

May 13, 2026

# The Minnesota Chemist



## Chair's Corner

Okay now, happy spring! It was great to see many of you at our first MNACS event of the year at Town Hall Brewery a few weekends ago, where we not only learned about the chemistry of brewing beer but also got to taste it.

If you weren't able to make it to that event, don't worry as we have a busy May and June ahead with two great opportunities to meet fellow Minnesota chemists. MNACS will be hosting a behind-the-scenes tour of the Andersen Windows factory in Bayport on Tuesday, May 26th. Then, on Thursday, June 11th, we have one of our biggest events of the year: the Awards Dinner and Ceremony at the 3M Innovation Center. You can learn more about both events below.



Finally, MNACS wants to hear from you. As we plan future events and content, we want to be sure we are serving our local section and organizing events that genuinely interest you. The MNACS Executive Committee and I would greatly appreciate your time and input. Please take a few minutes to [complete our survey](#).

Thank you in advance for your time and feedback and I hope to see you all soon at our next two events!

Andy Tangen  
Chair 2026

## ACS Insights

### New ACS Podcast: Chain Reaction

Did you know that ACS has a new podcast? Dive into [Chain Reaction](#) – a show that links chemistry's past, present, and future through stories of discovery, impact, and...the unexpected. From alchemy to clean energy, and from health care breakthroughs to environmental challenges, Chain Reaction brings together chemists, engineers, historians, and other experts to uncover the moments that shaped chemistry as we know it today — and the innovations that will shape the next era of chemistry.

So subscribe now wherever you get your podcasts and check out the [ACS podcast Instagram](#) to stay up to date on all our audio offerings!

## Help Shape the Future of MNACS

As we plan meetings and events for the coming year and beyond, we are looking for input from our membership on programming, meeting formats, topics, and engagement opportunities. Whether you attend events regularly or have not participated recently, your feedback will help guide the direction of the local section moving forward.

The [survey](#) takes approximately 5–7 minutes to complete.

Thank you for helping us build a stronger and more engaging MNACS community.

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## Tour of Anderson Windows

Join us at [Andersen Windows](#) for an immersive behind-the-scenes tour. Experience the combination of legacy and innovation that makes their products different and better.

### Time

- Tuesday, May 26th from 5:00 - 8:00 pm

### Agenda

- 5:00 pm - Presentation and Tours
- 7:00 pm - Dinner

### Location

- Andersen Windows, 100 4th Ave. N, Bayport, MN 55003

### Dinner

- Chicken Parmesan Entree, Pastas, Salad, and Selection of Fruit and Cookies catered by Green Mill Restaurant.

### Cost

- \$18 Standard / \$8 Students

### RSVP

- [Register online](#) by Friday, May 15th
- Registration limited to 20 attendees due to tour logistics

### About Andersen

We see possibility everywhere, every day and in everything we do. The possibility for our employees to achieve their dreams, for our communities to be stronger and for everyone to have a healthier, happier place to live. In short, we want everyone to benefit from their association with Andersen. Our portfolio of brands — Andersen Windows & Doors, Renewal by Andersen and Fenêtres MQ — is crafted to serve customers across the new residential, home improvement and light commercial building sector, and our more than 15,000 employees are inspired every day to deliver exceptional experiences that turn possibility into reality. This focus on our customers, context, and community is one of the many reasons you can trust your home to Andersen.

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## 2026 Minnesota Chemist Award Winner

The prestigious Minnesota Chemist Award is given to an outstanding researcher/innovator who has shown strong commitment to innovative work in chemistry-related fields. This year's award goes to Dr. Jerry Rasmussen of Thermo Fisher Scientific Corp. Jerry is a native Minnesotan and received his Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of Minnesota. After receiving a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Colorado

and post-doctoral work at SUNY- Buffalo, Jerry returned to Minnesota to work for 3M. Over his 50-year career in industry, Jerry has been a prolific inventor (over 150 issued US patents and 78 scientific publications) and a leader in the study of how biomolecules interact with surfaces. This has led to the development of a platform of products that aid pharmaceutical companies with the purification of biological therapeutics (e.g. monoclonal antibodies). Specific business successes include 3M Emphaze (TM) AEX Hybrid purifier; a new category-defining chromatographic cell culture clarification device, which was first of its kind and many other products which are based on new to-the-world functional chemistry that Jerry championed, beginning with the University collaboration in the early 2000s. Over the last few decades, the number of drug approvals for monoclonal antibodies has steadily risen. Many of these drugs are providing substantial improvements over existing treatments. Concurrently there is an increased need for effective, safe, dependable, and efficient purification of these biological products. Jerry's inventions are enabling the production of these life-changing and life-saving therapies for cancer, infectious diseases and other conditions. BIOT has recently recognized Jerry's contributions in the field by awarding him 2026 Alan S. Michaels Award in the Recovery of Biological Products, a prestigious award that is usually reserved for highly visible academic investigators who have educated many students and made influential and fundamental contributions.

Based on his innovation, leadership, persistence and productivity, MN ACS is proud and very enthusiastic in bestowing this award to Dr. Jerry Rasmussen which comes with a plaque and a \$600 honorarium.

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## 2026 Lyle Hall and Janet Tarino Volunteer Award Winner

Starting this year, the Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award and the Janet Tarino Volunteer Awards have been combined. This award recognizes individuals for outstanding volunteer service to the MN ACS or chemistry-related community outreach. The volunteer activities may 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.

