

# THE Indicator

OCTOBER 2020

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## National Chemistry Week October 18-24, 2020



*See NY letter on page 5.*

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[www.njacs.org](http://www.njacs.org)    [www.newyorkacs.org](http://www.newyorkacs.org)

## THIS MONTH IN CHEMICAL HISTORY

Harold Goldwhite, California State University, Los Angeles • [hgoldwh@calstatela.edu](mailto:hgoldwh@calstatela.edu)

In my previous column I continued my “Great Books in Chemistry” series with an examination of the works of Jabir or Geber, a prominent Arabian alchemist. I now turn from the mystic and almost undecipherable manuscripts of the great alchemist to the completely practical publications (yes; we move now to the era of printed books) deriving from the mining and metallurgical industries.

Growth in population in early medieval times led to increased demand for manufactured goods and a corresponding growth in extraction of mineral resources. This is reflected in a number of publications and I begin with the anonymous “Proberbuchlein” (pamphlets on testing) of the early 16th. Century. These were published in Germany, an area in which mining flourished, and they described, among other procedures, methods of separating gold and silver (a procedure called parting) since silver may be a contaminant of native gold.

In 1540 Vanoccio Biringuccio (1480 – 1538) published *De La Pirotechnia* (on the technological applications of fire) a richly detailed and well -illustrated manual on metallurgy, applied chemistry, gunpowder, fireworks, and related subjects. Biringuccio had traveled in both Italy and Germany and had served as an advisor to many Italian nobles and the Pope. While the book is quite practical in its descriptions there are some discussions of theory. Biringuccio does support the four element theory, but is dismissive of transmutation. He notes that lead increases in weight by fire by about 8% (in its conversion to the calx, or oxide) and draws a parallel to animal corpses (“which weigh more than when alive”!)

A decade later, in 1556, Georg Bauer (1494 – 1555), known by the Latinized name of Agricola, had his work *De Re Metallica* published. Agricola was a prolific author and had produced an earlier work on mining and metals. *De Re Metallica*, with its many and very attractive illustrations, is his most important book. Some of Agricola’s book is clearly copied from Biringuccio but much of it is original. Agricola, who was also a physician, lived in mining districts in Bohemia and learned much by direct observation. He is neutral on the topic of alchemy, and is clearly influenced by the writings of Paracelsus. He covers most of the topics that are included in *Pirotechnia*, but adds a section on glass-making taken from his own observations during an extended stay in Venice, then (and still) a renowned center for the craft.

Reasonably priced reprints of English versions of both Biringuccio and Agricola’s major works are available. The English translation of *De Re Metallica* was made by two authors, one of whom became the President of the United States. I’ll leave it to my readers to work that one out.

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**EDITORIAL DEADLINES**

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December	October 28
January 2021	November 28, 2020
February 2021	December 28, 2020
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April	February 28
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<https://www.acs.org/editmyprofile>.

Address advertising correspondence to Advertising Manager. Other correspondence to the Editor.

## October Calendar

### NEW YORK SECTION

**Thursday, October 1, 2020**

Long Island Subsection  
See page 6.

**Wednesday, October 7, 2020**

Westchester Chemical Society  
See pages 6-7.

**Tuesday, October 20, 2020**

Biochemical Topical Group  
See page 8.

**Thursday, October 22, 2020**

Hudson-Bergen Chemical Society  
National Chemistry Week  
See pages 8-9.

**Sunday, October 25, 2020**

NYACS National Chemistry Week  
See page 5.

**Tuesday, October 27, 2020**

Biochemical Topical Group  
See page 9.

*also*

**Friday, November 13, 2020**

New York Section Board Meetings  
See page 6.

**November 17, 2020**

Westchester Chemical Society  
See pages 10-11.

**Friday, April 16, 2021**

Nichols Symposium  
See page 19.

### NORTH JERSEY SECTION

**Monday, October 19, 2020**

North Jersey Executive Meeting  
See page 16.

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**To Comply With the Federal Regulations Regarding Social Distancing Necessitated by the COVID-19 Virus, it became imperative to cancel or postpone all Section Meetings for the past eight months.**

**Details of any relevant meetings will appear in the appropriate future issues of *The Indicator*.**



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**[www.TheIndicator.org](http://www.TheIndicator.org)**



Help the New York Section of  
the American Chemical Society  
Celebrate National Chemistry Week 2020

## Sticking with Chemistry - the Virtual Way!

For the 16th consecutive year, the New York Section once again will bring its thousands members together celebrating the National Chemistry Week (NCW) and conveying the importance of chemistry to the public. This year, the celebration will be carried out through the following online events:

1. Virtual Chemistry Demo Show  
**When: Sunday, October 25, 11:00-1:00**  
Where: Website URL TBA  
What: Presenters from area universities, colleges, high schools, chemical companies, business centers, and nonprofit organizations are invited to perform online demonstrations, celebrating the 2020 NCW yearly theme, "Sticking with Chemistry!"  
How: Registration opens on Sept. 1, 2020 and ends on Sept. 25, 2020. Register at NYACS website: [https://www.newyorkacs.org/meetings/NCW/2020\\_ncw.php](https://www.newyorkacs.org/meetings/NCW/2020_ncw.php).
2. Adhere to Chemistry – Kahoot.it!  
**When: Sunday, October 25, 1:30-3:30**  
Where: Website URL TBA  
What: Students are invited to compete for their chemistry knowledge via a 15-30 min. online Kahoot game. Winners in the following five categories will be recognized: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, and college freshmen.  
How: Registration opens on Sept. 1, 2020 and ends on Sept. 25, 2020. Register at NYACS website: [https://www.newyorkacs.org/meetings/NCW/2020\\_ncw.php](https://www.newyorkacs.org/meetings/NCW/2020_ncw.php).
3. Digital Illustrated Poem Contest  
*K-12th Students.* Students are invited to write and illustrate a poem using the NCW theme, "Sticking with Chemistry". Winners receive gift cards in four grade categories (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12), and will advance to the national contest for a chance to win cash prize. Please contact Erin Wasserman, [ewasserman602z@gmail.com](mailto:ewasserman602z@gmail.com), about the Contest Entry Submission deadline and detailed information.
4. Distribute Celebrating Chemistry Magazine  
"Celebrating Chemistry" contains NCW 2020 themed articles, activities and games, and is available in both English and Spanish. FREE copies can be requested at NYACS website:  
[https://www.newyorkacs.org/meetings/NCW/2020\\_ncw.php](https://www.newyorkacs.org/meetings/NCW/2020_ncw.php).

