



Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society
Volume CXII, No. 8
March 2026

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

March 1, 2026

Dear ACS Pittsburgh members and friends,

As we move into March, I'd like to connect this month's ACS150 theme — **Interdisciplinary** — with what we are building together as a local section. Chemistry has always been a “connector” science, and our Pittsburgh community is at its best when we bring together industry, academia, and education to share knowledge, collaborate across disciplines, and serve our region.

In early February, our Executive Committee held our annual kickoff meeting to launch the year's work, including budgeting, event planning, committee assignments, and other section business. We also welcomed several new leaders to fill 2026 vacancies and ensure continuity in section operations and representation. I'm grateful to everyone who stepped forward to serve, and I appreciate the time and effort our volunteers invest in supporting the local chemistry community.

I also had the opportunity to attend the 2026 ACS Leadership Institute in Atlanta alongside our Chair-Elect, Dr. Niharika Botcha. This long-standing local-section tradition helps bring back fresh ideas and best practices to event planning, member engagement, and community outreach.

This issue also carries sad news. We join the University of Pittsburgh and the broader chemistry community in mourning the passing of Professor **David H. Waldeck** on February 25, 2026. Professor Waldeck was not only a world-class scientist and educator, but also a dedicated ACS Pittsburgh leader—a former Section Chair (2017) and the 2013 Pittsburgh Award recipient. A memorial service is planned for September 4, 2026, at 10:00 am, with additional information to be provided closer to the date.

One way we are reaffirming our commitment to community and outreach is by creating two new annual awards recognizing individuals who strengthen chemistry in our region through education and service: **ACS Pittsburgh STEM Teacher of the Year** and **ACS Pittsburgh Volunteer of the Year**. We are currently accepting nominations for the 2025 award year, with a deadline of March 31, 2026.

American Chemical Society Pittsburgh Local Section

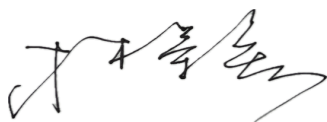
Engage and inspire members to unite the diverse chemistry community and share knowledge to benefit our region and its people.
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To enhance member connections, we are also launching “**Lunch with an Executive Committee Member**” — an informal monthly gathering open to members and the public. Our next lunch is April 10, 2026 (11:30–1:00 PM) at Plaza Azteca (Washington, PA) hosted by Heather Juzwa, with RSVP requested by March 31 (limited to 10 attendees).

Many of our members and friends will be attending the ACS Spring Meeting (March 22–26, 2026) in Atlanta, GA and PITTCON 2026 (March 7–11, 2026) in San Antonio, Texas. I wish everyone safe travels, productive conversations, and a wonderful time — enjoy the meetings and the chance to reconnect with colleagues from across the chemistry community.

Thank you for being part of ACS Pittsburgh. Whether you engage by nominating a deserving teacher or volunteer, joining a lunch event, mentoring a student, or volunteering behind the scenes — your involvement makes this section stronger and more connected. If you are interested in volunteering with the local section, please contact me at dr.ronghong.lin@gmail.com.

Warm regards,



Ronghong Lin, PhD
Chair, ACS Pittsburgh Local Section (2026)

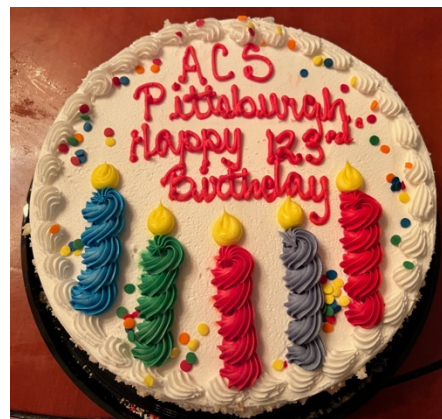


ACS Local Section
Pittsburgh

Building on 123 Years: ACS Pittsburgh Sets an Ambitious Agenda for 2026

By Ronghong Lin

On February 3, the ACS Pittsburgh Local Section Executive Committee held its 2026 Kickoff Meeting — a fitting way to begin the year on one of the most meaningful dates in our Section’s history. Founded in 1903, ACS Pittsburgh marked its 123rd birthday on Feb. 3, and the Kickoff Meeting offered both a celebration of that legacy and a focused working session to launch an energetic year ahead. The meeting was held at a Chinese restaurant in Squirrel Hill, with 15 members attending in person and 6 participating virtually, reflecting strong engagement and commitment across our leadership team. (Photo credit: Ronghong Lin)



