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MN Chemist 2020 Issue 3

1 message

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Tue, May 5, 2020 at 3:43 PM

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The Minnesota Chemist

Official Publication of the Minnesota Section of the American Chemical Society

Issue 3, May/June Edition, May 5th 2020



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Chair's Corner

Hello. This is the third issue of the MN Chemist this year. We hope everyone is healthy and coping well. These have been a trying time for everyone. The SARS-CoV-2 virus has upended our routine and lifestyles. A new normal awaits us.

ACS National offers a number of online resources to keep all members well informed of the novel coronavirus. Several of these web sites are listed below. Luis Echegoyen, ACS National President, has requested that members that have become unemployed, furloughed, have had their hours or wages reduced, or are facing illness or family care responsibilities, contact Member Services at service@acs.org or via phone at 1-800-333-9511 for assistance.

[ACS Efforts and Resources on COVID-19](#)

[Everything we know about the COVID-19 coronavirus - C&EN](#)

[Chemistry in Coronavirus Research: A Free to Read Collection from the American Chemical Society](#)

In addition, our editor, Taysir Bader, has provided the following links to intense efforts by the UM Medical School and College of Science & Engineering to support our fight against the Covid-19 disease.

[New COVID-19 Test, Developed by U Researchers, Increases Daily](#)

[Testing Volume](#)

[Portable virus detection device on its way](#)

[University of Minnesota Launches COVID-19 Antibody Test](#)

If you know of other examples of research or work at other schools or local industry, please contact me so we may share your story with other members in a future newsletter.

As most of you are aware, concerns with the Covid-19 disease have forced us to cancel our March meeting with the Minnesota Technical Symposium (MinnTS) as well as our April sectional meeting scheduled at the McNamara Center at the UM for April 6th. At this point, neither meeting has been rescheduled. As to future meetings, we will probably not be holding any sectional meetings till this fall. Our spring Awards Banquet has been tentatively rescheduled for Tuesday night, September 22nd. Details and registration will be posted on the MN ACS website.

Our section reserves one meeting a year to honor and recognize the outstanding work of our ACS members. This meeting is referred to as our Awards Banquet and typically is held in the spring, usually the month of May. Awards are presented in various categories and vary from year to year. This year we are pleased to announce awards were given to Audrey Sherman, Gary Kwong, and Jenna Lundquist. Congratulations! In addition, our section recognizes at our banquet those members with fifty or more years of ACS membership. Further details on the awards are provided later in this newsletter.

And, let's not forget Earth Day. Wednesday, April 22nd was the fiftieth anniversary. Our section had made plans to observe Earth Day with a joint meeting with the Science Museum of MN on April 18th. Unfortunately, the Science Museum was forced to close because of the virus and the celebration was cancelled. However, we can all continue our support of Earth Day by reminding others the important role that chemists play in working to make our world better. Remind others that ACS supports important initiatives and research in areas like recyclable plastics, cleaner-burning fuels, phosphate-free detergents, environmental monitoring, and green chemistry. Educational resources are available [online](#).

As of this publication, ACS National is still planning to hold our fall National Meeting & Exposition in San Francisco. Regardless of the format of this meeting, we encourage you to continue to plan for the ACS Fall 2020 National Meeting & Expo. We will share updates as they become available. Abstracts for oral and poster must have been submitted by April 20th. If you have specific questions, contact national meetings at nationalmeetings@acs.org.

Our section also supports many outreach events. These include Chemistry Olympiad, Regional and Minnesota State Science Fairs, Winchell Undergraduate Research Award, Chemists in the Library, and Project Seed. Unfortunately, some events had to be cancelled. However, with a lot of effort by many ACS staff and section volunteers, most events were scheduled. Most judging was completed virtually. Exams were given to students as take home exams. The results and many of the winners are listed below.



MN Section ACS Awards

Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Chair Awards Committee

2020 Minnesota Award

The Minnesota award was established in 1958 to honor section members who have made an outstanding contribution in chemical research or in service to the profession. The winner receives a bronze plaque and \$500 cash award and presents an award address to the section scheduled to be on September 22, 2020. The award is given

every three years, rotating with the Brasted Award for Excellence in College Teaching and the Award for Excellence in High School Teaching.

2020 Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award

The Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award is based upon post-retirement professional activities of a member of the Minnesota ACS Section who has entered into formal retirement from his/her primary job. Professional activities can include volunteer ACS service, volunteer activities in any other scientific organization such as the Minnesota Academy of Science (i.e. Science Fair Judging), professional writing, consulting, and/or research.

2020 Janet Tarino Volunteer Award

The Janet Tarino Volunteer Award is given to an individual for outstanding volunteer service to Minnesota ACS, and/or chemistry related projects and events not directly connected to Minnesota ACS. This person will have demonstrated an exceptional passion for and commitment to community outreach, and dedication to projecting a positive image of field of chemistry.



Award Winners

Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Chair Awards Committee

The winner of 2020 MN ACS award is Audrey Sherman, Division Scientist at 3M Corporation. Audrey Sherman is a prolific collaborative inventor at 3M with a current patent count of 139 that deserves the Minnesota award of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Chemical Society. Her inventions impact a broad spectrum of products. Her inventions impacted Post-it™ Easel Pads, diaper tape and Tegaderm™, the breathable, pain-free removable medical tape to just mention a few. She is the first woman within a group of only 18 inventors at 3M to ever reach the 100-patent mark. Audrey earned a BS degree in chemistry from Augsburg University and has been a full time employee of 3M since 1985.

The winner of 2020 Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award is Dr. Gary Kwong. Gary received his B. S. and M.S. in Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin, Madison then came to the University of Minnesota Chemistry Department, where he did his Ph.D. work with Professor Wayland Noland. He worked for several small companies interested in coatings and polymers, then migrated to the 3M Company. He is co-inventor on at least 12 patents.