For more information, please contact Dr. Ping Furlan ([furlanp@usmma.edu](mailto:furlanp@usmma.edu)), Dr. Ivan Hyatt ([ihyatt@adelphi.edu](mailto:ihyatt@adelphi.edu)), or Mrs. Erin Wasserman (illustrated poem contest coordinator, [ewasserman602z@gmail.com](mailto:ewasserman602z@gmail.com)). We look forward to your participation and your organization's sponsorship as we celebrate the important roles chemistry plays in our everyday lives and how it can be FUN! Additional information about NCW can be found on the American Chemical Society's website at: <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/outreach/ncw/about.html>



## New York Meetings

<https://www.newyorkacs.org>

### ACS, NEW YORK SECTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### MEETING DATES FOR 2020

The dates for the Board of Directors Meetings of the ACS New York Section for 2020 were selected and approved. The meetings are open to all – everybody is welcome. All non-board members who would like to attend any of the meetings should inform the New York Section office by emailing Bernadette Taylor at [btaylor@NewYorkACS.org](mailto:btaylor@NewYorkACS.org) or by calling the Section office at (732) 770-7324.

Dates of the meetings for 2020 are posted on the New York Section website at <https://www.newyorkacs.org> below, and monthly in *The Indicator*. Dr. Ruben Savizky will chair all meetings. Board meetings will start at exactly 6:30 PM. Until further notice, meetings will be held on-line.

The Board Meeting dates for 2020 are:

#### Friday, November 13

Meeting will be held on line.



### LONG ISLAND SUBSECTION

The April seminar was postponed and will be rescheduled for Thursday, October 1, 2020

#### Design and Total Synthesis of Self-healing Cyanine Fluorophores

*Speaker:* Dr. Zhou Zhou,  
Assistant Professor  
Queensborough Community  
College

Plans are being made to present remotely through zoom:

<https://ncc-zoom.zoom.us/j/93543608449?pwd=UGNkQjd0cEhQWDFuSQQ1Ui8xUEJLZz09>

Meeting ID: 935 4360 8449

Passcode: 888773

The abstract is listed below.

Small organic fluorophores are powerful research tools in biological imaging that have enabled unprecedented insights into mechanisms of bio-functions. Fluorescence applications as Single-molecule fluorescence resonance energy transfer (smFRET) requires high photo-stability and brightness of fluorophores. A series of cyanine dye mole-

cules have been synthesized with significantly enhanced brightness, lifespan and water solubility by covalently attaching triplet state quenchers (TSQ) to the fluorophores along with other structural modifications. The advanced physical properties of these new fluorophores have already led to several previously impossible research projects, and shed light on both cellular and molecular processes masked by ensemble averaging in bulk investigations.

**Date:** Thursday, October 1, 2020

**Time:** 6 :00 PM

**Place:** Science Building, S-112  
Queensborough Community  
College  
222-05 56th Avenue  
Queens, NY 11364  
[when campus is open]



### WESTCHESTER CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Because of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, fall meetings will not be held at our usual location at the Westchester Community College. The meetings will be held remotely (via Zoom). We would like to thank the Westchester Community College, Valhalla, NY for generously making the college's Zoom available to us to use freely. Zoom must be downloaded to your computer, but it is free.

**Please note that screen prints of the Zoom screen may be taken at the meetings and may be submitted for publication in the NY/North Jersey newsletter, *The Indicator*. If you do not want a photo of yourself submitted, let us know at the meeting.**

#### Special Seminar – “Safety, Fire, and Chemical Hazards in Special Effects”

Note this was originally planned to be a Science Café held on March 18, 2020 and rescheduled as such, because of Covid-19 for October 7, 2020. Again because of Covid-19, it will not be a Science Café but will be a remote meeting,

*Speaker:* Monona Rosso, M.S., M.F.A.  
Industrial Hygienist  
President: Arts, Crafts & Theater  
Safety, Inc.  
New York, NY

#### Abstract

People in theater, film and television work with chemicals every day. As a child, Ms. Rosso worked in variety entertainment (Vaudeville), and saw chemicals used in magic acts that caused things to flash into flame, disappear, or change color. Today she

deals with chemicals ranging from those used to paint faces (makeup) or to paint scenery to explosive chemicals used to blow up cars in movies. The talk will start with a short video showing how pyrotechnic chemicals are used to simulate bullets hitting walls or people and then move on to discuss a host of other chemical safety issues in the entertainment industry



### Biography

Monona Rossol is a chemist, artist, and industrial hygienist. She was born into a theatrical family and worked as a professional entertainer from age 3 to 17. She enrolled in the University of Wisconsin–Madison where she earned a B.S. in Chemistry with a minor in Math (1959), an

M.S. majoring in Ceramics and Sculpture (1962), and an M.F.A. with majors in Ceramics and Glassblowing and a minor in Music (1964). Monona was in Harvey Littleton's first college-level glassblowing courses. Her ceramics, sculpture and blown glass were exhibited in over 40 group shows and four solo shows. Her many awards include a purchase prize in the 23rd Ceramic National Competition of the Everson Museum of Art

While at school she worked as a research chemist, taught art and chemistry classes, performed with University music and theater groups, toured with summer stock, and began working as a free lance art conservation consultant/restorer working primarily with furniture, ceramics, and enamels. She also noticed the vast difference in the safety cultures in the science, art and theater departments. She presented several graduate seminars on art safety to a very unreceptive art student body which sparked a life-long interest in the subject

She moved to New York City in 1969 and began working in the area of art safety despite a thundering lack of demand for these services. Her major income was from teaching art and performing in musical and straight acting roles in Off and Off Off Broadway theaters and cabarets. Her work was eventually recognized and she became a full member of the American Industrial Hygiene Association in 1984.