The Kickoff Meeting centered on making sure the Section begins the year with clear governance, aligned priorities, and an executable plan. The Executive Committee approved the meeting agenda and prior minutes, confirmed leadership transitions where needed, and took several formal actions to support smooth operations for 2026.

A key outcome of the meeting was the approval of the 2026 budget and a broader review of our financial planning approach for the year. In addition, the committee approved an Investment Policy to strengthen long-term stewardship and transparency for the Section’s investable assets. The committee also approved an in-person meeting mileage reimbursement incentive program policy, intended to encourage face-to-face participation by reimbursing eligible members for round-trip mileage to monthly Executive Committee meetings.

To ensure continuity and readiness for the year’s work, the Executive Committee also acted on leadership needs and committee organization. The committee approved appointments of a new Director and two Alternate Councilors (all with terms running through December 31, 2026). We also reviewed committee assignments across the Section’s standing committees and groups to ensure coverage of essential functions — programming, outreach, communications, finance, awards, student support, professional development, and more.

The committee aligned around three Section-wide goals for 2026:

1. Expand our reach and strengthen member value
2. Celebrate ACS150 and the legacy of ACS Pittsburgh

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3. Deepen our support for students at every level

To advance those goals, members discussed and prioritized several initiatives to better serve our members and the broader Pittsburgh chemistry community. Highlights include the launch of new Section awards (including Volunteer and STEM Teacher recognitions), a “Lunch with an Executive Committee Member” series to connect members with Section leadership, and renewed engagement through the Senior Chemists Club. The committee also discussed enhancements to The Crucible, including continuing member spotlights and adding new features that highlight research, industry, and sponsors.

With ACS150 being celebrated in 2026, the committee expressed strong enthusiasm for delivering a memorable year through technical programming, professional development, outreach, community partnerships, and Section traditions. Please stay tuned for upcoming events.

Next Executive Committee meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 (6:00–7:00 pm) via Teams.



In the photo (clockwise from front left): Niharika Botcha, Haitao Liu, Eric Popczun, Ronghong Lin, Edward Zovinka, Fan Shi, Tabitha Riggo, Michael Mautino, Sunipa Goswami, Medha Gangopadhyay, Christina Farwick, Brian Strohmeier, Richard Danchik, Samuel Leung (Photo credit: Ronghong Lin)

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ACS Local Section
Pittsburgh

**ACS Pittsburgh Local Section
2026
Officers, Executive Committee Members,
and Chairs of Standing Committees**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Officers

Chair: Dr. Ronghong Lin

Chair-Elect: Dr. Niharika Botcha

Immediate Past Chair: Dr. Samuel Leung

Secretary: Dr. Kristin Nuzzio

Secretary-Elect: Hailee Vizyak

Treasurer: Dr. Amalene Cooper-Morgan

Treasurer-Elect: Dr. Amalene Cooper-Morgan

Directors (3 year term)

Heather Juzwa (2024-26) Dr. Kevin Noonan (2024-26) Dr. Evonne Baldauff (2025-27)

Dr. Eric Popczun* (2026) Michael Mautino (2026-28) Dr. Toby Chapman (2026-28)

Councilors (3 year term)

Dr. Haitao Liu (2024-26) Dr. Edward Zovinka (2025-27)

Dr. Kimberly Woznack (2026-28) Rich Danchik (2026-28)

Alternate Councilors (3 year term)

Dr. Brian Strohmeier (2026-28) Logan Miller* (2026) Tabitha Riggio* (2026)

* Member appointed by Chair and approved by the Executive Committee.

