



American Chemical Society - Pittsburgh Section  
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## **Congratulations to Pittsburgh Section Member Shanti Swarup – National ACS Tess Award Winner**

Congratulations to ACS Pittsburgh Section Member and Associate Fellow at PPG, Shanti Swarup. He is the winner of the 2021 Roy W. Tess Award in Coatings, sponsored by the ACS Division of Polymeric Materials: Science and Engineering. The award honors contributions to coatings science, engineering, and technology. Swarup is being honored for developing unique polymers used in commercial coatings. He will receive a plaque and a \$3,000 cash prize. Congratulations, Shanti!

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## **2021 Project SEED Virtual Summer Camp – Volunteers Needed!**

The 2021 Project SEED Virtual Summer Camp (June 21 to July 30) will immerse 450 high school students from across the country in STEM and chemistry-related research with a focus on lab preparedness, exposure to chemistry careers, and college readiness.

*Volunteers are needed to make this year's camp possible, and training will be provided! Choose one (or more) opportunities that interest you:*

- **Camp Manager:** Oversee 20-30 campers and host weekly meetings. Assist cabin leaders. Total time commitment ~ 66 hrs.
- **Mentor:** Work closely with 6-10 students. Share research, teach students how to read/analyze publications, tour the lab, and build relationships. Total time commitment ~ 6 to 18 hrs.
- **Speaker:** Present topics such as research, professional development, college readiness, or careers in chemistry. Total time commitment up to 3 hrs.

Apply at: <http://bit.ly/VSCVolunteerPortal>. **DEADLINE is April 30, 2021.**

For more information, email [projectseed@acs.org](mailto:projectseed@acs.org), or click on this link: [SEED Virtual Program-Volunteers](#).



## 2021 CCEW Illustrated Poem Contest Reducing Our Footprint with Chemistry

The **Pittsburgh Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS)** is hosting an illustrated poem contest for students in Kindergarten through 12th grade. Entries must be sponsored by a local school or community group for verification purposes. This regional contest is open to students who live in the following Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia counties: **Ohio:** Jefferson; **Pennsylvania:** Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Clarion, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Somerset, Venango, Washington, & Westmorland; **West Virginia:** Brooke, Hancock, & Ohio

**Contest Deadline: April 25, 2021 at 11:59 PM Eastern**

**Local Prizes:** \$50 1st Place in each of 4 grade categories: K-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th and 9th-12<sup>th</sup>

**Local Contact:** Michael Mautino, [CCEW@pittsburghacs.org](mailto:CCEW@pittsburghacs.org) (Please use this e-mail address for questions only, please do not submit entries to it.)

**Submission: Submit entries online at [bit.ly/CCEWpoems](http://bit.ly/CCEWpoems)**

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

Write and illustrate a poem using the CCEW theme, "Reducing Our Footprint with Chemistry." Your poem must be **no more** than 40 words and in the following styles to be considered:

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

**Possible topics related to the CCEW 2021 theme include:**

Life cycles	Clean air and water	Environmental footprints
Reduce	Reuse	Recycle



**Entries will be judged based upon:**

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

**Contest rules:**

- All poems must be no more than 40 words, and in one of the following styles to be considered: Haiku, Limerick, Ode, ABC poem, Free verse, End rhyme, and Blank verse.
- Entries are judged based upon relevance to and incorporation of the yearly theme (Reducing Our Footprint with Chemistry), word choice and imagery, colorful artwork, adherence to poem style, originality and creativity, and overall presentation.
- All entries must be original works without aid from others. Physical drawings may be scanned or captured via camera and submitted to the online form. Illustrations may be created using crayons, watercolors, other types of paint, colored pencils, or markers.
- The illustration may also be electronically created by using a digital painting and drawing app on a computer, tablet, or mobile device. If the illustration is created using a digital painting or drawing app, the name of the program must be included on the entry form.
- The text of the poem should be easy to read and may be typed before the hand-drawn or digital illustration is added, or the poem may be written on lined paper, which is cut out and pasted onto the unlined paper with the illustration.
- No clipart or unoriginal images can be used.
- Only one entry per student will be accepted.
- Students must be sponsored by a school or another sponsoring group (e.g. Homeschool Association, Boys and Girls Club, Scout Troop, 4-H, etc.).
- All illustrated poems and/or digital representations of the poems become the property of the American Chemical Society.
- Acceptance of prizes constitutes consent to use winners' names, likenesses, and entries for editorial, advertising, and publicity purposes.



# Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh



## April Virtual Meeting/Former Chair Night

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

*Business Meeting – 6:45 pm*

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

### SACP TECHNICAL PROGRAM

Thor Stein, MD, PhD, Boston University

“American Football and the Development of Neurodegenerative Disease”



Repetitive head impacts that occur in contact sports such as American football, boxing, and hockey have been associated with the development of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). In addition to CTE, we have found that repetitive head impacts are associated with the development of multiple pathologies, including those of Alzheimer disease and Parkinson’s disease. CTE is defined by the pathological accumulation of the protein tau within neurons at the depths of sulci and around blood vessels. However, it is common for multiple other pathologies to be present and altered in contact sports athletes with CTE. Here I will review the development of pathology in the brain and discuss recent data on associations with duration of play of American football and other contact sports with CTE, Alzheimer disease, and Parkinson’s disease pathologies.

### BIOGRAPHY

Thor Stein is Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Associate Director of the Neuropathology Core of the BU Alzheimer’s Disease Center as well as staff neuropathologist at the VA Boston Healthcare System (VABHS). He completed his MD/PhD training at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health at Madison and his residency and fellowship training in neuropathology at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Stein’s research interests involve the study of neurodegenerative diseases, including chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), Alzheimer disease (AD), and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). He studies the role of trauma in the development and acceleration of multiple types of neurodegenerative disease. He has published extensively on the development and modeling of age- and trauma-related neuropathology, including the most comprehensive studies to date on beta-amyloid deposition, cerebral amyloid angiopathy, and Lewy body disease following repetitive mild traumatic brain injury. He uses sophisticated statistical modeling to examine the effect of head injury exposure on beta-amyloid, Lewy body, and tau deposition in the brain as well as the role of modifiers such as age and common genetic polymorphisms.

Dr. Stein is the Principle Investigator on numerous grants, including a VA Merit Award on the role of traumatic brain injury in the development of AD and CTE as well as multiple NIH R01s focused on determining the link between epigenetic modifications, lipidomic profiles, and pathological changes in the brain as they relate to cognitive decline. He is Project PI of a NIH U54 grant aimed at determining the role of repetitive head impacts in the development of multiple neurodegenerative pathologies.

Dr. Stein is the Associate Director of the Neuropathology Core for Boston University Alzheimer's Disease and CTE Center. He is also a neuropathologist for numerous regional and national brain banks, including the Boston University Alzheimer Disease and CTE Center, Framingham Heart Study, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) National ALS Biorepository, as well as the National Veterans Administration ALS, Gulf War Veterans Illnesses, and PTSD biorepositories. He has won multiple awards, including the American Association of Neuropathologists Moore Award, Asao Hirano Award, and the Spivak Neuroscience Award. He is a member of American Association of Neuropathologists and College of American Pathologists. He is an editorial board member of Scientific Reports and the Journal of Neuropathology and Experimental Neurology. Dr. Stein has been invited for multiple lectures and special meetings to present his work, including the Erlanger Neurology conference (2015), National Association of State Head Injury Administrators annual meeting (2014), Annual Clinical Assembly of Osteopathic Surgeons (2014), Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire annual meeting (2015), 5th Venusberg Meeting on Neuroinflammation in Bonn, Germany (2017), American Academy of Neurology (2018-20), and Old Servants Symposium on "Head trauma in sports and risk for dementia" at Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden (2018).

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

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

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

### **Reminder on Call for Nominations for Pittcon 2022**

For complete requirements, guidelines and submission instructions for all of the awards, please visit [www.pittcon.org/call-for-nominations](http://www.pittcon.org/call-for-nominations).

#### **SSP Call for Nominations**

The Pittsburgh Spectroscopy Award is in recognition of an individual's outstanding contributions in the field of applied spectroscopy. Nomination deadline is April 29, 2021

The Ralph N. Adams Award in Bioanalytical Chemistry recognizes noteworthy contributions to the field of bioanalytical chemistry, broadly defined. The recipient will have introduced a significant technique, theory, instrument or application important to the life sciences and provided an exceptional environment to educate bioanalytical chemists. Nomination deadline is May 2, 2021.