Today, this work is in demand. Monona is a building regulatory and ventilation system planning consultant and has worked on over 80 new and renovation building projects. She consults, trains, and lectures regularly on the hazards of theater and art hazards including those of conservation work and museum/laboratory disaster planning. She has

been a member of the American Institute for Conservation since 1981 and was made a life-time Honorary Member in 2002.

Monona is President/founder of Arts, Crafts & Theater Safety (ACTS), a nonprofit dedicated to providing health and safety services to the arts. She also is the Safety Officer for Local USA829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) and for the New York Production Locals (representing all unions on film locations). Her jobs have taken her to all but two states in the US, Canada, Australia, England, Mexico, Portugal, the Netherlands, and the United Arab Emirates. She has written nine books, one of which won a 1996 Choice Outstanding Academic Book Award from the Association of College and Research Libraries. Her latest book: *Pick Your Poison: How Our Mad Dash to a Chemical Utopia has made Lab Rats of Us All* (Wiley & Sons) 2011. She will teach a 40-hour Art/theater Safety Course at UMass-Amherst, August 24-28, 2020. This past February, she and the SAG-AFTRA rep got an OSHA rule protecting child workers in film from atmospheric special effects in Georgia.

**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020

**Time:** 7:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) (Zoom link available from 6:45 PM)

**Place:** Zoom

**Cost:** Free and open to the public

Join the Zoom Meeting

<https://sunywcc-edu.zoom.us/j/83959603092?pwd=aW8xSDFibjJkZkY3OHBPUmNhREtjZz09>

Meeting ID: 839 5960 3092

Passcode: 9t411h

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Find your local number: <https://sunywcc-edu.zoom.us/u/kdYfLKwEto>

For further information: contact Rolande Hodel, [rrhodel@aol.com](mailto:rrhodel@aol.com),

Or Peter Corfield, [pcorfield@fordham.edu](mailto:pcorfield@fordham.edu)  
Phone: 914-762-4468; Text: 914-980-9128  
or 914-218-7607

Or Paul Dillon,

[PaulWDillon2@hotmail.com](mailto:PaulWDillon2@hotmail.com), Phone:  
914-941-0890, Text: 914-393-6940

**BIOCHEMICAL TOPICAL  
GROUP — JOINT MEETING  
WITH THE NYAS BIOCHEMICAL  
PHARMACOLOGY DISCUSSION  
GROUP**

**Novel Inflammatory Pathways in Chronic  
Human Liver Diseases**

*Organizers:* Tim F. Greten, MD  
National Cancer Institute  
Kevin Hart, PhD  
Pfizer  
Min Wan, PhD  
Pfizer  
Sara Donnelly, PhD  
New York Academy of  
Sciences  
Sonya Dougal, PhD  
New York Academy of  
Sciences

*Keynotes:* Tim F. Greten, MD  
National Cancer Institute

Percy Knolle, MD  
Technische Universität  
München

*Speakers:* Laurie DeLeve, MD, PhD  
University of Southern  
California

Sophie Lotersztajn, PhD  
Center for Research on  
Inflammation, Paris

Naglaa Shoukry, BPharm, PhD  
University of Montreal Hospital  
Research Center

Paul Kubes, PhD  
University of Calgary

Mitchell Kronenberg, PhD  
La Jolla Institute for  
Immunology

Jennifer Estall, PhD  
McGill University

NASH is projected to be the leading cause of liver failure and transplant in the coming decades. This symposium will highlight emerging mechanisms regulating immune and inflammatory responses during disease progression, with the overarching goal of identifying novel therapeutic targets for chronic liver diseases.

**Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2020**

**Time:** 10:30 AM – 5:00 PM

**Place:** Virtual Symposium

**Cost:** ACS and Academy members save \$30 or more on this event. Please select the appropriate non-member Registration Category and use the Priority Code “ACS”.

For more information and to register for the event, go to: [www.nyas.org/Liver2020](http://www.nyas.org/Liver2020)

To become a Member of the Academy, visit [nyas.org/become-a-member/](http://nyas.org/become-a-member/)



**HUDSON-BERGEN CHEMICAL  
SOCIETY AND FAIRLEIGH  
DICKINSON UNIVERSITY  
CELEBRATE NATIONAL  
CHEMISTRY WEEK 2020**

You are invited to the presentation

**“Chemistry and Biology of Benzimidazoles: A privileged heterocyclic scaffold for Medicinal Chemistry”**

*Speaker:* Dr. Sabesan Yoganathan, PhD  
Department of Pharmaceutical  
Sciences  
College of Pharmacy and  
Health Sciences  
St. John’s University

**Abstract**

Benzimidazole scaffold is a privileged pharmacophore and has become a highly sought motif during drug discovery efforts. Several clinically used drugs and drug leads contain the benzimidazole core as a key structural component. Benzimidazoles exhibit a wide range of biological activities, including antibacterial, antiviral, and anticancer. This seminar will focus on our efforts towards the development of a synthetic methodology to generate benzimidazoles and the preliminary anti-cancer evaluation of selected benzimidazole derivatives.



**Biography**

Dr. Yoganathan is an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at St. John’s University, Queens, New York. He completed his PhD at the University of Alberta, Canada and his post-

doctoral tenure at Yale University. His academic and research training is in the area of medicinal chemistry, organic synthesis, microbiology and natural products drug discovery. At St. John's University, Dr. Yoganathan teaches within the pharmacy program (Pharm.D.) and the pharmaceutical sciences graduate program (M.S. and Ph.D.). Research in the Yoganathan lab focuses on developing chemical and biological approaches to discover new natural product derivatives, and synthetic scaffolds as potential drug leads to for the treatment of infectious diseases and cancer. Dr. Yoganathan has been actively involved in STEM education through ACS – New York Section. He is the co-director of the Chemagination Science Competition, and he is part of the organizing committee for MARM 2020.

