



THE CHEMICAL BULLETIN

Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society Newsletter

March Monthly Meeting (Hybrid)

Thursday, March 13, 2025 5:30 – 8:30 PM CST (In-person)

7:15 – 8:30 PM CST (Virtual)



Chromatography: How the Who's Who, Figure Out What's in What!

Dr. Lee Polite
President and Founder
Axion Analytical Labs, Inc.

ATTEND TO WIN THE
CHROMATOGRAPHY BOOT
CAMP DOOR PRIZE

ABSTRACT

During this talk, Dr. Polite will lead you through the world of Chromatography, from the underlying technology to the exciting applications. Being big proponents of hands-on learning, not only will you learn about Chromatography, but you'll actually get to do it! Several GCs will be set up for ethanol quantitation and you'll have the opportunity to analyze your own drink by headspace GC. And just because something says 'non-alcoholic', doesn't mean it contains no alcohol. During the evening, Dr. Polite will take you on a tour of Axion Labs & Training Institute including the 10 HPLCs, 12 GCs, 4 Mass Specs, and 1 ion chromatograph.

COST OF DINNER

\$20 for ACS members

\$20 for nonmembers

\$20 for students & postdocs

No charge to attend lecture only

AXION LABS Directions

14 North Peoria, Suite 100

Chicago, IL 60607

REGISTRATION

By phone (847-391-9091), email
(chicagoacs@ameritech.net) or online:

[REGISTER HERE](#)

DEADLINE TO REGISTER

Wednesday, March 12 (for Dinner)

No deadline to attend lecture only
but pre-registration is encouraged.

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PROGRAM AGENDA

5:30 pm	Check-In, Social Hour, Lab Demos
6:45 pm	Buffet Dinner
7:15 pm	Announcements
7:30 pm	Presentation, Q&A
8:30 pm	Closing Remarks

Buffet style menu:

Traditional Greek buffet
with vegetarian options

Dessert

Assorted Soda/Sparkling Water
Wine/Beer

MEET THE SPEAKER

Dr. Lee N. Polite is the president and founder of Axion Analytical Labs, Inc. Since its inception in 1995, Axion has provided in-depth chromatography training to every major pharmaceutical, chemical, and petroleum company in the United States along with all leading government labs.

Lee has been teaching chromatography to professionals for more than 30 years. He has been invited to lecture on the topic in 17 countries and has trained more than 13,000 professionals.

Dr. Polite earned his Ph.D. in Chemistry (Chromatography) from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) where he worked under the direction of Professor Harold McNair. Dr. McNair is recognized as one of the premier chromatography faculty in the world and one of the pioneers in the field.

In addition to his technical degrees, Lee holds an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management where he majored in both strategy and marketing.

Dr. Polite received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Chemistry from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, where he was a Rector Scholar and a member of Sigma Pi Sigma (physics honor society) and Sigma Xi (chemistry honor society).

After receiving his doctoral degree, Lee spent 9 years with Amoco Corporation holding a variety of scientific and management positions including Research Scientist, HPLC Team Leader, Group Leader of Environmental Analysis, and Laboratory Supervisor of one of the largest refinery labs in the US.

Lee has served as the National Chromatography Instructor for the American Chemical Society since 1991. He has also taught chromatography for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), the New York City Police Department's crime laboratory, the Department of Energy's Argonne National Labs, Hewlett Packard, Agilent Technologies, Phenomenex, etc.

Dr. Polite has authored countless professional course books on chromatography, numerous publications, and three book chapters.

He has been an active member of the ACS since 1990, first joining as a student member in 1982.

DOOR PRIZE!

Dr. Polite is giving away a One-Week

[Chromatography Boot Camp Course](#)

worth close to \$1500

Advance your career by learning HPLC and GC from a national expert right here in Chicago!





**114th Willard Gibbs Award
Presented to Chad A. Mirkin Ph.D.
by the Chicago Section of the
American Chemical Society**



*Join us for an evening to learn about the
revolutionary discovery of Spherical
Nanoparticles and Nanomedicine*

**Friday, May 16th 2025
Meridian Banquets, 1701 Algonquin Road
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008**

The Chicago section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is honoring Professor Chad A. Mirkin with the 114th Willard Gibbs Award. This award is presented to a distinguished scientist who is selected by a jury of esteemed professionals, including past recipients. The selection is chaired each year by the Chair-elect of the Chicago ACS Section.

