



# The Election Issue

Official Publication of the Minnesota Section of the American Chemical Society



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## Annual ACS-MN Elections

Good morning MN-ACS members! Now that we've all had the chance to exercise our civic duty while voting in USA and MN governmental elections, it is now time to consider our local ACS elections.

The Minnesota Local Section of the American Chemical society serves chemists, chemical engineers, educators, and the general public in Minnesota and western Wisconsin. As elected officials, ACS-MN officers and committee chairs work tirelessly to bring in science speakers, organize community outreach events, promote social and professional networking, collect the most up-to-date information on potential jobs/internships/higher-eds, and then communicate these opportunities to our members.

We have the following 2019 positions up for election:

Chair Elect  
Treasurer  
Councilor  
Nominations Committee

Your input and votes are critical to the continuing success of our local section. Please review these candidate bios and vote! Candidate information is presented herein and can also be found in the online ballot.

**Check your email inbox for a message from Election Coordinator titled "ACS MN Local Section 2019 Election Ballot - login information below" for your unique ballot access. The ACS MN Local Section 2018 Election is open through 11/27/2018 11:59:00 PM Central Time.**

## Candidates for Chair Elect

### Diane Amell

Diane received her Bachelor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Minnesota and her Master of Arts in Human Resources Development and Graduate-level certificate in Training at the University of St. Thomas. She has worked as an Industrial Hygiene Engineer (MNOSHA), a Chemical Engineer (MN Office of Waste Management), as a Production Engineer (Honeywell, Inc.) and as a Quality Assurance Engineer (Sheldahl Inc.) She is currently the OSHA Training Officer, MN Department of Labor and Industry (MNOSHA). Her ACS service includes the Minnesota Section Treasurer, 2000-2002.

I am honored to be nominated for Chair Elect. Areas in which the Section continues to struggle are programing and meeting attendance. I don't have the answers, but I am open to

suggestions.

### **Bruce Bear**

I am a retired industrial and government chemist with broad experience working for both large and small chemical and med tech companies as well as for the Ames National Laboratory. During my retirement, I have taught general chemistry and lab at several local community colleges as an adjunct faculty member. I am currently serving on the executive committee of the MN ACS section as treasurer. The experience has provided me familiarity with its operation and needs. I also have extensive outreach experience serving as a Mad Science of MN instructor, Science Museum of MN interpreter, and ACS Chemists in the Library volunteer. In addition, I lead and manage a networking group of approximately one thousand med tech professionals. I was awarded BS, MS degrees in Chemistry from The Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

### **Mayank Puri**

Mayank Puri grew up in Philadelphia, where he was first introduced to the joys of chemistry and Wawa. He obtained his bachelor's degree in 2008 from Brandeis University, during which time he carried out undergraduate research in the organometallic chemistry lab of Professor Oleg V. Ozerov. Upon graduating, he worked at a startup chemical company, QD Vision, where he synthesized semiconductor nanocrystals / quantum dots for display applications. He then started his Ph.D. studies in the Chemistry department at the University of Minnesota in 2010, where he explored the synthetic inorganic chemistry of high-spin oxoiron(IV) complexes in the laboratory of Professor Larry Que. After defending his PhD in 2016, he moved to the Chemical Engineering & Materials Science department to begin a postdoc in the nanophotonics laboratory of Professor Vivian Ferry. He recently wrapped up his postdoc and began a senior product development engineer position at 3M in the Abrasive Systems Division. Mayank has been an ACS member since 2011 and has had the opportunity to present undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral research at national ACS conferences around the country. He is grateful for receiving a MN-ACS sponsored travel grant in 2014 and is looking forward to giving back to the MN-ACS community in a leadership role. In addition, Mayank is very interested in promoting science-advocacy and literacy to people across the state of Minnesota.