**Date:** Thursday, October 22, 2020

**Time:** 5:30 PM

**Place:** Fairleigh Dickinson University  
on line <https://fdu.zoom.us/j/99006041090>



**BIOCHEMICAL TOPICAL  
GROUP — JOINT MEETING  
WITH THE NYAS BIOCHEMICAL  
PHARMACOLOGY DISCUSSION  
GROUP**

**Immune Contribution to Heart Failure  
and Therapeutic Opportunities**

**Organizers:** DeLisa Fairweather, PhD,  
FAHA, Mayo Clinic

Filip K. Swirski, PhD  
Harvard Medical School;  
Massachusetts General  
Hospital

Scott Macdonnell, PhD  
Regeneron

Michael Dunn, PhD  
Regeneron

Nikolaos G. Frangogiannis, MD  
Albert Einstein College of  
Medicine

Akshay Shekhar, PhD  
Regeneron

Kari Fischer, PhD  
New York Academy of  
Sciences

Sonya Dougal, PhD  
New York Academy of  
Sciences

**Keynote:** Douglas L. Mann, MD  
Washington University School  
of Medicine

**Speakers:** DeLisa Fairweather, PhD  
FAHA, Mayo Clinic

Pilar Alcaide, PhD  
Tufts University

Bryce Binstadt, MD, PhD  
University of Minnesota

Jonathan Epstein, MD  
University of Pennsylvania

Joan Heller Brown, PhD  
University of California,  
San Diego

Siddhartha Jaiswal, MD, PhD  
Stanford University

Kory J. Lavine, MD, PhD  
Washington University School  
of Medicine

Na Li, PhD  
Baylor College of Medicine

Inflammatory cells' role in response to myocardial damage presents a new area of therapeutic opportunity. This symposium will focus on novel immunological mechanisms that contribute to the onset and progression of heart failure, with a special focus on the current state of therapies.

**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020

**Time:** 10:30 AM – 5:15 PM

**Place:** Virtual Symposium

**Cost:** ACS and Academy members save \$30 or more on this event. Please select the appropriate non-member Registration Category and use the Priority Code "ACS".

For more information and to register for the event, go to:

[www.nyas.org/immunocardiology](http://www.nyas.org/immunocardiology)

To become a Member of the Academy, visit  
[nyas.org/become-a-member/](http://nyas.org/become-a-member/)

**Deadline for items to  
be included in the  
NOVEMBER 2020 issue  
of *The Indicator* is  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2020**

## EMPLOYMENT AND PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE NEW YORK SECTION

To Human Resources Departments in Industry and Academia

The Employment and Professional Relations Committee maintains a roster of candidates who are ACS members seeking a position in the New York metropolitan area. If you have job openings and would like qualified candidates to contact you, please send a brief job description and educational/experience background required to [hessytaft@hotmail.com](mailto:hessytaft@hotmail.com).

Candidates from our roster who meet the requirements you describe will be asked to contact you.



## WESTCHESTER CHEMICAL SOCIETY

### FUTURE MEETING

#### Special Seminar – “Clinical Tests and COVID-19”

*Speaker:* Paul Dillon, Ph.D.  
Co-Chair and Program Director,  
Westchester Chemical Society.

Patient Advisor,  
Interstitial Lung Disease  
Collaborative (ILDC).

#### Abstract:

This talk is an update of an invited talk, given via Zoom, to the Boston and Cape Cod patient support groups of the ILDC. Because of the pandemic there is great interest in tests related to the SARS-CoV-2 virus (the cause of the COVID-19 disease). This talk discusses the availability of COVID-19 tests. Considering the short time-frame, tests have been developed quite well and quickly. There are brief reviews of clinical testing in general, and of the SARS-CoV-2 virus structure. I discuss the types of clinical tests (diagnostic-for viral RNA and/or antigens) and serological (for antibodies to the virus) and the difference between qualitative tests (those concerned with COVID-19) and quantitative tests. I address questions of sensitivity, specificity, prevalence and predictive values. I and several of my colleagues in clinical diagnostics have been concerned about false positive serological results; fortunately our fears were unfounded. How-

ever, we must still be cautious in handling positive antibody tests on individuals who have been asymptomatic and never tested positive for the virus. Unless we know that the local population has a reasonably high prevalence, such positive tests can be misleading. I have developed models for positive predictive value vs. prevalence and for estimating prevalence. I discuss recent CDC guidelines including the use of pairs of serological tests, and of neutralizing antibody tests (i.e., for antibodies that can be shown to kill the virus or impede its propagation). Finally, I note some prognostic (severity) tests, just becoming available, for patients newly diagnosed with COVID-19, a new surrogate virus neutralization test and sample pooling for more efficient screening.



#### Biography:

Paul Dillon is a chemist turned biostatistician. He received his B.S. from The Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn (now NYU's Tandon School of Engineering) in 1966,

his M.S. and Ph.D. from New York University's Graduate School of Arts and Science in 1969, and 1974, respectively (all degrees in Chemistry). He was a chemist for Union Carbide Corp., Tarrytown, NY from 1965-1970 working on paint latexes and took a leave to do his dissertation research from 1970-1973. Although technically in Chemistry, his research dealt with creating an optimization program to estimate molecular geometries by minimizing quantum calculated energies as functions of bond distances and angles. Back at Union Carbide in 1973 he worked on urethane foam flammability, modeling the evaporation of aqueous solutions of organic solvents and internally consulting in engineering statistics. In 1997, he received the first prize in the Roon Awards administered by the Federation of Societies for Coatings Technology for his development of the concept of critical relative humidity.

In 1986, he joined Technicon Instruments Corp., also in Tarrytown, NY, as a biostatistician. There, and for successor companies (Miles Laboratories, Bayer Diagnostics, Siemens Diagnostics, and Siemens Healthineers), he worked on protocol development, data analysis and generated reports for internal and external (clinical trials) evaluation studies for new or improved automated diag-

nostic instruments and reagents. He has worked on a range of diagnostics including, classic clinical chemistries, and immunodiagnos- tics. Retiring in 2012 he consulted until 2018. He has also been active in the West- chester subsection of the NY Section of the American Chemical society, serving as its Program Director since 2009 and its co-chair since 2015. He has also served on the board of the NY section of the ACS (2016-2018), and on the Advisory Board of the Center for Sustainable Energy at Bronx Community College (2014-2015), and the Industrial Ad- visory Board of the Polytechnic Institute of New York University, Department of Chemi- cal and Biomolecular Engineering (2012- 2013). He and recently became a Patient Advisor at the Interstitial Lung Disease Col- laborative (2020)..

