

Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society Volume CXI, No. 10 May 2025

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Letter from the Chair

Engage and inspire members to unite the diverse chemistry community and share knowledge to benefit our region and its people.

https://pittsburghacs.org/

Dear Pittsburgh Local Section,

Hello to everyone and happy May! I hope everyone is doing well as we get towards warmer weather.

This month, I was away on personal travel, so this letter might shorter than usual! Even in my absence, we had a lot going on, so I would like to thank the entire executive committee for continuing their hard work in my absence, especially our chair-elect, Dr. Ronghong Lin.

The first item I want to mention this month is a correction to last month's letter. I had mentioned last month that we did not have new territories added to our local section. However, we learned recently the ACS Council took action at the Spring 2025 ACS meeting to dissolve the Penn-Ohio Border Local Section at the end of this year. As a result, a couple counties from that section were recommended to join our section. I am happy and proud to welcome these members to our community. As this process continues, I will keep everyone updated on the latest news.

Second, our section recently sponsored two awards at the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair, which took place in early April. Several members of the executive committee (including myself) attended and judged the event, selecting two outstanding senior division students to receive awards for their work in chemistry, which we hope to feature in an upcoming issue of the Crucible.

Next, I want to mention that we are holding our annual joint awards dinner with SACP and SSP this month. This dinner is a chance to recognize outstanding individuals (such as our award-winners at PRSEF) and groups (such as ACS student chapters) in our local area. Please join me in congratulating all our winners! (And I hope many of you also signed up to attend, from the flyer that was sent out recently!).

Finally, I would like to announce that the YCC will be hosting a kickoff event, a trivia night at Velum Fermentation, in the coming weeks. Please be on the lookout for a flyer with more details!

As always, I welcome any comments or feedback you may have for me or the committee. You can reach me via email at **sleung@berkeley.edu**.

Warm regards, Sam



BREWERY TOUR AND TRIVIA

with the Pittsburgh Section Younger Chemists Committee

SUN, MAY 18, 2025

Velum Fermentation 2120 Jane St. Pittsburgh, PA 15203

3:00 PM Brewery Tour **4:00 PM** Trivia Event
\$5 fee, refundable if you or a trivia
teammate is an ACS member!

RSVP: https://forms.gle/bVrS1YxSoYKkE8oV9

The Pittsburgh Section of the Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) advocates for and provides resources to early-career chemists and professionals in the chemical sciences and related fields.



Environmental Lecture Series XVI

Thursday, May 15, 2025
11:45 am - 2:00 pm
Training Room B (4th Floor)
Calgon Carbon Corporation
3000 GSK Dr., Moon Township, PA 15108

In-Person:

11:45 am - 12:00 pm Check-in 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm Lunch 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Lecture 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm Lab Tour

MS Teams Meeting: Meeting ID: 498 838 162 271 Passcode: bx2NS7FR



Domestic Wastes and Byproducts: A Resource for Critical Material Supply Chains



Evan J. Granite, Ph.D.

Program Manager

US Department of Energy



Scan the QR code
Or click <u>Here</u>
to Register





Environmental Lecture XVI

May 15, 2025

Domestic Wastes and Byproducts: A Resource for Critical Material Supply Chains

Evan J. Granite

Abstract

Modern societies generate extraordinary varieties and quantities of wastes and byproducts. By applying principles of circularity and waste minimization, we can take something that would be an environmental hazard and turn it into a resource. A few such wastes that could serve as feedstocks for recovery of metals are coal ash, acid mine drainage, waste coal, petroleum coke, mine and smelter wastes, asbestos tailings, red mud, produced waters, municipal solid wastes, municipal sewage sludge, e-wastes, garnet waste abrasives, produced waters, drill cuttings, and phosphogypsum waste.

The possibility of recovering valuable metals from these abundant wastes is being investigated by the US Department of Energy (DOE). However, to be of greatest value, and to help ensure the materials are used and not discarded, the mineral resources in these feedstocks need to be abundant enough to warrant investing in recovery and reclamation efforts. Energy metals and materials of interest include aluminum, cobalt, copper, dysprosium, electrical steel, fluorine, gallium, iridium, lithium, magnesium, natural graphite, neodymium, nickel, platinum, praseodymium, silicon, silicon carbide, and terbium. A quick exploration of several potential waste feedstocks suggests that the available rare earth element and critical mineral content is ample enough to justify exploration and development activities on a large scale.

