

# the Catalyst



March 2026  
Volume 111, No. 3



## SATURDAY SPEAKER SERIES

### CAREERS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

March 21, 2026  
1:00 pm

Guest Speaker  
**Ashley Carter**

Histologist  
Roche Innovation Center Philadelphia



45-minute open Philadelphia ACS Section meeting  
to follow the Speaker

## HIGHLIGHTS

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ACS Philadelphia Section

Founded April 15, 1899

## ADVANCE NOTICE

2026 Scholastic and Teaching Awards – April 21, 2026

Details will be shared in the APRIL issue of *the Catalyst* and at [PhillyACS.org](http://PhillyACS.org).

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Advertising: Victor Tortorelli, vtortorelli@ursinus.edu

**Comments  
From  
the  
Chair**



Dear Philadelphia ACS Members,

The American Chemical Society Philadelphia Section continues to strengthen connections across the scientific community through collaboration, professional programming, and member engagement.

Recent activities highlight growing partnerships, successful events, and strong participation from academic and industry professionals alike.

Chair-Elect Greglynn Gibbs and I met with David Cole, Science History Institute CEO, to explore opportunities for future collaboration. Discussions focused on ways to engage ACS members in the Institute's free public programming, which takes place regularly throughout each month. Both organizations expressed enthusiasm about connecting audiences and expanding participation in educational and networking events.

In addition, I held a productive conversation with the Chemical Consultants Network centered on strengthening ties between organizations and better serving members working in industry. The discussion emphasized identifying shared goals, fostering community, and developing programming aligned with the interests and needs of industry chemists.

The Section's First Saturday Speaker Series recently featured Rebecca Aversa, who delivered an engaging talk about her professional journey and experiences in industry. Drawing from her role as Associate Director of Laboratory Operations at Roche, she provided valuable insights into career pathways, leadership, and opportunities for chemists beyond academia. The event was well attended and generated thoughtful discussion among participants at various career stages.

The Lunar New Year celebration was warmly received by attendees and demonstrated the strong sense of community within the local chemical enterprise. The event, co-sponsored by the Delaware Local Section, Chinese American Chemical Society (CACS) East Chapter (e-CACS), and Chinese American Chromatography Association (CACA), welcomed numerous industry professionals, including participants from Dow and DuPont, creating a lively atmosphere of networking, cultural appreciation, and professional connection.

Through partnerships, career-focused programming, and inclusive community events, the ACS Philadelphia Section remains committed to supporting chemists across disciplines and career sectors. These recent successes reflect the Section's continued momentum in fostering collaboration, engagement, and professional growth throughout the region.

## NEWS ATOMS—*Alan Warren*

**Tobias Baumgart**, professor of chemistry at Penn, receives the Thomas E. Thompson award of the Membrane Structure and Function subgroup of the Biophysical Society.

### DEATHS

**Richard Alan Wildonger**, retired research chemist, July 12, 2024 at 78. He joined Atlas Chemical as a medicinal research chemist and went on to spend his entire career with the firm, through 12 company name changes. He retired from Astra Zeneca in 2006. Wildonger received the Astra Zeneca Research and Development Director's award for creativity and innovation. He was also presented with the Pioneer in Laboratory Robotics Award given by the International Symposium on Laboratory Automation and Robotics.

**John C. Chintall, Jr.**, teacher and laboratory director, April 27, 2025 at 79. He taught organic chemistry at Rutgers University and then was named director of laboratories at Stockton (NJ) University. He later became director of several pharmaceutical labs including Merial Pharmaceuticals where he oversaw the building of the R&D laboratory.

**Tracey Jacksier**, physical chemist, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 64. She served as R&D global laboratory and technology director for Air Liquide from 2012 to 2025, specializing in measurement of emissions.