Professor Chad A. Mirkin serves as the Director of the International Institute for Nanotechnology and is the George B. Rathmann Professor of Chemistry at Northwestern University. His groundbreaking contributions to nanotechnology and nanochemistry include the development of many foundational tools, methods, and principles. Notably, Dr. Mirkin invented and developed Dip-Pen Nanolithography (DPN) and related cantilever-free nanopatterning and high-throughput materials discovery methodologies spanning from catalysis to clean energy; invented and developed megalibraries and nanocombinatorial chemistry; defined the notion of the nanoparticle "atom" and the nucleic acid "bond," which underpin the field of colloidal crystal engineering with DNA; invented and developed spherical nucleic acids (SNAs), central to the field of structural nanomedicine and foundational to diagnostic and therapeutic techniques, including ones utilized in the clinic; and invented and developed high-area rapid printing (HARP), where chemical innovations have led to innovative solutions in the additive manufacturing space. His work also encompasses contributions to nanoparticle synthesis and supramolecular chemistry.

Dr. Mirkin has authored over 910 publications and is listed as an inventor on more than 1,200 patents and applications, with 430 patents issued worldwide. He has also founded 11 companies. His achievements have earned him over 250 national and international awards, including the Wilhelm Exner Medal, the Dan David Prize, the National Academy of Sciences Sackler Prize in Convergence Research, the Kavli Prize in Nanoscience, and the King Faisal Prize from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Founded in 2000 as an umbrella organization to coalesce and foster nanotechnology efforts, the International Institute for Nanotechnology represents and unites more than \$2.7 billion in nanotechnology research, educational programs, and supporting infrastructure.

For more details click the following link:

<https://chicagoacs.org/meetinginfo.php?id=219&ts=1737869045>

For registration, please click on the link below:

<https://chicagoacs.org/meet-reg1.php?id=219>

Chicago ACS section welcomes students to attend the event and will be able to provide free registration for the dinner to a limited number. Please contact Sharada Buddha for details at buddha@sxu.edu by email.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Readers,

This month's issue includes a variety of topics beginning with the March program meeting featuring popular speaker Lee Polite, PhD, who invites us into the world of chromatographic separations at his Chicago laboratory and training institute. Dr. Polite's recent ACS webinar on this topic attracted several hundred participants! Please mark your calendar for the annual Gibbs Medal Banquet on May 16, honoring Prof. Chad Mirkin, a Chicago Section member. The highly successful February program with Dr. Zafra Lerman, which took place at an elegant new venue, Colvin House, is summarized in these pages. Thanks to all who helped with planning or submitted photographs of the memorable evening. Paul Brandt serves up another helping of ChemShorts for Kids. This series, which has been running almost continuously since 1992, has well over 300 installments available for online viewing. Starting this month, we introduce a new column on chemists with disabilities and their interactions with co-workers. Contributor Inessa Miller shares a pair of stories depicting two realistic scenarios. The stories are open-ended and are meant to open eyes and stimulate thought as a prelude to action. The column will be published on an occasional basis. Finally, some historical data on women chemists are shared in the form of graphical timelines – from Nobel laureates to ACS Presidents to Chairs of the Chicago Local Section. The relatively large number who have served as Chair may reflect the respect for women chemists cultivated since the early days of our section's history. Inspiration for the timelines came from a publication authored by past ACS President Marinda Wu (see: *Pure and Applied Chemistry* 2024, 96, 43–56).

Consider writing for the bulletin – your ideas and contributions are welcome! I hope you enjoy this issue.

—MARGARET E. SCHOTT



editor-at-chicagoacs.org

From the archives

This quasi-humorous rhyme appeared in *The Chemical Bulletin* in January 1953.

FABLE FOR VERY YOUNG CHEMISTS

An ambitious young chemist named Greer
Gave his all to advance his career.
He studied and worked,
No task ever shirked,
And now he makes millions a year.