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Biography:

Evan Granite is the Program Manager for Carbon Ore Processing (Carbon Products from Waste Coal) and Senior Technical Advisor at DOE Headquarters. Evan was an Adjunct Professor of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh; initiated, developed, and led the Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory Research and Innovation Center (NETL R&IC) research program on Rare Earth and Critical Metals Detection and Recovery; developed and led the new NETL R&IC effort on Emissions Control as Technical Portfolio Lead; and was a Research Chemical Engineer and Group Leader at NETL. Evan did postdoctoral research at the Department of Energy, received a PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Rochester, and BS and MS degrees in Chemical Engineering from The Cooper Union. Evan's research has focused on mercury and carbon dioxide removal from flue and fuel gases; carbon products from coal; and and recovery of rare earth and critical elements from abundant wastes and by-products. His research interests are in separation technologies; pollution clean-up; catalysis and surface chemistry; photochemistry; electrochemistry; energy/utility systems; capture, storage, and utilization of carbon dioxide; and recovery of trace and minor elements from wastes and coal-derived streams; processing of coal, natural gas, and petroleum; and carbon products from coal.

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American Chemical Society

ACS Spring 2025 Meeting San Diego, California March 23 – 27, 2025

15,332 registrations (14,251 in-person and 1,081 online)

Summary of the Actions of the Council

Candidates for President-Elect, 2026 Results: The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) presented the following nominees to Council for selection as candidates for President-Elect, 2026: Christina Bodurow, Dawn Mason, Sheila Murphy, and John Warner. By electronic ballot, the Council selected Christina Bodurow and Dawn Mason as candidates for 2026 President-Elect. These two candidates will join any additional candidates selected via petitions to stand for election in the fall 2025 national election.

President-Elect 2026^a

Nominee	1 st Round	2 nd Round	3 rd Round
Christina Bodurow*	166	175	222
Dawn Mason*	121	128	170
Sheila Murphy	29	-	-
John Warner	105	115	-

³421 valid electronic ballots were cast, with 211 being the majority. The results of the first preference vote totals are shown in the 1st round column. No nominee attained a majority. Following the procedures approved by Council, the lowest vote-getter, Sheila Murphy, was dropped and her second-preference votes were distributed in the subsequent round. Those marked with an asterisk (*) were declared elected as candidates.

The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the results of the election held prior to the Council meeting to select candidates from the list of nominees for **Directors from District II** (includes the **Pittsburgh LS)**, and **District IV** to serve on the Board of Directors for the term 2026-2028. The Councilors from these Districts selected <u>Kimberly Agnew-Heard and Mary Engelman as District II candidates</u> and Lisa Houston and Milagros (Milly) Delgado as District IV candidates.

The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following candidates for <u>Director-at-Large</u> for the 2026-2028 term: Anna Cavinato, Donna Friedman, Malika Jeffries-EL, and Will Lynch. 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 the Council in the fall.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees (ConC), Council voted [Yes 405 (99.26%) / No 3 (0.74%)] to continue the Committee on Chemical Technical Professionals and, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors, the Committees on Budget & Finance, Education, International Activities, and Patents and Related Matters. Council voted [Yes 403 (99.26%) / No 3 (0.74%)] to amend the duties of the Committee on Patents and Related Matters (CPRM) and change its name to the Committee on Intellectual Property (CIP), subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. This change reflects the committee's mission and vision statements, which refer to "intellectual property" generally rather than elevating patents above other forms of intellectual property.

ConC announced the opening of the **committee preference form to all ACS members** began on March 3 and will run through July 3. Councilors & Members interested in serving on an ACS Committee in 2026 should go to CMTE.acs.org to complete their preferences.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E), and with the concurrence of the CPC, Council voted [Yes 374 (95.90%) / No 16 (4.10%)] in favor of increasing the number of Councilors on N&E to 19, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. These additional committee members will support the increased workload from the addition of six Zone Councilor slates to N&E's duties.

On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities (IAC), Council voted to approve the **creation of new International Chemical Sciences Chapters in Ghana** [Yes 383 (96.96%) / No 12 (3.04%)], **Ecuador** [Yes 389 (97.98%) / No 8 (2.02%)], and **Northeast China** [Yes 357 (89.70%) / No 41 (10.30%)], subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC), Council voted [Yes 372 (97.13%) / No 11 (2.87%)] to **dissolve the Penn/Ohio Border Local Section**. This takes effect on January 1, 2026, and members are being contacted about joining neighboring sections. We will see if the Pittsburgh LS gains any new members.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs (MAC), Council voted [Yes 359 (95.48%) / No 17 (4.52%)] to approve the 2026 Schedule of Dues and Benefits, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors, keeping the Premium membership at \$160 and Standard at \$80 per year.