**Date:** Thursday, November 17, 2020

**Time:** 7:00 PM (Zoom link available from 6:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada))

**Place:** Zoom

**Cost:** Free and open to the public

Join the Zoom Meeting

[https://sunywcc-  
edu.zoom.us/j/87192908761?pwd=VGdln  
FE0bFhoZWh2dEs5UUtJOUVLUT09](https://sunywcc-edu.zoom.us/j/87192908761?pwd=VGdlnFE0bFhoZWh2dEs5UUtJOUVLUT09)

Meeting ID: 871 9290 8761

Passcode: 61697e

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For further information:  
contact Rolande Hodel, [rrhodel@aol.com](mailto:rrhodel@aol.com),

Or Peter Corfield,

[pccorfield@fordham.edu](mailto:pccorfield@fordham.edu),

Phone: 914-762-4468;

Text: 914-980-9128 or 914-218-7607,

Or Paul Dillon,

[PaulWDillon2@hotmail.com](mailto:PaulWDillon2@hotmail.com)

Phone: 914-941-0890, Text: 914-393-6940



## NEW YORK SECTION – NEWS FOR OCTOBER 2020

1) **Mr. George Rodriguez**, Director at Ar- geni, was recently named a Fellow of the American Chemical Society. He is one of 53 members this year who were recognized for their outstanding achievements to science, the profession, and ACS. George has been a member of the American Chemical Society for over 18 years and served as a board member of the New York section from 2010 to 2015.

2) **Dr. Pamela Kerrigan**, Director for the Di- vision of Natural Sciences and Associate Professor of Chemistry at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, is a recipient of the Sigma Xi Evan Ferguson Award for Service to the Society. This award is in recognition of her commitment to Sigma Xi (the scientific research honor society) beyond local chap- ters as well as her passion for science edu- cation and student development. She will receive her award at the Virtual Annual Meet- ing and Student Research Conference which will take place from November 5-8, 2020.

3) The New York local section was selected to receive a Corporation Associates Local Grant in the amount of \$1000 from the Amer- ican Chemical Society. This grant was to be used to foster industrial outreach and col- laboration with the Society of Cosmetic Chemists as well as flavor and fragrance chemists in conjunction with MARM. Unfor- tunately the MARM conference was can- celled this year so this award could not be accepted.

**The Indicator is  
posted to the web  
around the 15th of the  
previous month at  
[www.TheIndicator.org](http://www.TheIndicator.org)**

## **“BEING A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF APPLIED SPECTROSCOPY”**

by Deborah A. Peru, Officer of NY/NJ SAS



I have been an officer and member of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy for over 25 years now. During my time as an officer and member of this organization, I have observed and been part of many changes and events related to this wonderful organization and I have observed the “importance of being a member” that I want to share:

In 2018, SAS celebrated its 60th birthday. I had an opportunity to share some of the history of SAS in the annual Gold Medal Award session held at the Eastern Analytical Symposium in Princeton NJ. The Society for Applied Spectroscopy national organization was established in Nov 1958, during a meeting held at the First Eastern Analytical Symposium held in New York City. The organization was born out of the necessity to share information at the national level by bringing together a few local organizations that formed during World War II. These scientists and physicists were using spectroscopy instruments manufactured for military purposes and testing ammunition and other military components for quality assurance purposes. One of the local spectroscopy groups that emerged at this time, was the New York section. They called themselves “The Society for Applied Spectroscopy”. At the first annual meeting, they were asked by the parent organization if they would donate their name to the national organization, which they did. One of the important contributions of the New York section was the inception of the Gold Medal Award Program which later became the highlight of the Eastern Analytical Symposium conference and continues to be a main focus of the local section’s responsibilities to this day.

As a member and officer of SAS, I have benefitted from being part of this organization in so many ways. As a member, I was welcomed into this organization when I started my career as a spectroscopist. During my early years, one of our senior members invited me to give a talk at a local meeting on my birthday. I was pleasantly surprised when I read a glowing summary of my talk in the SAS Newsletter several months later. As I continued to network, the invitations began to grow, and I began to get invitations to speak at conferences, fireside chats, webinars etc.

Being with likeminded people at meetings and conferences, provides a sense of belonging and having people to interact with and discuss topics of interest outside of work. Building lasting relationships with people I’ve met over the years is probably one of the most important outcomes. During the financial down turn in 2009, many companies were dealing with the crisis by downsizing and many of our members found themselves having to look for new employment opportunities. Our local section responded by creating a section on our website to post job opportunities and resumes, and those of us fortunate to still have a job, helped other members find permanent or temporary positions through staffing agents. We pushed their resumes internally for HR review and brainstormed on ways to engage them to keep them connected at conferences and at meetings.

When I attend conferences, it’s comforting to be with people I know. While walking down the long corridors either setting up a poster or our local section booth, I often see a dozen or more people whom I have interacted with through the years. It’s often referred to as “Homecoming” week by many of us. The networking activities at conferences, have become theme oriented and give us an opportunity to kick back and enjoy ourselves with our friends, associates, and family members. Sometimes dressed up in our black-tie optional attire, or masquerading in a Halloween costume, these events are always fun and entertaining. Spectroscopist never cease to amaze how funny they can be after having a few drinks!. Being involved in some capacity at a conference is even more rewarding. I often volunteer to chair a session, speak, or work at a booth. Whether the conference is in-person or on-line, it’s a good opportunity to be a voice at the table, contribute to format and content, and participate in knowledge sharing, as our organization’s founding scientists did over 60 years ago.

The opportunity to contribute is endless. Becoming an officer at the local section level is very useful for your career. You have the ability to expand your leadership skills and stretch your

style while shaping the future of your local organization. During executive officer meetings, you can provide input and direction on news offerings that can help scientists in your local area, academic professors and their students as well as provide opportunities to connect consultants and retired spectroscopists to organizations needing their expertise and assistance. Many of the events that are conducted at the local level include scientific workshops, academic poster sessions, student research award program, and on-line webinars.

