

SILICON VALLEY CHEMIST



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ACS Leadership Institute: A Perspective

By Karan Dikshit, PhD

My journey to the 2025 American Chemical Society Leadership Institute (LI) started with a flight that landed early Friday morning (Jan 31) in Houston, TX. I was welcomed to Houston by the sight of oil storage silos and fracking equipment as far as I could see. ACS could not have chosen a better place to host the annual ACS LI. The city of Houston is developed, largely due to the oil and gas industry. The sight of process chemistry at work primed me for what was to come as chemistry leaders from all over the US convened in one place to discuss ideas, issues, and solutions to the opportunities and problems ACS faces.

The ACS LI (Jan 31 – Feb 2, 2025) is an invitation-only annual event that brings together ACS leaders from the different sections and divisions to participate in four concurrent tracks - Division Leaders, Local Section Leaders, New National Committee Chairs, and Younger Chemists Leaders. As an alternate councilor for the Silicon Valley ACS local section, I attended the Local Section Leaders track.

My goals were to (i) network with other section leaders, (ii) learn from their lessons, (iii) understand how the different ACS committees aid the functioning of local sections and (iv) adopt the leadership techniques that ACS LI had to offer.



ACS Leadership Institute Welcome Kit

Continued on next page

ACS Webinars

How to Break Through to Reach Science Deniers

February 27, 2025

"Never in history has scientific information been so easily accessible to so many. While this promotes awareness & collaboration, it has also fueled a troubling rise in misinformation & disinformation, particularly among Americans. According to recent Pew Research Data the public's trust in science



has fallen, 57% say science has had a mostly positive effect on society, down from 73% in 2019. Furthermore, a third of adults (34%) now say the impact of science on society is equally positive and negative."

Register for Free

Thursday, February 27, 2025 11:00 AM Pacific

Continued on next page

ACS Leadership Institute, continued from front page



View from my flight, descending in Houston, TX: Large storage silos and petroleum extraction equipment.

The event kicked off at the registration desk where we were greeted with a goodie bag that contained an ACS LI scarf, a "passport" to introduce the ACS leadership and an invitation to initiate a conversation about the 150th anniversary of ACS in 2026. Following registration, there was a wonderful buffet lunch on Friday. Attendees were encouraged to take their plates and join a table to interact with other leaders. I met chairs and chairelects from many different sections spanning far and wide — Mississippi, Georgia, Michigan. These icebreaker conversations helped all 142 of us in attendance across 101 local sections feel like acquaintances and colleagues which made for very pleasant, respectful and insightful conversations over the weekend.

Friday afternoon kicked off activities with an orientation session giving an overview of the Local Sections track of ACS LI. The sessions and activities were well-curated and informative, centered around the goal of creating a sense of bonhomie among all attendees from many different geographies and walks of life.

As part of the local section leaders' track, we learned the basics of how to organize an event in local sections. The Indiana and Utah sections presented their work in successfully bringing the scientific community and society-at-large together. Interesting ideas on how book clubs and food trucks can bring people together were presented, which gave us something to think about. We, local section leaders, are always thinking about how we can bring newer programming to our sections and success stories like the Utah and Indiana sections provide examples for us to learn from and adopt for our own sections while adding some local flair to make it our own.

Welcome dinner on Friday evening gave me a chance to interact with interesting people who work in different federal organizations – NASA, FDA, Sandia Lab. I gained some insight into how the storyboards for ACS News are created. I even met a long-lost friend from undergrad who is now a Chair-Elect in Tennessee - an unanticipated pleasure of attending the LI.

The second day focused on specific sessions; I was assigned to the coaching and feedback section where we trained on how to coach mentees and colleagues. We got to practice our coaching skills in a group setting and received feedback on areas to improve upon. The other concurrent sessions were on topics such as Plan Effective Interactive Chemistry Experiences for the Public Workshop, The Science of Managing Inclusive and Diverse Teams, and Development of Communication Strategies.

The afternoon focused on learning about ACS committees and the big ACS rebrand next year. We heard CEO Al Horvath and President-Elect Rigoberto Hernandez share their vision of empowering our community of chemists, resilience in the face of uncertainty, and bringing more younger chemists into the fold. Following the insightful talks, local section leaders were given a platform to Share Their Story – an event where local section leaders presented the work they do. I was invited to present our section's

activity in our Paving the Path initiative. I shared how the event started, the challenges we faced, how we overcame them and the path forward. It generated a lot of interest; several leaders connected with me to follow up about it. The day concluded with a Resource Fair for different ACS committees.