The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) reported the certification of 21 unit bylaws since the fall 2024 meeting. The Pittsburgh LS has not yet forwarded our new bylaws for approval.

The Committee on Education (SOCED) reported on their continued efforts to advance chemistry education for all. The ACS Policy Statement on Science Education is currently under revision and the revised ACS Guidelines and Recommendations for Teaching Middle and High School Chemistry will be available soon for the upcoming academic year.

Also, the Board adopted the resolutions in memory of ACS Past President The Council passed several resolutions: - In memory of deceased Past President Attila Pavlath - In memory of deceased Councilors - In sincere appreciation of the San Diego Section, host Local Section for the ACS Spring 2025 meeting, as well as the Divisional program chairs, symposium organizers, and ACS staff for the planning and execution of the meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward P. Zovinka (Author)

Kim Woznack

Richard S. Danchik

Kevin Noonan

Pittsburgh ACS 2025 Summer Member Engagement Picnic

SATURDAY, JULY 19

11 AM at Mohawk Shelter, Settlers Cabin Park

Join Pittsburgh ACS Members for food, fun, and activities!

Bring your family and friends for a variety of delicious food, fruits, and drinks. You will also enjoy member engaging games, trivia, and chances to win raffle prizes! Feel free to bring your favorite lawn games to share the fun with everyone.

RSVP by July 12 at pittsburghacs.org
Adults: \$10 | Students: \$5 | Children under 12: Free

Call for Nominations

Pittsburgh Award



The Pittsburgh Award was established in 1932 by the Pittsburgh Section of ACS to recognize outstanding leadership in chemical affairs in the local and larger professional community. This Award symbolizes the honor and appreciation accorded to those who have rendered distinguished service to the field of chemistry. The Award consists of a plaque presented annually at a section dinner. Members of the Pittsburgh Section, or in exceptional cases, nonmembers, who have done work worthy of increasing recognition toward chemical knowledge. promoting the chemical industry, benefiting humanity, or Pittsburgh Section, advancing the eligible for are consideration.

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award was established in 2007 by the Pittsburgh Section of the ACS to expand and replace the predecessor Chairman's Award of the section. Both recognize outstanding volunteer service to the Section. The Award, consisting of a plaque, is presented annually at a Section dinner, which is open to the public. Members of the Pittsburgh Section, past or present, who have provided outstanding service in advancing the Pittsburgh Section, are eligible for consideration.

Nominations for both awards are solicited from the membership of the Pittsburgh Section. Nomination packets and more information about the awards, including information on past winners, can be found on the Pittsburgh ACS website: https://pittsburghacs.org/awards/

Please send all nominations (or questions about nomination process) to Pittsburgh Section Chair-Elect, Dr. Ronghong Lin, at Dr.ronghong.lin@gmail.com, by August 15, 2025.

Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) Outreach Event

On Saturday, April 19, Pittsburgh ACS volunteers Alysia Mandato, Kaitlyn Jacoby, and David Hackney facilitated experiments with the public at Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy's Earth Month Celebration! In honor of the CCEW theme of Glaciers, they helped both kids and adults make their own slime, which moves slowly like a glacier. They also demonstrated the differences in density between different liquids and made elephant toothpaste! Huge thank you to our volunteers!









Upcoming Outreach Event: Friday, May 16 from 9 AM – 2:30 PM at the Carnegie Science Center

We will perform the same activities and experiments at the Science Center's SciTech Day.

They expect hundreds of students to attend!

If you are interested in volunteering, even if you cannot attend for the entire time, please email Alysia Mandato at alysiamandato@gmail.com.

Building Community and Careers: A Day of Mentorship, Growth, and Connection

The 2025 Spring Career Panel Luncheon & Workshop hosted by the ACS Pittsburgh Section Women Chemists Committee successfully brought together a diverse group of students, early-career chemists, and established professionals for a full day of career development, mentorship, and community engagement. The event fostered a collaborative environment where attendees participated in panels, discussions, and networking opportunities aimed at advancing their careers in the chemical sciences.

The program featured a lineup of outstanding speakers who generously shared their time, expertise, and personal career experiences. We are sincerely grateful to Jennifer Reeger, Dr. David Jaffer, Dr. Alice Deckert, Dr. Edward Zovinka, Dr. Sara Smith, Dr. Lauren Burrows, Dr. Tamika Madison, Dr. Zoe Vaughn, Dr. Holly Penefsky, Dr. Amalene Cooper-Morgan, and Dr. Li Li for their valuable contributions to the event. We also extend special thanks to ACS Women Chemist Committee Chair, Dr. Lorena Tribe, for delivering the welcome address and for her unwavering leadership throughout the planning process.