My closest friendships have emerged within my local section. Being heavily involved with this organization as an officer, I have developed strong friendships with individuals working for a variety of different companies. Over the years, we have shared information about our families, our hobbies and have come together with our families at picnics and other celebrations. These acquaintances have turned into long lasting friendships that have become so important to many of us facing the harsh challenges of daily life. When my husband had cancer, my friends and colleagues at SAS contacted me weekly to find out how I/we were doing and to offer moral support and prayers for recovery. Within our own organization, several of our cherished members have passed-away and our officers and members were there to comfort their families. When the past chair of our local section passed away, I wrote a tribute to her career, highlighting her contributions as a scientist and friend of SAS and posted it on our local website. We sent a copy to the family and at the funeral home, the write up was enlarged and prominently displayed for friends and family to see. The family acknowledged us during the eulogy by saying that SAS, and in particular, engaging in science with students was such an important part her life's purpose and amongst her most cherished achievements.

There are many other benefits of being a member of the parent SAS organization. One of the most important benefits is gaining access to the technical articles published in Applied Spectroscopy Journal. Each membership provides access to the papers published and provides a way to keep informed of the newest algorithms, instrumentation, and applications of spectroscopy being developed in our field. I found it absolutely fascinating reading up on some of the first articles published in the Applied spectroscopy Bulletin, in 1948 as I was investigating the history of our organization.

This brings me to the Certification Program. In addition to providing members access to the Journal of Applied Spectroscopy, SAS provides members with a number of other benefits including SAS sponsored short courses, conferences, speaker programs, mentor program, and a robust website. The technical expertise and management of these offerings comes from the membership pool and relationships that are established between the members and management team. One of the recent offerings by SAS is the introduction of a professional certification program designed to provide scientists with professional certification status once they reach a minimum level of expertise in applied spectroscopy. In addition, SAS is working with several National conference venues (PITTCO & SCIX) to sponsor a number of supplemental courses intended to provide scientists with the working knowledge needed to apply spectroscopy (both atomic and molecular) in the workplace after formal training at the University is completed.

The new SAS Certification Program (thanks to Bonnie Saylor!) serves as a means to identify well-trained and experienced professional spectroscopists who meet a standard level of competence. Formal certification is obtained in the form of a certificate and letter, stating the individual meets the criteria for the certification level. Certification by SAS is a prestigious status that can be added to your resume, Linked-In page regardless of whether you are employed by private companies or working as a consultant, or in academia. The Certification standards were created and extensively vetted by senior spectroscopists and academic professors and defines four levels of certification. The program enables spectroscopists to promote themselves with professional status credentials as they continue to gain experience throughout their career.

In closing, I want to thank the members of the SAS for welcoming me over 25 years ago when my career was just starting and my mentors for pushing me along to share my knowledge and to lead in new ways. This early beginning has shaped my career path, both then and even now as I have begun a new role as consultant and trainer in this field.

## WESTCHESTER CHEMICAL SOCIETY

On Wednesday, August 26, 2020, a board member of the Westchester Chemical Society (WCS), Sr. Mary Virginia Orna, O.S.U. (Order of Saint Ursula), Ph. D., of *ChemSource, Inc.*, had the honor of giving a talk to the Hudson Valley Science Café on “Chemical Detective Work: Contributions to Art and Art History.” She discussed how the methods of modern chemistry can be used to examine the provenance, and to aid in the conservation, of art objects and artifacts. She noted that these methods can also help to clarify the techniques by which such objects were made, to determine their content, and to date them. She illustrated the use of a variety of methods in the examination of such materials as medieval stained glass, Middle Eastern obsidian and pottery, and 20th century art forgeries. Finally, she discussed the limitations of these methods.

Sr. Orna is Professor of Chemistry, Emerita, College of New Rochelle. She is presently President of “*ChemSource, Inc.*” a major effort in chemistry teacher preparation and enhancement funded by the National Science Foundation, and also of Dwight D. Eisenhower Title IIA chemical education summer programs at the College of New Rochelle. She has numerous accomplishments, publications and fellowships and is also active in many professional activities (many in the ACS, as well as in the Westchester Chemical Society). Two of her recent books, *The Lost Elements: The Periodic Table’s Shadow Side* (Oxford University Press) and *Science History: A Traveler’s Guide* (American Chemical Society and Oxford University Press) have had rave reviews. Her 2013 book, *The Chemical History of Color* (Springer) was recently very favorably reviewed in the *Journal of Chemical Education* in conjunction with the ACS National Chemistry Week theme on color and was rated the most popular book in the Springer series. She has three additional books hot off the press: *Sputnik to Smartphones: A Half-Century of Chemistry Education*, *Carl Auer von Welsbach: Chemist, Inventor, Entrepreneur and Chemistry’s Role in Food Production and Sustainability: Past and Present*. In preparation with Seth C. Rasmussen is *Archaeological Chemistry: A Multidisciplinary Analysis of the Past*.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Café was held via Zoom. The Hudson Valley Science Cafés would like to thank the Westchester Community College, Valhalla, NY for generously making the college’s Zoom available to us to use freely. The WCS Co-chair, Dr. Rolande Hodel, recorded the meeting on her lap-top as an .mp4 file. Dr. Toby Rossman, organizer of the Hudson Valley Science Cafés, collected screen shots during the meeting, as did our other Co-Chair, Dr. Paul Dillon, on viewing the .mp4 of the meeting. Screen prints of several people attending the meeting are below.



**Toby Rossman, Organizer  
of the Hudson Valley  
Science Cafés**

*(Screen shot courtesy of  
Paul Dillon)*

**Rolande Hodel**

*(Screen shot courtesy of  
Paul Dillon)*

**Mary Virginia Orna**

*(Screen shot courtesy of  
Toby Rossman)*



**Peter Corfiled  
(WCS Treasurer)**

*(Screen shot courtesy of  
Paul Dillon)*



**Neil Jespersen (Board of Directors,  
NY Section of the ACS)**

*(Screen shot courtesy of  
Paul Dillon)*

## FALL 2020 AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY COUNCIL

The Fall 2020 American Chemical Society Council Meeting was held virtually on August 19, 2020. From the New York Section, Councilors Brian Gibney, Barbara Hillery, Alison Hyslop, Neil Jespersen, Pamela Kerrigan, Patricia Redden, Marc Walters, Justyna Widera-Kalinowska, and Alternate Councilor Joseph Serafin attended the meeting. The ACS provided talking points to share with the members. Excerpts are provided below.