**James D. Batchelor**, research and development chemical engineer, August 5<sup>th</sup> at age 100! From 1952-1958 he worked on coal conversion processes for Consolidation Coal Co. and then moved to Atlantic Research Corp. where he developed materials for solid propellant rocket motors 1958-1967. From 1967 to 1974 he was research manager for IMP Corp., developing improved refractories for the steel, glass, and cement industries.

In 1974 Batchelor began a 16-year career with the US Department of Energy and its predecessor agencies where he served as an office director for coal liquefaction technology, and later for oil, gas, and shale technology, retiring in 1990. He authored several research papers and was awarded eight patents.

**Richard Daniel Brane**, retired technician, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 89. Following service in the United States Navy he spent 14 years teaching vo-tech and later retired as an environmental lab technician.

**Frances Zwanzig**, author and editor, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 95. For several years she wrote abstracts for the ACS Chemical Abstracts Service. From 1983 to 1996 she was managing editor of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. After retirement she served as an indexer for the National Library of Medicine.

**Joseph David Andose**, retired research director, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 81. He was employed by Merck and Company, retiring after 30 years in 2005 as director of research and infrastructure integration.

**Margaret “Peggy” Munchmeyer Lehman**, retired pharmaceutical chemist, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 90. She worked at McNeill Laboratories until marriage. Later she spent 26 years as a chemistry laboratory instructor at Swarthmore College.

**Kerryn Brandt**, retired polymer chemist and technical information specialist at age 68. He was senior information scientist at Rohm and Haas 1997-2006 and Dow Chemical 2009-2018.

**David Seeger Smallwood**, retired chemical engineer, January 24, 2026. He was employed by Arco Chemical and Roy F. Weston. He founded DSS Associates, his own consulting firm, and served as quality control manager for the US Mint.

### The Philadelphia Organic Chemists' Club (POCC) Poster Session!



# POCC POSTER SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH

05:00 – 08:00 PM

OPEN TO UNDERGRADS,  
GRADS, AND POSTDOCS

SUBMIT YOUR  
ABSTRACT BY APRIL 6!

Sign up here:



[Direct Link](#)



**Note:** Due to limited space only  
40 poster presenters will be selected! Sign up soon!!!

As part of our POCC Industrial Award Lectureship on April 16<sup>th</sup>, we will also be hosting the POCC Poster Session! Poster submissions are welcome from undergraduates, graduate students, and postdocs alike. Prizes will be given out to top posters and one lucky poster winner (graduate or postdoc) will be selected as for a special POCC Travel Award (see details below). When signing up for the poster session you can opt in to being considered for the POCC Travel Award! Sign up by April 6<sup>th</sup> and hope to see you there!!!

## POCC TRAVEL AWARD

Recognizing Excellence in  
Organic Chemistry Research

Prize: \$1000 Fellowship



- Defray costs for national conference travel
- Present research at conferences like ACS, GRC, NOS
- 20-Minute Short Talk at POCC 80th Anniversary Symposium





ACS Local Section  
Philadelphia

**ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting**

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 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. Tellers – Finance & Budget – Vic Tortorelli
- 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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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



**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 15, 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

Alternatively, submissions can be made via our online form at:

Pre-College Teaching Award - <https://forms.gle/WF99aZXVFyYgNN45A>

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



**2026 ACS PHILADELPHIA SECTION  
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING IN THE CHEMICAL SCIENCES**

Notice is hereby given that the Philadelphia ACS Section invites its members to nominate candidates for the 2026 Philadelphia ACS Section Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in Chemical Sciences.

This award will honor an outstanding, full-time educator involved in teaching an undergraduate course in the chemical sciences (i.e., chemistry, biochemistry). Nominees must teach in an institution that is within the geographical territory of the Philadelphia ACS 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 15, 2026.**

**Nominations should consist of the following:**

A letter of nomination.

The nominee's resume.

Two letters of recommendation.

The total nomination package should not exceed 30 pages.

