



Mohammed R. Elshaer, Ph.D.
2026 North Jersey ACS Chair
See page 5



ACS Local Section
North Jersey



ACS Local Section
New York

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The monthly newsletter of the New York & North Jersey Local Sections of the American Chemical Society. Published jointly by the two sections and distributed to their 6,200 members.

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EDITORIAL DEADLINES

January 2026	December 16, 2025
February 2026	January 16, 2026
March 2026	February 16, 2026
April 2026	March 16, 2026
May 2026	April 16, 2026
June 2026	May 16, 2026

The Indicator (ISSN 0019-6924) is published on-line monthly except July and August by the New York and North Jersey Local Sections of the American Chemical Society, Office of Publication.

All views expressed are those of the editor and contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the New York and North Jersey Local Sections of the American Chemical Society unless so stated.

THIS MONTH IN CHEMICAL HISTORY

Harold Goldwhite, California State University, Los Angeles • hgoldwh@calstatela.edu

Arthur Young (1741 – 1820) was an English agriculturalist, famous in his time for his experiments and publications on how to best work the land. His books included “A Course of Experimental Agriculture” and “Annals of Agriculture”, a journal of which 45 volumes were published. His agricultural interests led him to travel extensively not just in Britain and Ireland but also in continental Europe, and he published several volumes of his travel diaries.

“But wait a moment” I hear you say. “What has this to with the history of chemistry – which is why I read your column”. Patience – and all will be revealed. I am looking at my copy of Young’s “Travels in France and Italy during the years 1787, 1788, and 1789” which was published in 1792. I have the Everyman Edition that does not contain a publication date; I am guessing early in the 20th. Century. As a student of agricultural science Young made it his business to include visits to scientists in his travels, including chemists. A glance at the index of this travel book reveals the names Fourcroy; de Morveau; and Lavoisier – all young chemists at the heart of the chemical revolution, and all to a lesser or greater effect involved in the French Revolution that began in 1792. Young adds a short chapter on that event as an appendix to this book. The rest of this column was very easy to compose. I include quotations from Young about his visit to the Lavoisiers.

“To the arsenal to wait on Monsieur Lavoisier, the celebrated chemist, whose theory of the non-existence of phlogiston has made as much noise in the chemical world as that of Stahl, which established its existence. Dr. Priestley had given me a letter of introduction. I mentioned in the course of conversation his laboratory, and he appointed Tuesday.”

“To Monsieur Lavoisier, by appointment. Madame Lavoisier, a lively, sensible, scientific lady had prepared as “dejeuné Anglois” of tea and coffee, but her conversation on Mr. Kirwan’s “Essay on Phlogiston”, which she is translating from the English, and on other subjects, which a woman of understanding that works with her husband in his laboratory knows how to adorn, was the best repast. That apartment, the operations of which have been rendered so interesting to the philosophical world, I had pleasure in viewing. In the apparatus for aerial experiments nothing makes so great a figure as the machine for burning inflammable and vital air to make or deposit water; it is a splendid machine. Three vessels are held in suspension with indexes for marking the immediate variations of their weights; two that are as large as half-hogsheads contain the one inflammable, the other the vital air, and a tube of communication passes to the third, where the two airs unite and burn; by contrivances too complex to describe without plates, the loss of weight of the two airs, as indicated by their respective balances, equal at every moment to the gain in the third vessel from the formation or deposition of the water, it not being yet ascertained whether the water be actually made or deposited. If accurate (of which I must confess I have little conception), it is a noble machine. Monsieur Lavoisier, when the structure of it was commended, said [I translate his remark] “ Yes, sir, and even made by a French artisan” with an accent of voice that admitted their general inferiority to ours.....His pond of quicksilver is considerable containing 250 lb.”

Later in his travels Young visits Parma and its Institute of Electrical Studies “which has acquired a greater reputation than it merits....A well arranged laboratory, clean, and everything in order, in a holiday dress, is detestable; but I found a combination of many pleasures in the disorderly dirty laboratories of Messrs. De Morveau and Lavoisier. “ (Don’t share this with students!) Incidentally you can view a good deal of Lavoisier’s laboratory equipment at the Musée des Arts et Metiers in Paris. It was confiscated by the State after Lavoisier’s execution, but returned to his widow much later.

I wish you Happy Holidays and a successful New Year.

December Calendar

NORTH JERSEY SECTION

Saturday, December 6, 2025
2026 Executive Committee Planning Meeting
See page 7

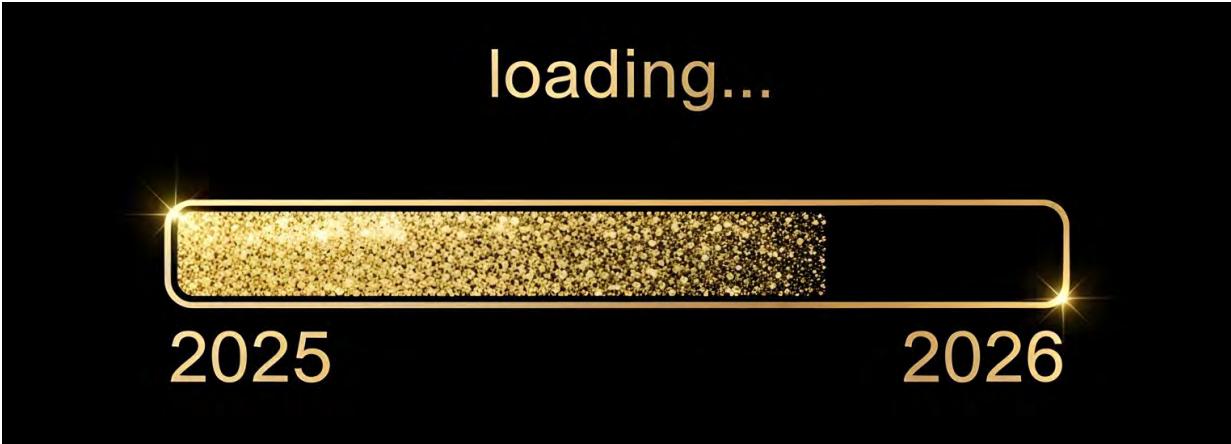
Thursday, January 15, 2026
Leo Hendrik Baekeland Award Nomination
Deadline
See page 8

NEW YORK SECTION

Thursday, December 4, 2025
Westchester Chemical Society
See page 13

Thursday, December 11, 2025
Long Island Subsection
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Saturday, January 24, 2026
Sectionwide Conference
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M.S. in Biochemistry at the
City College of New York (CUNY)
Email: kryan@ccny.cuny.edu

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The Indicator is published online on the 1st of each month September to June.

<http://www.theindicator.org/>

2026 NORTH JERSEY SECTION CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the North Jersey Section of the ACS!

I am deeply honored to serve as Chair of the North Jersey Local Section (NJACS) in 2026. Following an extraordinary centennial year and the success of the 2025 Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) hosted at Seton Hall University, our section stands at an exciting inflection point, one that builds upon a century of impact while looking boldly toward the future.