#### **SACP Call for Nominations**

The Pittsburgh Analytical Chemistry Award honors an individual's impact to the field of analytical chemistry including the introduction of a substantial technique, theory or instrument or providing exceptional training or a fertile environment for progress in analytical chemistry. Nomination deadline is April 29, 2021.

The Pittsburgh Conference Achievement Award is a tribute to an individual for outstanding achievements in the fields of analytical chemistry and/or applied spectroscopy within 10 years after completion of his/her Ph.D. work. To be eligible for the award, nominees must have completed their Ph.D. no earlier than March 1, 2006. Nomination deadline is April 20, 2021.



WWW.PGHWCC.ORG



WWW.PGHWCC.ORG/PITT

Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM EST

# CAREERS IN CHEMISTRY SYMPOSIUM

*Are you curious as to what a degree in chemistry can lead to in terms of a career? Join us as our panel explores their backgrounds, what their careers entail, and advice for those who have not entered the workforce just yet.*

*Our panel consists of those who have received a chemistry degree(s) and have pursued careers outside of academia. Q&A time will be available at the end of the symposium. This event is free and open to all genders from any institution.*

To register, please fill out the required information on the form here:  
<https://forms.gle/MLqBCq4hA9HvVZFm9>

You will receive the necessary information to login the morning of the event.

## Interview with The Greater Pittsburgh Area Women Chemists Committee's Student Affiliates Group

*WCC Student Affiliates: Ariana Park, Ebru Lider, and Rotem Benharush*

*Interviewer: Alysia Mandato*

*Interview was conducted via Zoom on Monday, February 15, 2021 at 1 PM*

*Zoom Interview can be found at [pittsburghacs.org](http://pittsburghacs.org)*

*Transcript was edited for clarity*

**Alysia:** Hi everyone. I'm Alysia Mandato, and I am the editor of *The Crucible*, the monthly newsletter for the ACS Pittsburgh Section. Today I have this wonderful group of ladies with me from Pitt who are starting the first Women Chemists Committee (WCC) Student Affiliates Section of ACS. Welcome everyone and thank you so much for being here. We'll get started by having everyone introduce themselves.

**Ariana:** Hi, I'm Ariana. I am a junior chemistry major. After college I am planning on going into forensic science, and I am the president of the WCC.

**Ebru:** Hi, I'm Ebru. I'm also a junior chemistry major at Pitt, and I'm also doing a computer science minor. My post-undergrad plans are to go to grad school or do a PhD related to something with physical chemistry.

**Rotem:** I'm Rotem. I'm also a junior chemistry major, and I'm doing the materials science track within the chemistry major. I'm the operations officer for WCC. I am thinking about grad school, but maybe industry. I don't yet know.



Ariana Park



Ebru Lider



Rotem Benharush

### What made each of you interested in chemistry?

**Ariana:** In my first chemistry class in high school, I thought it was really interesting, and it made a lot of sense to me. I thought it was really enjoyable. And then, I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do when I got to college, but I knew I liked chemistry and I was good at chemistry, so I just kind of stuck with that until I found something to do with it.

**Ebru:** I feel like for me, chemistry is a nice healthy mix of the two more extreme sciences. I think of science as kind of like a spectrum, with the extremes being biology and math. In biology, you are mainly

remembering concepts so you can apply them to your experiments, and physics is math and theory and not as much wet-lab work. Chemistry is a nice healthy blend of that - you can get the best of both worlds - so that's how I reasoned my major.

**Rotem:** The reason that I was attracted to chemistry is mainly because in high school, I had really great chemistry teachers. Every time I came to class, I wanted to do my chemistry work and homework, which is really, really weird to want to do your homework, but I was wanting to do it! I was really interested in what we were learning, and I wanted to keep doing it in college, too.

### **What made you all want to start this WCC student affiliates group?**

**Ariana:** I think it was the fact that there are a lot of women-centered groups on campus. There's "Women in Healthcare", "Women in Business", "Women in Physics", but there is nothing like that for chemistry. The only thing we really have is the ACS Student Affiliates group, which is good, but we wanted to have a place where women could come and talk about the different things that we face as compared to the men in chemistry. So that was where this came from, just wanting a group where we can talk about what we face in chemistry and how to make sure that we keep staying in chemistry because it's very credit heavy - stuff like that and promoting the wellbeing of everyone in the club.