The nomination package may be e-mailed (preferred) or sent to the Chair of the Awards Committee at:

Philadelphia ACS Section  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6323  
(215) 382-1589; e-mail [PhilaACS@gmail.com](mailto:PhilaACS@gmail.com)

Alternatively, submissions can be made via our online form at:

Undergraduate Teaching Award - <https://forms.gle/cjAxN3jg9u8keJb76>

**The Award Recipient will be honored during the April section meeting with a plaque and an honorarium.**



The Philadelphia ACS Section is now soliciting nominations for the Scholastic Achievement Award. Every year, this award is given to the top-ranking senior majoring in chemistry from a local college or university with an ACS approved department or an ACS Student Affiliate Chapter within the geographical territory of the Philadelphia ACS Section (Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties in Pennsylvania; and Burlington and Camden counties in New Jersey). **Nominations for will be accepted until March 31, 2025.**

Please consider the following criteria when selecting the recipient:

1. The student selected should be the person who, in your estimation, has made the most significant progress in his/her study of chemistry.
2. If no student qualifies in the true sense of the award, you should not feel compelled to designate anyone. This will in no way prevent your school from participating in future years.
3. It is hoped that the award will be given as much stature and publicity by the school as possible, perhaps including it as a part of the graduation or award-day ceremonies.

Once the student has been selected, please submit their information to our online form (<https://forms.gle/xSeS-bJyBJieYZEx96>)

The Undergraduate Scholastic Achievement Award consists of a certificate of recognition from the Philadelphia Section of the American Chemical Society signed by the Chair-elect. Awardees will be recognized via the Section's website, newsletter, and social media.

Nominees will be sent a congratulatory letter and an invitation to be our guest for the presentation of the award at the Scholastic Awards Banquet on Tuesday **April 21, 2026**, from 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM at Arcadia University in Glenside, PA.

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

### **About David Zuzga, PhD**

David Zuzga, PhD, is the Associate Dean of Biomedical Studies in the Hubert J.P. Schoemaker Education and Training Center and an associate professor at The Wistar Institute. Dr. Zuzga joined Wistar in 2021 from La Salle University where he was associate professor and chair of the Biology and Integrated Science, Business & Technology Departments. Since joining Wistar, Dr. Zuzga has been instrumental in helping to expand the education and training programs for high school, undergraduate and graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows. He received his BA in Biopsychology from Vassar College and his PhD in Genetics from Thomas Jefferson University.



## PHILADELPHIA SECTION EVENTS

Saturday March 21, 2026, 1 PM

Saturday Career Speaker Series – Careers in Biotechnology

Saturday, March 21, 2026

### Careers in Biotech Saturday Speaker Series

Join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of our new Careers in Biotech Saturday Speaker Series. This series features professionals at different career stages who will talk about what they do, the path that led them to their career, and how anyone interested in their field can get started. If you are interested in Biotech, an undergraduate, graduate, postdoc, academic advisor, teacher, or looking to make a career pivot this series is for you!

#### Section Meeting

This month's session will be followed by a 45-minute open Philadelphia ACS Section meeting to meet leadership, discuss goals of the section and upcoming events.

**Registration Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/mrxn3jkn>



ACS Local Section  
Philadelphia



### SATURDAY SPEAKER SERIES

#### CAREERS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

March 21, 2026  
1:00 pm

Guest Speaker  
**Ashley Carter**  
Histologist  
Roche Innovation Center Philadelphia



PHILLY BIOTECH CONNECT

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

## Philadelphia ACS – Women in Bio Career Catalyst Networking Event

Women in Bio Philadelphia Metro, the Philadelphia Section of the American Chemical Society, and B+Labs invite you to *Career Catalyst*—an interactive professional development event designed to help job seekers stand out in today's competitive market.

At this dynamic session, you'll:

- Learn about the programs, resources, and career support offered by Women in Bio and the American Chemical Society.
- Receive personalized resume feedback from an ACS Career Consultant.
- Get a professional headshot for your LinkedIn profile (lab coats provided for a fun, science-forward look).
- Expand your network with peers and professionals across the life sciences community.