The success of the event was made possible through the collective efforts of the planning committee and all behind-the-scenes contributors. Their dedication ensured that the event ran smoothly and achieved its goals of supporting career exploration and fostering meaningful connections within the chemical community. We gratefully acknowledge our sponsors—the ACS Local Section Inclusion and Belonging Grant, ACS Pittsburgh Local Section, ACS Women Chemists Committee, and Seton Hill University—for their generous support.

Check out some photos from our event!











A Message from Former ACS Pittsburgh Section Chair, Brian R. Strohmeier, Ph.D.

The Pittsburgh Conference and Exhibition will return to Pittsburgh in 2027

It is my immense pleasure to announce to all members of the Pittsburgh Section ACS that the Pittsburgh Conference and Exposition (Pittcon) is coming home to Pittsburgh for the first time since 1967 on April 24-28, 2027 at The David L. Lawrence Convention Center (DLCC). This event marks the return of Pittcon to the city of its birth where scientific leaders from Pittsburgh industries and universities first came together to connect, cultivate, and collaborate.

Pittcon held its first conference and exposition at the William Penn Hotel in 1950, just two city blocks away from the DLCC. Pittcon was originally slated to take place in San Diego, CA in 2027 following a successful Pittcon 2024 event. However, an opportunity developed that allowed Pittcon to come back to Pittsburgh in 2027, as well as in 2030. Returning to Pittsburgh honors the Pittsburgh scientific community that created Pittcon and worked diligently over the past 75-plus years to make Pittcon one of the premier conferences and exhibitions in the world of Analytical Chemistry, Applied Spectroscopy, and Laboratory Science.

No matter what your discipline of chemistry or other scientific research, Pittcon 2027 will have something of interest to offer you with an expansive vendor exposition, short courses, workshop and networking sessions, and a rich technical program consisting of oral and poster presentations covering: Al, bioanalytical, data analytics, energy, environmental, forensics, instrumentation, life sciences, materials science, nanoscience, pharmaceutical, and professional development topics. I personally invite all Pittsburgh Section ACS members to join us in 2027 to help celebrate what will certainly be a monumental event for Pittsburgh and the greater scientific community. Please feel free to reach out to me with your comments and questions.

Brian R. Strohmeier, Ph.D. President – Pittcon 2027 ACS Member since 1978 strohmeier@pittcon.org



About Pittcon

Pittcon is a dynamic, multinational conference and exposition on laboratory science, a venue for presenting the latest advances in research and scientific instrumentation, and a platform for continuing education and science-enhancing opportunity. Our aim is to advance scientific endeavors through collaboration, bringing together a world of knowledge to impact, enrich, and inspire the future of science. Pittcon is a catalyst for the exchange of information, a showcase of the latest advances in laboratory science, and a venue for international connectivity. Over 90% of Pittcon's annual net revenue funds scientific grants, education, laboratory improvements, and outreach. See pittcon.org.



Future Scholars Program at Seton Hill University

Seton Hill University's Future Scholars Program (FSP) had its celebratory ceremony for the Spring 2025 semester on April 24, 2025. This program was developed in 2021 to inspire students in K-12 to consider careers in STEM. College students at Seton Hill go into local area schools and teach a lesson customized to the K-12 class curriculum.

Evidence-based practices have shown that peer teaching is incredibly effective, and the FSP makes use of this. When college students teach younger students, it facilitates these students to envision themselves

as STEM majors in college. The FSP uses student-designed lesson plans to increase student engagement, so the college students gain experience in creating a lesson plan that will add to the curriculum. The college students also gain recognition on their transcripts, as this is a 16-week course at Seton Hill University.





Some

examples of lessons this year include the teaching of genetics by comparing dominant and recessive traits across a classroom, physics by conducting experiments with parachutes and air resistance, and even CRISPR-Cas9 technology by simulating the mechanism of an endonuclease enzyme and guide RNA with paper models.