### **What are some long-term goals that you see the student affiliates group having? Do you have any events or programs in the works for this new group?**

**Rotem:** Yeah, so what we are working on right now is having some sort of chemistry career fair where we have speakers that are mostly in industry come and talk about what their everyday life is like, what their schooling was like, and how they got to where they are today within industry. We want to show students that they do not necessarily need to go to grad school and that it's not the only option for chemistry majors. We are going to have them come virtually and speak to students and have that as a resource for people to come and see their options for post-undergrad. We're going to plan this event sometime this semester. We're hoping that maybe over the summer to reach out to the community, maybe with Girl Scouts, to do some sort of chemistry programming with them. Obviously, that's all dependent on the world and where we're at, but that's what we're focusing on right now.

### **Since this is the first WCC student affiliates group, do you plan on reaching out to other colleges to encourage them to make their own groups and make this a national presence?**

**Ebru:** Because we're the first one, we are planning on stemming off the Greater Pittsburgh WCC. One of the great things about Pittsburgh is there are so many colleges within a five-mile radius, like Chatham, Carlow, Duquesne, CCAC, and CMU. I think it will be easy for us to reach other colleges. Because we're in such close proximity, we all probably have a couple friends or colleagues, especially chem majors working in labs. For example, I worked in a joint lab with Pitt and CMU. It will be easy to reach out to these colleges. A good way to do this is by email and asking if they have any women clubs in chemistry and would be



willing to stem off the Greater Pittsburgh WCC and build that network of women undergraduate and graduate chemists.

**So, let's get into some fun, yet maybe depressing stuff. Do we have any interesting facts we'd like to share about women in STEM?**

**Rotem:** There are gender biases in academia. Some examples include women are held to a higher standard for the same positions without an increase in pay in the workplace, there are more familial pressures on women, and women are often pushed to more secretarial positions in the workplace or given the office mother type jobs, even though there is absolutely no reason for that to happen. I think the worst of all of these is shown by a study. Women in STEM that are women of color, specifically African American women, who are obviously very accomplished and highly educated, are mistaken for custodial staff instead of workers in their fields ([reference](#))

In looking at our professors and the proportion of men and women in different levels of academia, you see who teaches the higher-level chemistry classes, and you see how many women are teaching and leading research labs. You see the proportion of people who are given these jobs, and you see it's not equal – it's not even close to equal in terms of gender. This is very blatant as to who are given the jobs and why they're given their jobs. It's not that they're not educated and that they don't deserve their jobs based on their education, but when you see how few women are given these positions, it's kind of terrifying.

**Ebru:** Something that I've noticed in my personal experience at Pitt is that we see a high proportion of the general chemistry professors at Pitt are female professors, but when you get to the upper-level classes, they're mainly taught by white cis men. That is also present in research groups. Out of the graduate advisors you can choose, there are five women and 30+ male advisors ([Pitt faculty page](#)). I think that goes to show that we don't really have a lot of role models in the positions that you can achieve if you want to go to grad school. We just don't see women in roles of power and roles that show that they are educated. Something that I'd like to experience is having a woman teach me upper-level chemistry instead of a man. What I've noticed from my female professors is they offer a diversity to the common PowerPoint lecture. I think that because they have all these experiences of being discriminated against in their field, they're very accommodating to a lot of things and understanding to different learning styles. Personally, I'd like to see that at Pitt.

**Alysia:** I know that the advisor of the WCC Student Affiliates is Dr. Michelle Ward, and she is very passionate about this and works very closely with the greater Pittsburgh WCC. I think she's a great role model to have at Pitt, but we don't see as many of those people in the Professor positions. We need more of these role models in those higher-level positions. Those are very good points.

**How do you think we can get more women involved in science and involved in chemistry?  
How do you think we can get younger girls interested in science and stay interested in science?**

**Ariana:** I think from what I've seen there are two big problems. One is just the stereotype that men are scientists and women are not. You see that stereotype in a lot of situations, as far as men are chefs and women are bakers. Men's work tends to be seen as 'it's a career', and women's work tends to be seen as 'it's a hobby', which is frustrating. I think one solution is increasing visibility of women that are already in STEM so that girls have someone to look up to and can see someone that looks like them, letting them know that they can do that, too. Another problem that happens a lot with women is just not being confident in themselves. I've seen research (it was done in physics classes) on women who get As in classes have the same self-belief as men who get Cs ([reference](#)). Women just don't believe in themselves as much, so when they face challenges or don't understand something, I think it's a lot easier for women to feel like they're not cut out for science. This obviously isn't true, so I think another thing we have to work on is finding ways to make women more confident in themselves and understand that they have the capabilities to work in science and to do science.