While his friend, a young fellow named Slaughter,
Did none of the things that he oughter.
His work really stank,
And he stayed low in rank,
Despite wedding the president's daughter.

R. N. F.

Overheard in
molecular biology
class

If Geraldine relaxes
any more, her DNA
will unwind.



Zafra Lerman (left) at the book-signing table with Keon Hetherington during the February 21st program. Keon is studying geology, earth and environmental science at Harold Washington College. For more on this event, please turn to page 5.

Lerman Lecture Draws a Crowd

The stars aligned on the evening of February 21, thanks to diligent advance planning by the program and arrangements committees that made possible the hosting of an informative and inspiring “book talk” by long-time Chicago Section member Zafra Lerman. Dr. Lerman’s presentation focused on her memoir, *Human Rights and Peace: A Personal Odyssey* (Routledge, 2024). Afterwards she took time to autograph copies of the book, including ones donated by the Chicago Section for use as door prizes. There were 47 registered participants.

The program took place at Colvin House in Rogers Park, Chicago. The historic and elegantly appointed building houses, in addition to its event venues, co-working spaces for Chicago-area professionals. Adding to the festivities was the surprise of live music performed by violinist Boris Gorelik, father of Section Member Inessa Miller, who also had her violin along.

One participant remarked on the social media site LinkedIn that the program’s topic resonated with him in a special way. “Like Dr. Lerman,” he wrote, “I am driven to realize science’s potential as a bridge to peace”. In the future, he added, “There is no doubt that I’ll look back and see this day as a crucial turning point in my life and career!”

Another participant noted that he felt fortunate for the opportunity to attend such a captivating and intriguing lecture. “The Chicago ACS truly outdid itself with an exceptional event at a remarkable venue”, he said. The section was fortunate indeed to host Dr. Lerman for such a memorable evening.



Photos, clockwise from top right: Zafra Lerman (left) with Inessa Miller; Russ Johnson asking a question; Lerman in action; Lerman listening to music with Boris Gorelik, Inessa Miller, and Josie Alexander (foreground); Lerman with Chicago Section Chair Anita Mehta. Photos contributed by Nic Gerst, Ilana Lemberger, and Milt Levenberg.

Chicago Section ACS Chemists with Disabilities

The Chicago Section ACS Chemists with Disabilities column aims to bring to light scenarios such as those described below – from the perspectives of chemists living with disabilities, their employers or managers, and other stakeholders. Each installment will provide “bite-size”, easy-to-digest information and commentary concerning one or more issues pertaining to chemists with disabilities and the environments in which they work. Please note that this column should not be considered a source of legal advice on any of the matters discussed. Whenever possible the column will provide readers with references to reliable resources for further exploration. I look forward to a rewarding journey together.

Aaron's Story¹

“I sure wish I had my wheelchair right about now,” Aaron thought to himself as he tried to keep up with a rowdy group of his faster-paced colleagues. These folks, whom Aaron considered to be his “work buddies” at their mid-size Chicago-area Analytical Testing Lab, had a fun, long-standing tradition of going out for a group lunch every Friday. Just like everyone in the group, Aaron always looked forward to partaking in the noontime tacos (or burgers/sushi), which usually came with a generous “side” of emotional venting and camaraderie. Aaron was alone, however, in dreading quite a few aspects related to these “Friday Funday” lunches, starting with the ones having to do with transportation to and from the restaurant, and stretching way beyond.

Several years prior, Aaron was diagnosed with a progressive and incurable autoimmune disease. The acceptance of his gradual loss of mobility was a tough process for him to deal with. But one thing he really didn't anticipate was how his use of mobility devices was going to impact his working relationships.

Although Aaron owned a wheelchair which helped him with maintaining his stamina and mobility, he quickly realized that those benefits were largely offset by the tangible discomfort he observed amongst his colleagues whenever he was using his wheelchair.

