



The Minnesota Chemist

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Election Issue, October 2017



Greetings from the Chair

Dear Minnesota Chemists,

The election of 2018 candidates will be underway soon. Below are the biographies and statements of the candidates that are running.

Electronic ballots will be sent to members that have email addresses registered with National and paper ballots will be sent to those that do not.

Results of the election will be posted on the MN ACS website (<http://mnacs.sites.acs.org/>) and published in the January 2018 edition of The Minnesota Chemist.

Regards,
Nick Schlotter
nschlotter@hamline.edu



Chair Elect – James Wollack

James Wollack started out his career in chemistry at Saint John's University where he graduated with a B.A. in chemistry in 2004. Afterwards he attended the University of Minnesota where his graduate work in chemistry focused on prenylated cell-penetrating peptides and synthesizing non-natural enzyme substrates for the enzyme Protein Farnesyltransferase. The cross-disciplinary nature of this work required collaboration with many departments at the University including: BMBB, Medicinal Chemistry, Physics, and the Masonic Cancer Center. While at Minnesota James served as the head organic TA and taught part-time at Macalester College. After graduating with his PhD in 2009 with a concentration in organic chemistry he taught one at year at Hamline University and currently is an associate professor at Saint Catherine University. His current research interests include strain induced cycloadditions, copper catalyzed click chemistry, and peptide synthesis.

James has been an ACS member since 2006 and has served the section in multiple capacities including secretary (2011-2014), chair (2013-2016), and councilor (2017-present). As chair he looks to host multiple section meetings at industrial sites, sponsor topics with broad appeal (eg. food chemistry, chemistry in the media), and sponsor meetings venues and events conducive to social networking. He also looks to expand current events aimed at engaging members who have children.



Secretary – Kate Capistrant

Kate graduated from St. Catherine University with her bachelor's degree in chemistry, a minor in mathematics, and a certification from the American Chemical Society in 2016. While at St. Catherine's she worked with Dr. James Wollack on synthesizing probes for research on Ras proteins. In addition, she served as treasurer for the chemistry club, volunteered at the Children's Hospital, coached youth volleyball, and golfed for the St. Catherine University NCAA division III team.

Kate is currently a medicinal chemistry graduate student at the University of Minnesota, College of Pharmacy. She works in Dr. Barry Finzel's lab focusing on protein expression, crystallization, and characterization. Her work spans several collaborative projects including tuberculosis and Alzheimer's disease drug targets. In addition to lab work she continues to coach, has taken up teaching a night class for high schoolers at her parish, and loves hiking trips with her family.



Secretary – Matthew Hammers

Dr. Matthew Hammers received bachelor's degrees in both Business Finance and Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire before attending grad school at the University of Oregon in 2011. During his graduate career, his research involved developing fluorescent probes and slow-releasing hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) donor molecules for studying physiological H₂S, and he successfully presented five published manuscripts, including a 2015 Cover Article in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*. In addition to research, Matthew was very active outside of lab. He generated curriculum for and participated in a number of community and University outreach programs, including the "Mad Duck" science outreach with area middle school children and JUMP! (Joint Undergrad-Grad Mentorship Program). He also served as Funding Chair and Treasurer during two years on the Executive Board of the UO Women in Graduate Sciences organization. Currently Matthew is a NIH-sponsored Ruth L. Kirschstein postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Minnesota and continues to hone his skills in chemistry and chemical biology. *"Outreach and mentorship programs were high priorities for me during grad school, and I look forward to immersing myself into the Minnesota science community."* - Matt



Councilor – Becky Guza

I have been active in the ACS and Minnesota Local Section for the past ten years. I presently serve as an Alternate Councilor, the Chair of the External Communications Committee, and the Editor of the MN Chemist (local section newsletter). I previously served on the Executive Committee as Chair Elect in 2013 and Chair in 2014. As Chair, I obtained funding from the National ACS to help support our Annual Career Fair, I worked to convert the MN Chemist from a paper publication to an electronic publication in order to save the section thousands of dollars in printing and mailing costs, and while Chair I worked to reduce meeting costs in order to increase member participation. Over the past three years, I have brought two Leadership Development Courses to Minnesota (Fostering Collaboration and Engaging Colleagues in Dialog). If elected as councilor, I want to continue to bring new programming to the Minnesota Local Section, especially a Women Chemists group. If elected councilor, I would work with the National Women Chemists Committee to help develop programming and bring new ideas to the National and local level.

