



American Chemical Society - Pittsburgh Section
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ACS Pittsburgh Section Welcomes 2021 Chair Dr. Kevin Noonan.

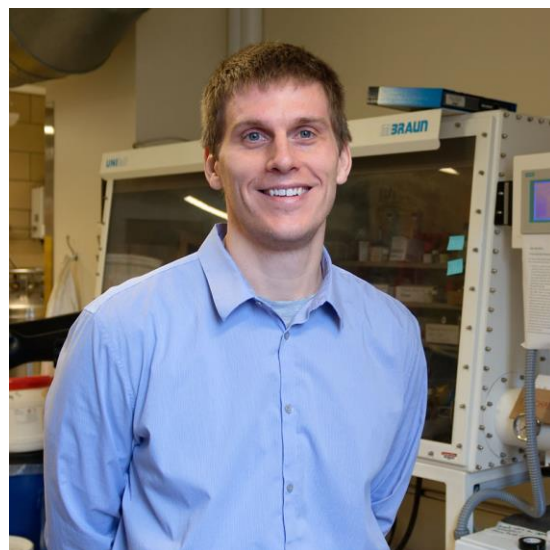
2020 has been a challenging year for our members (both personally and professionally) and we understand that many of these challenges will continue into the next year. The Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society is committed to supporting our chemical professionals throughout the region in every way possible. While some activities will be limited due to challenges surrounding in person events; our team of officers, directors, councilors, and group leaders are working tirelessly to deliver remote content. The Pittsburgh Section is committed to promoting chemistry by hosting, organizing and sponsoring events in the region and nationally. We are continuing to explore career training and networking opportunities for members while also recognizing the outstanding accomplishments made by local students and colleagues through various awards. These programs continue to benefit not only chemical professionals in both academia and industrial environments, but the general public as well through science education. I personally would like to thank all the volunteers who continue to make the Pittsburgh Section successful and wish all of us luck in the upcoming year.

Congratulations to our Newly Elected Officers for 2021

The votes are in, and we congratulate the following new officers and wish them all the best!

Chair-Elect: Kimberly Woznack
Secretary-Elect: Alysia Mandato
Treasurer-Elect: Matthew Price
Director: David Waldeck
Director: Heather Juzwa
Director: Michael Mautino
Director: Toby Chapman
Councilor: Haitao Liu
Alternate Councilor: Ali Sezer

Thank you for participating in our important election process!





Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh



January Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Technology Forum – 6:00 pm

Business Meeting – 6:45 pm

Technical Program – 7:15 pm (Immediately Following Business Meeting)

SSP TECHNOLOGY FORUM

Andre Samuel, PHD, The Citizen Science Lab
“Teaching for the Future”



Through the participation in our programs, students learn the common research techniques used in biology, technology, robotics and computer science fields. These skills extend beyond the laboratory, and that knowledge is a requirement for a successful career in the sciences. One of the most vital components of our program is that our students, many of whom are disproportionately underrepresented in STEM fields, are able to envision themselves in a STEM career. Therefore, this work is vitally important to counter both formal and traditional STEM learning environments that often teach without context. By teaching for the future, we focus on the development of scientific practices and computational processes rather than the traditional focus on mastery of content without relevance.

BIOGRAPHY

Andre Samuel graduated from the University of the District of Columbia with a degree in Biology. Following graduate study at the George Washington University in Genomics and Bioinformatics, he received his PhD in Biology from Duquesne University. At Duquesne, his research focused on studying the structure and function of the cold shock related proteins in *E. coli*. As a Ph.D. candidate, Dr. Samuel founded the S.I.G.M.A Science Mentorship Initiative, a summer study program designed to introduce diverse ninth graders to the University’s lab with the long-term goal of encouraging the pursuit of careers in scientific research. Dr. Samuel’s research experience includes studying toxicology and carcinogenicity effects of novel drugs, hookworm vaccine development under the direction of Dr. Peter Hotez and tuberculosis reactivation in non-human primates in the laboratories of Dr. JoAnne Flynn. Dr. Samuel has a passion for STEM education and life science research. He believes that creating fun engaging and hands on lab experiences for people is the best pathway to an interest in STEM.

Over the past 5 years The Citizen Science Lab and his executive director have received a number of awards for its work throughout the community. In 2015 Dr. Samuel was awarded the BMe leadership award recognized for his excellence and positive impact Through The Citizen Science Lab on black males. In 2016 The Citizen Science Lab received four awards for their participation and Seaperch and The Citizen Science Lab was also selected to participate in the Navy embark program. This

program selects highly recognized educators in stem to be flown out to and they will base in San Diego and spend 24 hours on a deployed aircraft carrier. Als, in 2016 Dr. Samuel received the President's Volunteer Service Award from the Obama Administration. In 2017 The Citizen Science Lab received the PSAYDEN after school champion award and the Iota Phi Foundation's Excellence in Education Award. Dr. Samuel has also been selected as an inaugural member of the Lead Now Pittsburgh cohort created by Leadership Pittsburgh and just recently, in 2020, received the Carnegie Science Center's Leadership in STEM education award.