Before turning to the year ahead, I want to recognize the outstanding leadership of Dr. Robert Menger, whose vision and tireless work helped make 2025 a landmark year for NJACS. From the celebration of our 100th anniversary to the inspiring MARM conference, his commitment to collaboration and inclusion was evident in every initiative. I also extend my gratitude to the Executive and MARM Committees, our topical groups and communities, and the many volunteers who dedicate their time to sustaining our section's energy, relevance, and reputation.



Our Focus for 2026

This year marks the first full year of implementing the 2025-2029 NJACS Strategic Plan, developed collaboratively during our strategic planning retreat at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Our new vision, *Enriching and empowering our community through the transformative power of science*, guides everything we do, alongside our core values of *Passion for Science, Lifelong Learning, Inclusion & Belonging, and Sustainability*.

In 2026, our focus will center on three overarching goals:

- **Increasing Membership Engagement:** Expanding opportunities for participation through enhanced programming, interdisciplinary events, and new partnerships with neighboring local sections.
- **Strengthening Community Outreach:** Deepening our connection with students, educators, and the broader public by promoting curiosity and appreciation for science through visible, accessible, and inspiring initiatives.
- **Advancing Leadership Development and Governance:** Reviewing and modernizing our governance structure and bylaws to ensure that NJACS remains a strong, inclusive, and sustainable organization for decades to come.

2026 NORTH JERSEY SECTION CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Continuing Our Legacy

The North Jersey Section has long been recognized for its vibrant topical groups and committees, including the Mass Spectrometry, NMR, Drug Metabolism, Organic, and Chromatography Groups, as well as the Women Chemists and Younger Chemists Committees. Each represents the heart of what makes our section thrive – a community of volunteers united by curiosity, service, and scientific excellence.

For me, that community has always been the most meaningful part of NJACS. Whether standing beside a student presenting their first poster, connecting an early-career professional with a mentor, or seeing industry leaders collaborate to spark new ideas, I'm reminded why this work matters. It's not just about advancing science, it's about connection, mentorship, and creating opportunities for professionals at every career stage to learn, share, and grow together.

In the coming year, we'll keep that spirit alive by fostering stronger collaboration across topical groups, amplifying communication, and celebrating the people behind every event and achievement – the students discovering their potential, the professionals building networks and careers, and the volunteers who make NJACS what it is.

An Invitation to Get Involved

Our section's strength lies in the enthusiasm and creativity of our volunteers. Whether you're a student, educator, industry professional, or long-time ACS member, your participation can shape the future of chemistry and science in North Jersey. I invite you to explore our events calendar, connect with a topical group, and consider volunteering in a way that reflects your interests and expertise.

Together, we can continue advancing our mission to serve and strengthen our scientific community through resources, programs, and outreach.

Wishing everyone a year of discovery, connection, and continued growth.

Mohammed R. Elshaer, Ph.D.

2026 Chair, North Jersey Section of the American Chemical Society

**Contributions to The Indicator are due on the
16th of the previous month**
[Email the Editor](#)

NORTH JERSEY SECTION MEETINGS

2025 - 2026 NORTH JERSEY ACS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2025 North Jersey ACS Chair Robert Menger and the Executive Council welcome you to our monthly NJACS meetings. The meetings are normally held on the second **Wednesday from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.** The final meeting for 2025 is the planning meeting for events in 2026 at which the dates for the 2026 Executive Committee Meetings will be shared.

2026 Planning Meeting on December 6, 2025

For links to the virtual meetings and RSVP for in-person attendance at hybrid meetings, please see our [Section Calendar](#).

NORTH JERSEY ACS STRATEGIC PLAN

The North Jersey Local Section of the ACS is pleased to share the output from our 3rd generation local section strategic planning retreat conducted on September 12th and 13th at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Twelve NJ ACS Executive Committee members were joined by two ACS Facilitators, Martha Lester and Larry Kranich, resulting in an updated strategic plan consisting of our vision, mission, and goals as shown below in the strategic plan dashboard.

NJ ACS Strategic Plan

Vision: Enriching and empowering our community through the transformative power of science

Mission: Advancing the scientific enterprise for the benefit of our community by providing resources, programs, and outreach.

<p>Goal 1. Increase membership and engagement through enhanced programming and activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">G1S1. Invite the community associates and non-members to volunteer and earn ACS membership through the LSAC grant (Q3 26)G1S2. Joint programming with another local section (Q2 27)G1S3. Identify scientific areas not represented by current programming (Q2 26)	<p>Goal 2: Strengthen community connection by inspiring curiosity and appreciation for science among the public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">G2S1. Increase the engagement in high school and colleges by targeted programs Joint programming with another local section (Q4 26)G2S2. Establish a user-friendly calendar that highlights monthly events targeting section and/or public outreach (Q3 26)G2S3. Develop and implement a structured digital communication program (social media, news outlets) to promote and disseminate information on events and successes (Q1 27)	<p>Goal 3: Redefine our governance and support structures to ensure organizational effectiveness and the sustainability of our section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">G3S1. Leverage a task force to establish the optimal governance structure for NJACS (Q3 26) and update our bylaws by (Q1 27).G3S2. Organizational Strategy: Refine the procedural manual to codify best practices regarding roles / responsibilities and operations (Q1 27)G3S3. Develop a program to identify, train, and mentor NJ ACS leaders (2Q 27)
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The primary goals of the North Jersey Local Section will be to increase membership and engagement, to strengthen community connection, and to ensure organizational effectiveness and the sustainability of our section leadership. Each goal will be achieved through the careful execution of three strategic points of emphasis as outlined in the above dashboard.

The North Jersey ACS Executive Committee welcomes feedback on the strategic plan. Please direct all comments / questions regarding the strategic to robert@njacs.org.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: LEO HENDRIK BAEKELAND AWARD

Call for nominations: Because of scheduling conflicts in its 2025 schedule, the ACS North Jersey Section of the American Chemical Society will present the Leo Hendrik Baekeland Award at a symposium in the Fall of **2026** and continues to solicit nominations. The Award consists of a gold medal and a \$5,000 honorarium. The Award is given in recognition of accomplishments in pure or applied chemistry to a US-based chemist as characterized by the initiative, creativity, leadership, and perseverance of the individual (indicated by published or unpublished evidence) and who was under the age of 40 as of January 15, **2025**.

Nominations should include a letter describing the nominee's achievements, a brief biography and curriculum vitae, and a list of the nominee's important published works. Supporting letters are strongly encouraged.

Nomination forms can be found at <https://www.njacs.org/awards>. Email the completed nomination form and enclosures to Diane Krone, Awards Committee Chair, for receipt by **January 15, 2026**, at dkrone@njacs.org. Enter the title of the award in the subject line.

