

The Minnesota Chemist



Chair's Corner

Happy 2026 from the Minnesota Local ACS! Did you know the American Chemical Society is celebrating its 150th anniversary, also known as its sesquicentennial? (Don't worry I had to look up the pronunciation too) As we enter this milestone year, I'm excited not only about what's planned on the national side of ACS, but also about everything we have in store right here in Minnesota through our local section.

A couple of weeks ago, our executive committee met to discuss the year ahead. As we move into 2026, we're welcoming several new committee members who are bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Some of my biggest takeaways from the amazing events hosted in 2025 were the power of connection and the energy that comes from gathering in-person. I truly enjoyed meeting so many of you throughout the year and learning about your passions, both within the world of chemistry and far beyond it. My goal for 2026 is to build on last year's momentum and have MNACS continue bringing people together and strengthening our community in the state we call home.



Andy Tangen
Chair 2026

ACS Insights

ACS' 150th Anniversary | Chemistry is Everything

Together, we are embarking on a 12-month celebration honoring ACS' 150th Anniversary and its impact on chemistry. As we celebrate this milestone, we honor our legacy and reaffirm our commitment to a future where chemistry continues to improve all lives. Thank you for all that you do - you are the energy behind the engine—helping us to advance our goals and to share the positive image of chemistry with local communities.

Your January 150th Call to Action:

- Share the 150th Anniversary [video](#) in your newsletters, emails, and on social media #ACS150
- Invite your community to [visit this link](#) and answer the question, What does "Chemistry is Everything" mean to you? We are highlighting responses across social media
- Execute, Discuss, and Elevate leadership discussion as it is the monthly thrust for January. February is Integrity. Lean More and Use the [150th Playbook](#).

Each month we will have a call to action for you to stay connected to the Officer Insights Newsletter and email acs150thanniversary@acs.org if you have any questions/needs. Let's celebrate!

Free Lab Safety e-Textbook Available Now!

The ACS Office of Safety Programs encourages chemistry instructors everywhere to explore the free [Laboratory Safety for Chemistry Students \(LSCS\) e-Textbook](#). This resource is designed for flexible incorporation into an undergraduate chemistry curriculum and contains eight chapters based on the RAMP Risk Assessment Framework. The e-Textbook also contains a customizable quiz at the end of all 73 sections and aligns with the [ACS Guidelines for Bachelor's Degree Programs](#). Contact our Office at safety@acs.org with any questions!

ACS PRF – Making Our Future Brighter Through Fundamental Hydrocarbon Research

The ACS PRF accepts research proposals from Monday, February 9, 2026 to Friday, March 6, 2026. Proposals must focus on fundamental petroleum research, including research related to petroleum-derived materials in one of ten specified subject matter areas. It is important to note that while the PRF Trust imposes restrictions, PRF currently funds various topics of interests in sustainability and green chemistry. These topics include new catalysts and the new upgrading/utilization of methane and carbon dioxide.

For more information on supported research areas, interested individuals are encouraged to contact a PRF program officer or PRFsupport@acs.org.

Grant programs are available for new faculty starting their first tenure-track position (DNI), as well as established tenured or tenure-track faculty exploring a new research direction (ND). Separate grant programs exist for qualified professors in non-doctoral departments (UNI, UR). Departments of successful UR and UNI grant applications will be invited to apply for a competitive \$25,000 supplement fund. Supplements aim to enhance research activities, capabilities, and engagement in the department.

Applications are made through a web-based portal, and [additional information](#) can be found at www.acsprf.org.

ACS MN Local Section News

2026 RRV-ACS Research Conference

The Red River Valley Local Section of the American Chemical Society (RRV-ACS) will hold the 2026 RRV-ACS Research Conference on **February 13th and 14th at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN**. The Conference consists of a Friday night social event followed by a plenary speaker and a meeting of the RRV-ACS executive committee. Saturday will see oral and poster presentations from undergraduate and graduate students and post-doctoral researchers allowing young researchers in the region to showcase their work. Learn more [here](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

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 Early 2026

21 March, 1:30 PM: Pleasant Hill Library

18 April, 1:30 PM: Farmington Library

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!



Visit our Website

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