

the Catalyst



May 2026
Volume 111, No. 5



Photo of Roald Hoffmann by Michael Grace-Martin

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

**Nobel Laureate, Dr. Roald Hoffmann
Friday, May 8, 2026**

HIGHLIGHTS

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ACS Philadelphia Section

Founded April 15, 1899

ADVANCE NOTICE

50-, 60- and 70-Year Member Appreciation Luncheon

**Thursday, June 11, 2026
12 PM to 3 PM**

**See details in the June issue of *the Catalyst*
and at PhillyACS.org.**

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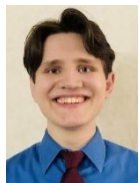
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Advertising: Victor Tortorelli, vtortorelli@ursinus.edu

Comments
From
the
Chair



Dear Fellow Members,

What a remarkable few weeks it has been for our Section. From honoring the best and brightest students and educators in our region to witnessing record-breaking undergraduate research presentations, the energy and enthusiasm of our community have never been more evident. I am delighted to share these highlights with you.

In April, we gathered to celebrate some of the finest minds and most dedicated educators in the greater Philadelphia area at our annual Scholastic Achievement and Teaching Awards ceremony. This year, we were proud to honor 24 outstanding undergraduate students from institutions across our region. Each one a testament to the strength of chemistry and chemical sciences education here in Philadelphia and beyond.

We were equally proud to recognize two exceptional educators. Dr. Tom Gluodenis of Lincoln University received the Undergraduate Teaching Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to undergraduate chemistry education. And Mrs. Maureen Coller, a Kindergarten Teacher at New Albany Elementary School in Cinnaminson Township Public Schools, was honored with the Pre-College Teaching Award, a wonderful reminder that the love of science begins in our earliest classrooms. Congratulations to all of our awardees, and a heartfelt thank you to the nominators, institutions, and families who supported them.

Ursinus University played host to the 89th Intercollegiate Student Chemists Convention (ISCC), and the results were nothing short of extraordinary. With 104 student presentations and nearly 240 attendees, this year's convention achieved a record turnout, showing the vitality of undergraduate research in our region and the dedication of the organizing team at Ursinus.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Andre K. Isaacs, whose talk *A Click Chemistry Approach to Nitrogen Heterocycles* captivated the audience with an elegant exploration of copper-catalyzed cycloaddition chemistry and its application in the synthesis of N-heterocycles, including indolizines, dihydroisoquinolines, and an approach to beta-lactams. It was exactly the kind of presentation that reminds us why we fell in love with chemistry in the first place.

To every student who presented their work this weekend: you represent the future of our field, and we could not be prouder. To the faculty advisors, mentors, and organizers who made this event possible: we appreciate you.

Looking ahead, our programming continues through the spring and summer months. Keep an eye on upcoming issues of *the Catalyst* and our Section website for details on future events. As always, if you have ideas for programming or would like to get more involved, please do not hesitate to reach out.

It is a privilege to serve as your Chair, and moments like these: celebrating students, honoring teachers, and watching our community come together are exactly why this work matters.

With warm regards,
Andrew Devany
Chair, ACS Philadelphia Section

NEWS ATOMS—*Alan Warren*

Squire J. Booker, professor of chemistry, biochemistry, and biophysics at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine, was named a 2026-2027 Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar. From 1999 to 2025 he was an independent investigator on Penn State University's faculty. He then moved to the University of Pennsylvania in 2025, studying enzymes as catalysts. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences.

Deaths

Omar Padilla Velez, research chemist, January 7, 2026 at 33. He was born in Puerto Rico, where he was instrumental in bringing science demonstrations to high school students. After completing his graduate education at Cornell, he was a senior scientist for Exponent (2020-2022) and then a senior scientist at DuPont (2022-2026), working on catalysts for polymer materials. He and his fiancée were visiting Puerto Rico in January when he was shot and killed.

Thomas J. McCarron, retired pharmaceutical biostatistician, March 12th. He taught at Moorestown Friends School, headed the human relations department at Trenton State University, and was an instructor at West Chester University, the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, and the Community College of Philadelphia. He served as a biostatistician for several pharmaceutical companies and clinical research organizations.

Everett Joseph Cassel, March 20th at 89. He worked in Sun Oil Company's Suntech applied research and development department for 34 years, retiring in 1988. He was a Boy Scout leader for 14 years, volunteered for the American Red Cross, and was active in the Chester County Historical Society.