Re-nominations are encouraged, provided the age requirement is still met (the nominee was under the age of 40 as of January 15, **2025**).

SPRING ACS MEETING REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 10TH

NEW YORK SECTION MEETINGS

<http://www.newyorkacs.online>

BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2026

The dates for the Board Meetings of the ACS New York Section for 2026 have been selected and approved. Please note, the meeting date has changed to Wednesday and all meetings may be joined virtually except for the Nichols Symposium.

The meetings are open to all – everybody is welcome, but an RSVP for in-person attendance is required 5 days before the meeting, the Friday before the Wednesday meeting. All members who would like to attend any of the meetings should inform the New York Section office by emailing Ms. Bernadette Taylor.

All 2026 Board Meetings will be held as hybrid meetings from the CUNY Graduate Center ([directions](#)). New York ACS Chair Mr. Joseph Wiener will Chair all meetings. The meetings will start at exactly 6:30 PM.

The board meetings dates are, as follows:

Saturday, January 24, 2026 (in person)
New York ACS Section-wide Conference
at Iona University

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 (hybrid)

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 (hybrid)

Friday, April 10, 2026 (in person only)

William H. Nichols Symposium and
Medal Award Presentation at St. John's
University.

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 (hybrid)

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 (hybrid)

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 (hybrid)

More information will be posted in future monthly issues of *The Indicator* and on the New York ACS website.



2026 NYACS SECTIONWIDE CONFERENCE: ACS PRESIDENT RIGOBERTO HERNANDEZ

The New York ACS is proud to announce that ACS President Rigoberto Hernandez will highlight this year's Sectionwide Conference with remarks on the 150th Anniversary of the American Chemical Society. As you can see from the agenda on the following page, the Sectionwide Conference is filled with events to honor our outgoing Chair and plan for next year's leadership, honor our Outstanding Service Awardee, celebrate excellence in professional chemical education, honor our long-standing members and celebrate our youngest chemical researchers, and present the inaugural Dr. Marie Maynard Daly Award. We hope you will find the time to join us in this year's celebration.

Date: Saturday, January 24, 2026
Place: Iona University
Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
[Registration](#) is free

2026 SECTIONWIDE CONFERENCEACS Local Section
New York

2026 SECTION-WIDE CONFERENCE
CELEBRATION 150 YEARS OF ACS
SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026, 10:00am – 1:00pm
Iona University
New Rochelle, NY

PROGRAM

09:30 AM	Continental breakfast will be available.	
10:00 AM	GREETINGS FROM THE ACS NEW YORK SECTION 2026 CHAIR	Mr. Joseph Wiener PepsiCo.
10:10 AM	GREETINGS FROM THE DEAN OF IONA UNIVERSITY	Dr. Joseph Stabile Iona University
10:15 AM	PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE 2026 ELECTIONS	Mr. Joseph Ulichny Columbia University 2026 Chair Elect ACS NY Section
10:25 AM	AWARD PRESENTATIONS	
	Service Plaque and Pin to the 2025 ACS New York Section Chair	Dr. Eric Chang Pace University
	ACS New York Section Outstanding Service Award	Dr. Kathleen Kristian Iona University
	Outstanding Chemistry Faculty Teaching Award Division: Four-Year University with Graduate School	TBD
	Outstanding Chemistry Faculty Teaching Award Division: Four-Year Undergraduate College and University	TBD
	Outstanding Chemistry Faculty Teaching Award Division: Two-Year College	TBD
	Outstanding Full-Time Lecturer and Instructional Faculty Teaching Award	TBD
	Outstanding Adjunct (Part-Time) Chemistry Teaching Award	TBD
	Nichols Foundation High School Chemistry Teacher Award	TBD
	Recognize NYACS Senior Chemists (50, 60, & 70 year members)	Presented by Mr. Frank Romano Agilent Technologies
	Recognize NYACS ChemLuminary Awardees	Presented by Mr. Joseph Wiener
11:00 AM	PROJECT SEED Presentations by NY Section Project SEED Students Students to give live presentations.	Nadia Makar, STEM Supervisor José Martí Stem Academy
11:20 AM	150 YEARS OF ACS	Dr. Rigoberto Hernandez President of ACS
11:35 AM	MARIE MAYNARD DALY VIDEO	
11:45 AM	PRESENTATION OF MARIE MAYNARD DALY AWARD	Maria Contel Brooklyn College CUNY
11:50 PM	KEYNOTE LECTURE: MARIE MAYNARD DALY Award winner	Dr. Angel A. Martí Rice University
1:00 PM	CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING.	

2026 SECTIONWIDE CONFERENCE: MEET THE INAUGURAL MARIE MAYNARD DALY AWARDEE

The New York ACS is excited to announce that [Dr. Angel A. Martí](#) of Rice University has been named the inaugural recipient of the [Dr. Marie Maynard Daly Award](#). An exceptional academic, researcher, educator, mentor, and unwavering advocate for diversity and inclusion in science, he exemplifies the very ideals this honor represents. His journey and contributions serve as a powerful source of inspiration for K-12 students, undergraduates, and early- to mid-career scientists from similarly underrepresented backgrounds. Prof. [Martí](#) will present his award address at the New York ACS' Sectionwide Conference on January 24, 2026.



Angel A. Martí obtained his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, under the supervision of Prof. Jorge Colón. Following his postdoctoral training with Prof. Nicholas Turro at Columbia University in New York, he joined the Department of Chemistry at Rice University in Houston in 2008. At Rice, he has been using photochemistry to study a variety of topics, including protein aggregation, cellular temperature, and nanomaterials. He is the author of more than 125 publications and has mentored over 40 undergraduate students, 25 graduate students and several postdoctoral scholars. He initiated the Chemistry Graduate Education for Minorities (Chem-GEM) program at Rice, is Principal Investigator of the NSF-REU program and directs the Rice Emerging Scholars Program (RESP). His research, mentoring and educational activities have been recognized with a variety of awards, including the Inter-American Photochemical Society Young Investigator Award in 2013, the New Investigator Award from the American Society for Photobiology in 2014, the Rice University Presidential Mentoring Award in 2019, the 2022 ACS SWRM Stan Israel Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences, the Outstanding Faculty Service Award from the Wiess School of Natural Sciences in 2024, the Marjorie Corcoran Award in 2025 and the Robert Holland Jr. Award for Excellence in Research and Leadership from the Research Corporation for Science Advancement in 2025. Prof. Martí was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry in 2020, Fellow of the American Chemical Society in 2024, and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS) in 2025. He is the current Chair of the American Chemical Society Division of Inorganic Chemistry.