**Alysia:** Just to add to that, last week was International Women in Science Day. I went to a panel and one of the facts that they showed was that at the age of fifteen, girls become uninterested in science ([reference](#)). It has a lot to do with that confidence that you were just talking about. Finding ways to encourage girls to stay in science is a real challenge, and I think there are a lot of ways to do it, but I think impacting a whole population is a bit tough so little steps are what we can do.

**Let's get to a little bit of a brighter topic and our last question for the interview. Does anyone have a favorite woman in STEM or in chemistry or any sort of role model that you look up to?**

**Ebru:** I like to change up my role models for women in science. In a lot of STEM classes, they tell you, 'Look at all these women from the 1800s! They did this great work! Look at Rosalind Franklin, she did X-ray diffraction for the DNA molecule, or look at Ada Lovelace who had discoveries in math and computers, or look at Marie Curie with her discoveries in nuclear chemistry.' People always use old examples. I really wish we didn't do that anymore because it gives this feeling that women role models are outdated. Like there was this huge scientific break 200 years ago, and we've just fallen off the face of the planet. So, I like to change up my role models. Currently, I really am interested in this one scientist, Dr. Burçin Mutlu-Pakdil, and she discovered a whole new galaxy ([reference](#)). This galaxy is a double-ringed elliptical galaxy. Can we just talk about that?! That's a whole new type of galaxy, but no – we're still talking about all these really old scientists. We should talk about them, but I think that since science is changing ever so often and ever so much, we should talk about all these new discoveries that are happening. It's not that hard to incorporate into syllabi or classes.

**Rotem:** So right now, I am working in Dr. Jenny Laaser's lab, and I am working with Julisa, a grad student who works in the Laaser lab, and she is really wonderful. Every time I go in, she teaches me so much, and she inspires me every day. She encourages me to learn about things, and I'm always so glad that I come in and that even though I'm spending four hours standing and measuring all of these polymers, it's always a really fun time. She is my current chemistry role model.

**Alysia:** Thank you so much for being here with me and talking about women in chemistry and for starting this WCC Student Affiliates Group. I'm really excited to see where it goes.

Four ACS Pittsburgh Section Councilors participated in the Virtual Meeting

## Actions of the Council

### Election Results

#### **Candidates for President-Elect, 2022**

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following nominees for selection as candidates for President-Elect, 2022: Gerard Baillely, Anne M. Gaffney, Judith C. Giordan, and John C. Warner. By electronic ballot, the Council selected **Judith C. Giordan** and **John C. Warner** as **candidates for 2022 President-Elect**. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.

#### **Candidates for Directors-at-Large**

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following **candidates for Directors-at-Large** for 2022-2024 terms: **Rodney M. Bennett, Arlene Garrison, Natalie A. LaFranzo, and Lee H. Latimer**. The election of two Directors-at-Large from among these four candidates and any selected via petition will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be distributed to all Councilors around October 1, 2021.

### Other Council Actions

#### **Committee on Committees Petition**

- The Council approved the *Petition to Harmonize Committee Structures, Processes, and Terms*, as amended.
  - This petition places all committees in one category called “Society Committees” – eliminating the several different types of committees.
  - The years of service and the number of committee members on each Society Committee would now be consistent and would match the present terms of the Elected Committees: three-year terms with a two-term maximum for committee members.
  - Certain (6) Society Committees will no longer have the “Councilor only” designation, allowing an individual to join and continue service on a committee regardless of their status as a Councilor.
  - The Committee on Committees amended the petition prior to bringing it to Council, in response to several committees’ concerns, to include the **bolded** phrase:  
The terms for a member of a Society Committee shall be three calendar years. A member of a Society Committee shall be eligible to serve two successive three-year terms on the same committee, **however, that service could be extended if the appointing officer(s) determines that there is a compelling need for ongoing expertise on the committee.**
  - The Petition will become effective immediately upon approval by the Board of Directors, however, existing committee assignments will start a transition to the term limits on January 1, 2022.

## Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

### Committee on Local Section Activities Petition

- The Council approved the *Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on Local Section Activities*.
  - This petition provides the Committee on Local Section Activities with the authority to support Local Sections by taking action on their behalf, including appointing an interim executive committee and/or facilitating a Local Section's election when there is a lapse in the local section's leadership.

### 2022 Schedule of Membership

- The Council approved the 2022 Schedule of Membership, upon recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs:
  - The Schedule reduces the base dues rate to \$160 per year
  - It establishes various dues categories and benefits packages based upon career stages, role in the chemical enterprise, and desired level of interaction by the Member with the Society.

### Updates to the ACS Strategic Plan

- The ACS Board of Directors approved extensive changes to the ACS Strategic Plan last December.
  - Equity was added to our Core Values, which now include on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect.
  - Our Vision and Mission statements were modified to make clear that these statements include all people.
  - A fifth Strategic Goal: 'To Embrace and to Advance Inclusion in Chemistry', was added to make clear that Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect was our commitment at the same level as our long-standing four strategic goals.

### Continuation of Committees

- The Council approved the recommendation of the Committee on Committees that the Committee on Ethics be continued.

### Committee on Divisional Activities Distribution Formula

- The Council approved the Distribution Formula for Division Allocations upon the recommendation of the Committee on Divisional Activities.
  - ACS Standing Rules state that 9% of the ACS Member Dues Pool be allocated to the technical divisions.
  - The new allocation formula is transparent, immediately implementable, reduces the year-to-year variation in the distribution amount and will work in all current national meeting formats.
  - The new formula increases the base allotment and the per division member allotment portion of the pool to be distributed among the 32 Divisions.
  - The portion of the pool devoted to Innovative Project and Strategic Planning Grants will increase from 10 to 15%. The intent is to support division strategic planning, expand the scope of innovative projects grants, and fund shortfalls due to the capping of year-to-year losses.

## Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

- A 7.5% cap on the year-to-year distribution gain/loss by a division is intended to increase stability and give divisions a chance to adjust to the new formula.
- This formula is considered transitional and will be reviewed by the Committee on Divisional Activities yearly.

### Resolutions

- The Council passed the following resolutions:
  - in Memory of Deceased Councilors;
  - to Members of the American Chemical Society Recognizing the COVID Pandemic.

### Highlights from Committee Reports

#### **Budget and Finance**

In 2020, ACS generated a net from operations of \$61 million, which was almost \$20 million higher than the budget. Total revenues were \$618.4 million, increasing 3.9% or \$23.1 million over 2019. Expenses for the year were \$557.4 million, virtually even with the prior year and almost 5 percent below budget. This result was attributable to strong revenue performance from the Society's Information Services units (i.e., CAS and ACS Publications) and a combination of COVID-19 related impacts on, and careful management of, expenses across the ACS.

The Society's 2020 Net from Operations totaled \$130.5 million and included Information Services and Investments. The Society's financial position strengthened considerably in 2020, with Unrestricted Net Assets, or reserves, increasing by 35 percent to \$553 million at December 31. The increase was primarily the result of the \$61 million net from operations, and growth of the Society's investments totaling \$66 million.

#### **Nominations and Elections**

The Committee on Nominations and Elections solicits Councilors' input regarding qualified individuals for President-Elect and/or Directors for future consideration. Suggestions may be sent to [nomelect@acs.org](mailto:nomelect@acs.org).

#### **Meetings & Expositions**

The Spring 2021 Meeting will be held virtually, with the live portion from April 5-16, followed by 2-weeks of on-demand access. There will be 120 scientific sessions held live per day, with live Q&A to follow, and visibility of other attendees in the room. The price for registration has been significantly reduced to \$99 for ACS Members and \$29 for students. To date, 8,724 abstracts have been accepted.

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### **Actions of the Board of Directors - Executive Session**

The ACS Board of Directors met virtually in Executive Session on March 19 and March 26, 2021 and considered a number of key strategic issues and responded with numerous actions. The Board opened its session with a reflection on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect (DEIR), led by Dorothy Phillips.

#### **The Board's Committees**

The Board received and discussed reports from its committees on Executive Compensation and on Professional and Member Relations, the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications, the Highly

## Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

Effective Professionals Team, and the Task Force on Future Meetings. Some of these committees requested and obtained Board action on one or more items, as follows.

