

THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

A publication of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society

August 2026, Vol. 63, No. 8

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Letter to the Editor

Max Planck Papers Retracted Based on Suspicion of Plagiarism

I recently saw an article in *Science* magazine that reminded me of something that could have happened to me. The article in *Science*, **2026**, 393, (No. 6806, 2 July, p 14-15), titled, “Why have a revered physicist’s papers been retracted?” and subtitled, “Springer Nature has removed two studies by quantum mechanics pioneer Max Planck. A bot may be to blame.” Planck’s papers in *Naturwissenschaft und reale Aussenwelt* (*Natural Science and the Real External World*) were apparently retracted because they have the same title as a previous paper that Planck was citing and the Springer Nature copyright bot may have caused the papers to be retracted on suspicion of plagiarism.

I published a paper in *The Midland Chemist*, **2026**, 63, No. 6 (June), p 7-8, titled, "To Caucus, or Not to Caucus: That is the Question." That is the same title as Matt Grandbois's article in *Chem. Eng. News*, **2026**, 104, No. 6 (June), p 74. My article simply commented on what Matt was talking about concerning ACS Councilor Caucus Meetings and related some history of these meetings to the Midland Section ACS and Matt's past leadership within the Midland Section ACS. I thought Matt's title was interesting, so I used it again in my article.

I can assure you that my article was considerably different than Matt's article, just as Max Planck's article was different than the article on which he was commenting. When one is considering plagiarism, one needs to look at more than just the title in my opinion.

Wendell L. Dilling

Past Midland Section ACS Historian, 1997-2023

Midland ACS Supports Academy of Natural Resources

Mark Jones, Director and Co-Historian, Midland Section ACS

Smoke in the air from the wildfires changed plans but did not dampen enthusiasm of teachers attending The Academy of Natural Resources Classic. The Academy of Natural Resources instructs educators about Michigan's natural resources, about current trends in resource management and lets them experience activities for the classroom. The H2O Q program was there providing



resources for teachers on microplastics, an emerging contaminant of concern. A classroom lecture and demonstration informed the teachers about microplastics and simple techniques to sample environmental water. In addition, the discussion also touched upon PFAS, another emerging concern. "The teachers were energized to learn about an easy way for students to collect and examine the microplastics all around us" said Eileen Boekestein, Environmental Education Manager with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. "It is great that the Midland ACS and CMU are sharing information and techniques addressing this timely issue."

The Academy of Natural Resources Classic was held from July 11-16 at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference, near the north shore of Higgins Lake in Roscommon. Approximately 40 educators attended the event. Since 2008, ANR has inspired hundreds of educators to bring their students into nature and bring natural resources into their classrooms. Teachers from across the lower peninsula were present at the H2O Q presentation on July 16.

Poor air quality kept the group inside disrupting the planned sampling of Higgins Lake. Always prepared, previously collected water samples allowed completion of the capture and illumination of microplastics in environmental water samples. A presentation on environmental microplastics by Mark Jones, "Microplastics: What are they and where are they", was followed by a lively Q&A period. Teachers were informed about the H2O Q program, the enlarged area supported by the Midland Local Section, and the free availability of support documentation related to the demonstration.

Teachers attend as part of State Continuing Education, receiving State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs) for attending. Michigan teachers must earn 150 SCECHs, 6 semester college credits, or 150 District Provided Professional Development (DPPD) hours every 5 years to renew standard or professional teaching certificates.

The Academy is run by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Sponsors include Safari Club International-Novi Chapter, The American Institute of Professional Geologists, The Ford Center and Forest at Michigan Tech, The Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE), and the Michigan Forest Association. The Academy's website can be found at the following link: <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/education/educators/anr>

The Midland Local Section's area increased from 5 to 22 counties early in 2026. Accepting the invitation to participate in the Academy was viewed as one way to get the word out about the programs and support offered by the Midland ACS to school systems in the added counties. Support of the ACS, through membership and volunteering, allows creation and dissemination of programs like H2O Q and the efforts to better understand microplastics. It is one way the Midland Local Section supports the next generation of scientists, and the teachers who inspire them, with interesting, timely, hands-on experiences.

Chemical Science Mentoring and Demonstration Day at Delta College, September 23

Dr. David Baker, Delta College

Please see below an invitation for a mentoring and demonstration day taking place at Delta College on **Wednesday, September 23rd from 12-4 PM**. Volunteers are needed to lead interactive demo tables and presentation/discussion sessions for this wonderful event!

Please reach out to the event organizers, Evan Waddell (e.waddell@dow.com) or Robin Stottlemeyer (rstottlemeyer@dow.com), if you have any questions. Thank you!