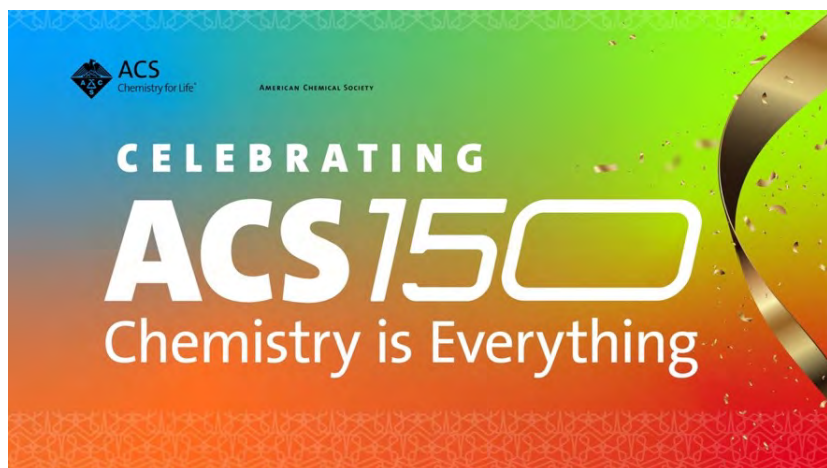
2026 SECTIONWIDE CONFERENCE: MEET THE NICHOLS FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY TEACHER AWARDEE

The New York ACS is proud to announce that Ms. Khrisna Alvarez of Midwood High School at Brooklyn College has been selected as the Nichols Foundation High School Teacher Awardee for 2025. Ms. Alvarez earned an M.A. in Adolescent Science Education from Brooklyn College, an M.S. in Chemistry from the University of Connecticut, and a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of the Philippines. Since 2016, I've been teaching Regents Chemistry and Science Research at Midwood High School at Brooklyn College, where her classroom is an ever-changing mix of inquiry, discovery, and student choice. One of her proudest innovations is the Learning Menu Stations Activity, which I designed to give students ownership of their learning journey. By offering structured choices—experiments, modeling, analysis, reflection—students move through content at their own pace. It's more than differentiation; it's empowerment. I've watched hesitant learners light up as they realize, "I can do this."



“My early research in electrochemistry and my work as a university instructor taught me that great teaching happens when rigor meets creativity and connection.”

Supported by the William H. Nichols Fund For Chemistry at the Boston Foundation



WESTCHESTER CHEMICAL SOCIETY**Solid-State Modeling in Drug Development: Predicting Risks, Mitigating Threats and Unlocking Opportunities**

Speaker: Luca Iuzzolino, Ph.D.
Associate Principal Scientist
Modeling & Informatics, Discovery Chemistry
Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ

Date: **Thursday, December 4, 2025**

Place: Online via [Zoom](#)

Time: 7:30 PM



Abstract: Several key properties of organic materials — including physicochemical stability, solubility, hygroscopicity, tendency to amorphize, melting point, and external morphology — depend not only on the chemical nature of the molecule but also on how it arranges itself in the solid state. Consequently, comprehensive screening and characterization of crystalline forms, or polymorphs, of the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) and key synthetic intermediates, together with their solvates and hydrates, are essential components of small-molecule drug development.

When a target molecule cannot form crystal structures with suitable properties (for example, an adequate melting point), alternative solid forms such as salts or cocrystals are explored to achieve an optimal balance of attributes. The solid form selected for manufacturing and formulation must possess the required characteristics and retain them throughout the entire manufacturing, storage, and delivery lifecycle. It must also be thermodynamically stable to minimize the risk of late-appearing, undesired polymorphs — as dramatically illustrated by the ritonavir and rosiglitazone debacles.

Experimental solid-form screens, however, are costly, time-consuming, and often rely on trial-and-error; fundamentally, they cannot guarantee identification of all relevant solid forms. Solid-state modeling can substantially enhance drug development by helping to right-size experimental effort, assess risks associated with a chosen form, and focus experiments on the most relevant threats and opportunities. In this presentation I discuss solid-state modeling with an emphasis on crystal structure prediction: the workflows, the types of information obtainable, how to interpret the results, and important caveats of computational approaches. I also present examples of the impact of solid-state modeling on real projects and outline future directions for improvement and development.

[Download flyer here](#)

WESTCHESTER CHEMICAL SOCIETY : SAVE THE DATE**Applying the Tunable Properties of LG Polymers to the Development of Long-Acting Injectables**

Speaker: Tom Tice, Ph.D., Senior Director Global Strategic & Technical Marketing,
Evonik Nutrition & Care GmbH

Date: **Thursday, February 12, 2026**

Place: Online via Zoom

Time: 7:30 PM

Details to follow

LONG ISLAND SUBSECTION**ACS Local Section**New York
Long Island Subsection

History and Chemistry of Lead

Dr. Paris Svoronos

Professor Queensborough Community
College (retired)

Thursday, December 11th, 2025, 6:30 PM

Dinner followed by seminar
Nassau Community College
CCB Building Room 251



Register by December 5th
Click [here](#) or
scan the QR code
to register.



Abstract: Lead is a heavy, not-as-difficult to isolate metal that has been known since prehistoric times and was used primarily for war and construction purposes. Later it has been substantial in the printing process, plumbing, batteries, medical procedures, radiation shielding and leaded gasoline. A short description of its basic chemistry and several of its uses and applications will be provided

Biography: Paris Svoronos earned his PhD in Organic Chemistry at Georgetown (1979) and has served as a full-time faculty at CUNY Queensborough Community College (CUNY-QCC) for over 40 years (1981-2021). He was the first Chemist to be selected as Professor of the Year by the CASE/Carnegie Foundation (2003) and the only community college faculty to be presented the James Flack Norris Award by the ACS-NE section (2021). He has served Long Island Subsection of the American Chemical Society (LI-ACS) as its Chair (2002), Secretary and current Director-at-Large. He was selected as the ACS-NY Section Chair (2015), Community College first Professor of the Year (2019) and alternate counselor. He is an ACS fellow (2018), as well as a recipient of the Stanley Israel Award for advancing diversity in the chemical sciences (2018), and the Ann Nalley Regional Award for volunteer service (2016). He has served MARM as co-General Chair (2008, QCC) and co-Program Chair (2016, Mount St. Vincent) as well as an ACS-General Chemistry Test Committee member (2018-2021).

Presented by the Long Island Subsection of the American Chemical Society

LONG ISLAND SUBSECTION: SAVE THE DATE

ACS Local Section
New York
Long Island Subsection

History and Chemistry of Mirror Through the Centuries

Dr. Paris Svoronos

Professor (Retired)

Department of Chemistry

Queensborough Community College



Tuesday, February 10th, 2026

6:30-7:30 PM on Zoom

Register to receive the Zoom link:

https://suny-ow-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/e_tKbLBMTTud7pX7ysR9UA

Abstract: The concept of mirror has been adopted by humans since the early history of ancient civilizations. The various ways of image reflections will be presented throughout the many societies over the centuries with emphasis on the social, artistic, religious as well as the various ways of mirror manufacture.