- The Board received an extensive briefing and approved several recommendations from its Committee on Executive Compensation. The compensation of the Society's executive staff continues to be reviewed regularly by the Board.
- On recommendations of the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications, the Board voted to approve the reappointments of Editors-in-Chief for several ACS journals. Those appointments will be announced in C&EN once the individuals have been notified and appropriate arrangements for their continued service have been made.
- On recommendations of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board approved a Society nominee for the 2022 Othmer Gold Medal, as well as the Committee's screened lists of five nominees each for the 2022 Priestley Medal and the 2022 Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS. The Board will select the recipients of these latter two awards from the screened lists provided.

### Confirmation of Council Actions

As proscribed in the Standing Rules, the Board confirmed the Council's approval of the Petition to Harmonize Committee Structures, Processes and Terms and the Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on Local Section Activities.

### Board-sponsored Keynote at ACS Spring 2021

On April 14, the Board will sponsor a keynote session on the "Future of Science in the U.S.: National Science Board's Vision 2030" at the ACS Spring 2021 virtual meeting. This will be a moderated session with speakers from the National Science Board, as they discuss the NSB report, "Vision 2030", and explore needed changes to ensure U.S. pre-eminence in science. More information will be posted soon on the ACS Meetings and Exposition [Keynote Events page](#)

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Respectfully Submitted,  
Richard S Danchik (Author)  
Kim Woznack  
Haitao Liu  
Ed Zovinka



## ACS 2020 National Award Recipients and Recognition – Virtual Ceremony

Come celebrate the 2020 ACS National Award recipients during the first virtual National Awards Ceremony on **Friday, April 9, 2021** at **8:30PM EDT** as we honor their accomplishments!

The 84th Awards Ceremony will recognize 75 recipients of 59 national awards and sponsor representatives. The 2020 Priestley Medalist, Dr. JoAnne Stubbe (Professor Emerita, MIT), will give the keynote presentation “*The Road Less Traveled -- for Love of Detection, Discovery and All things Radical in Nature.*”

Registration is free, but required to [join this event](#). For more information, contact [awards@acs.org](mailto:awards@acs.org). The ceremony will include closed captioning.

### Are you interesting in serving on an ACS National Committee?

Did you know that during the Spring 2021 ACS Council meeting, a petition passed which will remove the requirement of being an elected Councilor to serve on some ACS national committees. Now it the time of year to tell ACS if you are interested in serving as a volunteer on an ACS National Committee.

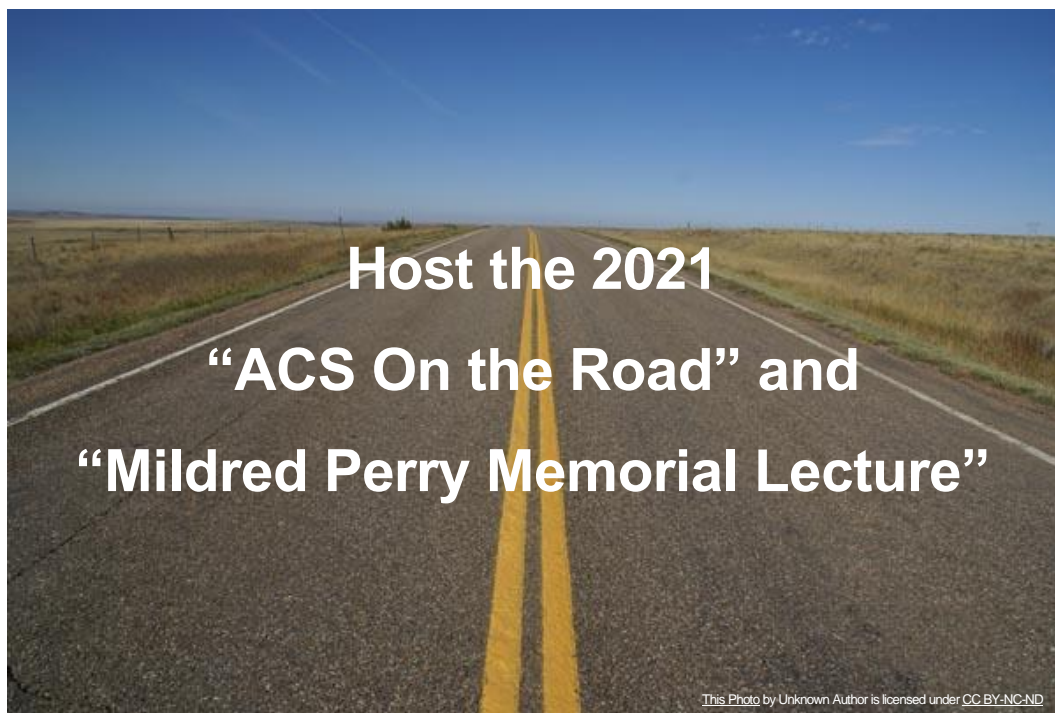
***If you have already served on an ACS committee or held an office in your local section***, the online committee preference form to select and inform our office of your committee interests is now open from April 1 through July 1, 2021, and is located at <https://www.yellowbook.acs.org>. The User Guide will walk you through the process. Also, included is the listing of each committee under Committee on Committee’s purview, with the exception of the Elected Committees (ConC, CPC & N&E).