An interesting activity occupied the last day – planning a hypothetical event for the local section, complete with funding sources. My group came up with an idea of a chemistry-themed book club over the summer where chemists and the local community-at-large could come together and engage in discussions over science. Various funding mechanisms were examined and we settled on an IPG grant. Many great ideas by other groups were shared. A significant portion of the groups suggested ideas along the lines of "Chemistry of ..." such as the chemistry of fire, fireworks, tea, and barbeque to engage more community members.



ACS local section leaders sharing ideas for section activity

I am grateful to the members of SVACS for giving me the opportunity to attend ACS LI and learn more about how the ACS functions. Interacting with the other leaders, it became evident that reduced engagement, dropping membership and limited youth signing up is a nationwide concern. I hope to implement my new learnings at SVACS and help our section thrive.

ACS Webinar, continued from front page

How to Break Through to Reach Science Deniers Thursday, February 27, 2025 11:00 AM Pacific

ACS Webinar Panel

Paul M. Sutter

Cosmologist, NASA Advisor, Author, and U.S. Cultural Ambassador

• Judith C. Giordan

Co-founder of the Chemical Angels Network, Managing Director of ecosVC, Inc., and ACS President 2023

Flint Lewis

Past ACS Secretary and General Counsel

Explore the nature of science denial. Learn strategies to bridge the widening gap between scientific consensus & public perception.

Register to be part of the science communication movement & improve public perception of science & scientists.

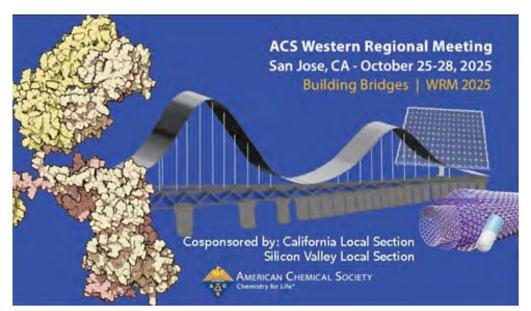
This ACS Webinar is co-produced with the ACS Committee on Public Relations and Communications.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

