

The Minnesota Chemist



Chair's Corner

Hello MN Chemists!

Wow, I hope you are able to take the time to read through this newsletter...turns out, there's a lot going on. We hope you are able to come out and see us in one form or another!

Thanks to James Wollack for representing the MN ACS at Mill City STEM Family Day on February 22—that's been a growing outreach event serving Twin Cities families. It was my pleasure to welcome all the faculty who contributed to the first gathering of chemists teaching at both public and private institutions on February 28—the discussions were robust and gave us all a much better picture of undergraduate education in the Twin Cities. Thank you to the judges for the Regional Science Fair, also on February 28, who mentored the next generation of scientists presenting their work—some of whom will now move on to the State competition on March 28. I am looking forward to seeing MN Chemists at Donaldson on March 12 with an in-person tour, dinner and talk. And then, off to San Diego for ACS National!



In April the Women Chemist Committee, chaired by Urvashi Sandhir, will host their first event on April 11, and on April 30 MN ACS will host an event at Bethel University on Project Management.

We are still looking for a chair for the Younger Chemist Committee—so if you think this is a group with your vibes, we welcome your talents!

Sarah Dimick Gray
Chair 2025

ACS MN Local Section Meetings

Tour & Technical Presentation at Donaldson Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Join us at Donaldson for a tour and to learn more about the innovative world of filtration.

From filtration to emissions: the impacts of chemistry changes to modern diesel fuels

Presented by Matthew Goertz, Senior Principal Scientist, Advanced Materials &

Time: March 12, 2025

5:00 - 8:00 pm

Detailed Agenda:

5:00 pm Tours (timed tour tickets required)

6:00 pm Dinner

7:00 pm Presentation

Location: Donaldson, 9301 James Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55431

Dinner: Grilled Lemon Rosemary Chicken, Lemon Rosemary Plant Based Chik'n, Grilled Salmon with Roasted Tomatoes and Fennel, Cavatappi Alfredo, Roasted Root Vegetables, Caesar Salad, Garlic Breadsticks, House Baked Cookies, Hibiscus Lemonade, Ice Tea

Cost: \$18 / \$8 students

RSVP: Register by March 5 at <https://www.mnlocalsectionacs.org/event-info/mn-ac-s-tour-technical-presentation-at-donaldson>

About Donaldson

Founded in 1915, Donaldson (NYSE: DCI) is a global leader in technology-led filtration products and solutions, serving a broad range of industries and advanced markets. Diverse, skilled employees at more than 140 locations on six continents partner with customers—from small business owners to R&D organizations and the world's largest OEM brands. Donaldson solves complex filtration challenges through three primary segments: Mobile Solutions, Industrial Solutions and Life Sciences. Additional information is available at www.Donaldson.com and a company overview video at: <https://youtu.be/lj2JouBfZY?si=7eN1FsAvM6kXkWy1>

Project Management for Scientists at Bethel Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Unlock Project Success: Intro to Project Management for Scientists

Are you a scientist navigating the complexities of academia, industry, or volunteer-led STEM initiatives? Whether you are managing laboratory expansions, developing new products or courses, or organizing impactful STEM events, effective project management can make all the difference.

Join us for a **1-hour introductory session** designed to equip you with essential project management tools and techniques tailored for the scientific community.

What You'll Learn:

- What is a project? Gain clarity on how projects differ from routine tasks.
- Project Charters Made Simple: Learn the key elements of a project charter and why it's critical to your success.
- From Scope to Schedule: Discover how to define your project's scope, create a Work Breakdown Structure (WBS), and develop a realistic schedule.
- Navigating Risks and Communication: Explore strategies to identify risks, keep stakeholders aligned, and maintain seamless communication.

Why Attend?

This session is perfect for:

- Scientists managing laboratory moves, expansions, or mergers.
- Team members involved in product or course development projects.
- Volunteers planning STEM/STEAM events, meetings, or activities.

You'll leave with practical knowledge and actionable tips to take a project from concept to completion with confidence. Plus, we'll wrap up with a fun, interactive activity to solidify your learning!

Don't miss this opportunity to boost your project management skills and drive success in your work and volunteer efforts.

Presented by

Rachel Mussell, PMP, DASM and Mike Schafer, PMP

Time

April 30, 2025
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Location

Brushaber Commons (BC) Room 468, Bethel University, 3900 Bethel Dr, St Paul, MN 55112

Please part in the West lot. Enter through the Carl Lundquist Community Life Center (CLC) and follow posted signs to Brushaber Commons (BC) Room 468.