***If you have not served on an ACS committee or held an elected office in your local section and/or division***, please contact [secretary@acs.org](mailto:secretary@acs.org) to request a Yellow Book database record be created for you. If you experience any issues or need assistance during this process, please contact the Office of the Secretary at (800-227-5558, ext. 4461).

***Or, if you would like to start by serving on a Local Section Committee***, please email us and let us know. We are always looking for more Pittsburgh Local Section members to become active in the Local Section business! Feel free to reach out to Dr. Kim Woznack (Councilor and Chair-elect) of the Pittsburgh Local Section ([woznack@calu.edu](mailto:woznack@calu.edu)).



**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](mailto:noonan@andrew.cmu.edu)).

**American Chemical Society**

1155 Sixteenth Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 T [123] 123 4567 F [123] 123 4567 [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org)

  
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ACS Local Section  
Pittsburgh

To advance the broader chemistry enterprise  
and its practitioners for the benefit of Pittsburgh  
region and its people.

## 2021 Virtual Meeting Registration Grant Program Application

### ***Conference Funding to attend virtual ACS meetings (local and national)***

Undergraduates, graduates, and post-doctoral researchers are invited to apply for conference funding to attend upcoming virtual ACS meetings for the 2021 year. We anticipate up to 30 grants can be awarded and we are looking to support our local members. The goal of the funding is to defray the cost of registration for regional and national ACS meetings to enable more students to make presentations and learn about the broader field of study to which they belong. Please complete an application and submit to Kevin Noonan ([noonan@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:noonan@andrew.cmu.edu)) and Heather Juzwa ([hjuzwa@shimadzu.com](mailto:hjuzwa@shimadzu.com)) via email. Applications will be accepted on a rolling cycle and considered throughout the entire 2021 year until all the funds have been disbursed.

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 [hjuzwa@shimadzu.com](mailto:hjuzwa@shimadzu.com) to receive it by email.*

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ACS Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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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 meeting? Yes No

Other funding sources (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

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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 at least one photo of your meeting experience.

I am willing to submit at least one photo of my meeting experience: Yes No

In under 1000 words, please write a personal paragraph or justification for why the Travel Grant Committee should fund your registration?



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2021 Pittsburgh Section Officers

### Chair

Kevin Noonan  
[noonan@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:noonan@andrew.cmu.edu)

### Secretary

Sara Smith  
90 Emerson Ln  
Bridgeville, PA 15017  
[sara.smith@perkinelmer.com](mailto:sara.smith@perkinelmer.com)

### Treasurer

Evonne Baldauff  
51 W. College St.  
Waynesburg, PA 15370  
724-852-7617  
[ebaldauf@waynesburg.edu](mailto:ebaldauf@waynesburg.edu)

## Volunteers Needed!

We recently updated our website and are looking for someone to help with maintenance! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Heather Juzwa at [hjuzwa@shimadzu.com](mailto:hjuzwa@shimadzu.com)!

## The Crucible Deadline

The deadline for items submitted to The Crucible is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication. For example, all items for the May 2021 issue must be to the editor by April 25<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:crucible@pittsburghacs.org)



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	1X	3X	6X	10X
Full Page	\$120	\$115	\$100	\$75
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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](#)