https://www.siliconvalleyacs.org/events/ All Times Given are Pacific Time Zone

	- February 2025 -	Feb 19	What Every Industrial Chemist Should Know: Ethics and Legal
Feb 6	Skydiving Into Retirement: ACS Virtual Office Hours Sponsored by ACS Virtual Career Services 9:00-10:30 am, Online, Free, <i>Registration required</i>		Considerations Sponsored by ACS Webinars, ACS Committee on Ethics, and ACS Division of Chemistry and the Law
Feb 6	Steeped in Science: The Chemistry Inside Your Perfect Cup of Tea Sponsored by ACS Webinars and ACS Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry 11:00 am-12:15 pm, Online, Free, <i>Registration required</i>	Feb 20	 11:00 am-Noon, Online, Free, Registration required Chemical Health and Safety Chat: Navigating Organic Solvent Use in Laboratories (2-Year College Community of Practice) Sponsored by ACS Division of Chemical Health and Safety (CHAS) 1:00-2:00 pm, Online, Free, Registration required
Feb 8	DNA-mineral interactions at the molecular level: implications for bacterial evolution and ecological inference Prof. Karina Krarup Sand, University of Copenhagen Sponsored by Women Chemists Committee, California ACS Section 10:30 am-Noon, Online, Free, Registration required Download flyer	Feb 24	A Structure-based Approach to Drugging RNA with Small Molecule Dr. Jennifer Petter, Arrakis Sponsored by Stanford Department of Chemistry 3:00-4:00 pm, Stanford University, 376 Lomita Drive, Sapp Center Auditorium 111, Learn more
Feb 9	RAMP in the Research Lab: A Chemistry Lab Safety Peer-Led Workshop Sponsored by the ACS Division of Chemical Health & Safety (CHAS) 11:00 am-2:30 pm, Online, \$25/participant, Registration required	Feb 27	How to Break Through to Reach Science Deniers Sponsored by ACS Webinars and ACS Public Relations & Communications Committee 11:00 am-12:15 pm, Online, Free, <i>Registration required</i>
Feb 10	Entropic Bonding in Colloidal Crystals Prof. Sharon Glotzer, University of Michigan Sponsored by Stanford Department of Chemistry 3:00-4:00 pm, Stanford University, 376 Lomita Drive, Sapp Center Auditorium 111, Learn more	Feb 27	Trash to Treasure: Upgrading Organic & Plastic Waste via Chemical and Biological Conversion plus Lab Tour at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) Sponsored by Chinese American Chemical Society - Northern California Chapter (CACS-NCC)
Feb 11	Accelerating Equity in Science: Networking Event of the Cal Local ACS Section & Partners Sponsored by California ACS Section and IUPAC 5:00-8:00 pm, Hybrid Event: Zoom and the Emeryville Public Market		Event includes social hour, dinner reception, seminar, and tour 5:30-8:30 pm, 5885 Hollis St, Suite 320, Emeryville, CA, Free, Registration required - March 2025 -
Feb 12	Free, Learn more and register CHIPS-funded Program for Advanced Metrology of Semiconductor Packaging Materials Stian Romberg, PhD, Materials Science and Engineering Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology Sponsored by Golden Gate Polymer Forum (GGPF)	Mar 3	The Days of Our Lives—Building a Molecular Approach to Study and Enhance Circadian Rhythms Prof. Carrie Partch, University of California, Santa Cruz Sponsored by Stanford Department of Chemistry 3:00-4:00 pm, Stanford University, 376 Lomita Drive, Sapp Center Auditorium 111, Learn more
Feb 13	6:00-7:00 pm, Online, \$0/\$5 donation, <i>Registration required by</i> 1:00 pm on Feb. 11th Plastics Circularity: Origins and New Developments in Recycling	Mar 3	Silicon Valley ACS Executive Committee Meeting Sponsored by the Silicon Valley ACS local section 7:30-9:00 pm, Hybrid Event, Free, Guests welcome: contact Chair
	Sponsored by ACS Webinars and Science History Institute 10:00 am-11:15, Online, Free, <i>Registration required</i>	Mar 8	to attend Kid Makers: Pop Up Chemistry
Feb 19	Finding Your Path: Introductions to Careers in Chemistry: A Virtual Workshop Sponsored by ACS Careers		Sponsored by Silicon Valley ACS & Redwood City Public Library (RCPL) 2:00-3:00 pm, In person for ages 9-12, RCPL Downtown Location, 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, Free, <i>Learn more</i>
	9:00-10:30 am, Online, Free, <i>Registration required</i>	Mar 23-27	ACS Spring 2025 National Meeting San Diego, CA & Virtual, Advance registration ends February 24, 2025,

Learn more



ACS Western Regional Meeting 2025: Call for Symposia

Deadline: March 21, 2025

The Silicon Valley and California sections of the American Chemical Society (ACS) invite you to participate in the *2025 Western Regional Meeting*, "Building Bridges", in San Jose, CA October 25-28, 2025. As the premier scientific event in 2025 for chemists in the ACS Western region, we anticipate up to 1500 attendees from academia, industry, and government labs. The SF Bay area has a strong presence of universities, science and technology-focused companies, start-ups, and national labs.

A varied *program* is planned, including oral presentations, poster sessions, and four plenary sessions. Additional programming includes networking receptions, award dinners, and workshops. There will be symposia and a poster session specifically for undergraduate presenters.

We are conducting a call for symposium proposals, as well as soliciting interest in joining our career / internship / graduate school / undergraduate transfer fair. Learn more and submit a proposal by March 21, 2025.

For additional details, to join the exposition, or to become a meeting sponsor, visit the conference website: https://wrm2025.org/

Questions? Contact us @ acswrm2025@gmail.com. We look forward to your participation! The WRM 2025 Organizing Committee

CSA Trust: Call for Grant Applications from Younger Chemists

Deadline: April 17, 2025

The Chemical Structure Association (CSA) Trust is an internationally recognized organization established to promote the critical importance of chemical information to advance chemical research. In support of its charter, the Trust has created a unique Grant Program and is now inviting grant applications for 2025.

Purpose of the Grants

The Grant Program has been created to provide funding for the career development of young researchers who have demonstrated excellence in their education, research or development activities that are related to the systems and methods used to store, process, and retrieve information about chemical structures, reactions and compounds. One or more Grants will be awarded annually up to a total combined maximum of ten thousand U.S. dollars (\$10,000).