For example, one long-time colleague, Jake, erroneously assumed that whenever Aaron was in his wheelchair, it meant that Aaron didn't feel well enough to go out to lunch, and thus shouldn't be put on the spot or asked to join the group. Worse yet, Jake tried doing Aaron the “favor” of communicating this line of thinking to the other members of the Friday lunch crowd – via an email chain on which Aaron was purposely not included, so that Aaron wouldn't “feel bad.” When Aaron found out about this, he had mixed emotions. On the one hand, he was quite sure Jake was trying to act out of genuine concern for his well-being; on the other hand, Aaron knew with certainty that Jake's actions made him feel left out.



An even more blatant display of his colleagues' discomfort was a quip his work buddy, Tim, would blurt out – “Hallelujah! It's a miracle!” – whenever he observed Aaron getting up out of his wheelchair. This repeated utterance really burned him up. On one such occasion Aaron went online, right then and there, and looked up

information about people with disabilities who use wheelchairs yet can get up out of them for periods of time – so-called ambulatory users² – and pointed it out to Tim.

And yet the “Hallelujahs!” continued, as unbeknownst to Aaron, Tim fully believed that they would lift Aaron's spirits. These and other similar behaviors and comments led Aaron to conclude that he might just be better off roughing it without his mobility devices whenever possible, and for as long as possible, stamina and medical advice be damned.

(Continued on next page)

ROOM FOR ALL

(Continued from previous page)

Fatma's Story

In another part of the same work facility, Fatma, a Lab Manager, was struggling with decisions around a medical issue of one of her team members. One of her top-performing reports, Tara, had recently disclosed in private to Fatma a devastating cancer diagnosis, one which would entail many rounds of aggressive treatments that were expected to be accompanied by a variety of side effects. Besides feeling deeply saddened for Tara and her family, Fatma was also concerned about the impact this unfortunate development would have on her team. What was Fatma supposed to do about the portion of Tara's workload that would go undone as Tara underwent her cancer treatments? Besides feeling deeply saddened for Tara and her family, Fatma was also concerned about the impact this unfortunate development would have on her team. What was Fatma supposed to do about the portion of Tara's workload that would go undone as Tara underwent her cancer treatments?

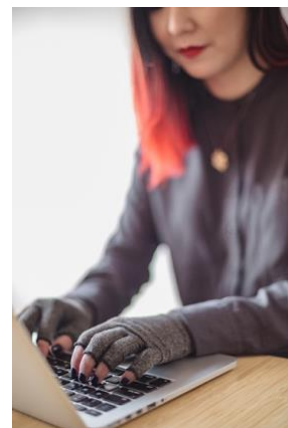
Everyone in Fatma's team was already stretched thin and had been complaining about the amount of work they already had on their plates. With Tara's permission, Fatma brought her concerns to the attention of the Operations Director, as well as the company's HR representative. Much to her dismay, the only feedback Fatma got from her superior was that Fatma would have to "think creatively and figure out a solution," given the company's tight budget and unrelenting customer demands.

The only input HR provided was the standard information related to the FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act) paperwork Tara could fill out. As a result, Fatma found herself at a complete loss as to how to handle the situation.

The Chicago Section ACS Chemists with Disabilities column will continue in future issues to illuminate scenarios such as those described above. Let us know what you think at editor-at-chicagoacs.org.

—INESA MILLER

Chicago Section ACS Chemists with Disabilities Subcommittee Chair



¹ Names and other details had been changed to protect the privacy of both the individuals and company involved.

² An awareness movement with the social media hashtag #AmbulatoryWheelchairUsersExist provides a wealth of information and dispels myths which are often associated with ambulatory users.

Above image (free download):

Tojo Andrianarivo for Disabled and Here
<https://affecttheverb.com/disabledandhere/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Advancing ACS' Core Value of Inclusion and Belonging

We believe in the power of and respect for all chemists. The multitude of people, backgrounds, experiences, and ideas lead to superior solutions to world challenges and advances chemistry as a global, multidisciplinary science. To review ACS's full commitment, read the [2024 ACS Statement](#).

