

The Minnesota Chemist



Chair's Corner

We are rapidly approaching the holiday season and the end of 2025! We hope you've been able to find a way to connect with fellow Twin Cities chemists this year. If in-person networking was on your goal list for this year, and you haven't quite found the perfect opportunity just yet--we hope to see you on December 16th for the End-of-Year social at the Urban Growler. If Tuesday doesn't work for your schedule, the Young Chemists Committee will be hosting a pizza and beer evening at Surly Brewing on Wednesday, December 17th. During those sessions we would as always like to welcome your ideas and suggestions as we go forward into 2026!



As my year as Chair is rapidly coming to a close, I find myself reflecting on the communities that were strengthened this year by MNACS events. Whether it be Chemists in the Library, Senior Chemists, the emerging Younger Chemists Committee, or chemists coming out to the social events--it was great to see you and hear about the great things you are doing. Along with this uptick in presence has come a renewed commitment to involvement, as evidenced below by the new people in positions both elected and volunteering. I am absolutely looking forward to seeing what we can achieve in 2026!

Sarah Dimick Gray
Chair 2025

ACS MN Local Section Meetings

End-of-Year Social Tuesday, December 16th, 2025

Join the ACS MN Local Section for our December celebration at Urban Growler's Hayloft on December 16 from 5:30–8:30 pm! Whether it becomes the ACS Holiday Chemistry Social, the End-of-Year Chem-Gather, or the Winter Warm-Up Mixer, you can look forward to a spread of appetizers featuring a nacho bar centerpiece, cream-filled churros, a cash bar, family-friendly crafts, and plenty of time to connect. We'll recap MNACS events in 2025 and also gather your thoughts to help guide next year's programming. Tickets are \$13/adult and \$5/students or children under 12, available through the ACS MN website. Please note: The Hayloft space is only accessible via stairs. RSVP deadline: December 12.

Date and Time:
Tuesday, December 16, 2025

5:30 - 8:30 PM

Location

Urban Growler Brewing Company, 2325 Endicott St, St Paul, MN 55114

Cost

\$13 / \$5 students

RSVP

Please RSVP by December 12, 2025: [MNACS RSVP Holiday Social](#)

**Young Chemist Committee Social
Wednesday, December 17, 2025**

The Young Chemist Committee is hosting a pizza and beer evening at Surly Brewing!

Day & Time

Wednesday, December 17

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Location

Surly Brewing Co., 520 Malcolm Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Cost: \$5

RSVP

Please RSVP by December 12, 2025: [MNACS Younger Chemist Committee Social](#)



The poster is for the MNACS Younger Chemists Committee Social. It features the MNACS logo at the top corners, which consists of a diamond shape containing the letters A, A, C, and S. The main title is "MNACS YOUNGER CHEMISTS COMMITTEE SOCIAL" in a bold, serif font. Below the title is the tagline "Network with other early career chemists in the Twin Cities!" in a cursive font. The date and time are listed in two ovals: "Wed. Dec. 17th" and "6-10 PM". To the right of these ovals is a line drawing of a slice of pizza. Below the date and time ovals, it says "Pizza Provided" in a bold, serif font. At the bottom, it says "SURLY BREWING CO." in a bold, serif font, followed by the address "Pizza Upstairs Room, 520 Malcolm Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414". To the right of the address is an oval containing the text "Beverages available for purchase".

MNACS
YOUNGER CHEMISTS
COMMITTEE SOCIAL
*Network with other early career
chemists in the Twin Cities!*

Wed. Dec. 17th
6-10 PM

Pizza Provided

SURLY BREWING CO.
Pizza Upstairs Room
520 Malcolm Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Beverages available
for purchase

Election Results for 2026

Welcome to New Local Section Members!

Elections for Executive Committee positions were held in November. We would like to extend a generous welcome to all our newly elected members:

Chair Elect:

Urvashi Sandhir, Ph.D., Hamline University

Secretary:

Jamie Salmon, Ph.D., University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Councilors:

James Wollack, Ph.D., NAMS

Ekaterina (Katya) Kadnikova, Ph.D., University of St. Thomas / Hamline University

Alternative Councilors:

Allison Smith, Ph.D., University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Matthew Riehl, Ph.D., NAMS

Nomination Committee:

Sydney Povilaitis, Ph.D., Hamline University (small school)

Kyle C. Bantz, Ph.D., University of Minnesota – Twin Cities (UMN)

Ramesh Kumar, Ph.D., 3M (industry)

And some non-elected volunteers who will be joining MNACS:

Younger Chemist Committee:

Allison Smith, Ph.D., University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

National Chemistry Week Coordinator:

Hira Khalid, PhD.

MN Chemist Newsletter Editor:

Will Howitz, Ph.D., University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

MNACS Event Coordinator:

Ronni Etterman, M.S.

We are so excited to work with you and see the amazing contributions you will make to the MN ACS Local Section!

Thank you to all who ran for one of the committee positions and to all who voted!

Event recap: October Networking Event

The ACS MN Local Section gathered on October 29 at Wildfire Restaurant in Eden Prairie for an evening of relaxed networking and socializing after the summer hiatus. Seventeen attendees, from industry, academia, and even two dedicated undergraduates who traveled from Mankato after finishing a P-Chem exam, joined together for a warm welcome from Local Section Chair Sarah Dimick Gray. One of the evening's standout moments was a rich, collaborative discussion on internship programs, where leaders and former interns exchanged goals, challenges, and ideas for strengthening future experiences. The conversation sparked fresh perspectives and left internship coordinators feeling energized and inspired. Excellent food and lively conversation rounded out the event, with attendees clearly enjoying the chance to reconnect and build community.