Chemical technologists, scientists, & research volunteers needed

Chemical Science Mentoring and Demonstration Day

Delta College

Main campus building, D-wing

Wednesday September 23

12:00-4:00pm

The Delta College Chemistry Department is currently seeking technical professional volunteers to share their expertise, skills, and industry experiences with Delta College students at an event on Wednesday September 23, at Delta College's main campus in the D-wing, from 12:00-4:00pm. This event offers our students a valuable opportunity to connect with area science professionals, gain insight into workplace expectations, and explore how their technical skills translate into real-world careers.

Delta College welcomes both individual presenters and small groups (2–3 professionals) for any of the available time slots.

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Interactive Tables & Hands-On Demonstrations

Host a table to conduct interactive demonstrations, discuss key skills, and offer practical career advice to visiting students.

Note: Demo tables are provided by the participant. An external poster and related show & tell is also appropriate for a demo table!

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM | Presentation & Discussion Sessions

Lead a 40-minute presentation sharing insights on your core skills and profession.

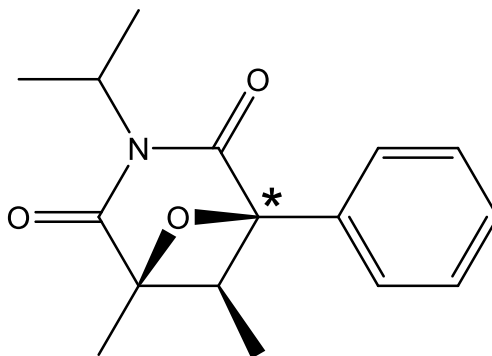
- Slot 1: 2:00 PM – 2:40 PM
- Slot 2: 2:40 PM – 3:10 PM
- Slot 3: 3:10 PM – 3:50 PM

Registered panelists will be scheduled for a 40-minute period between 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. If you have a time preference, reach out directly to Dr. David Baker at dbaker@delta.edu.

Ninth *R,S*-Puzzle

Wendell L. Dilling, Midland Section, ACS Fellow

Here's the ninth *R,S*-Puzzle.



What is the correct absolute configuration designation, *R* or *S*, for the carbon atom indicated by the asterisk? Same rules as before, only one answer per person please, first correct answer, *R* or *S*, wins; send answer to w.dilling@att.net.

Overall, since the start of these *R,S*-Puzzles [*The Midland Chemist*, **2025**, 62, No. 6 (June), p 12] if we score this like a track meet (5 points for first place, 3 points for second place, and one point for third place, the score after 8 rounds is: SVSU 25, CMU 15, everyone else 0; or 5:3:0 if we only count first places.

Again, these puzzles are for all ACS members, not just those currently in academic institutions.

NOBCCChE Annual Social, August 7th and 8th
Raghida "Reggie" Bou Zerdan, Midland ACS – Chair Elect

The Michigan Professional NOBCCChE Chapter is hosting a Michigan-wide social for all of those in the area. It will feature some food, music, games, and an overall good time. Details are on the flyer (below) and the sign-up sheet can be found here: <https://forms.gle/EsfFCr4VvLWhpVmi7>.

Friday, August 7th

- **7 PM:** Game Night at Mi Element ([3124 Jefferson Ave, Midland, MI 48640](#))

Saturday, August 8th

- **10 AM:** Life after College Panel Discussion at Mi Element ([3124 Jefferson Ave, Midland, MI 48640](#))
- **1 - 4 PM:** Picnic / Volleyball at Emerson Park (911 W Main St, Midland, MI 48640), Picnic Pad 1 near Pavilion C



Save the Date

NOBCCChE

The Midland Professional NOBCCChE Chapter presents...

Annual Michigan Meetup

☒ August 7th & 8th
Join us for an exciting time featuring:

☒ Food
Fun
Networking Opportunities

DATE | AUGUST 7TH & 8TH | SAVE THE DATE | AUGUST 7TH & 8TH | SA

RSVP & More Information

Contact: Terry Anderson Chapter Activity Coordinator tanderson9@dow.com

ACS Logo, Image, and Brand

Wendell L. Dilling, Past ACS Midland Section Chair, 2000

I attended the ACS Brand Evolution: Member Briefing (on line) on Tuesday afternoon August 18, 2026. I have heard comments from various sources that indicates confusion among members as to what the ACS logo is. Many of us consider the emblem shown in Figure 1 to be the logo.



Figure 1.

However, the speakers at the meeting Tuesday referred to this emblem as the ACS image. This emblem will not be changed and will continue to be used. Confusing? For various reasons a new emblem has been developed as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2.