CHAIRS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Awards: Ronghong Lin, Niharika Botcha

ACS Affairs: Kimberly Woznack

Finance: Heather Juzwa

Nominations: Samuel Leung

Strategic Planning: Ronghong Lin, Kimberly Woznack

Communication: Samuel Leung

Membership: Ronghong Lin, Hailee Vizyak

Program: Niharika Botcha, Samuel Leung

Professional Relations: Haitao Liu

Travel Grant: Heather Juzwa

CERM 2028: Ronghong Lin, Edward Zovinka

Bylaws: Ronghong Lin

Outreach: Niharika Botcha

Senior Chemist Club (SCC): Brian Strohmeier

National Chemistry Week (NCW): Evonne Baldauff

Chemist Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW): Niharika Botcha

National Chemistry Olympiad (NCO): Kevin Noonan, Haitao Liu, Niharika Botcha

Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair (PRSEF): Samuel Leung

Public Relations: Ronghong Lin

Archives: Heather Juzwa

Awards Dinner: Niharika Botcha

Project Seed: Tabitha Riggio

Library Fund: Toby Chapman

On the Road: Edward Zovinka

History & Landmarks: Ronghong Lin

Women Chemists Committee (WCC): Medha Gangopadhyay

Younger Chemists Committee (YCC): Samuel Leung

Environmental: Ronghong Lin

Polymer: Vacant

Energy: Vacant



ACS Pittsburgh Local Section 2026 Executive Committee Appointments (Filling Vacancies)

In accordance with the ACS Pittsburgh Local Section By-Laws, the Section Chair nominated three members to fill 2026 vacancies on the Executive Committee: one Director and two Alternate Councilors. The Executive Committee approved these nominations on February 3rd, 2026 to ensure continuity of Section operations and representation. Per our By-Laws, all three positions will be open for election at the end of this year, and the elected individuals will serve the next term beginning in 2027.

Please join us in welcoming and thanking these volunteers for stepping forward to serve the Section.

Director (Appointed for 2026) – Dr. Eric Popczun

Eric Popczun is currently a research scientist at the U.S. Department of Energy stationed at the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) in Pittsburgh, PA. Prior to joining NETL, Popczun worked with Leidos as an NETL site-support contractor, the College of Wooster as a visiting assistant professor, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a post-doctoral associate. He received his Ph.D. from the Pennsylvania State University in 2015 under Raymond E. Schaak mentorship and B.S. from Mount Union College (now University of Mount Union) in 2010. His interests and research experience include gasification, air separations, heterogeneous catalysis, electrocatalyst development, and both traditional solid-state and nanocrystal synthesis. He has increased involvement with the ACS Pittsburgh Local Section recently by volunteering with National Chemistry Week activities but has also consistently assisted with the Western Pennsylvania Science Bowl competition hosted by NETL.

Alternate Councilor (Appointed for 2026) - Tabitha Riggio

Ms. Tabitha Riggio is a sincere, dedicated volunteer. Riggio graduated from Duquesne University with a B.S. in Chemistry, a German minor, and an MBA. She is a long-standing member of the American Chemical Society, former Treasurer, and current chair of Project SEED.

Riggio spent her career at Bayer Material Science split between Applications/ Development and Sales/Marketing. While there, she helped establish a program to bring hands-on science into classrooms (Bayer Association for Science in Community). After a hiatus to raise her children and care for her parents with dignity, she returned to the workforce at LB Foster. During her career break, Riggio worked as a Special Education Aide and volunteered extensively in her school district, for example, on the science curriculum cyclical review committee.

Since 2004, Riggio has been the Chair of Project SEED of the Pittsburgh Section of the ACS. Project SEED was founded by the ACS to provide educational opportunities to high-achieving, economically-disadvantaged high school students. Through this work, Riggio and colleagues created a flourishing program and provided laboratory experiences to more than 60 students. Those students were hosted at laboratories around the Pittsburgh region, including Duquesne University, Washington and Jefferson College, and Covestro. The program received two ChemLuminary Awards for Outstanding Project SEED Program in 2008 and 2010. Riggio has also been involved in the Pittsburgh ACS as the Treasurer in 2003 and as part of the National Chemistry Week coordinating team for many years.