Event recap: November Chemistry Job Fair

The Minnesota ACS, in a joint partnership with Metro State University, welcomed local chemistry employers and job seekers for an afternoon of energetic and lively networking on November 19th. Approximately 14 employers and over 125 potential new employees from around the metro and western Wisconsin attended the annual event, with great diversity of company sizes and types, plus several UMN departments represented.



Supported by MNACS: CRIC

The University of Minnesota was proud to host the 6th annual Chicago Regional Inorganic Colloquium (CRIC) on October 4, 2025. CRIC is a one-day regional meeting that connects inorganic chemists from across the Midwest. Held annually since 2014, CRIC provides a platform for students and postdocs to present their research through oral presentations and poster sessions and network with academic and industrial scientists in a supportive, collegial environment.

CRIC-2025 was held in the University of Minnesota's stunning new Fraser Hall, a \$140 million renovation and expansion that opened its doors in September 2025. The

transformation of the historic 1928 building now provides state-of-the-art facilities for undergraduate chemistry education, with seven general chemistry labs, four life sciences labs, and seven organic chemistry labs, along with dedicated tutoring and student collaboration spaces. The building's modern lecture halls and meeting spaces provided an ideal venue for CRIC's lectures and poster sessions.

This year's meeting brought together over 100 attendees from 20 institutions across the greater Midwest, including major research universities, liberal arts colleges, and industry. The day featured three keynote lectures from distinguished scientists—including Prof. Laura Gagliardi (University of Chicago), Prof. Eszter Boros (UW-Madison), and Prof. Ian Tonks (UMN)—along with six invited talks from faculty and industrial scientists, and 12 selected talks from graduate students and postdocs.

A highlight of CRIC is its commitment to accessibility: registration is completely free to all attendees, encouraging participation from undergraduates through senior faculty. Two lively poster sessions showcased research from approximately 45 undergraduate and graduate students, with poster prizes awarded to six outstanding presenters. With a faculty-to-student ratio of approximately 1:4, trainees received valuable feedback and mentorship throughout the day.

CRIC-2025 was made possible through the generous support of the **ACS Minnesota Local Section**, along with Pine Research Instruments, MBraun, Bruker, the ACS Division of Inorganic Chemistry, the University of Minnesota Department of Chemistry, and Millipore Sigma. We are grateful for the Minnesota ACS Section's investment in fostering scientific exchange and supporting the next generation of inorganic chemists in our region.



Summer Internship Opportunity at Donaldson

Donaldson is committed to solving the world's most complex filtration challenges. Employing innovation and breakthrough solutions, we are advancing filtration for a cleaner world. We look for the best people to help us succeed, offering opportunities to learn, effect change, and make meaningful contributions at work and in our communities. This is a place where you can make a world of difference.

Follow Us on LinkedIn: [Donaldson Linked In](#)

Our Analytical Chemistry & Media Lab team is searching for an Analytical Chemistry Intern to drive analytical support for the filtration development. This position is a 12-week internship (Summer 2026) experience. The intern will have a specific method development project designed for the summer as an opportunity to expand their skills, learn about Donaldson, and broaden their work experience.

Daily responsibilities include:

- Collaborate with scientists and engineers to design experiments that solve thermo-mechanical problems in filtration product development.
- Prepare/condition samples; run DSC, TGA, and DMA; perform basic method development and data analysis.
- Document procedures and results; deliver clear written reports and concise data presentations.
- Help develop or refine analytical methods/SOPs for thermo-mechanical characterization.
- Participate in problem solving and provide data-driven recommendations to the project team.
- Perform additional assignments (e.g., standardized testing, EHS initiatives, instrument upkeep) as needed.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Pursuing a bachelor's degree in chemistry, material science, polymer science, or a closely related field.
 - Must have completed Organic Chemistry I or an equivalent materials/polymer chemistry course
 - Must have a current cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
 - Experience in a chemistry/materials lab with strong laboratory safety practices.
 - Strong problem-solving and critical-thinking skills
 - Excellent organizational skills and communication skills
- Preferred Qualifications:**
- Junior or Senior Pursuing a bachelor's degree in chemistry, material science, polymer science, or other related fields.
 - Thermo-mechanical analysis experience (DSC, TGA, DMA) is a plus.
 - Familiarity with FTIR and microscopy is a plus.
 - General filtration knowledge and familiarity with membrane technology/operating principles are a plus.

Come make a World of Difference! Employment opportunities for positions in the United States may require use of information which is subject to the export control regulations of the United States. Hiring decisions for such positions are required by law to be made in compliance with these regulations. Applicants for employment opportunities in other countries must be able to meet the comparable export control requirements of that country and of the United States. Our policy is to provide equal employment opportunities to all qualified persons without regard to race, gender, color, disability, national origin, age, religion, union affiliation, sexual orientation, veteran status, citizenship, gender identity and/or expression, or other status protected by law.

Please forward resumes to Beverly.Ostrowski@donaldson.com

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 2025

6 Dec, 1:30 PM: Eden Prairie



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 [Sarah Dimick Gray](#) to explore these opportunities.

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



Visit our Website

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