Who is eligible?

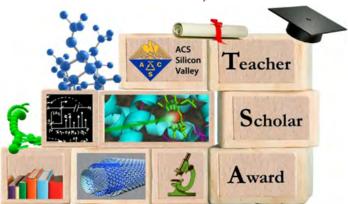
Applicants in the early stages of their careers who have demonstrated excellence in their chemical information related research and who are developing careers that have the potential to have a positive impact on the utility of chemical information relevant to chemical structures, reactions, and compounds, are invited to submit applications. Applicants must be within five years of obtaining their PhD.

Learn more and apply

Call for nominations

Community College Teacher-Scholar Award

Deadline: March 1, 2025



Recognizing community college science teachers who go above and beyond to inspire and support their students to pursue a career in science.

The *Silicon Valley ACS Teacher-Scholar Award* honors community college faculty who demonstrate excellence in teaching, mentoring and scholarship or who make impactful contributions to their communities through outstanding leadership and service.

The annual SVACS Teacher-Scholar Award spotlights the impact of California community colleges on furthering chemistry by supporting our next generation of scientists. Nearly a half of graduates of the California State University (CSU) system and a third of the University of California (UC) system transferred from a California community college. The majority of these students come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, for whom effective instruction and guidance are essential.

Initiated in 2008, the SVACS Teacher- Scholar Award was the first award of its kind to recognize specifically community college science educators. The rarity of an award in this category and the abundance of qualified candidates catalyzed our expanding eligibility beyond our immediate region to include chemistry faculty from any of the 116 California community colleges. We are soliciting nominations through March 1, 2025, and encourage all readers to identify and nominate qualified community college faculty.

More information and an online nomination form can be found on the *Silicon Valley ACS Teacher-Scholar Award* webpage.

Call for Nominations

2025 Abraham Ottenberg Service Award Silicon Valley ACS Local Section

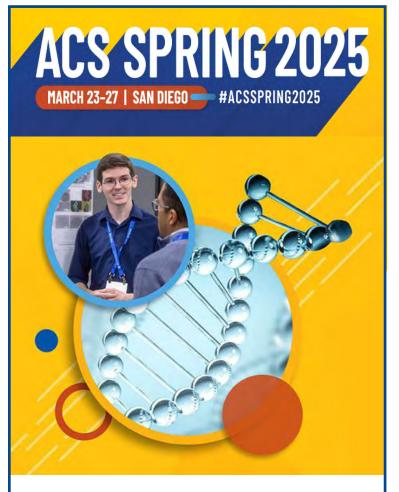
Deadline: May 31, 2025

The *Ottenberg Award* is presented annually to a member of our local section for outstanding service to the section.

Nominations include the nominee's biography, description of the service(s) for which the member is nominated, and a discussion or evaluation of the service to be recognized by the award. Nominations are not retained for subsequent years, but re-nominations are accepted for consideration. Previous recipients are not eligible to receive it again.

Please send your nomination by May 31, 2025, by e-mail to **PFRusch@ aol.com** or by fax (650-961-8120) or by postal mail to:

Chair, Ottenberg Award Selection Committee Silicon Valley Section, American Chemical Society P.O. Box 395, Palo Alto, CA 94302-0395



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San Diego, CA & Virtual I March 23-27

Reduced rate registration ends February 24!

Learn more and register



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Innovations in Chemistry

Get ready to learn, network and advance your career.

Washington, DC & Virtual | August 17-21

Visit the website to learn more about the symposia open for submission.

Submit your Abstract

The deadline for submitting is Monday, March 31.

Registration and Housing open in May. Learn more

Judges Needed for Local Science Fairs

Please Volunteer and Register Now

If you are reading this newsletter, you are likely interested in science in our community. How about encouraging our middle and high school students to participate in the world of STEM – science, engineering, math, and science? It takes just one day of your time to judge at a local science fair – and all but one (San Mateo STEM Fairs) are in person. The following science fairs need category awards judges, especially in the areas of biology, chemistry, microbiology, and all areas of informatics. All of them are qualifiers for the California State Science Fair and either the Broadcom Masters (middle schoolers) or the International Science and Engineering Fair, ISEF (high schoolers).