Alternate Councilor (Appointed for 2026) - **Logan Miller**

Logan works for Shimadzu Scientific Instruments (SSI) as a Field Application Scientist Team Lead with their Research & Development group. He joined SSI in 2018 as the Mid-Atlantic territory's Mass Spectrometry Technical Support Scientist. During his time with Shimadzu, he has been involved in numerous LCMS projects in the environmental, pharma, and clinical toxicology markets. Most notably he has been involved in a long-term instrumentation and application development project for the new Nexera QX multiplexing LCMS product line. Through his work with the Nexera QX product he has achieved two patents related to the development of the product line's stream management/logic.

Prior to SSI, he focused his undergraduate research in the biochemistry field looking at apoptotic response of leukemia cells and attended graduate school where he focused his research on the development of quantitative speciated isotope dilution LCMS assays using various analytical techniques; QQQ/QTOF LCMS, and ICP-MS. During graduate school he led the daily operation of the school's LCMS core facility within the chemistry department. He has attended and presented numerous oral and poster presentations at *PittCon*, *American Society for Mass Spectrometry*, *National Environmental Monitoring Conference*, *AOAC*, *SOFT*, *AAPS*, and various other conferences. He currently serves as one of the technical experts at SSI for PFAS analysis using EPA and ASTM methodologies and is developing a new ASTM method for extractable PFAS in consumer products via ASTM F15 committee.

Outside of Shimadzu, Logan is involved with both the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP) and the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh (SSP) and has been a member since 2013. He has served as Chair for Mass Spec Discussion group and Treasurer for the SSP. Logan is also actively involved with PittCon, currently serving as a committee member for Chair for Attendee Experience for Pittcon 2026 in San Antonio, TX. He has held the role as one of the Directors for the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS). He has been an ACS member since 2009. Additional roles within the Pittsburgh ACS involve being chair of publicity/marketing committee and past secretary. At the national ACS level, he was a member of the Younger Chemists Committee and served as the subcommittee chair for the communications group. He constantly champions for the advancement of science education and outreach within the Pittsburgh region and across the United States through his volunteer efforts.

Thank you to our newly appointed leaders for their service—and to all members who volunteer their time to strengthen ACS Pittsburgh.

Questions or interest in future leadership roles? Please contact the Section Chair at dr.ronghong.lin@gmail.com.



Lunch with an Executive Committee Member

Network • Learn • Get involved

An informal monthly lunch with a member of the ACS Pittsburgh Local Section Executive Committee. Open to members and the public — learn about upcoming programs and ways to volunteer.

DATE

April 10, 2026

LOCATION

Plaza Azteca

TIME

11:30–1:00 PM

**1010 Trinity Circle,
Washington, PA 15301**

Limited to 10 attendees • First come, first served

HOST

Heather Juzwa

Director

- Connect with chemists
- Discover the Pittsburgh Local Section
- Ask questions
- Explore volunteer opportunities



Non Member: \$20; Member: \$15; Student: \$5

RSVP by March 31, 2026

<https://forms.gle/zdLhAwqreUymSMSG8>





In Memoriam:
David H. Waldeck
(1956–2026)



The ACS Pittsburgh Local Section joins the University of Pittsburgh and the broader chemistry community in mourning the passing of Professor David H. Waldeck on February 25th, 2026, while honoring a life of remarkable scientific creativity, principled leadership, and service to Pittsburgh's chemical enterprise.

Professor Waldeck spent his independent career at the University of Pittsburgh, where he rose to Distinguished Professor, served as Chair of the Department of Chemistry (2005–2014), and later became Academic Director of the Gertrude E. and John M. Petersen Institute of Nano-Science and Engineering. His research program — spanning spectroscopy, electrochemistry, and microscopy — helped define how many of us think about fundamental processes in condensed phases and nanoscale assemblies. The Pitt Chemistry profile highlights his group's sustained focus on chiral-induced spin selectivity (CISS) and its implications for charge transport through chiral molecules. In collaboration with Ron Naaman, Professor Waldeck co-discovered the CISS effect, revealing that chiral molecules can preferentially transmit electrons with a specific spin orientation — an insight that opened new directions across chemistry, physics, and biology. The explosion of activity around CISS in subsequent decades speaks to the characteristic Waldeck combination of careful experimentation and insistence on mechanistic understanding.