## **Candidates for Treasurer**

### **Shelby Auger**

Ms. Auger is a 1st year Graduate student at the University of Minnesota pursuing a PhD in the Chemistry Department in the field of Chemical Biology. A recent graduate from St. Catherine University where she received a BS in Chemistry with ACS certification, she was active in many on-campus organizations including the chemistry club and the honors program. She was an officer all four years in the chemistry club, holding the positions of President, Vice President, and Publicist. As an officer she became familiar with the duties and responsibilities including budget management and efficient and effective communication both in the club and with other organizations.

"I would like to take a more active role in the Minnesota ACS Chapter as so far my main interactions with the organization have been coming to the meetings and volunteering at the Chemistry with Kids events."

## **Candidates for Councilor**

### **Marilyn Duerst**

Marilyn recently retired from her position as Distinguished Lecturer in Chemistry from UW-River Falls, where she had taught courses for both science-related and non-science majors since 1981, advised the "Chem Demons" student outreach demonstration group, and had been involved in a wide variety of outreach activities.

As a councilor, I thoroughly enjoyed my work on the national Committee on Community Affairs (CCA) for ten years. The last four years I have been chairing the subcommittee planning National Chemistry Week activities and publications to be used nationally and internationally.

For the last year or so I have served on the Committee on Science (ComSci), which formulates position statements that will inform Representatives and Senators in the national Legislature, as to the official stance of the American Chemical Society on current, critical issues. The ComSci Committee also seeks to be forward-looking in identifying emerging fields of endeavor in the chemical enterprise, and organize symposia on those topics at national meetings. I look forward to continuing to represent the Minnesota Section at national Council

meetings and in Committee work.

**Ramesh Kumar**

Ramesh has extensive experience within the ACS at both the local and national levels including service on the Committee on patents and related matters + subcommittees (2012 – 2018), Chair National ACS E.V. Murphee Award (Industrial and Engineering) Selection Committee (2017 – present), Local MN – ACS Awards Chair (2012– present), Councilor and Alternate Councilor (2002 – present), MN-ACS nomination committee, Chair MN ACS student affiliate and student mentor (1997 – 2002), MN-ACS Chair, MN –ACS Executive Committee (1998-present).

I have been a strong advocate of council involvement in issues that matter to our local section, participating in local as well as national ACS meetings. What matters most in our section is the interaction with communities in general and not just the “community involved in chemical enterprise”. As a councilor, I will participate and support in executing our local section’s goals to serve key stakeholders (our section members, National ACS, local companies that employ chemists, undergraduate and graduate students) of our section. I would be honored to continue to represent 2500 member Minnesota section at the National level.

**Michael Wentzel**

As a member of the local section, I have been involved as an alternate councilor for a number of years. As a councilor, I would like to be involved in activities that bring chemistry into the lives of chemists of all levels and to make opportunities and resources available and accessible to them via the ACS. Finally, I am excited about the professional opportunities that being a councilor offers, such as serving on committees and helping shape ACS governance.

**Candidates for Nominations Committee****William (Will) Pomerantz**

Will is an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Minnesota. His research lab uses chemical biology approaches to understand transcriptional and epigenetic processes in the cell.

I have worked with the Minnesota ACS section as part of the nomination committee since last year, and look forward to widening the base of members associated with our section.

**Marc Scholten**

Marc is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Hamline University teaching a variety of courses including general, organic polymer and organometallic chemistry. He received a Bachelor’s degree from Grinnell College (2001), a Ph.D. in polymer chemistry from Stanford University (2008), and has worked for two green technology startup companies in the Twin Cities.

I have been an ACS member for 16 years, and participation in this organization has benefited me professionally and educationally in numerous ways. I want to give back to this organization by serving on a committee, leveraging my organizational skills and professional network to collect information on nominees.

**Ramesh Kumar**

See above

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If you have content for The Minnesota Chemist, please send it to Matthew Hammers, Editor ([mhammers@umn.edu](mailto:mhammers@umn.edu))

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