SSP TECHNICAL PROGRAM

Andrea Gambotto, MD, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
"Developing Vaccines for Emerging Infectious Diseases"



During the past decade several noteworthy viruses have emerged to become serious global health threats. SARS Coronavirus (SARS-CoV), MERS Coronavirus (MERS-CoV), and the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), are the causative agents of the SARS, MERS, and COVID-19 disease outbreaks, respectively. The impact of viral infections leading to a global pandemic can be devastating, both socially and financially. With each new threat comes the need for rapid vaccine development. Safe vaccines that rapidly induce potent and long-lasting virus-specific immune responses against these infectious agents are urgently needed. While classic approaches to vaccine development are still amenable to emerging viruses, the application of molecular techniques in virology has profoundly influenced our understanding of virus biology, and vaccination methods based on replicating, attenuated and non-replicating virus vector approaches have become useful vaccine platforms. I

will discuss the methods utilized in my laboratory for development of vaccines against these viral threats.

BIOGRAPHY

Andrea Gambotto, M.D is an Associate Professor of Department of Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Dr. Gambotto received his M.D from Bari University School of Medicine, Italy. He completed his studies at the University of Pittsburgh. He carried out a post-doctoral fellowship at the Department of Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry, University of Pittsburgh. He was awarded with the High Honor in Medicine Cum Laude by University of Bari School of Medicine (1994) and with the Telethon Fellowship, Gene Therapy of Hereditary Disease (1998).

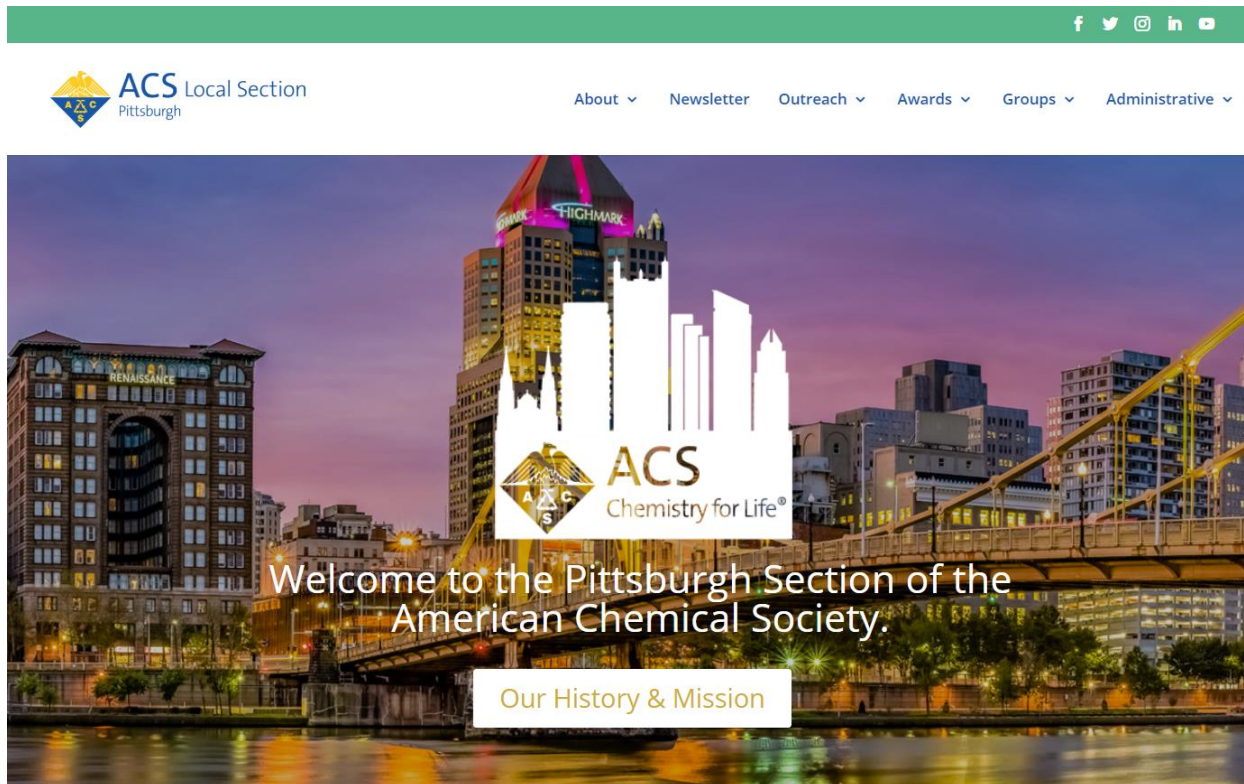
He is author of more than 90 high indexed publications, reviews, invited papers and book chapters. He is involved in several research activities, acting as principal investigator on National Institutes of Health grants. His research interests include vaccine development to novel target viruses including SARS-CoV-2, Ebola, Zika, MERS and genetic engineering approaches for cancer immunotherapies. He was lecturer at many international conferences and seminars. He has served on numerous NIH-NIAID study sections and is Member of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute as well as of the Institutional Biosafety Committee.