Biography: Paris Svoronos earned his PhD in Organic Chemistry at Georgetown (1979) and has served as a full-time faculty at CUNY Queensborough Community College (CUNY-QCC) for over 40 years (1981-2021). He was the first Chemist to be selected as Professor of the Year by the CASE/Carnegie Foundation (2003) and the only community college faculty to be presented the James Flack Norris Award by the ACS-NE section (2021). He has served Long Island Subsection of the American Chemical Society (LI-ACS) as its Chair (2002), Director-at-Large and Secretary. He was selected as the ACS-NY Section Chair (2015), Community College first Professor of the Year (2019) and alternate counselor. He is an ACS fellow (2018), as well as a recipient of the Stanley Israel Award for advancing diversity in the chemical sciences (2018), and the Ann Nalley Regional Award for volunteer service (2016). He chairs the ACS-Long Island Section Frances Sterrett Environmental Symposium held annually at Hofstra University. He has served MARM as co-General Chair (2008, QCC), co-Program Chair (2016, Mount St. Vincent), the poster co-chair (2023, CUNY, New York) as well as an ACS-General Chemistry Test Committee member (2018-2021).

Presented by the Long Island Subsection of the American Chemical Society

2026 WILLIAM H. NICHOLS DISTINGUISHED SYMPOSIUM TO CELEBRATE PROFESSOR MERCOURI KANATZIDIS

The William H. Nichols Distinguished Symposium and Medal Presentation Ceremony will be held at St. John's University on **April 10, 2026** in honor of Professor Mercouri Kanatzidis of Northwestern University, the 2026 William H. Nichols Medalist. The distinguished symposium entitled, as follows:

Frontiers in Materials Chemistry and Energy Innovation

The distinguished symposium will feature talks by the following:

Tobin J. Marks (Northwestern University)
Aditya D. Mohite (Rice University)
Ram Seshadri (University of California– Santa Barbara)
K.S. Choi (University of Wisconsin – Madison)



The New York ACS looks forward to honoring Prof. Kanatzidis and invites all to attend the celebration. Further details are available on the [New York ACS website](#).

Supported in part by the William H. Nichols Fund For Chemistry at the Boston Foundation



Robertson Microlit
LABORATORIES

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

WESTCHESTER CHEMICAL SOCIETY DISTINGUISHED SCIENTISTS AWARD 2026 – LAST CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Westchester Chemical Society is now accepting nominations for the “WCS Distinguished Scientist Award 2026”. Scientists who live or work in Westchester or the Bronx qualify. Nominees can be from private companies or educational institutions or government. The awardee is expected to attend the Awards Dinner (April/May time-frame) and to present aspects of his or her work. Self-nominations are acceptable. Nominations are carried over for 3 years from previous years. New and possibly updated nominations should be submitted. Please send a cover letter stating why your nominee should receive the award along with the nominee's resume by **December 15, 2025** to Dr. Peter Corfield at pcorfield@fordham.edu. The list of Westchester Distinguished Scientists is given on this [webpage](#).



ACS FELLOW – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The [American Chemical Society 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. The New York (NYACS) and North Jersey Sections (NJACS) have many outstanding members who have contributed to both the science and the Society and deserve to be recognized. Help us identify these exceptional members by sending your nomination to [Diane Krone](#) (NJACS) or [Robert Nolan](#) (NYACS) by January 31st. Please include your name, phone number and email address as well as the name, phone number and email address of the person you are nominating.

Due January 31, 2026


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MEETING REPORTS

NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK 2025: NEW YORK ACS CELEBRATES “THE HIDDEN LIFE OF SPICES” AT THE NEW YORK HALL OF SCIENCE

Contributed by Ping Furlan



New York ACS National Chemistry Week 2025 volunteers gather at the New York Hall of Science to celebrate the Section's 2024 ChemLuminary Award for Outstanding Performance by a Local Section (Very Large Size). Photo Credit: Alexander Furlan.

On Sunday, October 19, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the New York Section of the American Chemical Society (NYACS) proudly hosted its 19th National Chemistry Week (NCW) Hands-On Spectacular at the New York Hall of Science (NYSCI) in Queens. This year's theme, *"The Hidden Life of Spices,"* brought vibrant colors, enticing aromas, and centuries of natural history to life through chemistry. More than 200 volunteers from 15 organizations gathered to engage hundreds of visitors in a joyful day of hands-on discovery. Sponsoring institutions included colleges, universities, chemical companies, and high schools across the region, and long-term partners PepsiCo and NYSCI, whose collaboration – and generous financial support – forms the backbone of this annual celebration.

The program filled NYSCI's Viscusi Gallery, where bright NCW balloons, colorful theme signage, and ACS banners created a festive, welcoming atmosphere. Early-arriving volunteers worked to transform the gallery into an inviting, curiosity-filled environment—covering tables, arranging equipment, organizing materials, and ensuring every activity station was ready for young scientists and their excited guardians.

Volunteers were welcomed by Dr. Patricia González, Dr. Ping Furlan and Mr. Joseph Wiener of the NCW Committee (L-R, top picture on following page); Ms. Tara Glasgow of PepsiCo; and Mr. Sergio Furman of NYSCI. They reaffirmed their shared commitment to expanding public STEM education and the importance of interactive learning for young minds. Dr. Furlan highlighted that the continued success of NCW—along with Earth Day at Jones Beach and other outreach programs—helped the Section earn the 2024 ACS ChemLuminary Award for Outstanding Performance by a Local Section (Very Large Size Category), a prestigious national recognition that reflects the Section's sustained excellence and the power of its partnerships.

NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK 2025: NEW YORK ACS CELEBRATES “THE HIDDEN LIFE OF SPICES” AT THE NEW YORK HALL OF SCIENCE (continued)

Across the museum, nearly 30 hands-on activities invited visitors to uncover the chemistry hidden inside everyday spices. Families explored the fluorescence of turmeric under UV light, separated pigments from turmeric, paprika, and chili powder, and watched spice molecules reveal their identities through pH-dependent color changes. Children compared molecular models of aroma compounds - spice “Twins” such as spearmint and caraway, and isomers like those in thyme and oregano - molecules that may look alike but never taste the same. They also learned how different molecules influence what we perceive as “sweet,” “sour,” or “spicy” based on their shapes and structures.

They painted secret messages with turmeric, made mini lava lamps, created artwork with spices, investigated hydrophobicity of cinnamon, comparing it to oil and water, and used molecular models to emulate the journey from sweet vanillin to fiery capsaicin. With sticks and colorful foam pieces, young visitors built molecules ranging from simple water to elaborate, whimsical “fancy” structures limited only by imagination. Visitors also tested everyday items and irradiated spices with a Geiger-Müller counter, observing that different materials produced different but consistently low and safe radiation readings. One of the most popular stations invited visitors to craft star anise, clove, and golden-needle spice bookmarks—a beautiful blend of culture, art, and chemistry. Two themed photo booths offered additional fun, featuring selected 2019 NYACS-designed Periodic Table elements and a lively PepsiCo chemistry lab.