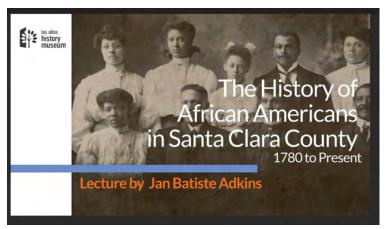
To join the Silicon Valley ACS special award team of judges at the Synopsys Championship on March 13, 2025 in San Jose, please *contact us*. We welcome participants from all chemistry-related fields.

No matter which fair(s) you choose, please volunteer now!

- Santa Cruz County STEAM Expo, March 8, 2025, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds
- San Mateo County Office of Education STEM Fair, March 15, 2025, virtual format
- Synopsys Championship, Santa Clara County, March 13, 2025, San Jose Convention Center
- Alameda County Science and Engineering Fair, March 15, 2025, Chabot College, Hayward Campus

Celebrating February 2025: Black History Month Selected Resources with an Emphasis on Local

Black History Events for 2025 in San Jose, California (Google search results)



Jan Batiste Adkins, author and local historian, explores History of African Americans in Santa Clara County, 1780 – Present. Los Altos History Museum, February 24, 2021. *Watch video on YouTube*

- Adkins, J. B. African Americans of San Jose and Santa Clara County; Arcadia Publishing, 2019.
- Adkins, J. B. African Americans of Monterey County; Arcadia Publishing, 2015.
- Adkins, J. B. African Americans of San Francisco; Arcadia Publishing, 2012

Stanford Archive to Highlight Black histories of Silicon Valley. Stanford Report, February 11, 2021.

The Ken and Caretha Coleman Archive of African American Histories in Silicon Valley (Online Exhibit).

National Museum of African American History & Culture and Black Inventors Hall of Fame



Through the Window and into the Mirror: Narratives of African American STEM Professionals: A Career Conversation Series. National Museum of African American History & Culture. (In celebration of Black History Month 2024.)

Black Inventors Hall of Fame | See also: National Inventors Hall of Fame

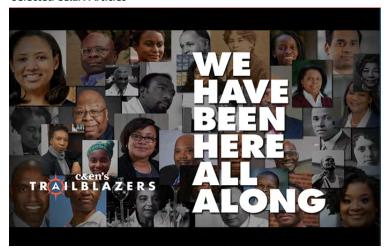
Recent Books

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. *Transforming Undergraduate STEM Education: Supporting Equitable and Effective Teaching*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2025.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. *Community Support, Partnerships, and Inclusive Environments for Black Students and Professionals in Science, Engineering, and Medicine: Proceedings of a Workshop*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2024.

Professional Mentoring Programs for Science Students: Career Mentoring for Students in the Physical Sciences; Beuning, P. J., Urbach, A. R., Eds.; ACS Publications, 2024. ACS Symposium Series 1470.

Selected C&EN Articles



We Have Been Here All Along. C&EN's 2021 Trailblazers issue, curated by guest editor Paula Hammond, celebrates Black chemists and chemical engineers.

Forney, J. *NOBCChE celebrates 50 years*. *C&EN*, 101 (33), October 9, 2023. Learn more about *NOBCChE*

100th National Historic Chemical Landmark honors Bettye Washington Greene, C&EN, February 26, 2024.

Selected ACS Resources

Black Scientists Then and Now: Celebrating Achievement in Chemistry. inChemistry, ACS Student Magazine.

ACS Fellows Nominations

Open February 1 - April 1, 2025



"The American Chemical Society (ACS) Fellows Program was created by the ACS Board of Directors in December 2008 to recognize members of ACS for outstanding achievements in and contributions to science, the profession, and the Society.

Nominations for the 2025 Class of ACS Fellows will be open from February 1 to April 1, 2025."

Learn more and watch the 'How to Webinar for Nominators' Video

View slides

Pills, Potions, and Poisons: Researching a 17th Century Apothecary



Watch the video on YouTube

Dr. Helen Cooke gave a talk entitled "Pills, Potions and Poisons: Researching a 17th Century Apothecary" on 21 January 2025. The fortuitous discovery of the probate inventory of a 17th century apothecary in Nantwich England led to a research project to investigate the contents of his shop, exploring on the way how efficacious, or otherwise, the items he stocked might have been. In the course of the research, insights were obtained into the apothecary's interesting family and the times in which he lived and worked, building a picture of his business, life, surroundings and some of the ailments he may have had to treat. The research provided an opportunity for the local museum to host some engaging chemistry demonstrations making use of chemicals available to the apothecary, some of which are featured in the talk. Learn more about the *RSC Historical Group*

How an HIV Miracle Drug Vanished Reactions Chemistry Video Series Uncover the Chemistry in Everyday Life



Watch video on YouTube | View sources

"In 1998, a pharmaceutical company suddenly lost the ability to make their lifesaving HIV drug at one of its production facilities. Then that failure spread to the company's analytical labs. Then it spread to the other production facility, and within months the lifesaving drug had effectively vanished from the planet. And this wasn't the first time something like this had happened. How does a chemical just... disappear?"