Dinner

Southern BBQ Buffet - Smoked beef brisket, baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, cornbread and a chocolate brownie (please note any dietary restrictions in ticket registration)

Cost

\$18 / \$8 students

RSVP

Register by April 14 at <https://www.mnlocalsectionacs.org/event-info/mn-ac-s-project-management-for-scientists>

Speaker bios

Rachel and Mike run Back in the Box Consulting, LLC, a training and consulting firm dedicated to helping individuals and organizations implement straightforward, effective processes to reach their goals.

Rachel brings expertise in marketing project management and educational product development, with a focus on delivering practical tools and techniques that drive success in both personal and professional growth.

Mike is a seasoned project management professional with decades of experience leading teams, processes, and projects in manufacturing, software development, and IT. He emphasizes principle-centered strategies to create impactful and meaningful training experiences.

Women Chemist Meeting

Urvashi Sandhir will host a WCC event for women faculty in both chemistry and biochemistry, women graduate students, and women postdocs. The purpose of this meeting is to network and gather input from those interested in participating in WCC.

Time:

Friday, April 11, 2025
3:00 pm

Location:

Robbins Science Center, Hamline University

Watch the MN ACS website for additional details.

Contact [Urvashi Sandhir](#) if you are interested in attending.

May Awards Dinner at 3M Innovation Center

Mark your calendars for a special evening at the 3M Innovation Center this May! 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.

Stay tuned for more details in the upcoming newsletter and on the MN ACS website. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow professionals, honor excellence in chemistry, and experience the innovation that drives 3M forward.

We look forward to celebrating with you!



2025 Great Lakes Regional Meeting

Chemistry for a Better Planet: The 2025 Great Lakes Regional Meeting of the ACS is coming up fast! We hope to see you there in Appleton, WI on June 4-6, with hundreds of chemistry students, faculty, and industry professionals from around the upper Midwest. Abstract submission is currently open, with an extended submission deadline of March 10th. For more information, see our website at <https://greatlakesregion-acis.org/event-welcome/qlrm-2025>.

ACS MN Local Section News

The Winchell Symposium

The [2025 Winchell Symposium](#) will be held on **Saturday, April 26**, at North Hennepin Community College. This is a great chance for chemistry program students to present their research.

It was noticed last year that there were few students from chemistry programs at the Winchell symposium. It is a great chance to present your research and see other students present their work.

The MN ACS Local Section offers a scholarship for student presenters to cover some of your costs. In order to qualify for the scholarship you must meet the following criteria:

- You and/or your advisor is a member of ACS
- Your research is in chemistry or biochemistry
- You are among the first seven students to register from your institution
- You attend an institution within the boundaries of the MN ACS Local Section (see list of schools [here](#))

Scholarship requests should be emailed to [Nick Schlotter](#).

Spring 2025 ACS Travel Grants from the MN ACS Section

Grants are available to support travel to the Spring 2025 ACS National Meeting in San Diego, March 23-27, 2025 or a regional ACS meeting held prior to August 2025.

\$1000 travel grants are available for graduate students. Application criteria and instructions can be downloaded [here](#).

A single \$500 travel grant is provided for chemistry faculty at PUI or community colleges. Application criteria and instructions can be downloaded [here](#).

The deadline for both is **March 7, 2025**. As noted in the applications, these are to be

Senior Chemists Reflect on a Vibrant 2024

The MN Local Section Senior Chemists group, led by Lynn Hartshorn and Ken Latham, had an eventful and engaging year in 2024. From museum visits to festive gatherings, members came together to share experiences, knowledge, and camaraderie.

- May 2024 – The group explored the Minnesota Museum of Art, where they had the opportunity to speak with a conservator about art preservation. The visit was followed by a delightful lunch at a Greek restaurant.
- June 2024 – A summer picnic brought members together at a picnic shelter in Como Park, where they enjoyed boxed lunches from the renowned Lake Elmo Inn.
- October 2024 – The group gathered for lunch and a lively book exchange at the Green Mill in Woodbury, sharing good reads and great conversations.
- December 2024 – The year wrapped up with the much-anticipated “Holiday Event” at the Green Mill in St. Paul. Attendees enjoyed a raffle with small prizes, adding a festive touch to the celebration.

Looking ahead, the next Senior Chemists meeting will take place in April 2025, and we look forward to another year of engaging activities and great company.

A special thank you to Lynn Hartshorn for her dedicated leadership and to Ken Latham for his invaluable work in managing communications and keeping members informed.

Here's to another exciting year ahead for the Senior Chemists!

NEW Women Chemist Committee Chair

Join us in welcoming Urvashi Sandhir, the new chair of the Women Chemists Committee.