Arthur E. Humphrey, retired professor of chemical engineering, March 21st at 98. He joined Penn's faculty as assistant professor in 1953. In 1972, four schools of engineering were merged into the college of engineering and applied science, and Humphrey was named dean. In 1980 he moved to Lehigh University as provost and vice president until 1992.

Humphrey then chaired the biotechnology institute and was professor of chemical engineering at Penn State, retiring in 1997. He authored 3 books and over 250 technical articles and held several patents. He served as president of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers 1990-1991. He received several medals including the John Fritz medal of the American Association of

Engineering Societies. Humphrey was also active in the American Chemical Society and the International Association of Microbiological Societies.

CEPA: Your ACS Committee for Careers & Professional Development—*Tony Addison*

CEPA, the ACS's national committee on Economic & Professional Affairs supports members in several ways, in order to empower us in achieving our professional ambitions.

CEPA has several strands of effort, including, for all ACS members, offering career and employment workshops and counselling. To this end, CEPA operates a cohort of over a hundred ACS Career Consultants: <https://www.acs.org/careers/personal-career-consulting.html>, and <https://www.acs.org/careers/career-consultants.html>, and you can make an appointment with one for a one-on-one virtual consultation. These operate at all professional career levels and for a variety of workplace environments.

There are also workshops aimed at grad students and postdocs (see <https://www.acs.org/education/graduate/acs-career-kickstarter-workshop.html>) which are run at National meetings and frequently at Regional meetings. For instance, there are "Finding Your Pathway" and "Acing the Interview" workshops at the 2026 Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting in Hershey, PA, this month.

Meanwhile, our own Section has Career Consultants who can advise you, as well: <https://philly.acs.org/career-services/>

The current Chair of CEPA is Dr. Bhaskar Venapalli, while current Philadelphia Section members of the committee are Dr. John Gavenonis (West Pharmaceutical Services), and myself; within the Mid-Atlantic Region, we add Dr. Sergio Nanita (Incyte Corp.).

CEPA can be contacted *via* its ACS Staff Liaison, Tom Halleran, at T_Halleran@acs.org.

WCC Celebrates 100 Years!

The ACS Women Chemists Committee will celebrate its 100th 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 14, 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, May 13, 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

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Secretary
mtirwin.acs@gmail.com

Section Office
PhilaACS@gmail.com

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

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



THE NINETIETH EDGAR FAHS SMITH MEMORIAL LECTURE

PEBBLES/ KAMUSHKI: THE COMMONALITIES AND DIVERGENCES OF ART AND SCIENCE

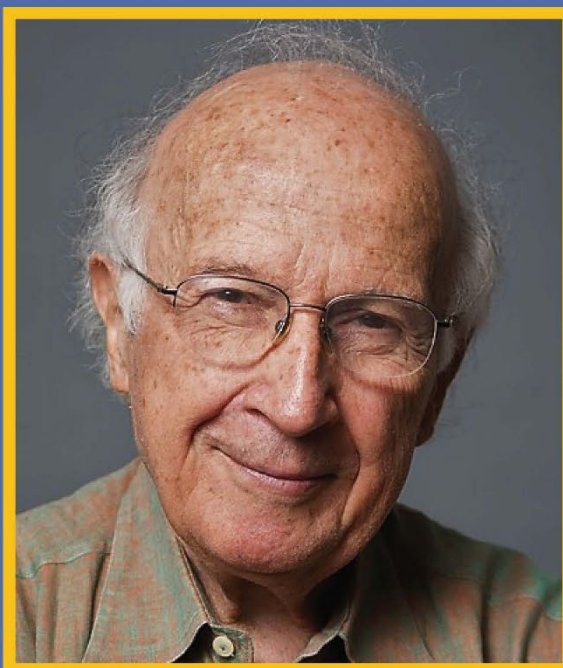
Friday
May 8, 2026

5:00 PM, Reception
6:00 PM, Lecture

Presented by
The Philadelphia Section of the American
Chemical Society & The Department of
Chemistry University of Pennsylvania



[Register Here](#)



ROALD HOFFMANN

Frank H. T. Rhodes Professor, Emeritus
Nobel Laureate

Cornell University



Carolyn Hoff Lynch Lecture Hall

University of Pennsylvania
Department of Chemistry
34th and Spruce Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19104

REGIONAL NEWS

Sunday, May 17 – Tuesday, May 19, 2026

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

The **54th Middle Atlantic Regional ACS Meeting** will be held on May 17-19, 2026 at the Hershey Lodge Convention Center, Hershey, PA.



