for non-members, but free for ACS members using a special registration code. Women in Bio will process the registrations and cut a check to the Section for paid registrants. Deborah Cook noted this overlaps with the ACS National Meeting and Council meeting. Greglynn explained that this serves as an **alternative event for local members who cannot afford to attend the National Meeting** due to industry job losses and funding cuts.

**Career Day Outreach:** Greglynn will speak at a Camden County High School career day expecting 1,000 disadvantaged and underrepresented students, with giveaways provided by Roche. She requested additional volunteers.

**SACNAS Event:** Scheduled for March 7; Abby O'Connor is the primary contact, and members are encouraged to register and support the event.

**Academic Awards (Apr 21):** Confirmed to take place at Arcadia University.

**Educational Outreach:** To maximize the reach of award packets, Greglynn contacted state intermediate units, New Jersey school districts, and university professors. She noted several university mergers affecting the mailing list: Philadelphia University merged with Thomas Jefferson, Rosemont College merged with Villanova, and USciences merged with St. Joseph's.

**Upcoming MARM:** The Committee on Minority Affairs is hosting an Open Luncheon at MARM 2026 featuring speakers Howard and Sally Peters ("Mr. and Mrs. Chocolate"), followed by a wine and chocolate reception.

**Edgar Fahs Smith Lecture (May):** Postponed to May to accommodate the speaker, Nobel Laureate Roald Hoffmann, who is a past Ulyot recipient.

## Treasurer Update – Ivona Macor

The Treasurer's report was presented for approval.

**Motion:** Ivona Macor

**Second:** Deborah Cook

**Vote:** Approved unanimously.

Ivona reported that the National Financial portion of the report and the 1099s for last year have been submitted. She is currently waiting on one form from the investment bank and is consulting with the accountant regarding taxes.

## **Councilor Update – Deborah Cook**

- Deborah contacted all councilors and confirmed they will be attending the March 25 council meeting, either in person or virtually.
- Councilors received a message from the ACS Secretary instructing them to register online for their **Councilor Credentials**, which are required to attend the meetings.

## **Communications Committee – Lee Hoffman**

- The committee is focusing on three main areas: *the Catalyst*, the Section website, and social media.
- **Catalyst:** The committee is working to standardize submission deadlines to ensure timely publication.
- **Website:** Matt Bodek will continue implementing updates, while Matt Irwin will guide the overall structure and design by forming a subcommittee.
- **Social Media:** Greglynn Gibbs is managing the official LinkedIn page. The committee discussed shutting down an unofficial, redundant LinkedIn group currently owned by Lee. Taking down the group will centralize information, ensure members don't miss announcements, and allow the Section to accurately track member engagement metrics.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made.

- **Motion:** Wei Gao
- **Second:** Greglynn Gibbs
- **Vote:** Approved

The meeting adjourned at approximately **8:01 PM**.

## CHEMICAL CONSULTANTS NETWORK MEETING

APRIL 8, 2026

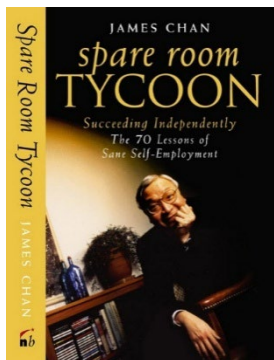
### HOW I FOUND MY TOP FIVE CLIENTS

James Chan, PhD, Asia Marketing and Management (AMM)

DATE & TIME: Wednesday April 8, 2026, 6:30 PM

[Click here to register](#) (available in early January)

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



James Chan, PhD, founded his Philadelphia-based independent consulting practice in May 1983. He has since worked with 100 US manufacturers, professional associations, and privately held companies to export American-made products and services to China and other Asian markets.

After two years as China Area Manager and International Promotion Manager at Academic Press, a subsidiary of the Fortune 500 publishing firm, HBJ, Chan resigned his corporate job in 1983 to start his own business, Asia Marketing & Management (AMM). 2026 marks AMM's 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary as an international marketing consultancy.

By telling his personal stories of finding clients large and small, James hopes to stimulate participants in thinking of new ways to improve their business development strategies.

James published his book, *Spare Room Tycoon: Succeeding Independently, the 70 Lessons of Sane Self-Employment* in 2000. The book offers insights into the many intangible aspects of starting, running, and succeeding as solo business owners.



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

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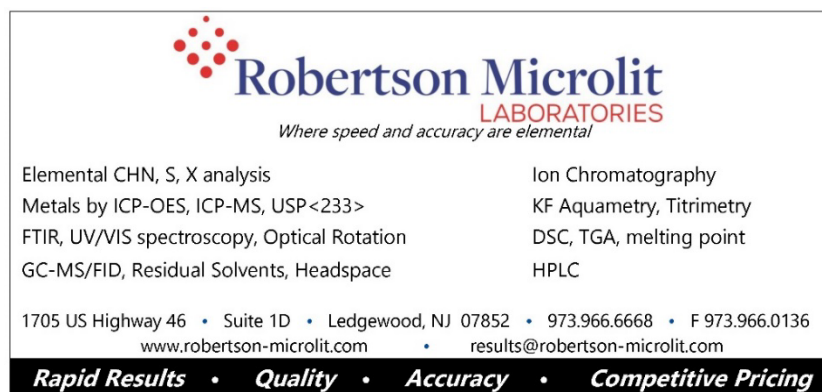
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## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

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](http://www.membership.acs.org/p/philadelphia)

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

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