

Pittsburgh ACS Fall 2023 Elections

Candidate Biographies

Chair-Elect

Samuel Leung

Samuel (Sam) Leung is the current secretary of the Pittsburgh ACS Local Section and a heterogeneous catalyst scientist at Braskem America in Pittsburgh, where he leads projects on developing new catalysts and processes for the sustainable conversion of waste plastics. Born in Elkhart, Indiana, he received his B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Notre Dame (2015) and his Ph.D. in the same field from UC Berkeley (2021) under the direction of Dr. Enrique Iglesia. While at UC Berkeley, he received the Chevron Research Fellowship and awards for teaching. He has 10 years of experience in catalyst development, with an emphasis on mechanistic studies and reaction-diffusion systems. Sam is an enthusiastic supporter of STEM outreach and education, having participated in several programs at local schools during his time at Berkeley. In his free time, Sam enjoys rock climbing, photography, tennis, and dance.

Secretary-Elect

Ronghong Lin

Dr. Ronghong Lin is a senior R&D chemist working in the R&D department of Calgon Carbon Corporation in Pittsburgh, PA, responsible for new product development, activated carbon characterization and modeling, and technical support. Dr. Lin received his PhD degree in Chemical Engineering from Syracuse University in 2011. He was a postdoctoral research associate at Syracuse University from 2011 to 2014 and an ORISE postdoctoral fellow at DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) from 2015 to 2018. He later worked as a staff scientist and the thermal area lead at Arconic and as an R&D director at Anactisis, LLC, before joining Calgon Carbon. His current and previous research work includes activated carbon characterization and modeling, adsorption and gas separation, fluid properties modeling, rare earth element separation and recovery, and energy and fuels. He has published one book chapter and more than twenty peer-reviewed journal articles and has delivered numerous presentations at national and international technical conferences. He is a peer reviewer for many prestigious journals. Dr. Lin has been an ACS member since 2012 and currently serves as a director of the ACS Pittsburgh Local Section and chair of the Local Section's environmental group. In addition, he is a member of the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP) and the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh (SSP), and he serves as chair-elect of SACP's K-12 Administration Committee and SSP's Continuing Education Committee.

Councilor

Haitao Liu

Dr. Haitao Liu earned his B.S. from the University of Science and Technology of China in 2001 and completed his Ph.D. at UC Berkeley in 2007. After that, he conducted postdoctoral research at Columbia

University. In 2010, he joined the University of Pittsburgh, where he is currently a Full Professor and Chair of the Chemistry Department. His research mainly focuses on DNA-based nanofabrication and graphitic carbon surface chemistry. Within the ACS Pittsburgh local section, Dr. Liu has held various roles, including secretary, alternative councilor, and councilor. In addition to representing the local section at national ACS meetings, he has organized career-advising event for students and young chemists in the Pittsburgh area and plans to continue this effort in future years.

Director

Heather Juzwa

Heather Juzwa graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2000 with an Honors Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. While at Pitt, she was Secretary of the American Chemical Society (ACS) Student Affiliates. Encouraged by University of Pittsburgh advisors, she attended the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy (Pittcon) in her senior year. It was at her first Pittcon that she was offered a position in analytical instrumentation sales, and has been working in the field ever since. As of October 2006, Heather has worked as a Senior Field Sales Engineer at Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Inc. She has been recognized with at least one performance award each year of her career and has always placed among the top 10 performers. Her most notable awards include multiple years in the Platinum Club and President's Club and top Analytical Sales Engineer in 2021. Heather joined a group of extraordinary people—including university Presidents--when she received the Prestigious 2017-18 Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Department of Chemistry Alumni Award from the University of Pittsburgh. In 2019, she received the prestigious President's Award, the highest recognition bestowed on a Shimadzu employee.

Heather is most proud of her extensive volunteerism. She served as Chair of the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society in 2011. Heather's Chairmanship paved the way for the section receive a ChemLuminary for Outstanding Large Local Section for 2012. Heather also served as Chair of the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh in 2013-2014. In 2021, she became only the fourth person and first woman in history to chair all three major scientific societies in Pittsburgh when she was elected Chair of the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh. For many years, she has happily served on and chaired over a dozen committees of various scientific organizations on local, regional and national levels. Heather also chaired and led her team to win an American Chemical Society ChemLuminary Award for the best regional meeting for CERM 2014 in Pittsburgh. She received both the Pittsburgh Local Section ACS Distinguished Service Award in 2014 and the 2015 E. Ann Nalley Regional Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society for the entire Central Region. She won the 2018 Greater Pittsburgh Women Chemists Committee Award for Career Excellence in the Chemical Sciences. Most recently, she was chosen to serve as President of the very conference where she secured her first job, Pittcon. Heather will be president of the 75th Pittcon in 2025 in Boston, MA.

Kevin Noonan

Kevin Noonan is currently an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) and has been there since 2011. He is originally from Canada, and received his BS degree from Dalhousie University in 2003 and PhD from the University of British Columbia in 2008. He was a postdoctoral fellow with Geoff Coates at Cornell University until 2011 when he joined CMU. He has been active with ACS Pittsburgh since 2019 when he served as the chair-elect, and was chair in 2020. He has served as an alternate counselor for the last year and is currently looking to expand his role in the local group by running for the director position. He has been in charge of administering the national Chemistry Olympiad program in the local area for the last 4 years. He has enjoyed all the opportunities to connect with the local community and is looking forward to continuing that in the future.