Watch more Reactions videos on YouTube

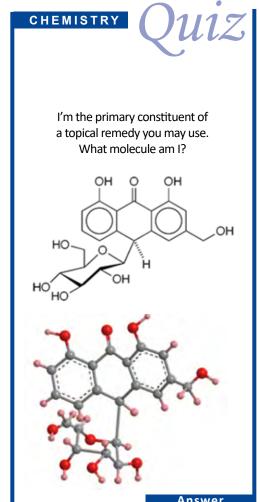


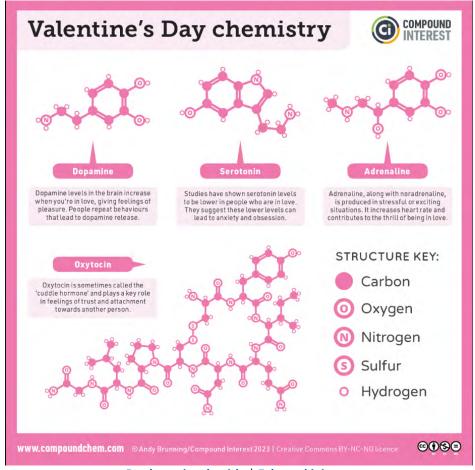
Each month, our Silicon Valley local ACS section receives a spreadsheet from national ACS with the names of members new to our section. The members are either new to ACS, have transferred in from other areas, or are the newest members - students. As a welcoming gesture, the SVACS Executive Committee offers new members free attendance at a catered SVACS event. Come join us at our in-person gatherings! To register as our guest for a catered event, *contact us* directly to receive complimentary admission for you and a friend.

We hope you will also join us for an outreach event, like judging a science fair, proctoring the high school Chemistry Olympiad or participating in a National Chemistry Week hands-on experiment event. The local section is a volunteer organization. Attend an event, volunteer to help, and get to know your local fellow chemists.

New SVACS Members

Christine Baker	Dean Lahana	Matthew Payne
Ananya Bommareddy	Amy Laturski	Sophia Qin
Lin Deng	Jing Lin	Joseph Salceda
Jacob Dobson	Tzuling Lin	Vedika Shenoy
Madison Driskill	Marlon Meng	Li Fan Song
Helen Holder	Simi Mundkur	John Tran
Jihyun (Luna) Hwang	Annie Nguyen	William Ussler
Qiaoshi Jiang	Philip Robert Onffroy	Yujing Zhou
Michael Joseph Kelleher		





Read associated article | Enlarge this image

Silicon Valley ACS Executive Committee

	_		
2025 Section Officers	Chair Chair-Elect Past-Chair Secretary Treasurer Councilors	2025 2025 2025 2025-2026 2024-2025 2023-2025 2023-2025	Amanda Nelson Natalie McClure Todd Eberspacher Jigisha Shah Ihab Darwish Ihab Darwish Madalyn Radlauer
		2024-2026 2024-2026 2025-2027 2025-2027	Grace Baysinger Natalie McClure Linda Brunauer Jane Frommer
	Alternate Councilors	2023-2025 2023-2025 2024-2026 2024-2026 2025-2027 2025-2027	Vacant Laura Yeager Karan Dikshit Howard Peters Eefei Chen Jose Ramirez
Newsletter	Editor Sr. Assoc. Editor	2025 2025	Grace Baysinger Jane Frommer



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Useful ACS Links

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Future National Meetings

Upcoming Events | Webinars

C&EN Jobs | Career Resources

Membership | Member Benefits

Funding & Awards

Governance | Advocacy

Ethical & Professional Guidelines

Publications | C&EN | CAS

Communities | Green Chemistry

Local Sections | Science Outreach

Students and Educators

ACS Institute | Center for Lab Safety

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Respect

Volunteer | Donate

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