Whether you're actively job searching or preparing for your next move, this event will equip you with practical tools, expert insight, and new connections to accelerate your career.

### Event Date

March 25, 2026

5:30–7:30 PM

Cira Centre, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor (Riverview Room), 2929 Arch Street

### Cost

**Free** – Women in Bio and Philadelphia ACS Members

**\$15** – Non-members

**Register at:** <https://tinyurl.com/d9px9m56>

**Discount Code:** CCFREE326 (case-sensitive)



## CAREER CATALYST EVENT



Don't miss this opportunity to meet local leaders, build valuable relationships, get a free professional headshot, and a free resume review.

**MAR 25, 2026 -  
5:30-7:30 PM**

Cira Center  
Riverview Fl,  
2929 Arch Street,  
Philadelphia, PA

<https://tinyurl.com/d9px9m56>



Wednesday, April 1, 2026

## **SCIENCE FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

This year, Delaware Valley Science Fairs (DVSF) will continue to provide a forum for our regional students to share their work and compete in our science research competition. **Judging day for the 2026 Delaware Valley Science Fairs (DVSF) will be Wednesday, April 1st, 2026, at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, PA.** We hope your schedule will allow you to participate. Students have consistently shared that the highlight of their science fair experience is talking with the judges. Registration is open now through STEM Wizard. There is a link in the judges tab of the [www.dvsf.org](http://www.dvsf.org) website or you can access this site directly at [https://dvsf.stemwizard.com/public\\_site/judge\\_register](https://dvsf.stemwizard.com/public_site/judge_register). Please feel free to share this link with colleagues. Additional information is posted on our website if they would like to learn more about this exciting and worthwhile program.

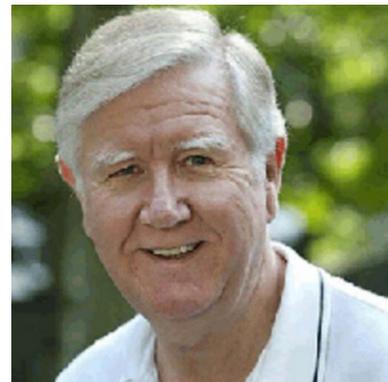
We had over 700 students participate in last year's science fair, and we expect that number to increase. We are always looking for mentors to work with the students. If you are interested in being a mentor, please register for our [Mentorship Program](#). More information is available here: <https://www.dvsf.org/mentorship-program>.

Delaware Valley Science Fairs continues to support students and their interest in STEM. If you would like to learn more, please find us on Facebook (Delaware Valley Science Fairs – DVSF), follow us on Twitter (@DVSFairs), and connect with us on Instagram and LinkedIn.

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.

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

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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.

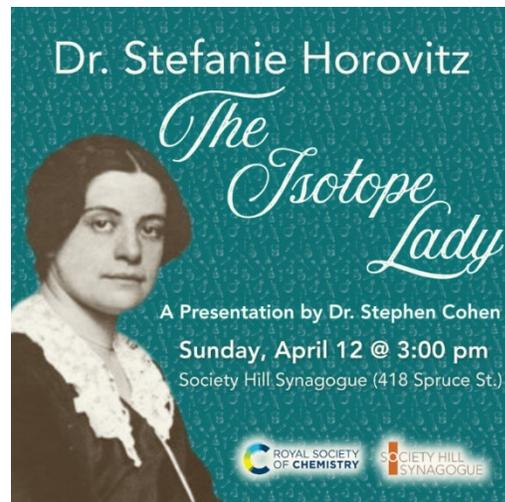
**Cost:** General admission \$18,

**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.

### 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/>.

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/>



MARM 2026

Sunday, May 17 – Tuesday, May 19, 2026

## Mid-Atlantic Regional Meetings Update

All general MARM information is available through [www.marmacs.org](http://www.marmacs.org), including an archive of past MARMs. MARMs are operated by a local Section, with assistance from the Board, on which all Sections of the Region are represented. Your Philadelphia Section liaison to the MAR Board is Dr. Tony Addison ([AddisonA@drexel.edu](mailto:AddisonA@drexel.edu); alternate is Dr. Deborah Cook).