Professor Waldeck's influence extended well beyond the laboratory. He was a dedicated educator and mentor, and his colleagues frequently noted his ability to bridge experiment and theory in a way that elevated both. Reflecting on his motivation for doing science, he emphasized the pull of fundamentals: "My own personal major motivation is really more the basic science and really trying to understand it...."

For the ACS Pittsburgh community, Professor Waldeck was not only a world-class scientist — he was also a steadfast local-section leader and advocate. In 2013, the Pittsburgh Section honored him with the Pittsburgh Award, recognizing his outstanding leadership in chemical affairs and impact on the profession. In the same period, *The Crucible* profiled his career and accomplishments in connection with the award announcement, underscoring how closely his scholarly contributions and professional service were intertwined.

He later served on the Section's officer track as Chair-Elect in 2016. In 2017, he assumed the role of Section Chair and articulated both the value of the Section's programs and the challenges facing chemistry in public life. He wrote candidly about a "general rise in the public's skepticism of science," and urged members to donate time and expertise to outreach that strengthens public appreciation for chemistry.

Just as notably, Professor Waldeck pushed the Section to modernize how it connects with members. In his Chair message, he pointed to a declining percentage of members reading *The Crucible* and emphasized more active communication through the Section website and social media — inviting ideas on how the Section could better serve the community. He closed with a call that still feels like a motto for local-section work: "Let's volunteer for something new. Let's be innovative. Let's help to educate and excite others."

Across his roles — as a researcher, educator, department leader, and ACS Pittsburgh volunteer — Professor Waldeck modeled a rare blend of rigor and generosity. He helped build knowledge that reshaped multiple fields, and he strengthened the institutions and communities that sustain chemistry in our region.

A memorial service is planned for September 4th, 2026, at 10:00 am. Additional information will be provided closer to the date. The ACS Pittsburgh Local Section extends heartfelt condolences to Professor Waldeck's family, friends, students, and colleagues. His contributions will endure — in the science he advanced, the people he mentored, and the Pittsburgh community he served.





The Pittsburgh Local Section of the American Chemical Society

STEM Teacher of The Year

NOMINATION FORM

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

First Name:	Last Name:
Organization:	Position:
Mailing address:	
Phone:	Email:

Signature:

Date:

NOMINEE INFORMATION

First Name:	Last Name:
Organization:	Position:
Mailing address:	
Phone:	Email:
Summary of Contributions:	

ACS Member Highlights

About Me

My name is Scott Wudarski! I am a Course Instructor and Lab Manager at the Community College of Allegheny County.

ACS Membership

I have been an ACS member since 2013. I believe the greatest benefits of ACS membership are opportunities for networking, community events, journal access, conference registration discounts, and the ACS Exams Institute.

What made you fall in love with chemistry?

Predictive power and understanding helped me fall in love with chemistry! It has also given me an appreciation for what makes up our physical world. Plus cool colors and explosions!



What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of my job is transferring the knowledge and awe I feel for the natural world and its inner workings to students. Helping students succeed and nurturing their interest in science is also important!

Which chemist, past or present, would you like to meet?

I would like to meet Richard Moog! His innovations and contributions to POGIL and the POGIL organization have made an immeasurable impact on thousands of students as the leading chemistry pedagogy.



ACS Local Section
Pittsburgh

American Chemical Society

ACS Fall 2025 Meeting Washington, D.C.

Fall Council Meeting Wednesday August 20th

The ACS Fall 2025 meeting was held from August 17 – 21. As of August 19, there were 11,640 registrations (10,602 in-person and 1,038 online).