To register or find out more information, please visit your society's website below:

<http://sacp.org/meeting/>

<http://www.ssp-pgh.org/meeting/>

New Year, New Website Design

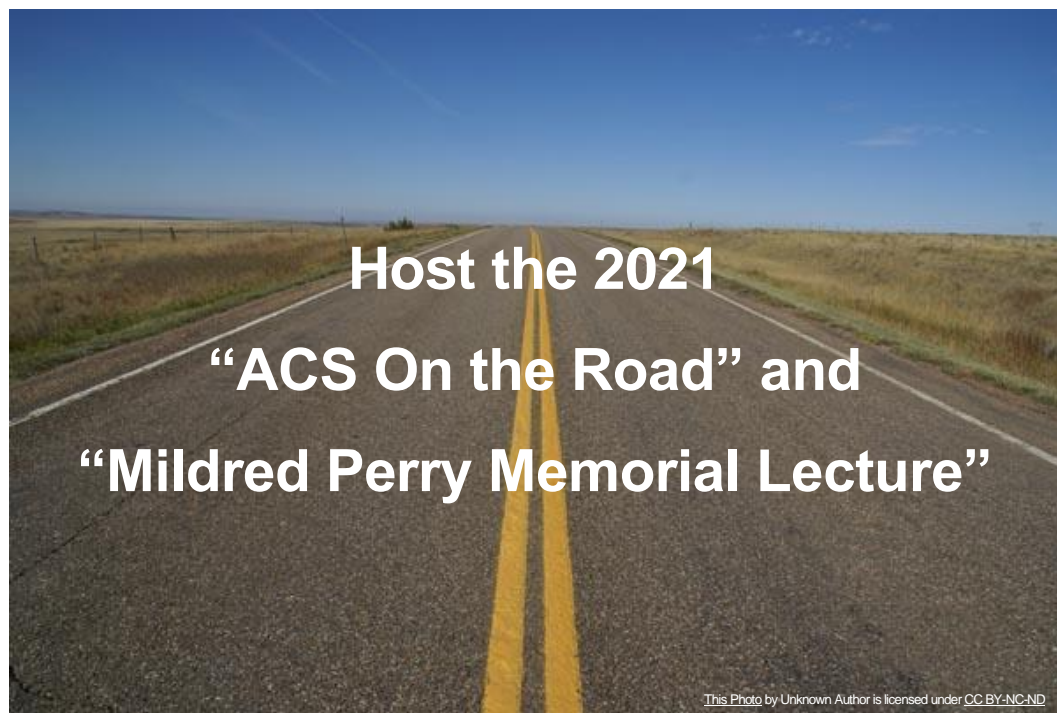


The 2020 downtime of COVID-19 has allowed our section to revamp its website! Thank you to Nicholas Smerker for his beautiful re-design effort! If you see anything that needs added or edited, please reach out to Heather Juzwa at hjuzwa@shimadzu.com.

Check out the rest of the website at www.pittsburghacs.org!



ACS Local Section
Pittsburgh



Each year the Pittsburgh local section features an "On the Road" event, which has the "Mildred E. Perry" memorial lecture. This is a great opportunity to local section chemists to visit your site or campus. The organizers choose the speaker and program details. Past organizers would be happy to share our experience and websites if the host location is interested. This event was hosted by Saint Francis University in 2019 and featured Dr. Megan Matthews from the University of Pennsylvania. If your institution is located in the Pittsburgh Local Section and you would like to host the 2021 ACS "On the Road" event please contact ACS Chair, Kevin Noonan (noonan@andrew.cmu.edu).

American Chemical Society

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International Year of
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American Chemical Society Pittsburgh Section

www.pittsburghacs.org

Dear Academic ACS Pittsburgh Section Members,

The Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society has budgeted funds to help encourage undergraduate/graduate student participation in national and regional ACS meetings. The awards are intended to help defray meeting registration and travel-related expenses (lodging, transportation, per diem) for eligible students. Awards will be made based on the scientific merit of the paper/poster to be presented, financial need, and preference will be given to ACS members.