**The Mid-Atlantic Region Board is always eager to hear from folks interested in assisting with the running of a MARM !**

**2026:** 54<sup>th</sup> MARM - May 17-19.

Chair: Dr. Abu Asaduzzaman, Penn State U., Harrisburg.  
([aua1309@psu.edu](mailto:aua1309@psu.edu))



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/>

**2027:** The originally-proposed 55<sup>th</sup> MARM in Princeton has been replaced by a "Mini-Marm": a one-day meeting, in the first half of June.

Chair: Dr. Greg Caputo, Rowan University ([caputo@rowan.edu](mailto:caputo@rowan.edu)).

**2028:** 55<sup>th</sup> MARM: June 8-10, Howard University, Washington DC.

Co-Chairs: Dr. Wes Farrell (U.S. Naval Academy) & Dr. Allison Aldridge, (U.S. FDA), Washington DC.

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

### 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.

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### 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!](#)

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

On April 6, 2026, ACS will reach its 150th 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, "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 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.*



## 2025-2026 POCC Lecture Series

March 19, 2026, 7:30 PM

Prof. Sharon Neufeldt

Montana State University

*New Cross-Coupling Selectivity*

*Enabled by a New Cross-Coupling Mechanism*

IN PERSON @:

Carolyn Hoff Lynch Lecture Hall

Chemistry Building, University of Pennsylvania

*6:30 Reception in the Nobel Hall*

Food and drinks to be provided!

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**Abstract:** Pyrimidines appear frequently in synthetic drugs, most notably in protein kinase inhibitors, which are a rapidly growing class of therapeutic agents using primarily to treat cancer and inflammatory diseases. 4-Substituted-2-(arylamino)pyrimidines are particularly privileged, and these can be readily prepared from inexpensive 2,4-dichloropyrimidines. However, synthesis of such compounds in the context of drug discovery can be limited by the requirement to install the 4-substituent prior to the 2-amino group due to the greater reactivity of the C4 site toward both  $S_NAr$  and cross-coupling. Here, the first catalyst-controlled C2-selective amination of 2,4-dichloropyrimidines is described, affording 4-chloro-2-(arylamino)pyrimidines as products. We report evidence that the observed inversion of selectivity arises from a novel catalytic cycle that differs from the canonical mechanism for Pd-catalyzed cross-coupling.

**Bio:** Sharon Neufeldt is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Montana State University. Her research program centers around mechanistic organometallic chemistry with applications towards new catalytic methods, especially for controlling selectivity. Dr. Neufeldt earned B.S. in Chemistry at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff and a Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. At Michigan, she worked with Melanie Sanford on the development of Pd-catalyzed CH functionalization reactions. She then became the Cram Teacher-Scholar at UCLA where she undertook postdoctoral research with Ken Houk using DFT to study the mechanism and selectivity of transition metal-catalyzed C—H activations. She began her independent career at Montana State University in 2016 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2023. Her recognitions include an NSF CAREER award (2019), a Thieme Chemistry Journals Award (2020), a Cottrell Scholars Award (2020), and a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE, 2024).

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## Science History Institute Events

### Stories of Science: Celebrating Women's History

Saturday, March 14, 2026 | 10 AM-5 PM EDT

### First Friday: Our Plastic Planet

Friday, April 3, 2026 | 5 PM-7 PM EDT

### Launch Party! A History of Fireworks Opening Celebration

Friday, April 10, 2026 | 5 PM-8 PM EDT

### Greening the Urban Landscape

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 | 1 PM-2 PM EDT Online



## 2025-2026 POCC Lecture Series

### POCC Industrial Award Lecture:

April 16, 2026, 7:30 PM

Dr. Jonathan Reeves

Boehringer Ingelheim

*Lateral Lithiation for Heterocycle Synthesis:*

*Scope and New Reaction Discovery*

IN PERSON @:

Carolyn Hoff Lynch Lecture Hall

Chemistry Building, University of Pennsylvania

6:30 Reception in the Nobel Hall

Food and drinks to be provided!