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 17th at 12 PM.

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



The POCC 80th Anniversary Symposium

POCC invites you to join us for a symposium honoring our 80th 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 21st 2026



3:00 PM – 9:00 PM



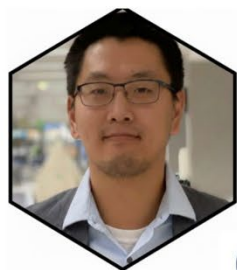
**The University of Pennsylvania
Chemistry Department**

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://www.facebook.com/POCCChem)



News from National (new and updated items at top)

ACS' 150th Anniversary

On April 6, 2026, ACS will reach its 150th Anniversary milestone mark!

Visit the webpage at www.acs.org/ACS150

- View the 150th 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.

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.

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.

Committee on Ethics Celebrates 20 Years

The ACS Committee on Ethics is proud to celebrate 20 years of service. Visit [our website](#) to learn about and join us for special programming, events, and activities honoring this milestone throughout the year and our continued commitment to Empowering Trust, Honesty, and Integrity for Chemistry and Society (ETHICS).

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 12–14, 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 course 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 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; Andres Vazquez a.vazquez1120@gmail.com



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

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.

ACS CAREER CONSULTANTS

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

ABSTRACTS OPEN- Close March 27th.



Colloids2026.org

ACS-CSSS 2026
100th meeting of the
American Chemical Society's Colloid and Surface Science Symposium
University of Delaware
JUNE 21-24, 2026



ACS
Chemistry for Life[®]



Banquet at Winterthur



WINTERTHUR
MUSEUM, GARDEN & LIBRARY

Multiple Short Courses!



Highlight: CSS in Art Conservation



RESEARCH FACULTY SAFETY LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Join us for a *prestigious, hands-on, and nationally impactful professional development program* designed for faculty who want to strengthen their leadership in academic research safety.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Selective Opportunity

Participation signals leadership and protects your lab's reputation—useful in annual reviews and chair conversations.

Tangible Takeaways

Leave with a Lab Safety Plan, a 30/60/90 day action plan, grant-ready safety language, and a budget template for safety items.

Tools Adapted from Industry

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 with questions.

Call to Order and Code of Conduct

The meeting was called to order 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 by Matthew Irwin.

Present: Andrew Devany, Matthew Irwin, Ivona Macor, Deborah Cook, Wei Gao, Victor Tortorelli, Steve Fleming, Catherine Bentzley, Dan Miller, Robert Dyer, Jim Murray, Amy Brown, Ella Davis, Christie McInnis, Andres Vazquez-Lopez, Greglynn Gibbs, Sherry Zhang.

Excused: Sharon Haynie, Ann Valentine.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The February 2026 Board Meeting minutes were presented for approval. Several corrections had been submitted by email prior to the meeting and incorporated.

- **Motion: Andrew Devany | Second: Jim Murray | Vote: Approved | Abstentions: Andrew Devany, Matthew Irwin**

The February minutes were approved as presented.

Officer Updates

Chair — Andrew Devany

Andrew provided the following updates:

- POCC 80th Anniversary Symposium (May 21): The Section is co-sponsoring the POCC 80th Anniversary Symposium on May 21st at the University of Pennsylvania. Additional details will be distributed later in the month.
- D&O Insurance / Tax Exemption: The Directors & Officers insurance application has been submitted, Andrew is awaiting a response. A related discussion clarified that the Section operates under the ACS National federal 501(c)(3) umbrella. A separate Pennsylvania state sales-tax exemption is available but is not required for insurance purposes.
- In-Person Meeting Survey: An in-person meeting interest form was previously distributed, 17 responses have been received to date. A full update will be provided at the next meeting.

A motion was raised to approve a funding request from the Chemical Consultants Network (CCN) for \$450 to cover a booth at the MARM conference. Vic Tortorelli provided context: CCN had requested between \$300–\$450 for a booth they had not specifically budgeted for, the expenditure would come from the Board Contingency Fund, which carries a \$1,000 budget for the year.

- Motion: Andrew Devany | Second: Matthew Irwin | Vote: Approved | Nay: Victor Tortorelli | Abstention: Andrew Devany | Result: \$450 approved from Board Contingency Fund.