To apply for the funds, applicants should complete the attached application and return it by the relevant deadline. The deadlines for receipt of applications are as follows:

- **06/01 (for travel to be completed by 12/31)**
- **12/01 (for travel to be completed by 06/30)**

As noted on the application, students should include an abstract and confirmation (if received) of the paper/poster being accepted for the Meeting. In addition to the application form, applicants should include a recommendation letter from the PI of the project being presented and/or a recommendation letter from another and a personal statement as to the anticipated benefits of meeting attendance.

Applications can be made electronically (*preferred*) by emailing the application to Heather Juzwa (hljuzwa@shimadzu.com or heather_sapko@hotmail.com) or by mailing a hard-copy application (Pittsburgh Section ACS Travel Grants / Heather Juzwa / Center / 321 Winners Circle / Canonsburg, PA 15317).

Since 2013, the Pittsburgh Section of the ACS has awarded up to four \$500 grants each year to aid our undergraduate/graduate student members in presenting papers or posters at ACS Meetings. This is an ongoing program in our Section, and details will be updated on our website (www.pittsburghACS.org) as necessary.

Applicants will be notified via email that their application was received. All efforts will be made to announce awards within two weeks of the application deadline, and all applicants will be notified of the final committee decisions. Our Section is looking forward to helping increase the participation of local students in ACS conferences. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Heather Juzwa, ACS Pittsburgh Section Student Travel Grants, Chair
Senior Field Sales Engineer, Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Inc



American Chemical Society
Pittsburgh Section

www.pittsburghacs.org

Application Deadline	Travel Completion Date
December 1	June 30 (subsequent year)
June 1	December 31 (same year)

Name of Applicant: _____

Name of Institution: _____

_____ Undergraduate Student / Year

_____ Graduate Student / Year

Mailing Address to Receive Payment if Awarded:

Email: _____ Phone: _____

PI: _____

ACS Membership No.*: _____

**If you do not know your ACS number, please email hljuzwa@shimadzu.com to receive it by email.*

Meeting Location: _____ Meeting Date: _____

Project Title: _____

_____ Paper Presentation _____ Poster Presentation

**Please attach a copy of your project abstract to the application.*

Has your project been accepted? Yes No

**Attach documentation regarding acceptance if received at point of application.*

Will this be your first presentation at an ACS national or regional meeting? Yes No

If no, please list conferences at which you have presented: _____

Purpose of grant: _____

Other funding sources (if any): _____

Personal Statement of anticipated benefits of meeting attendance: _____

Has the applicant received a travel grant from the ACS Pittsburgh Section in the past? Yes No

If your application was selected, the Pittsburgh Section of the ACS would like you to write a short (one page) description of your activity upon completion of the conference for publication in our monthly newsletter, The Crucible, and on our website. The description is due within 30 days of the meeting attended. Photos are welcomed and encouraged.

I am willing to complete this report: Yes No

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Send completed hard-copy applications and supporting documentation to:

Pittsburgh Section ACS Travel Grants

Heather Juzwa, 321 Winners Circle, Canonsburg, PA 15317

Electronic copies of completed applications should be sent to hljuzwa@shimadzu.com and heather_sapko@hotmail.com. Be sure to place "Pittsburgh Section ACS Travel Grants" in the subject line.

2021 Pittsburgh Section Officers

Chair

Kevin Noonan
noonan@andrew.cmu.edu

Secretary

Sara Smith
90 Emerson Ln
Bridgeville, PA 15017
sara.smith@perkinelmer.com

Treasurer

Evonne Baldauff
51 W. College St.
Waynesburg, PA 15370
724-852-7617
ebaldauff@waynesburg.edu

Volunteers Needed!

There are a number of volunteer opportunities in the Pittsburgh ACS Section! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Heather Juzwa at hjuzwa@shimadzu.com!

The Crucible Deadline

The deadline for items submitted to The Crucible is the 20th of the month prior to publication. For example, all items for the February 2021 issue must be to the editor by January 20th, 2021.

The Crucible

The Crucible is published monthly, August through May. All statements and opinions expressed herein are those of the editors or contributors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Pittsburgh Section.

Design Editor: Alysia Mandato, crucible@pittsburghacs.org



Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh

Professional Networking
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Community

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Prominent Researchers

Promoting Science Education

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Ext. 200



Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh

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Full Page	\$120	\$115	\$100	\$75
Half Page	\$75	\$70	\$60	\$45
3.5" x 2"	\$50	\$45	\$25	\$20

ACS Member-Get-a-Member

Recruit a new member to the American Chemical Society and receive a free 2021 Periodic Table of the Elements blanket!

See [here](#) for more information

ACS Regional Awards – Apply Today!

More information can be found [here](#)