First, this Council meeting was held virtually due to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic. The councilors were advised to use their positions as members of the scientific enterprise to spread helpful messages and encourage the safe practice of mask wearing, physical distancing, and limiting exposure within your communities.

Second, the continuous and ongoing struggle in this country to create a safe and equitable society for all was brought to Council's attention. The ACS encourages inclusivity and opposes discrimination in scientific learning and practice. Councilors were urged to take active roles in dismantling any barriers that may deter or impede their colleagues in their research or careers. Councilors and guests were encouraged to review the ACS statements on diversity and reflect on how to implement these in their local sections and divisions.

The Council elected members to the Council Committees of the Council Policy Committee and the Committee on Committees, and Committee on Nominations and Elections. Neil Jespersen from the New York Section was re-elected to the Committee on Nominations and Elections; and from the New Jersey Section, Diane Krone was elected to the Committee on Committees, and Elizabeth M. Howson was elected to the Council Policy Committee

The Council also took action on the following items. The Council approved the creation of an ACS International Chemical Sciences Chapter in the Israel. The Council also approved the Petition to Clarify Amendments to the Standing Rules and disbanded the Joint Board-Council Committee on Chemical Abstracts Service. All of these actions are contingent on approval by the Board of Directors.

Thank you to all the Councilors who attended the meeting, participated in the discussions, and volunteer to serve on committees. The

work of the ACS is carried out through its volunteers from authors to reviewers to committee members. We all help "improve the world through the transforming power of chemistry".

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## Call for Nominations

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### COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE NEW YORK SECTION

Over the past twenty-three years the New York Section has participated in the designation of seven National Historic Chemical Landmarks and four New York Section Historic Chemical Landmarks. A brief description of these National and local section landmarks may be found on the NY Section Home Page at <https://www.newyorkacs.org> under the Committee on the History of the NY Section. These landmark programs recognize achievements in the chemical sciences and related areas, in order to enhance public appreciation for the contributions of the chemical sciences to modern life.

Please consider making a nomination for an historic chemical landmark. The Committee on the History of the NY Section will consider all nominations. In addition to a particular achievement, an historic library, building or association may be worthy of this distinction.

Please send your nomination, with supporting documentation, to the Chair of the Committee, Dr. Neil Jespersen, at [jespersn@stjohns.edu](mailto:jespersn@stjohns.edu).

Please reach out to your members to consider sending recommendations for this award. All nominations must be submitted by the Division or Committee, after approval from the respective Chair.

Nominations with supporting data should be sent to the Office Administrator email [btaylor@newyorkacs.org](mailto:btaylor@newyorkacs.org).

**Deadline for submitting  
Articles for the  
NOVEMBER *Indicator* is  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2020**

## North Jersey Meetings

<https://www.njacs.org>

### NORTH JERSEY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Section officers, councilors, committee chairs, topical group chairs, and section event organizers meet regularly at the Executive Committee Meeting to discuss topics of importance to running the section and representing the membership.

All ACS members are welcome to attend this meeting virtually and to become more involved in section activities.

**Date:** Monday, October 19, 2020

**Time:** 6:30 - 8:30 PM

**Place:** Meeting will be held virtually

To connect to the meeting remotely, please contact Cecilia Marzabadi at [cecilia.marzabadi@gmail.com](mailto:cecilia.marzabadi@gmail.com) for information.









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### NOMINEES FOR THE 2020 NORTH JERSEY ACS ELECTIONS

This fall the NJACS will once again hold its yearly elections. Members will be voting for the 2020 Chair Elect, the Executive Board Secretary, and three National ACS Council representatives. The nominees are as follows:

Position	Name	Current/Recent Position(s)
Chair-Elect	Qi Gao (Merck)	2019 NMR Group Co-Chair
Secretary	Bettyann Howson (incumbent)	Long time secretary, ACS National Councilor
Council (3)	Amanda Mann (Merck)*	Current councilor running for another term
	Alan Cooper (MedChem Consulting)*	Recently elected member of the ACS National Nominations Committee
	Amjad Ali (Merck)	2019 NJACS Chair
	Jasmine Lu (Shimadzu)	Former Chair Chinese American Chemists
	Cecilia Marzabadi (Seton Hall)	2020 NJACS Chair
	Justyna Sikorska (Merck)	2019 NMR Group Co-Chair
	Steven Silverman (Merck)	Alternate councilor

\*indicates a current Councilor running for another term

Anyone wishing to nominate someone for the 2020 Election should contact Miriam Gulotta ([mgulotta@njacs.org](mailto:mgulotta@njacs.org)).

## Call for Applications

### FREDDIE AND ADA BROWN AWARD

This Award recognizes and encourages high achieving middle- and high-school students, of African American and Native American heritage, to further develop their academic skills, with views on careers in the chemical sciences.

#### Award Amounts

Middle School \$100.00 Check and \$50.00 gift certificate : High School \$200.00 Check and \$100.00 gift certificate.

#### Who is Eligible

Middle School students enrolled in a science class : High School students who have completed a chemistry course

#### Grades

Middle School B Average or better in Science, B Average overall : High School B Average in Chemistry, B Average overall

#### Letter of Recommendation

Math or Science/Chemistry Teachers or Guidance Counselor

#### Statement

Middle School "Why I Like Science" : High School "Why I Like Chemistry"

#### Selection Criteria

Applicants must be African American (Black) or Native American (including Pacific Islander) or of mixed race.

#### Transcript

Official transcript required.

#### Financial Need

Not Required.

Applications available on the web: [www.njacs.org/freddieadabrown](http://www.njacs.org/freddieadabrown) or from your school guidance office.