Chemistry is Inaccessible: How to Reduce Barriers for Disabled Scientists

Nature 2023, 623, 913–915; <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-023-03634-x>. From classrooms to laboratories and conferences, working in chemistry presents huge challenges to disabled, chronically ill and neurodivergent people. Some simple fixes can help to shift the dial.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WCC Highlights Women Across the Chemical Enterprise in San Diego

On March 24, the Women Chemists Committee (WCC) and the ACS Division of Chemical Education (CHED) will host a symposium featuring Rachel Mamlok-Naaman, winner of the 2025 ACS Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences, at the San Diego Convention Center. WCC will also host its Women in the Chemical Enterprise Breakfast with Vanessa Rosa, Founder of Cuvette Collective, as the keynote speaker. The Women Chemists of Color “Sweet Treats” networking event will take place later that afternoon with Zaida Morales-Martinez, Professor Emerita, Florida International University, as the featured speaker.



On Wednesday, March 25, the WCC Luncheon will feature Jean Chmielewski, winner of the 2025 Garvan-Olin Medal, as the keynote speaker. Winners of the WCC Rising Star Award, the Pfizer Emergent Leader Award, the Eli Lilly Travel Award, and the 2024 Priscilla Carney Jones Scholarship will be recognized. Later in the afternoon, WCC, in partnership with the Senior Chemists Committee (SCC), will host its Just Cocktails Reception in honor of Elizabeth Ann Nalley, ACS President 2006. The breakfast, networking, luncheon, and reception will be held at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel. The WCC breakfast and luncheon are ticketed events. Update your meeting registration [here](#) to attend. For more information, check out the [WCC Schedule of Events](#) or send an email to WCC@acs.org. We hope you will join us in San Diego!

(left to right): Rachel Mamlok-Naaman, Vanessa Rosa, Zaida Morales-Martinez, Jean Chmielewski, and E. Ann Nalley. Photo credits: 2025 WCC Speakers.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Volunteer for your Chicago Local Section

Grow your professional network by interacting with others in a supportive environment while adding skills and accomplishments to your resume. We currently need volunteers to help with:

- [Bulletin Contributions](#) – share your skills by crafting articles and writing meeting summaries.
- [Outreach](#) – interact with kids and families at Navy Pier, Illinois State Fair Science Tent.
- [Younger Chemists](#) – help to plan socials and programs for young professionals.
- [Programs and Arrangements](#) – work with a team to invite speakers for monthly meetings, help with audio-visual technology setups, and more.

Interested in these or other opportunities? Go to the [Volunteer Interest Form](#) or contact chair-at-chicagoacs.org. We look forward to your energetic participation!

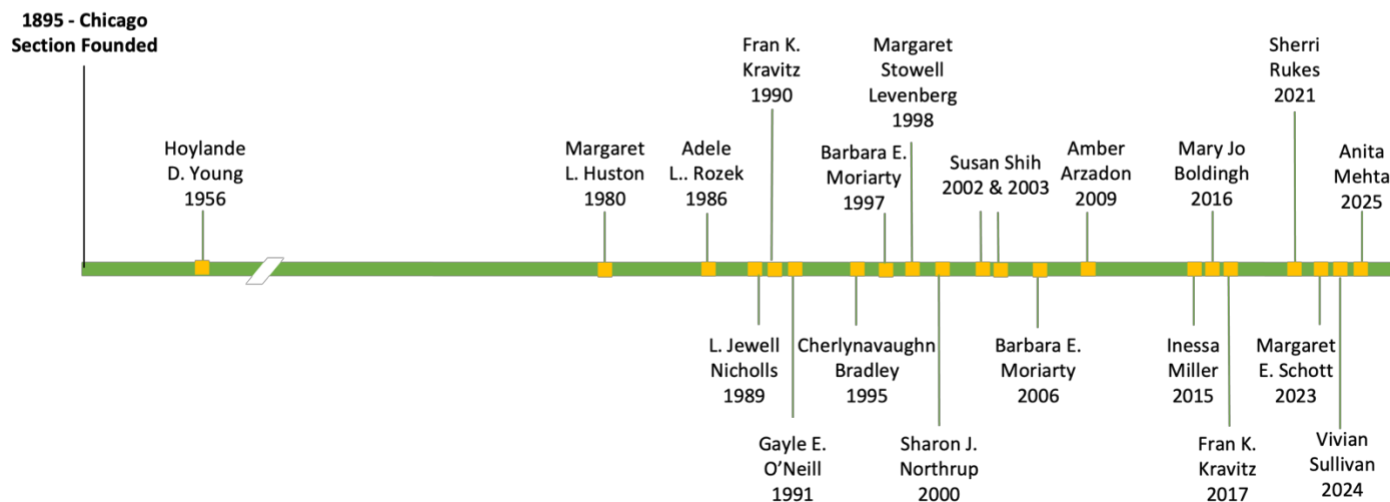
Women Chemistry Nobel Laureates, 1901–2025