Summary of the Actions of the Council:

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Penny Beuning, Raychelle Burks, Jason Ritchie, and Frankie Wood-Black** for three-year terms (2026 – 2028) on the Council Policy Committee (CPC).
- By electronic ballot, the Council elected **William Carroll, Jr., Carmen Gauthier, Thomas Lane, Louise Lawter, and Lori Stepan** for three-year terms (2026 – 2028) on the Committee on Committees (ConC). Louise Lawter will begin serving immediately to fill a vacated seat.
- By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Kelly Elkins, Jennifer Hollingsworth, Alison Hyslop, Gregory Tew, Kathryn Uhrich, Don Warner, and Peter Zarras** for three-year terms (2026 – 2028) on the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E). After a tie vote and run-off election, **Ellene Tratras Contis** was elected to a two-year term (2026 – 2027) and **Jingbo Louise Liu** was elected to a one-year term (2026) to maintain rotation of terms as the committee expands its membership.
- On the recommendation of ConC, and with the concurrence of CPC, Council voted [Yes 343 (86.40%) / No 54 (13.60%)] to **approve the *Petition to Establish the Committee on the Advancement of LGBTQ+ Chemists (CALC)***, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. Members will be appointed to this committee with terms beginning in 2026.
- On the recommendation of ConC, and with the concurrence of CPC, Council voted [Yes 336 (83.58%) / No 66 (16.42%)] to **approve the *Petition to Realign the Committee on Publications***, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. This petition dissolves the committee; the work formerly performed by this committee will be handled by a new Journals Advisory Board reporting to the Governing Board of Publishing.
- On the recommendation of ConC, and with the concurrence of CPC, Council voted [Yes 393 (97.52%) / No 10 (2.48%)] to **approve the *Petition to Amend the Name and Duties of the Committee on Public Relations and Communications***, subject to the

concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. This petition changes the name from the Committee on Public Relations and Communications (CPRC) to the Committee on Communications (COMM).

- On the recommendation of ConC, and with the concurrence of CPC, Council voted [Yes 392 (97.76%) / No 9 (2.24%)] to **approve the *Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on International Activities***, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. This petition aligns the duties of the Committee on International Activities (IAC) with those of other committees responsible for Unit functions (such as the Committee on Local Section Activities).
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA), Council voted to **approve the Professional Employment Guidelines**, as amended [Yes 373 (93.02%) / No 28 (6.98%)], subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. CEPA presented an amendment clarifying the language associated with intellectual property ownership.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC), Council voted [Yes 389 (97.49%) / No 10 (2.51%)] to **approve the *Petition for Changes in Local Section Territory***. This petition adds territory not currently within the boundaries of a Local Section to adjacent Local Sections.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities (IAC), Council voted to **approve the creation of a new International Chemical Sciences Chapter in Guatemala** [Yes 383 (97.21%) / No 11 (2.79%)], subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors.
- The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) reported the certification of nine unit bylaws since the spring 2025 meeting. They include four Local Sections: Green Mountain, New York, Sacramento, and Southern Indiana; one Division: Rubber (RUBB); and four International Chemical Sciences Chapters: Ecuador, Ghana, Northeast China, and Shanghai.

Submitted by Pittsburgh Local Section Councilors:

Richard Danchik, Kimberly Woznack (author), Haitao Liu, and Edward Zovinka

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: AI, 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.



PRESIDENTIAL EVENT



JAMES KARLINSEY



KATE BIBERDORF



JASON SONNENBERG



COLLEEN KELLEY



HEIDI HENDRICKSON



JENNIFER HEEMSTRA



CELIA WILLIAMS



NATALIE FISHER



VANESSA ROSA



AMANCAY KUGLER

NARRATING KNOWLEDGE:
**REDEFINING CHEMISTRY
THROUGH INNOVATIVE MEDIA**

WCC Chair: Indu Kheterpal **Program Chair:** Danniebelle Haase

Organizers: Asia Marie Riel, Ryan Rafferty, Katelynn Perrault Uptmor, Lorena Tribe, and Linda Shimizu