This year's award goes to Mr. Todd Williams. Todd retired from 3M in 2006 and within less than a year, he started volunteering for "Chemists in the Library" and according to Dr. Phil Buhlmann, he quickly became one of the most reliable volunteers for this program. Todd knows all the experiments for the Chemists in the Library, and has always been willing to run whichever experiment the group needs on that particular day. While working with kids, he exhibits an enormous level of patience and dedication which is an enormous attribute to run this program. In addition to volunteering for the Chemists in the Library program, Todd has also volunteered as a judge for Science Fairs for many years and has served as a Science Coach for Stillwater High School. For his outstanding volunteering activities in the local section, MN ACS is proud and enthusiastic in bestowing this award to Todd Williams which comes with a plaque and \$500 honorarium.

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## June Awards Dinner at 3M Innovation Center

Mark your calendars for a special evening at the 3M Innovation Center this June! Join us as we celebrate the outstanding achievements of our award recipients while exploring one of the most cutting-edge research hubs in the industry. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow professionals, honor excellence in chemistry and biochemistry and experience the innovation that drives 3M forward. We look forward to celebrating with you!

### Time

- Thursday, June 11th from 4:00 - 8:20 pm

### Agenda

- 4:00 - 5:00 pm - Tour of the Innovation Center
- 5:00 - 5:45 pm - Social & Networking (beer, soft drinks and water)
- 5:45 - 7:00 pm - Buffet Dinner

- 7:00 - 8:15 pm - Presentation of Awards and Presentation by Dr. Jerald Rasmussen

### **Location**

- 3M Innovation Center, 2350 Minnehaha Ave E, St Paul, MN 55119

### **Dinner**

- Salad: Spinach Salad with Fresh Berries, Goat Cheese, and a Strawberry Vinaigrette
- Entrees: Beef Tenderloin with a Cherry Demi-glaze and Roasted Alaskan Halibut with Citrus butter
- Vegetarian Option: Acorn and Butternut Squash Risotto with Goat Cheese
- Side: Roasted Fingerling Potatoes with Garlic Butter
- Dessert: Crème Brûlée

### **Cost**

- \$20 Standard / \$10 Students

### **RSVP**

- Register by June 4, 2026 at 11:50 pm using [this link](#)

The winner of the 2026 Minnesota Chemist Award, Dr. Jerry Rasmussen, will give a presentation during this event:

Innovations at the Interface: An Industrial Chemist's Journey at the Nexus of Synthesis, Surface Functionalization, and Biology

Jerald K. Rasmussen

2026 Minnesota Chemist Award Winner

Thermo Fisher Scientific, 3M Center, Building 201-2E-04, St Paul, MN 55144

This presentation will chronicle my somewhat circuitous journey as an industrial chemist within the world of recovery of biological products. My job, as a member of an organization that supplies materials for use in the recovery and purification of biological products, is to survey practices in current use in the industry and to be aware of the most recent and relevant research from the academic/scientific communities, and then to bring both together to develop new concepts, new procedures, new manufacturable materials that will enable improvements in the overall recovery process, leading to safer, less expensive, and more efficacious biologicals for our ultimate customers and for patients. We will start with a couple of early forays into resin-based biopharmaceutical purification, a side-track during the high points of the Human Genome Project, a reinvigoration with a renewed focus on advanced single-use functional media, and ultimately into the development and commercialization of functionalized membranes and nonwovens, which provide the foundation of our most recent incursions into the realm of biological product recovery.

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## **Supported by MNACS**

Four students from the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University were supported by MNACS funds to attend the Spring ACS Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Their research topics ranged from functionalized nanoparticles to DNA modifications.

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## **Event Recap: Spring Networking Happy Hour**

On Saturday, April 25, MNACS hosted its first event of the year, a Spring Networking Happy Hour at Town Hall Brewery in Minneapolis. Chemists from across the Twin Cities gathered for an engaging afternoon of conversation and connection over appetizers and drinks. A highlight of the event was a behind-the-scenes tour of the brewing process, where attendees learned about the chemistry of brewing and got an up-close look at the equipment involved (and free samples!).

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make this event a success. We look forward to seeing you at future MNACS events!



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## Volunteer Opportunities

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### Chemists in the Library

Watch the Minnesota Local Section ACS website for details about upcoming events. If you are interested in helping as a volunteer, please get in touch with [Phil Buhlmann](#); he would be grateful to hear from you. No preparation before events is required, and no commitment has to be made; volunteers can sign up for one event at a time.



#### Chemists in the Library Events 2026

- May 16, 1:30 pm: Wescott Library
- June 27, 1:30 pm: Galaxie Library
- July 25, 1:30 pm: Inver Glen Library
- October 17, 1:30 pm: Heritage Library
- November 14, 1:30 pm: Kalposia Library
- December 5, 1:30 pm: Wentworth Library

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### Volunteer Opportunities - Get Involved!

Are you looking to enhance your leadership, project management, and networking skills? Volunteering for the Minnesota Local Section of the ACS is a fantastic way to grow professionally while making a meaningful impact!

We are currently seeking passionate leaders for the following committees:

- **Public Affairs** – serves as a bridge between the chemistry community and policymakers, advocating for science-related policies and engaging the public on key issues.
- **Government Affairs** – plays a key role in advocating for science policy and fostering relationships between the chemistry community and government officials.
- **Minority Affairs** – plays a key role in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the Minnesota Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS).

If you're interested in learning more, please reach out to [Andy Tangen](#) to explore these opportunities.

Take the next step in your leadership journey—get involved today!

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Visit our Website

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