Gary has long been interested in helping youth interested in STEM topics. He has become a regular project judge at both the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair and the Minnesota State Science Fair. At present, he is a member of the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair Committee, for which he serves as Treasurer.

The winner of 2020 Janet Tarino Volunteer Award is Jenna Lundquist. Jenna earned her B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Minnesota. She is currently a Regulatory Affairs Associate at 3M where she manages new chemical notification submissions, EPA negotiations, CO/SNUR implementation and documentation and makes complex regulatory determinations.



MN ACS Project Seed

Dr. Sarah Mullins, Section Coordinator Project Seed

We regret to share that the MN Project SEED program for 2020 is canceled due to the COVID19 outbreak. The safety of students and mentors is our primary concern. We will return to our regular program in 2021. Please stay tuned! We will provide additional information on alternative resources to support low-income high school students advancing their interest in chemistry research. We also will update you on the college plans of our SEED alums who will graduate this year.

Minnesota Chemistry Olympiad



Dr. Roberta Naujok, Chair

ACS National came up with a way to offer exams to Chemistry Olympiad students. Students were allowed to take the tests digitally at home on their own computers. Minnesota students completed testing on Sunday April 19th. The exams were graded and the top 14 qualified to take the two part National Exam. After the completion of part one on April 26th, Maxwell Ye was the only Minnesota student who qualified to continue on and take part two on May 3rd.



MN Regional Science Fair Special Awards

Dr. Wayne Wolsey, Coordinator

Each Year the MN ACS Section Makes High School Special Awards at the Following MN Regional Science Fairs, each of which is within the MN ACS Section Boundaries.

Judges are chosen locally from among MN ACS Section Members. A \$50 prize is made for a top chemistry/biochemistry project.

Rochester Regional Science Fair

Tanmay Iyer, Prediction Modeling and Longitudinal Trends for Residential Radon Exposure in Olmstead County, Mayo High School, Rochester, MN

Mankato Regional (Southern Region) Science Fair

Jack Gootzeit, Environmentally Friendly Alternatives to Standard Road Salts, Waconia High School

St.Cloud Regional (Central Region) Science Fair

Jace Flansburg, Inhibition Potencies of Naturally Derived vs. Synthetically Manufactured Antibiotics: The Effects on the Gut Microbiome, Coon Rapids High School

Sophia Mitchell, Concentration of Bacteria on Shopping Carts, Anoka High School, Ramsey, MN

Twin Cities Regional Science Fair

Qeng Xiong, Convergent Synthesis: Development of a GGPP Analogue for Selective Enzymatic Labeling of Prenylated Targets Related to Diseases, Washington Technology School, St. Paul



MN State Fair Special Awards

Dr. Wayne Wolsey, Coordinator

High School

Top Prize (\$100) Nathaniel Dietz, 11th Grade, Transformation of Household and Agricultural Wastes to Stable and Energy Dense Biomass Briquettes, Chatfield High School

Honorable Mentions

Minsoo Daniel Choung, 9th Grade, The Effect of Gluten in Bread; Viscoelasticity and Texture, Schaeffer Academy, Rochester

Qeng Xiong, 12th Grade, Washington Technology School, St. Paul

Richard Xiong, 10th Grade, Economical and Renewable Bioethanol Production from Waste Banana Peels, Century High School, Rochester

Middle School

Top Prize (\$50) Madeline Larson, 8th Grade, The Effects of Pressurizing a Hydrogen

Fuel Cell, Bemidji Middle School

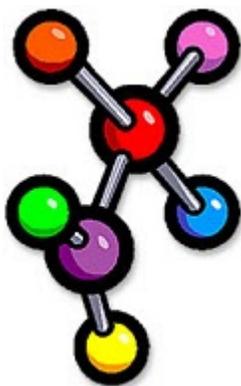
Honorable Mentions

Milan Danji, 7th Grade, Freezing Point Depression of Salt Water, Cloquet Middle School

Collin Elliott, 8th Grade, Rust Buster, Park Christian School, Burnsville

Sophia Kyba, 8th Grade, Do Expiration Dates Correspond with Milk Spoilage over Time? Nativity of Our Lord School, St. Paul

(All Honorable Mentions, in both Grade Categories, will receive a one-year subscription to ChemMatters)



Cancelled- The 2020 Winchell Symposium/Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Academy of Science (MAS)

Dr. Wayne Wolsey, Coordinator

The 2020 Winchell Symposium event scheduled for April 27 at Crown College is cancelled. This event is organized by the MAS each spring, and the MN ACS Section has been paying the registration fees for undergraduate chemistry and biochemistry students who make poster or oral presentations.



ACS Supported Innovative Project Grant

The ACS Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC) funds new local section projects through Local Section Innovative Projects Grants (IPGs). This program encourages local sections to conceive of and implement innovative projects to strengthen the functioning of the local section. Awards up to \$3500 are possible. Application deadline is June 30th. Further information can be obtained at <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/funding-and-awards/grants/acsccommunity/lsinnovativegrant.html>



Professional Development Resources Through ACS National

Get ready for a potential chemistry job crisis, [C&EN April 14, 2020, Volume 98](#).

Planning a Non-Traditional Chemistry Career

With more uncertainty in the job market for traditional research jobs, alternative career paths are becoming more attractive. Webinar that provides exposure to several distinct fields that rely fundamentally on chemistry. Link to recording can be found [here](#).

ACS Virtual Classrooms

Register for complimentary online Virtual Classrooms, where you'll learn live from skilled experts, helping you achieve your career goals and get the boost you need to succeed in your career. Links can be found [here](#).

If you have content for The Minnesota Chemist, please send it to Taysir Bader, Editor (bader072@umn.edu)

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