Urvashi Sandhir, Lecturer of Chemistry at Hamline University, teaches general chemistry and physical chemistry courses. Prior to teaching at Hamline University, she has taught at Virginia State University (Virginia), Plymouth State University (New Hampshire), University of Minnesota (Twin Cities) and at Concordia University (Saint Paul). She earned her doctorate degree in chemistry on the topic of glow discharge electrolysis from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. She mentors' students in undergraduate research in plasma chemistry. Her research focuses on material synthesis and wastewater inactivation by cold atmospheric pressure plasmas. Her other research interests are in plasma as a tool for material synthesis, plasma medicine and plasma liquid interactions. She is also a guest researcher in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. During her post-doctoral work there, she focused on detailing the mechanism of virus inactivation, silver nanoparticle synthesis and polymer synthesis by a cold atmospheric pressure plasma jet. She has Industry experience in the research and development sector of corrosion control.



Urvashi is making plans to host the first WCC event at Hamline on Friday April 11 at 3 pm. This will be for women faculty in both chemistry and biochemistry, women graduate students, and women postdocs. The purpose of the meeting is to network and gather input from those interested in participating in WCC. Potential WCC events this year may include workshops on grant writing, leadership skills, public speaking and navigating academic politics. Join the first meeting to share your ideas or contact Urvashi at usandhir01@hamline.edu.

Call for Nominations

2025 Minnesota High School Chemistry Teaching Award

In 2025, the section will recognize an outstanding high school chemistry teacher with the Award for Excellence in High School Chemistry Teaching. The most recent awards were given to:

- Rena Benedict of Forest Lake
- Marcy Copeland of Granite Falls
- Patricia Richards of Como Park High School
- Michael Minnema of North Community HS
- Becky Keller of Highland Park HS, St. Paul
- Jamie Crannell of Chaska HS
- Jennifer Steiger of Mahtomedi HS
- Janice Gepner of St. Paul Academy
- Ian Bronson of North High School
- David Tweeten of Minnehaha Academy
- Cassandra Knutson of White Bear Lake High School
- Dr. Angela N. Osuji of Washburn High School, Minneapolis

The nominee must be engaged in high school chemistry teaching (grades 9-12). The nomination must include a biographical sketch, a list of publications (if any) and a statement of and evaluation of the nominee's achievements as a high school chemistry teacher. The nomination should clearly demonstrate the following attributes:

1. The quality of the candidate's teaching including effective methods of presentation
2. The ability to challenge and inspire students
3. Extracurricular work in chemistry including science fairs, science clubs, and activities that stimulate the interest of young people in chemistry and related sciences
4. Willingness to keep up-to-date in chemistry

The nominating packet may include up to three supporting letters from supervisors, associates, MN section members, or former students who have graduated from high school.

The award consists of a plaque and cash award of \$600 which will be presented at the May meeting of the section.

The nomination procedure is simple - nominating letter and all supporting information should be emailed to [Ramesh C. Kumar](#), Chair MN ACS Awards Committee on or before **March 15, 2025**.

2025 Janet Tarino Volunteer Award

The Janet Tarino Volunteer Award will be 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 chemists. Nominating documents should include curriculum vitae and examples of volunteer service. The award consists of a plaque and cash award of \$250 which will be presented at the May meeting of the section. Nominations should be emailed to [Ramesh C. Kumar](#), Chair MN ACS Awards Committee, on or before **March 15, 2025**.

2025 The Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award

The Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award is based upon preferably 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. Nominating documents should include curriculum vitae and examples of volunteer service. The award consists of a plaque and cash award of \$250 which will be presented at the May meeting of the section. Nominations should be emailed to [Ramesh C. Kumar](#), Chair MN ACS Awards Committee, on or before **March 15, 2025**.

Volunteer Opportunities

State Science Fair Judges

The State Science Fair for middle schools and high schools will be held on March 28 at the St. Paul River Center, Roy Wilkins Auditorium. Judging will take place from 11:00 AM to 3 PM and there is usually a judges meeting where questions are answered before that. Lunch is provided as well as coverage for the cost of parking downtown which is refunded by the MN ACS section. Students present their projects, and explain them to a judge for a few minutes, and judges tour the projects and ask a few questions. It is a lot of fun and encourages the students to keep learning and growing in STEM areas. See the [Minnesota Academy of Science website](#) for details about the 2025 State Science and Engineering Fair. We are very short of judges this year! College undergraduates with chemistry majors are also welcome to judge. Please let [Lynn Hartshorn](#) know if you could help judge.

Committee Volunteer Opportunities - Get Involved!

Are you looking to enhance your leadership, project management, and networking skills? Volunteering as a committee chair 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:

- **Younger Chemists** – leads initiatives to support, engage, and connect early-career chemists and students within the Minnesota Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS).
- **National Chemistry Week** – responsible for leading efforts to promote and coordinate activities related to National Chemistry Week, an annual outreach event organized by the American Chemical Society (ACS).
- **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 [Sarah Dimick Gray](#) to explore these opportunities.

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



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