Councilor – Ramesh Kumar



Academic Record: Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry, Panjab University, Chandigarh (India), 1978; Ph.D. in Fluorine Chemistry with Dr. Jean'ne Shreeve, University of Idaho, 1981.

Professional Employment: 2015 American Chemical Society Fellow. A member of prestigious 3M Carlton Society (In the 113-year history of 3M, there have only been 179 scientists and engineers appointed to this group). 3M Corporate Scientist, highest technical position at 3M (2010 – present), Senior Division Scientist (2004 – 2010), Division Scientist (2000 – 2004), Senior Chemical Specialist (1994 - 2000), Research Specialist (1989 - 94), Senior Research Chemist (1987 - 89), Materials Resource Division, 3M. Assistant Professor of Chemistry (1981- 87), Baldwin-Wallace University, Berea, Ohio.

Technical Contributions: My technical expertise is in the area of low surface energy materials used for Low Adhesion Backsizes for tapes and release liners. My contributions encompass silicone, hydrocarbon, and aqueous-based chemistries. The families of materials which I have developed provide unique differentiation to a large number of 3M's iconic pressure sensitive adhesive-based product platforms. Author of 55+ issued U.S. patents protecting these contributions and published 27 journal articles.

Volunteer Service to the ACS Community: Committee on patents and related matters and subcommittees (2012 – present), Local MN – ACS Awards Chair (2012 – present), Councilor and Alternate Councilor (2002 – present), MN- ACS nomination committee and Chair, MN –ACS student affiliate and student mentor (1997 – present), MN-ACS Chair, MN –ACS Executive Committee (1998- 2014).

I seek your support for my continued participation in national ACS meetings and governance as a councilor and to represent an industry point of view in national Committee on Patents and Related Matters (CPRM).



Councilor – Sarah Mullins

Education/Employment:

3M Company, Abrasive Systems Division Laboratory, 2008-present
 3M Company, Corporate Research Laboratories, 2001-2008
 Ph.D. Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley, 2001
 B.A. Chemistry, Northwestern University, 1996

ACS Activities:

ACS Fellow, 2017
 Councilor, MN Local Section, 2006-present
 Project SEED, MN Local Section Coordinator, 2011-present
 Committee on Minority Affairs, ACS National, 2017
 Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs (CCPA), ACS National 2006-2016
 CCPA Liaison to Cmte on Public Relations & Communications, 2011-2016
 CCPA Grassroots Subcmte chair, 2008-2012
 Government Affairs Committee (GAC), Chair MN Local Section, 2005-2012

Statement:

It is an honor to be nominated for re-election to a councilor position in the Minnesota Local Section. During my service, it has been my goal both to bring the spirit and concerns of MN chemists to the national governance and to leverage the excellent staff and resources from national ACS back to our local section activities.

After more than a decade of national committee work focused on ACS outreach to government officials, I now serve on the Committee on Minority Affairs. This committee

aims to highlight and deepen the commitment to the ACS core value of Diversity and Inclusion to the chemistry enterprise. My initial efforts have focused on partnerships of ACS members with sister societies, such as connecting ACS local section members to the annual National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers Conference. As part of a pilot project, MN ACS provided volunteers, outreach and sponsorship of students to attend the NOBCCChE conference held this fall in Minneapolis.

MN Project SEED creates hands-on lab research experiences for underrepresented high school students in the Twin Cities. We are now in year six of the cohort program structure. In addition to the mentoring from UMN research group, all MN students engage in peer group activities to create additional mentoring about thriving as you navigate the path to a chemistry focused major. The students and faculty are creating relationships that extend into the students' college years. Our alums are winning Project SEED College Scholarships and ACS Scholars. In 2016, I hosted a MN Project SEED student as she presented her research at the ACS National Meeting. What fun it was to introduce her to the greater ACS! I am proud to coordinate this team and to communicate our local success stories as part of national fundraising campaigns with the ACS Development Office.

I am excited to continue this work to build connections between local and national ACS objectives. I hope you will support me in another term as Councilor for the MN Local Section. Thank you for your consideration.

If you have content for [The Minnesota Chemist](#), please send it to Becky Guza, Editor (becky.guza@hbfuller.com)

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