The Viscusi Gallery was filled with excitement, curiosity, and lively conversations. Young visitors, wearing child-size safety glasses and lab coats, moved from table to table with their parents or guardians, collecting stamps on their NCW passport cards and sharing moments of discovery. The energy was electric as families eagerly lined up to try activities such as “glowing spices,” “runaway cinnamon,” and “how bright is your spice?” using simple absorption measurements.

NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK 2025: NEW YORK ACS CELEBRATES “THE HIDDEN LIFE OF SPICES” AT THE NEW YORK HALL OF SCIENCE (continued)



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NCW 2025 was made possible through the dedication of volunteers representing a wide network of organizations, including Adelphi University, Bronx Community College (CUNY), Columbia University/Chandler Society for Undergraduate Chemistry, Guttman Community

NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK 2025: NEW YORK ACS CELEBRATES “THE HIDDEN LIFE OF SPICES” AT THE NEW YORK HALL OF SCIENCE (continued)

College (CUNY), Hofstra University, Lehman College (CUNY), New York Hall of Science, New York University, Pfizer School of Science, Queensborough Community College (CUNY), Rye High School, St. John’s University, Stony Brook University, University of Mount Saint Vincent, and the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Their creativity, enthusiasm, and commitment brought chemistry alive in ways that were inspiring, imaginative, and accessible to all visitors. Many volunteers worked for the entire eight-hour event starting 8 am and ending 4 pm - setting up, presenting demonstrations, guiding families, and cleaning up afterward - with passion, energy, and heart.



To view more photos from the 2025 NCW Celebration, please visit:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/9Yw5ugEmFFT6XqDm9>.

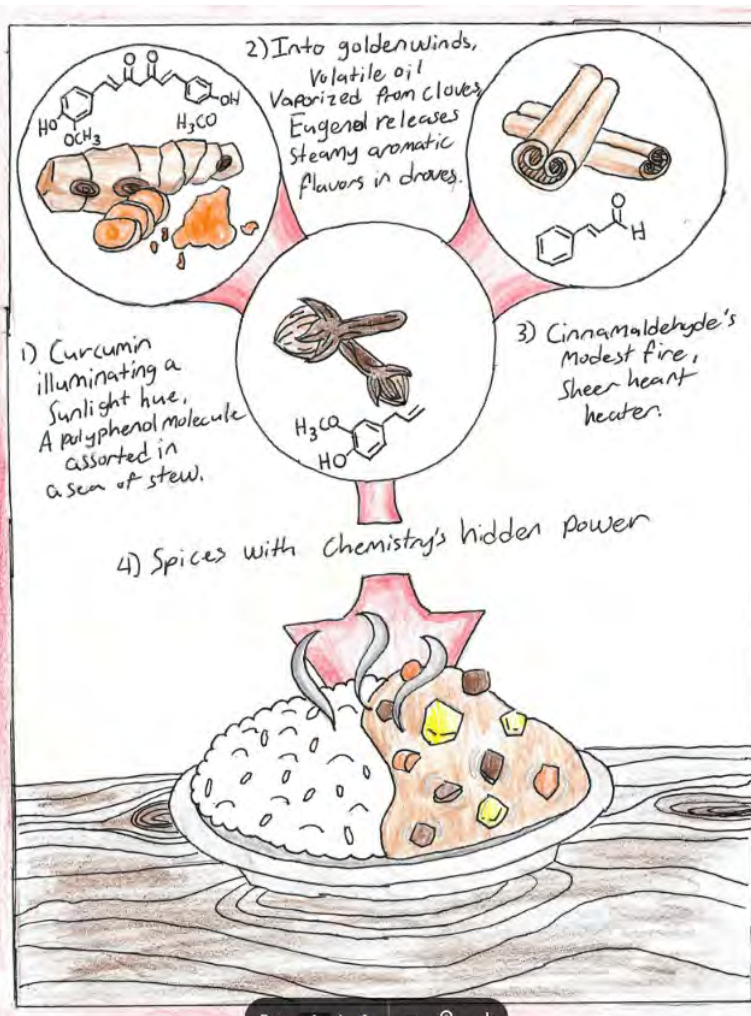
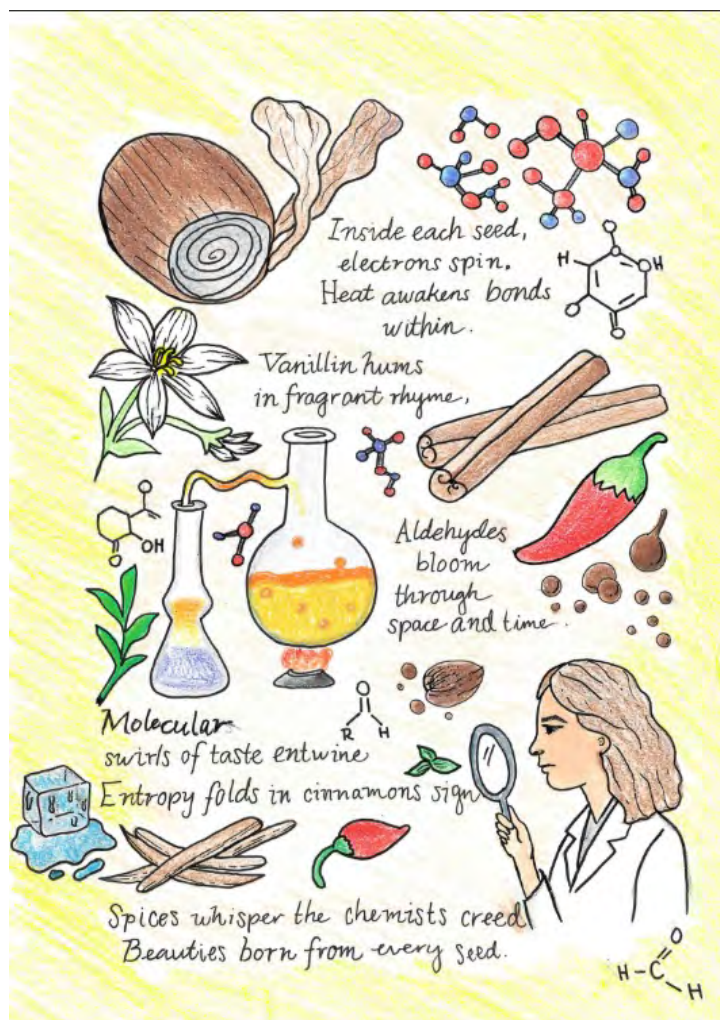
Photos Courtesy of NYACS volunteers.

NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK 2025: NEW YORK ACS CELEBRATES “THE HIDDEN LIFE OF SPICES” AT THE NEW YORK HALL OF SCIENCE (continued)

NCW 2025 also welcomed enthusiastic K-12 participation through the Section's Illustrated Poem Contest, supported by local high school and middle school teachers who encouraged their students to express chemistry through art, poetry, and imagination. Three winners were selected from the 9-12 grade category and one from the 6-8 grade category, with the top winner in each category advanced to the national ACS competition. Their contributions enriched the celebration and broadened the Section's outreach across the region.

Khush M., 9-12 grade, Smithtown East

Afsheen P. 9-12 grade, Island Trees High School



New York ACS extends its heartfelt appreciation to all volunteers, sponsors, and partners whose leadership and passion shaped this year's celebration. We look forward to building on this momentum as we prepare for National Chemistry Week 2026—continuing to inspire the next generation of chemists, makers, thinkers, and innovators across the New York region.

NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK 2025: NEW YORK ACS CELEBRATES "THE HIDDEN LIFE OF SPICES" AT THE NEW YORK HALL OF SCIENCE (continued)

Florence H. 9-12 grade, Smithtown East



Kaylie W., 6-8 grade, Jericho Middle School



FRANCES S. STERRETT ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY SYMPOSIUM EXPLORES PFAS: A "FOREVER CHALLENGE WITH EMERGING SOLUTIONS"

The Long Island Subsection of the American Chemical Society (LIACS) held the 2025 Frances S. Sterrett Environmental Chemistry Symposium on Saturday, November 8, 2025 at Hofstra University. This year's theme, *"PFAS – Forever Chemicals or Solvable Crisis?"*, brought together more than 100 experts, students, and community members at Hofstra University on Saturday, November 8, 2025. The hybrid format once again enabled broad participation, drawing registrants from across the country, including Arizona, Alabama, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Texas, Virginia, New York, and New Jersey. Of the 128 registrants, 80+% attended the event; 54% were ACS members and 46% nonmembers. The audience consisted of faculty (41%), students from high school through graduate school (38%), chemists, STEM professionals, and community members.

Hosted on campus by Hofstra University's Chemistry Department and supported by LIACS, the ACS New York Section, the ACS Senior Chemists Committee, and Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, the symposium offered a full day of presentations addressing PFAS detection, environmental fate, health impacts, regulation, and remediation technologies. Provost Dr. Charles Riordan welcomed attendees with warm opening remarks, underscoring Hofstra's commitment to environmental education and community engagement.

This year's program featured nine distinguished speakers whose collective expertise provided a panoramic view of PFAS contamination and emerging solutions. James L. Neri (H2M Architects + Engineers) opened with an engineering and municipal perspective on PFAS contamination and the ethical decisions that shape remediation. Dr. Lokesh Padhye (Stony Brook University) examined persistence and regulatory challenges alongside

**FRANCES S. STERRETT ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY SYMPOSIUM
EXPLORES PFAS: A "FOREVER CHALLENGE WITH EMERGING SOLUTIONS
(continued)**

promising destruction technologies. Dr. Graham Peaslee (University of Notre Dame) introduced total organic fluorine screening as a powerful tool to quantify PFAS beyond the limited suite typically monitored. Dr. Bridger Ruyle (New York University) discussed PFAS precursors, their transformation pathways, and implications for environmental loading. Dr. Arjun Venkatesan (New Jersey Institute of Technology) highlighted the difficulty of meeting stringent regulatory limits and the need for multi-technology treatment strategies. Dr. James Tour (Rice University) presented breakthrough materials-based approaches for PFAS destruction in soils. Dr. Yuemei Ye (Lehman College, CUNY) showcased MXene-based catalytic degradation strategies and antibiofouling hydrogels for drinking water treatment. Ms. Jiefei Cao and Mr. Alireza Arhami Dolatabad (University of Missouri) completed the program with focused studies on PFAS removal from high-salinity brines and thermal degradation mechanisms.

In the morning session, attendees also celebrated a major milestone: as 2024 Chair of the NYACS, Dr. Ping Furlan announced that the 2024 Sterrett Environmental Symposium had received the ACS ChemLuminary Award for Outstanding Sustainability Activities. She extended thanks to Hofstra University; Symposium Chair Dr. Paris Svoronos, whose leadership and moderation shaped the program; Co-Chair Dr. Ron D'Amelia, for securing the outstanding speakers; all volunteers and participants; and the ACS Sustainability Program Committee. A group photo captured this proud moment before the lunch break.

A new feature this year was the Student Raffle, created to encourage student engagement. Ten students—three online and seven in-person—received prizes, and student volunteers were awarded one-year ACS memberships. Shimadzu Scientific Instruments showcased analytical technologies through an on-site exhibition, and students from multiple institutions contributed actively to the discussions.

The 2025 Sterrett Symposium succeeded in not only delivering state-of-the-art PFAS science but also in inspiring a sense of shared responsibility and optimism. Attendees left with a deeper understanding of this pressing environmental challenge and a renewed commitment to advancing research, policy, and community engagement.

Special thanks go to the Frances S. Sterrett Environmental Chemistry Symposium Committee: Dr. Paris Svoronos (Chair), Dr. Ronald P. D'Amelia (Co-Chair), Dr. Ping Furlan (Co-Chair), Dr. Kevin Bisceglia, Dr. Carlos Chavez, Dr. Ruomei Gao, Dr. Barbara Hillery, Dr. Neil Jespersen, Dr. William Nirode, Mr. Frank Romano, Dr. Qi Wang, and Dr. Sujun Wei. Additional thanks to Dr. Brian Gibney, NYACS webmaster, for managing the symposium webpage and event promotion.

Event photos may be viewed at: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/xpTENwGTSC9iKTz98>

A recording of the symposium will be available shortly.

CHEMISTRY OF $^{39}\text{Y}^{80}\text{O}^{31}\text{Ga}$ 

The New York Section held its 2nd annual “Chemistry of $^{39}\text{Y}^{80}\text{O}^{31}\text{Ga}$ ” event on Sunday, November 23rd at Pace University. The goal of the event was to bring more awareness of Chemistry to the community in a healthy, relaxing, and fun way. What better way than to host an event based on YOGA, which means “unity”!

Registered participants met at 1 Pace Plaza at Pace University and proceeded to the Student Center where they were greeted at the registration desk. At the desk participants contributed to the “Gratitude Board” where notes of gratefulness were posted. Guests also received eye masks and a fun temporary yoga tattoo; proceeded into the meeting space. The coordinator of the event and Professor of Chemistry at Pace University, Dr. JaimeLee lolani Rizzo, welcomed everyone and a group of certified yoga instructors from various yoga schools gave a yoga two- hour practice which included a meditation, breathing technique, a warm-up, Sun Salutations, a flow, cool down, yin, and yoga nidra.