Past Chair — Wei Gao

Wei reported that the ACS Annual Review was submitted on time. She thanked board members for their support in completing the submission. The Lunar New Year Banquet was well received, with strong industry attendance, Wei expressed hope that future events will draw more student participation.

Chair-Elect / Programming — Greglynn Gibbs

Greglynn joined the meeting remotely from the Science History Institute, where she was attending an event, and departed after her report. She provided the following programming updates:

- Saturday Speaker Series — March 21: Ashley Carter will present on careers in biotech as part of the Saturday Speaker Series. Board members were encouraged to share the event with their networks and students.
- Women in Bio / WCC Event — March 25th A collaborative networking event with Women in Bio and B Plus Labs is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25th at 5:30 PM at the Cira Centre (Riverview Room). The WCC chair (Jessica) is also involved. Registration stands at approximately 70 people ahead of the deadline. ACS members attend free (code included in the newsletter), non-members pay \$15.
- Academic Awards Banquet — April 21: Confirmed for April 21st at Arcadia University. The menu has been finalized, Greglynn will visit the venue to review logistics.
- Edgar Fahs Smith Lecture — May 8: Featuring Nobel Laureate Roald Hoffmann. Promotional materials are ready pending receipt of a current photo from the University of Pennsylvania.
- CCEW Event (in development): Greglynn is developing a Chemists Celebrate Earth Week event in partnership with the Please Touch Museum. Details to follow.

Secretary — Matthew Irwin

No additional report. Matthew noted that slides would be presented later in the meeting as part of the governance structure discussion.

Treasurer — Ivona Macor

Ivona confirmed that the ACS National financial form was submitted on time (before midnight on February 15th). She will begin work on the Section's taxes in the coming months, using a different accountant this year and conducting an in-person meeting to ensure accuracy.

The Treasurer's report for February was presented for approval.

- Motion: Ivona Macor | Second: Andrew Devany | Vote: Approved | Abstention: Christie McInnis (had not reviewed the report)

Chair of Council Affairs — Deborah Cook

Deborah reported that the semi-annual pre-council meeting was held on Tuesday to review the upcoming ACS National Council agenda. She described the agenda as not particularly controversial, with the following action items:

- President-Elect Nomination: Four candidates have been nominated for ACS President-Elect: John Adams, Mary Virginia Orna, Laura Sremaniak, and Lisa McElwee-White. Councilors will vote to narrow the field to two finalists for the membership election.
- International Chapter — Sri Lanka: A new international chapter in Sri Lanka is requesting charter from the Society.
- Budget & Finance Committee Restructuring: A motion is before Council to restructure the Budget and Finance Committee into two bodies: a Committee on Financial Affairs (general oversight) and a new committee with enhanced fiduciary responsibility reporting directly to the Board.

Council convenes on March 25th at 8:00 AM Eastern, with attendance available in person or via Zoom. A full slate of Section councilors will be present.

Governance Structure Discussion — Board of Directors vs. Executive Committee

Andrew Devany and Matthew Irwin led a discussion on the possibility of transitioning the Section's governance structure from a Board of Directors model to an Executive Committee model, as is common among other ACS sections. This was a discussion item only, no vote or final decision was taken.

Background

Matthew Irwin analyzed the bylaws of approximately 110 ACS sections and found that approximately 93% operate under an executive committee model, while only 8 sections retain a board of directors. The Philadelphia Section, with 15 elected directors in addition to 5 officers, has the largest elected governing board of any section reviewed. Jim Murray confirmed that, in the course of working on the bylaws indemnification language, ACS National had made it overtly clear that the Section should consider transitioning from a board of directors to an executive committee structure.

Proposed Framework (as discussed)

The concept presented would reduce the governing body to an executive committee comprised of the five elected officers (Chair, Chair-Elect, Immediate Past Chair, Secretary, Treasurer).

Current directors would serve out their existing terms, after which the director positions would sunset. Directors would be engaged individually to transition into standing committee chair roles aligned with their interests and expertise. Committee chairs would be elevated to report at executive committee meetings, though without a bylaw-mandated voting requirement.