Presiders: Linda Shimizu and Lorena Tribe

- 8:00 AM - 8:05 AM** **Introduction**
- 8:05 AM - 8:25 AM** **James Karlinsey**
Innovative pedagogy: The evolution of online chemistry
- 8:25 AM - 8:50 AM** **Jason Sonnenberg**
Chemistry through coding: Wolfram's pre-college education programs
- 8:50 AM - 9:10 AM** **Heidi Hendrickson**
Incorporating computation and programming across the chemistry curriculum: Engaging with communities of practice can help!
- 9:10 AM - 9:30 AM** **Celia Williams**
Science Saturday: A Model for accessible and engaging Chemistry education
- 9:30 AM - 9:50 AM** **Vanessa Rosa**
Molecular Dynamics through Interactive Game Engines
- 9:50 AM - 10:00 AM** **Break**
- 10:00 AM - 10:25 AM** **Kate Biberdorf**
ND STEM Studio: Where experiments meet the audience
- 10:25 AM - 10:50 AM** **Panel Discussion**
New Dimensions in Molecular Science Communication and Teaching
- 10:50 AM - 11:15 AM** **Colleen Kelley**
Panels, not paragraphs: Rethinking chemistry with graphic novels
- 11:15 AM - 11:40 AM** **Jennifer Heemstra**
Narrating the professional skills needed for success in science
- 11:40 AM - 12:00 PM** **Natalie Fisher and Amancay Kugler**
Science at the Circus: Improving sustainable textile research education with incorporation in Circus programming



WOMEN CHEMISTS COMMITTEE EVENTS SCHEDULE

WCC Chair: Indu Kheterpal

Program Chair: Danniebelle Haase

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

Presidential Event

Narrating Knowledge: Redefining Chemistry through Innovative Media Symposium

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Georgia World Congress Center: B5 - EXHIBIT HALL ChemPod 7

Cosponsored by ACS 2026 President, Rigoberto Hernandez; President-Elect, Christina Bodurow; and Immediate Past-President, Dorothy Phillips

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026

Women in the Chemical Enterprise Networking Breakfast (TICKETED)

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Omni at Centennial Park, Grand Ballroom E

Keynote Speaker: **Maxine Cain**

Founder & President of STEM

Atlanta Women, Inc.



WCC Rising Star Award Symposium

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Georgia World Congress Center, B5 - EXHIBIT HALL ChemPod 1

Women Chemists of Color Sweet Treats Event

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Omni at Centennial Park, Grand Ballroom A

Keynote Speaker: **Jean Tom**

ACS 2026 Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences Winner
“Role Models, Mentorship, and Community: Advancing Women in Chemical Sciences”



WCC/Pfizer Emergent Leader Award Symposium

2:00 PM – 5:50 PM

Georgia World Congress Center,
B5 – EXHIBIT HALL ChemPod 1



TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026

WCC/Lilly Emerging Talent Award Winners Poster Session

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Omni at Centennial Park, International
Prefunction Lobby 1



Women Chemists Committee Luncheon (TICKETED)

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Omni at Centennial Park,
International Ballroom EF

Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular
Engineering and the Ronald and
Valerie Sugar Dean of the UCLA
Samueli School of Engineering

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Ah-Hyung “Alissa” Park
ACS 2026 Francis P. Garvan-
John M. Olin Medal Winner

WCC Just Cocktails Reception-Open Meeting

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Omni at Centennial Park, International Ballroom F



All meeting times are noted in the Eastern Time Zone.
Please be sure to check the ACS Meeting Mobile App for the most updated information.
Send an email to WCC@acs.org for further information.



The Crucible

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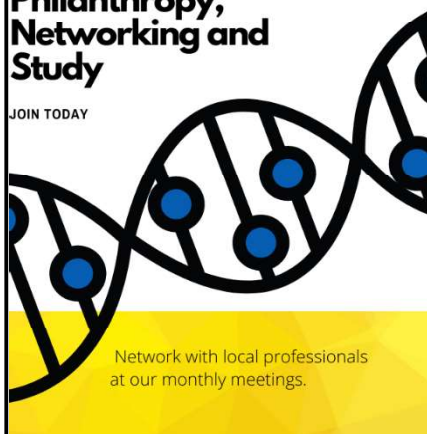
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The Crucible Deadline

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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