Women ACS Presidents, 1876–2025



Women ACS Chicago Section Chairs, 1895–2025



Resources: [nobelprize.org](https://www.nobelprize.org) and [ACS Presidents](https://www.acs.org). For a complete list of Chicago Section Chairs see: <https://chicagoacs.org/articles/400>. Prior to 2003, Chairs served terms from July through June. Starting in 2003, their terms coincide with the calendar year.

Secret Messages - Again

In January, I wrote about how you can write a secret message with the spice turmeric. This time we'll use an Elmer's Disappearing Purple Glue Stick.

Materials:

- Disappearing Purple Glue Stick
- Vinegar
- Q-tip or Paint Brush
- Sheet of White Paper or Cardstock

Caution: Vinegar is a weak acid and if it gets in your eyes it will sting.

Experiment:

Using the Q-tip, dip it in the vinegar and write your message on the paper. Allow it to dry. Wipe over the message with the glue stick. Once the glue dries, the message disappears so you may need to work quickly.

What's happening?

o-Cresolphthalein is the active ingredient in the glue stick (the little *o* means "ortho"). This compound is an acid-base indicator. It is a colorless molecule below a pH of 8.2 (acidic) but is purple above a pH of 9.8 (basic). The gluestick itself is slightly basic and thus it is purple when mixed with the *o*-cresolphthalein.



When the glue touches the acidic vinegar molecules, the *o*-cresolphthalein acidifies and becomes colorless. The compound needs to be wet in order for the purple color to exist so spraying the message with water will make the image reappear.

Extension:

Can you find other substances around the house that will change the gluestick from purple to colorless (juices, sprite, etc.)?

References:

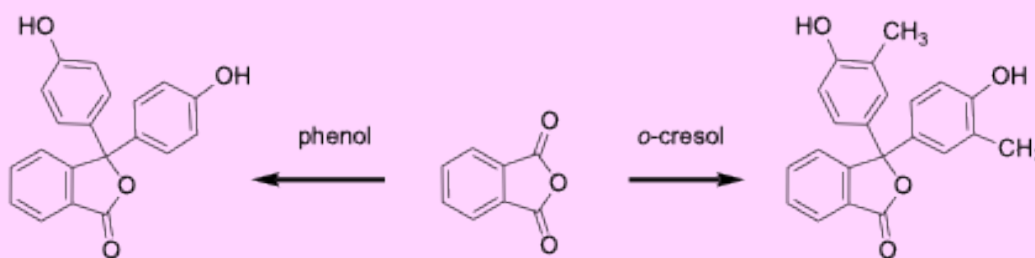
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtpCUxvbRrk>

To view all past "ChemShorts for Kids", go to:

<https://chicagoacs.org/ChemShorts>

—PAUL BRANDT

Phenolphthalein (left structure) and *o*-cresolphthalein (right structure) are both acid-base indicators that have in common their preparation from phthalic anhydride (middle structure). Many readers will be familiar with the pink color that appears when enough of a basic solution like NaOH is added to an acidic solution during a titration experiment. For fun try opening this [interactive image](#) of phenolphthalein and using your mouse to manipulate the 3D molecular structure.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ACS Meetings

Spring 2025 National Meeting

<https://www.acs.org/events/all-events/acs-spring-2025.html>

March 23–27, 2025 | San Diego, CA

Join us in San Diego or online (hybrid) to get the latest research in chemistry, network and attend career events. Choose from thousands of oral presentations covering every area of chemistry, attend the poster session and visit the Expo Hall.