Discussion Highlights

- **Steve Fleming:** Expressed concern about reducing elected representation from 20 to 5 voting members, and suggested retaining some form of elected at-large positions to preserve broader member buy-in. Noted that many current councilors are also directors and may disengage from the Section without the director role.
- **Deborah Cook:** Questioned whether changing the structure is necessary to increase committee engagement, noting that committee chairs can already be required to attend and report to the board under the current structure. Suggested a middle ground of reducing— but not eliminating — the number of directors. Noted that having members elected by the full Section membership carries democratic legitimacy that appointed committee chairs do not.
- **Ella Davis:** Asked how committee chairs would be determined in the new structure, and raised concern about concentrating decision-making power in just five individuals for a section of this size.
- **Christie McInnis:** Reminded the board that meeting minutes must remain publicly accessible under the Section's articles of incorporation, and recommended consulting an attorney before any structural changes are made to ensure compliance with Pennsylvania state law.
- **Victor Tortorelli:** Sought clarification on who would hold voting rights in the new model, noting that reducing the voting body from 20 to 5 elected officials significantly alters the Section's representation.
- **Wei Gao:** Suggested that ACS councilors — whose number is proportional to Section membership — could serve as a voting counterbalance alongside the executive committee, citing this as a practice in the polymer division.
- **Amy Brown:** Asked about the transition process for current directors and whether there is a clear pathway to committee roles.

Outcome

No action was taken. Andrew Devany noted that further dialogue with the full board and broader Section membership is needed before any structural change is proposed. The current bylaws revision — which addresses the indemnification clause and does not include any governance restructuring — will proceed separately. Members should expect a SurveyMonkey invitation to vote on those revised bylaws, as discussed at prior meetings.

Adjournment

- Motion: Jim Murray | Vote: Approved unanimously The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:01 PM.

CHEMICAL CONSULTANTS NETWORK MEETING

MAY 13, 2026

ORIZABA SOLUTIONS AND ADVENTURES IN GOVERNMENT CONSULTING

Ingeborg Holt

DATE & TIME: Wednesday May 13, 2026, 6:30 PM ET

[Click here to register](#)

Location: Online via Zoom! (Registration required)

Abstract: What does it take to turn deep domain expertise into a government contracting business? In Orizaba Solutions and Adventures in Government Contracting, this talk shares a firsthand journey from federal health informatics leadership to founding a small business focused on data strategy, standards, and regulatory science

Blending practical guidance with lived experience, the session walks through the key steps to entering the federal marketplace—from establishing a business and identifying a niche, to navigating registrations and building a pipeline of opportunities. It demystifies core procurement concepts, including the differences between Requests for Proposals (RFPs), Requests for Information (RFIs), and Sources Sought notices, and explains how each fits into the government acquisition lifecycle.

The talk also provides a clear, accessible overview of small business set-asides—how they work, why they matter, and how they shape competition and teaming strategies. Attendees will learn how to effectively use SAM.gov as both a discovery tool and a strategic signal of where agencies are heading

Grounded in real examples from FDA and NIH-focused work, this session offers both a roadmap and a field guide—highlighting not just the mechanics of government contracting, but the judgment, positioning, and persistence required to succeed. Ideal for consultants, small businesses, and technical experts considering entry into the federal space, this talk turns a complex ecosystem into something navigable, actionable, and, ultimately, achievable.

Biography: Ingeborg Holt is the Founder of Orizaba Solutions, helping organizations solve complex challenges in data standardization, integration, and analytics. With over 20 years of experience across healthcare, technology, and government, she has led large-scale digital transformation initiatives. Previously, she held senior roles at IBM and Commonwealth Informatics. She holds an MS in Computer Science and a BA in Biology.

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

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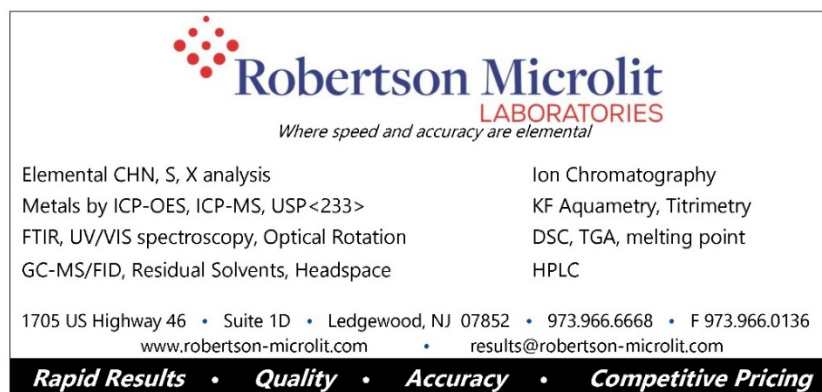
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