CHEMISTRY OF $^{39}\text{Y}^{80}\text{O}^{31}\text{Ga}$ (continued)

Everyone then moved to the other side of the meeting room where freshly made healthy smoothies were served as well as coffee, tea, and breakfast treats. Dr. Rizzo then introduced the Chair of the New York Section of the ACS, Dr. Eric Chang, who gave greetings on behalf of the Section. Dr. Ping Furlan, former NY ACS Section Chair, then gave her greetings and presented the 2025 Chem Luminary Award to Pace's Chemistry Club for "Best Student Organization for the Chemistry of LuV" event. Tables were beautifully decorated with tea lights and fall foliage. All guests received gift bags which included water bottles, healthy drink mixes, crystals, yoga stickers, stress-release balls, and more! Lunch was served that included pizzas, healthy salads, cheese and olive platters. After lunch the National Biological Society of Pace, Tribeta, and the Pace's new National Chemistry Honor Society both gave informative and interactive



presentations about the chemistry involved in vagus nerve and chemicals produced during a yoga asana and meditation practice. Participants were further entertained with CHEMISTRY BINGO and the day ended with a scrumptious ice cream bar with all the toppings, pies, cookies, and more! It was a beautiful gathering to unite people, move the body, breathe together, and make space in the physical body and in the mind 😊

Special thanks to all the wonderful volunteers of Pace University who helped with the planning, set-up, assisting throughout the day, and the big clean-up and to generous donors Blue Lotus Health and Wellness, and the Yoga Shack, Tribeta of Pace, and the Pre-Professional Health Society of Pace! Namaste!



NJACS HOSTS SUCCESSFUL CHEMEXPO IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK

Contributed by Nitin Waghmode and Sandra Keyser

In partnership with Liberty Science Center, North Jersey ACS hosted the 31st annual ChemExpo on October 18th, 2025 in celebration of National Chemistry Week. Over 1500 visitors to the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, NJ had the opportunity to engage in demonstrations related to the theme of “Hidden Life of Spices” with over 90 volunteers. Photos provided courtesy of Sandra Keyser.

There are 7 colleges and 2 high schools participating in this year's event. Students from Drew University, Essex County College, Seton Hall University, New Jersey City University, Caldwell University, St. Peter's University, and Ramapo College as well as high school students from J.P. Stevens High School and Princeton International School of Mathematics and Sciences (PRISMS) brought engaging activities to the visitors of Liberty Science Center.

Essex Community College provided a plethora of activities, demonstrating the hydrophobicity of cinnamon, a “Case of Disappearing Colors” using coffee filter paper or paper towel strips, the ability of red cabbage to serve as a pH indicator, and paper chromatography. Drew University had the children conduct a fun qualitative analysis of an unknown spice, using smell, structure, hydrophobic/hydrophilic effects, and the microscopic appearance of their unknown relative to several options. Ramapo College students presented the challenging topic of chirality to the children through gloves and everyday objects and through chiral spices – the children were presented with the structures and samples of carvone and limonene enantiomers to smell. The children drew with acidic and basic solutions on turmeric-stained paper to highlight its pH-indicating properties with Saint Peter's University. J.P. Stevens similarly had the children paint their desired images with the goldenrod paper.



Girls working with NJACS to make UV bead bracelets



Child mixes the spices to guess an unknown

NJACS HOSTS SUCCESSFUL CHEMEXPO IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK (continued)



Child determining which scent is wafted his way with Drew University students



Children guess which spices originate from which countries with PRISMS students

The children had an opportunity to make a mess with Oobleck, a non-Newtonian fluid composed of cornstarch and water, and were able to see the UV-fluorescent properties of turmeric with the Caldwell students. Seton Hall students presented a color wheel to the children who dyed their fabric strips to their desired hue using specific spices. Children engaged with the solubility of spices in various solutions, the heat of chili pepper, and the interesting reaction of pepper to static electricity with the NJCU students. PRISMS had the visitors thinking hard about the origins of spices, their chemical structures, and the uses of certain spices in characteristic flavors.

Judges this year included Keisha Stephen, Marie Coschigano, Suzanne Lepore, Joan Zanfardino, Alan Cooper, and Nitin Waghmode, who evaluated the demonstrations and selected the winners for the college competition with Miriam Gulotta as the judging coordinator. The second place award accompanied by \$175 was given to Drew University and the *Sister Marian José Smith Undergraduate Public Outreach Award* and first place for the demonstration contest with \$250 went to Essex County College!

Financial and logistical support from Liberty Science Center and NJACS made the event possible. The event was also successful due to the support of the volunteers, NJACS members, chemistry teachers at the participating schools, leadership at Liberty Science Center, and the ChemExpo 2025 Steering Committee: Miriam Gulotta and Sandra Keyser.



Children show off their turmeric paintings!



Child and NJCU student work with black pepper

OPPORTUNITIES

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For Professionals

ACS National Awards

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2026 HIST Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Chemistry

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4-Fridays:
Sept. 12th, Oct. 10th,
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11am-12pm

Online via Zoom

These sessions are for prospective applicants interested in applying for Fall 2026 admission to the Ph.D. Program in Chemistry. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions about funding, time to degree, research opportunities, and more.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting.

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NY GRADUATE CENTER

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Are you a junior or senior who is thinking about pursuing a graduate degree, but unsure of how it fits into your career plans, what the application process entails, and what to expect? The ACS offers a great resource, [Graduate School Reality Check](#), to use while you consider your options along with the ACS' [ChemIDP](#), an online planning tool.

In addition, the Graduate Center of the City University of New York offers Information Sessions via Zoom on four Friday's this fall. Join one online and hear about the process of applying to graduate school and ask questions of the program leadership.

[Register here](#)

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Société invites you to attend their Annual Meeting, Luncheon, and Panel Presentation on Biotech and Pharma: Opportunities and Challenges on **Wednesday, December 3, 2025, from 12:00 – 2:15 PM ET** at the Jay Conference Center, Bryant Park, NYC ([directions](#)). The biotech and life sciences sector stands at a pivotal moment, driven by revolutionary technologies like CRISPR, AI-powered drug discovery, and RNA-based therapies, yet constrained by rising costs, supply chain disruptions, and regulatory challenges. As companies grapple with shifting trade policies, tariff hikes, and steep R&D expenses, the path to innovation has become increasingly complex. This event brings together experts to explore emerging opportunities, dissect industry headwinds, and share ideas about how to thrive in this rapidly evolving landscape.

[Register here.](#)

Submissions for the January 2026 issue of The Indicator are due on December 16, 2025.

<http://www.theindicator.org/>

CHEMISTRY TEACHERS CLUB OF NY AND THE PHYSICS CLUB OF NY


The Kakos School of Science at Manhattan College and the Chemistry Teachers and Physics Clubs of NY are proud to present a lecture entitled, as follows: Approaches to STEM Teaching.

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Gould
US EPA (retired)


Date: **Saturday, December 13, 2025**

Place: Hayden Hall 100
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Riverdale, NY 10471

Time: 12:00 PM Lunch in Thomas Hall
1:30 PM Speaker



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Dr. Stephen Gould
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Open to the Public
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Join us for lunch in Thomas Hall at noon

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