#### Return Application To

Freddie and Ada Brown Award, NJACS Section Office, 49 Pippens Way, Morristown, NJ 07960

#### Due Date

Completed Applications must be postmarked no later than **March 31 Annually**

Questions: Contact Jeannette Brown [Jebrown@infionline.net](mailto:Jebrown@infionline.net) or (908) 239-1515

## Call for Volunteers

### OPPORTUNITY FOR ACS MEMBERS TO AID STUDENTS 2 SCIENCE IN A HYBRID VIRTUAL LAB PROGRAM

Can you spare a few hours of your time? Do you like working with students and would you like the opportunity to share your science knowledge in a classroom? Students 2Science (S2S) is seeking volunteers to support its V-Lab program. S2S has a series of elementary, middle, and high school experiments that run in various schools across New Jersey. Members are especially needed to mentor students in participating schools to help with experiments. It's great fun, a wonderful way to give back, and only requires

1-2 hours of your time. Experiments include CO<sub>2</sub> to the Rescue, Curious Crystals, Mystery of M&Ms, Thermochemistry: *Exothermic and Endothermic Chemical Reactions*, and *Glow it Up: The Chemistry of Luminol*. All are age-appropriate and volunteers are provided with instructions on how to support in the classroom prior to your scheduled volunteer day.

For more information, contact Cyndi Roberson, Director of Corporate Relations, at (973) 947-4880 ext. 516 or visit the website to register for the upcoming school year: <https://www.students2science.org>.



### SEMINAR SPEAKERS WANTED

The New York Section of the ACS is in search of speakers that we can add to our Speakers Bureau database of interested local area speakers who are available for Section-wide seminars and symposia. If you have an area of research or interest that would provide an interesting talk appropriate for our Section members, and would like to be included in our Speakers Bureau, please contact the New York Section Office at (516) 883-7510 or send an email to Bernadette Taylor [btaylor@NewYorkACS.org](mailto:btaylor@NewYorkACS.org) with the following information that will be posted on the Section's website: your name, affiliation, a title, and 5-6 words briefly summarizing your area of specialty. We look forward to hearing from you about topics that you wish to share with our other members!

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## Call for Nominations For Outstanding Chemistry Teacher Awards

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### NEW YORK SECTION ACS ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THREE OUTSTANDING CHEMISTRY TEACHING AWARDS



#### Outstanding Two-Year College Chemistry Teaching Award

Purpose: To recognize, encourage and stimulate high quality teaching and research at two-year colleges within the New York Section of the American Chemical Society.

The nomination for this award includes:

1. Candidate's CV including list of publications, students' oral and poster presentations and other evidence of students' involvement.
2. Up to three letters of support from superiors, associates, or local section members' evaluation the nominee's achievements as a teacher.

These documents should demonstrate the candidate's

- a. Quality of teaching
- b. Research productivity
- c. Department/college service including course development work
- d. Ability to challenge and inspire students
- e. Awards

The nominations are due September 30th. The candidates need not be a member of the American Chemical Society. The Award committee of the New York Section will review the candidates and select the nominee. Unsuccessful candidate's files will be kept active for a period of three years. Any updating of the file will be welcomed. The award consists of a major award plaque and a one year regular ACS member dues with New York Local Section dues, and will be recognized at the NY ACS Sectionwide Conference **in January**

2021.

Send nomination materials to Bernadette Taylor, ACS-NY Office Administrator, at [btaylor@newyorkacs.org](mailto:btaylor@newyorkacs.org) by **September 30, 2020**.



#### Outstanding Four-Year University with Graduate School Chemistry Faculty Teaching Award

Purpose: To recognize, encourage and stimulate high quality teaching and research at four-year colleges and universities with graduate programs only within the New York Section of the American Chemical Society.

The nomination for this award includes:

1. Candidate's CV including list of publications, students' oral and poster presentations and other evidence of students' involvement.
2. Up to three letters of support from superiors, associates, or local section members' evaluation the nominee's achievements as a teacher.

These documents should demonstrate the candidate's

- a. Quality of teaching
- b. Research productivity
- c. Department/college service including course development work
- d. Ability to challenge and inspire students
- e. Awards

The nominations are due September 30th. The candidates need not be a member of the American Chemical Society. The Award committee of the New York Section will review the candidates and select the nominee. Unsuccessful candidate's files will be kept active for a period of three years. Any updating of the file will be welcomed. The award consists of a major award plaque and a one year regular ACS member dues with New York Local Section dues, and will be recognized at the NY ACS Sectionwide Conference **in January 2021**.

Send materials to [btaylor@newyorkacs.org](mailto:btaylor@newyorkacs.org) by **September 30, 2020**.

## Outstanding Four-Year Undergraduate College and University Chemistry Faculty Teaching Award

Purpose: To recognize, encourage and stimulate high quality teaching and research at four-year colleges and universities with undergraduate programs ONLY within the New York Section of the American Chemical Society.

The nomination for this award includes:

1. Candidate's CV including list of publications, students' oral and poster presentations and other evidence of students' involvement.
2. Up to three letters of support from superiors, associates, or local section members' evaluation of the nominee's achievements as a teacher.

These documents should demonstrate the candidate's

- a. Quality of teaching
- b. Research productivity
- c. Department/college service including course development work
- d. Ability to challenge and inspire students
- e. Awards

The nominations are due September 30th. The candidates need not be a member of the American Chemical Society. The Award committee of the New York Section will review the candidates and select the nominee. Unsuccessful candidate's files will be kept active for a period of three years. Any updating of the

file will be welcomed. The award consists of a major award plaque and a one year regular ACS member dues with New York Local Section dues, and will be recognized at the NY ACS Sectionwide Conference in **January 2021**.

Send nomination materials to Bernadette Taylor, ACS-NY Office Administrator, at [btaylor@newyorkacs.org](mailto:btaylor@newyorkacs.org) by **September 30, 2020**.



## NICHOLS SYMPOSIUM RESCHEDULED

Dear NY ACS Section Member:

We are sorry to inform you that due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus in the New York area, the Executive Committee of the ACS New York Section feels it is in everyone's best interest (the hotel, the speakers and Dr. Matyjaszewski) to postpone the Nichols Symposium and Dinner until **Friday, April 16, 2021**. If for some reason we need to change this date again, another announcement with those details will be sent.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you. We hope you find that the new date works with your schedule. If you have already registered for this event and cannot attend, you will receive a full refund. We appreciate your patience as we work through this.

Wishing you best of health.

Dr. Ruben Savitzky, 2020 Chair ACS-NY



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