Spring 2025 National Meeting – Virtual

<https://www.acs.org/meetings/acs-meetings/spring/digital-meeting.html>

Not able to attend the meeting in San Diego? Join us online for keynotes, technical sessions, networking and professional development.

Presidential Symposium on Fentanyl

March 24, 2025, 2 PM – 6 PM at the National ACS Meeting: “Quantifying and Addressing the US Fentanyl Crisis”.

Women Chemists Committee Events at the

Spring 2025 National Meeting – See page 9

For the WCC homepage go to: <https://acswcc.org>

“Empowering Women Throughout the Chemical Enterprise”.



Great Lakes Region Meeting 2025

<https://www.acs.org/events/all-events/great-lakes-region-meeting-glrm-2025.html>

June 4–6, 2025 | Appleton, WI

Hosted by the Central Wisconsin and Northeast Wisconsin Local ACS Sections.

Abstract submission closes March 3.



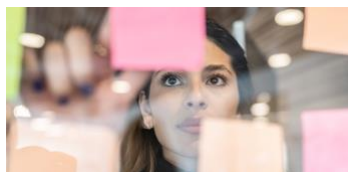
ACS Webinars



Starving Tuberculosis with Smarter Science

March 5, 2025

11:00 AM EST / 10:00 AM CST [Register here](#)



The Career Growth Formula: Plan, Pivot, & Prosper

March 13, 2025

2:00 PM EST / 1:00 PM CST [Register here](#)



Natural Polymers as an Alternative Measure to Address Plastic Pollution

March 6, 2025 [Register here](#)

7:09 PM EST / 6:00 PM CST
Philadelphia ACS Section



The [15th Annual AIChE Midwest Regional Conference](#) will be held April 11–12, 2023 at University of Illinois in Chicago (UIC), organized by the Chicago Local Section of AIChE. The conference provides an opportunity for engineers and scientists in the region to learn about new technologies and network with others.

The Chicago Sections of ACS and AIChE traditionally hold a joint meeting in January, but that does not mean the collaboration has to stop there! Check out the latest [Chicago AIChE newsletter](#) and consider attending future general meetings and tours of local industries. Click on [Numat](#) to register for the March 26 tour.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHICAGO SECTION BOARD MEETINGS

Your participation is welcome.

For Zoom link contact: office-at-chicagoacs.org

Thursday, March 6
Thursday, April 3
Thursday, May 8
Thursday, June 12

DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

editor-at-chicagoacs.org

April issue	March 16
May issue	April 16
June issue	May 16
No issue in July or August	

CHICAGO ACS SECTION PROGRAMS

<https://chicagoacs.org>

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025 [In-person] Axion Analytical Labs Tour and Lecture

Dr. Lee Polite, Founder, Axion Labs
14 N Peoria Street, Suite 100, Chicago

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025 [Hybrid] Recognizing our 50/60/70-year Members

Luncheon at The Great Escape, Schiller Park, IL

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025 Willard A. Gibbs Medal & Banquet

2025 Gibbs Medalist – Professor Chad Mirkin

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2025 Chicago Dogs Baseball Game (afternoon)

Impact Field, Rosemont, IL
This is a family friendly event!



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Advertise in the official newsletter of the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society.

The Chemical Bulletin publishes news and information of interest to the section's 3000+ members, who are professional chemists and others in related professions in industry, academia, and government throughout greater Chicago.

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1/2 Page	7.5" wide x 5" depth 3.75" wide x 10" depth	\$500
1/4 Page	3.75" wide x 5" depth	\$250
Business Card	3.5" wide x 2" depth	\$100

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or call (847) 391-9091

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EDITOR

Margaret E. Schott editor-at-chicagoacs.org

DIGITAL EDITOR

Josh Kurutz historian-at-chicagoacs.org

PROOFREADERS

Kshitish Patankar, Bethel Shekour & Adam Sussman

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How to reach us

office-at-chicagoacs.org
<https://chicagoacs.org>
(847) 391-9091

Krasa 035B and C
5700 College Road
Lisle, IL 60532

Bluesky

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