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**Abstract:** The lateral lithiation of various 2-methylated arenes and subsequent addition to electrophiles gives access to new products, such as o-amino acids or ketones, or new heterocycles from concomitant cyclization processes. The scope of these reactions and modification of the products into novel heterocyclic motifs which are otherwise difficult to access will be presented. The serendipitous discovery during this work of a novel peptide coupling process and its scope for the synthesis of non-canonical amino acid derived peptides will be discussed.

**Bio:** Jonathan Reeves grew up in rural southeastern Michigan and received a B.S. in chemistry from Hope College in Holland, MI in 1997. He studied organic chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh in Peter Wipf's group and obtained his Ph.D. in 2002. After two years as an NIH postdoctoral fellow at Indiana University in the labs of David Williams he joined the process group at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals in Ridgefield, CT in 2004, where he currently has a title of Distinguished Research Fellow.

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## 776<sup>th</sup> ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, January 9, 2026

Teleconference Meeting

**Present:** Amy Brown; Catherine Bentzley; Christie McInnis; David Cichowicz; Ivona Macor; Jim Murray; Judith Currano; Robert Dyer; Sharon Haynie; Steve Fleming; Victor Tortorelli; Wei Gao; Andrew Devany; Matthew Irwin; Greglynn Gibbs.

**Excused:** Deborah Cook; Melissa Cichowicz; Isabella Goodenough.

### Roll Call

Roll call was conducted verbally and by visual confirmation on Zoom. A quorum was present.

### Call to Order and Code of Conduct

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 PM, and Andrew Devany read aloud the ACS Philadelphia Section Code of Conduct.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the December 2025 Board Meeting were presented for approval.

- Motion: Andrew Devany
- Second: Sharon Haynie
- Vote: Approved
- Abstention: Matthew Irwin

The December 2025 minutes were approved as amended.

## **Officers' Reports**

### **Chair – Andrew Devany**

Andrew provided several updates and discussion items:

### **Governance & Administration**

- Ongoing efforts to obtain Directors & Officers (D&O) insurance were reported. Initial quotes were received (including from Allstate), with further follow-up required to understand coverage details and next steps.
- Nominations for Chair of the Council Affairs Committee were opened, with a two-week solicitation window and the goal of appointing a new chair by the end of January.

### **Edgar Fahs Smith Lecture**

- Andrew reported continued outreach to the Science History Institute and to Anna Boffice regarding scheduling details for the upcoming Edgar Fahs Smith Lecture.
- The holiday period may have delayed responses; follow-up was planned.

### **Archiving & Historical Records**

- A discussion occurred regarding maintaining archival records for named lectures (Edgar Fahs Smith, Ulliyot, etc.), including:
  - Speaker biographies
  - Programs
  - Lists of prior honorees
- Sharon Haynie emphasized the importance of maintaining continuity and institutional history.
- Judith Currano suggested archiving programs either digitally or in print, noting tradeoffs between accessibility and long-term preservation.
- Matt Irwin noted that Penn Chemistry currently hosts a webpage listing Edgar Fahs Smith lecturers and suggested linking or supplementing this with PDFs of past programs.
- Consensus emerged that collecting and archiving materials is valuable, with details of hosting and format to be determined later.

### **Science History Institute**

- Andrew plans to meet with David Cole, Grace, and Clancy at the Science History Institute to continue relationship-building and coordination.