The Pittsburgh Local Section of the ACS partially sponsors this program each year. Many of the lessons and experiments performed at the K-12 schools revolve around chemistry, and our funding contributes to the purchase of

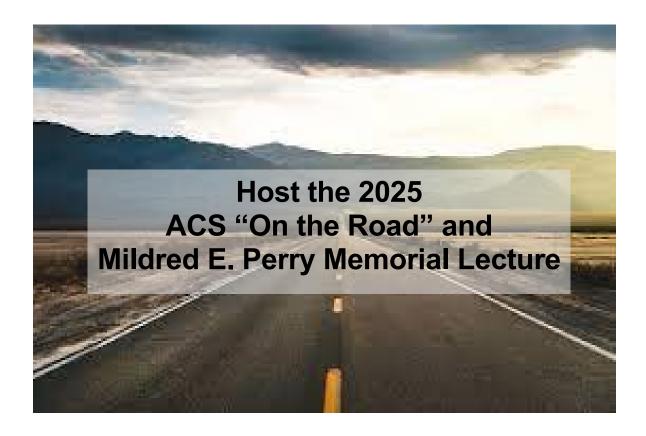
equipment and materials to conduct these lessons.

If you are a science leader in the Pittsburgh Local Section region and are interested in participating in the program, please contact Dr. Cooper-Morgan at acooper-morgan@setonhill.edu.

Huge thanks to Dr. Amalene Cooper-Morgan from the Pittsburgh ACS Local Section for her efforts in establishing this program and requesting support from ACS, along with the other faculty advisors, Dr. Donna Haworth-Ward and Dr. Sarah Joiner.

Submitted by Alysia Mandato

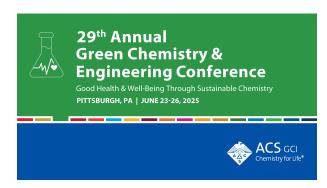




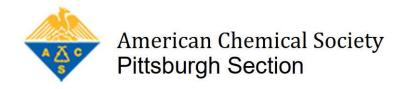
Each year, the Pittsburgh local section features an "On the Road" event, which has the Mildred E. Perry Memorial Lecture. This is a great opportunity for local section chemists to visit your site or campus. The organizers choose the speaker and program details. Past organizers would be happy to share our experiences and websites if the host location is interested. In 2024, this event was hosted by Saint Francis University and featured Dr. Karah Knope from Georgetown University. The event was hybrid, and we encourage both hybrid and in-person events. If your institution is located in the Pittsburgh Local Section and you would like to host the 2025 ACS "On the Road" event this fall, please contact ACS Chair, Samuel Leung (sleung@berkeley.edu).

We're excited to invite the Pittsburgh Local Section to attend and participate in the 29th Annual Green Chemistry and Engineering (GC&E) Conference from June 23-26, 2025, in Pittsburgh, PA. This year's conference theme is "Good Health and Well-Being Through Sustainable Chemistry," which is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #3. The program will highlight innovative research and cross-cutting topics in green and sustainable chemistry and engineering, with an emphasis on as medical breakthroughs, new technologies, and efforts to eliminate or reduce hazardous chemical pollution promoting longer and healthier lives.

The conference programming includes a specific schedule of events for students and postdocs, which we invite your local section members to attend and participate in. The student experience includes a student workshop, career & networking reception, poster competition, student reception, low-cost student housing, and more. Students are also invited to volunteer at the conference to receive free conference registration and housing. More details about volunteering can be found here.



Early registration for the conference opens on February 18th. If you have any questions about the conference and ways that the Pittsburgh Local Section can participate, please don't hesitate to reach out.



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 (<u>hljuzwa@shimadzu.com</u> or <u>heather sapko@hotmail.com</u>) 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

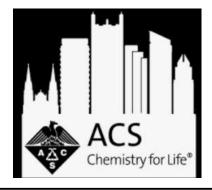


Application Deadline	Travel Completion Date
December 1	June 30 (subsequent year)
June 1	December 31 (same year)

лате от Applicant:
lame of Institution:
Undergraduate Student / Year
Graduate Student / Year
Nailing Address to Receive Payment if Awarded:
mail: Phone:
'l:
ACS Membership No.*:
If you do not know your ACS number, please email <u>hljuzwa@shimadzu.com</u> to receive it by email.
Meeting Location: Meeting Date:
Paper Presentation Poster Presentation
Please attach a copy of your project abstract to the application.
las your project been accepted? Yes No
Attach documentation regarding acceptance if received at point of application.
Vill this be your first presentation at an ACS national or regional meeting? Yes No
f no inlease 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 https://hitzburgh.nih.gov/hit



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.

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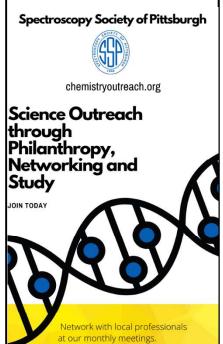
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The Crucible Deadline

The deadline for items submitted to The Crucible is the 15th of the month prior to publication. For example, all items for the March 2025 issue must be to the editor by February 15th, 2025.

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More information can be found here