## **Upcoming Events & Programming**

### **Meet Our Committees Event**

- Scheduled for January 15, 6 – 8 PM, at Conshohocken Tap Room.
- Registration was created via Eventbrite, but at the time of the meeting had zero registrants.
- Concerns were raised regarding:
  - Short notice
  - Lack of advance promotion in The Catalyst
  - Risk of low turnout
- Vic Tortorelli expressed concern about spending funds without adequate advertising.

- Discussion centered on whether to:
  - Postpone the event
  - Shift to broader communication channels
- Consensus: Wei will contact the venue to explore postponement options; the Board will reassess once attendance and promotion options are clearer.

## Communications Strategy

- Broad agreement that event promotion should not rely solely on The Catalyst.
- Suggested channels included:
  - Email blasts to full membership
  - LinkedIn posts
  - Direct outreach
- Deborah Cook emphasized posting events in *the Catalyst* at least two months in advance, even if details are incomplete.
- Christie McInnis suggested revitalizing industrial and academic networks to improve outreach.
- The Communications Committee should be engaged to formalize a multi-channel strategy.

## Delaware Valley Chromatography Forum (DVCF)

Wei reported on attending a DVCF board meeting:

- DVCF expressed strong interest in formal collaboration with the Philadelphia Section.
- They requested documentation outlining terms of affiliation or collaboration.
- Discussion focused on whether DVCF would:
  - Become an affiliated topical group, or
  - Remain independent with a formal collaboration agreement
- Jim Murray and Matt Irwin noted that Section bylaws contain language regarding discussion groups and topical groups.
- Wei will review the bylaws and follow up with DVCF regarding appropriate next steps.

## Chair-Elect Report – Greglynn Gibbs

Greglynn provided several updates:

- Exploring free and low-cost networking venues, including a monthly Wexford Innovation Exchange on Market Street.
  - The space is free, open to the public, and could host ACS meetups.
  - Possibility of later securing speaker slots for ACS-hosted programming.
- Working on career-focused programming, including:
  - A biotech career speaker (laboratory operations manager)
- Involvement with MARM planning:
  - Secured Howard Peters (“Mr. & Mrs. Chocolate”) as a speaker for the opening luncheon.
  - Sponsorship secured for both the luncheon and opening reception.
  - No funding request from the Philadelphia Section at this time.
- Christie McInnis reminded the Board that awards timelines often require early planning and should remain on the Chair-Elect’s radar.

## Additional Business

- Discussion continued on improving volunteer recruitment by engaging attendees at existing Section events, including having a visible Section presence.
- General agreement that flexible, visible engagement strategies are needed post-pandemic.

**Adjournment** Upon completion of discussion and with no objections raised, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

## CHEMICAL CONSULTANTS NETWORK MEETING

MARCH 11, 2026

**BEING A SCIENCE ADVISOR OR BOARD MEMBER**

Keith D. Wing, PhD

**DATE & TIME:** Wednesday March 11, 2026, 6:30 PM

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

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

**Abstract:** This talk will cover some expected roles and responsibilities for those wishing to act as science advisors or board members. Although my industrial and commercial experience has mostly involved discovery of agrochemicals, I have had significant exposure to development, registration, launch and product support activities for these and other chemicals and have also been a board member and chair for science-related non-profits and a consultant for various companies. There is no one size fits all, and CCN expertise covers a wide technological range, but we'll review a few fundamentals, followed by open discussion.

**Biography:** Keith received his BA at UCLA, PhD at UC Riverside/Davis, and post-doc'd at UC Berkeley, finishing in 1983. He was a senior research associate and team leader at Rohm and Haas Ag (1983-1990), DuPont Crop Protection (1990-2004) and DuPont Central Research and Development (2004-2012). He then consulted independently in industrial biochemistry and strategic planning (2012-2024). He has served on several nonprofit boards including the Chemical Consultants Network (former chair), the Science History Institute's Joseph Priestley Society, and the Charter School of Wilmington. He is active in ACS and has given many talks and arranged symposia in AGRO.

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

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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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