This emblem was called the logo or brand. I assume that the people who made these definitions will be explaining more fully the reasoning that went into these decisions in the future. As of now these are what we have. Both the image and the logo or brand will be used in various places. Keep tuned to national ACS for clarifications. It appears to me that we will have both diagrams, maybe a change in definition of terms.

I suggest for historical clarity that the emblem in Figure 1 be retained as the ACS logo. If some want the emblem in Figure 2 to be labeled a logo, then I suggest it could be called the logo of the Worldwide Aspects of the ACS or something similar. This would be analogous to calling the emblem in Figure 3 the logo of the Division of Organic Chemistry of the ACS.



Figure 3.

ACS Elections - Safe Sender Email Address Instructions

Vickie Langer, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information in this article is reprinted, in part, from an email communication that was sent to all ACS members from the ACS Committee on Nominations and Elections on Tuesday, August 25, 2026.

Dear ACS Member:

ACS has partnered with Survey & Ballot Systems (SBS) to administer the ACS 2026 Election. To ensure your election email arrives in your inbox on Monday, September 14, 2026, please add the following email address as an approved email sender: noreply@directvote.net.

Please see below links to websites containing instructions on how to add recipients of email messages to the safe senders list:

For Outlook/Microsoft: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/add-recipients-of-my-email-messages-to-the-safe-senders-list-be1baea0-beab-4a30-b968-9004332336ce>

For Gmail:

- On your desktop, log in to your Gmail account.
- Click the gear icon in the upper-right corner.
- Select See all settings.
- Click the Filters and Blocked Addresses tab at the top.
- Click Create a new filter.
- Enter the email address of the person you want to add to your safe senders list.

If you use another email provider and need instructions on how to add an email address to the safe senders list, please contact your email provider for more information.

If you do not receive your election email by Wednesday, September 16, please send an email to support@directvote.net.

Thank you.

ACS Committee on Nominations and Elections

MMTG (Mid-Michigan Technician's Group): 2026 - ACS/MMTG Day at the Fair, August 21
Jeff Anderson, MMTG Chair-Elect 2026

ACS/MMTG Membership Appreciation Event
Day at the Fair 2026!
Friday, Aug 21, 2026
4:30-7:30pm

COME JOIN US @
MIDLAND COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS

BUILDING 37
by the Grandstands

FOOD! DRINKS!
Fun for the Kids:
STEM Activities!
SCAVENGER HUNT!

Fair attractions on Friday

- Pig racing 3x **free** shows daily
- Muxlow Exotics 3x **free** shows daily
- Ben Risney Wood Sculpture artist 3x **free** shows daily
- ShowMe Safari Petting Zoo - **Free**
- Grandstand Event | Figure 8 w/Burnout by USA Demolition Derby

 **Mid-Michigan Technician Group**
EST. 1991

Contact Jeff Anderson for more info
989-615-7236

 **ACS**
Chemistry for Life®
American Chemical Society
Midland Section

General Business

Project SEED Mentor Profiles

Rowan Katzbaer, Project SEED Committee, Midland Section ACS

Project SEED (Summer Research Experience for the Economic Diverse) is a national ACS program designed to provide high school students from low-income households with real research experience through spending a summer in a research lab. A central aspect of the program is the mentors that give their time and expertise to guide the students for the summer. The Midland Project SEED program has been lucky to have a wonderful group of mentors supporting the program. Throughout the summer, we will be highlighting these scientists, their journeys in chemistry, and their involvement in Project SEED. Check out the June issue for the profiles of Tami Sivy and Daniel Henton, and the July issue for profiles of Edmund Stark and Anja Mueller.



Tracy Zhang

Tracy Zhang has spent 23 years in the same office and cannot imagine looking forward to retirement. Every day is still a new, exciting journey into the unknown for Tracy. It is clear that her passion for science has influenced the students she mentors over the summer. She is the resident expert at MSU St. Andrews in 3-D printing. One student so enjoyed their summer research that they asked to return for an independent project on printing prosthetics, aligned with their goal of entering the medical field. Another notable project to come out of Tracy's work is the accessible periodic table in the front entrance of the MSU St. Andrews building. Elements are depicted in both sign language and braille. This work was undertaken in 2019, the year of the periodic table, in collaboration with the Committee on Chemists with Disabilities. Currently Tracy is using her dual expertise in polymers and computer science to use machine learning to predict the properties of 3-D printed materials.

David Proctor

There were two elements that started David Proctor's journey into science. The first was his conceptualization of a scientist as the classic person who wears a lab coat and goggles, which seemed really cool as a kid. The second was his experience of the Chicago field museum. The discovery of those massive dinosaurs buried and then uncovered and understood millions of years later gave him a lasting love for what science could reveal about the world. David still holds on to this passion for bringing science to everyone. After his graduate work at Penn State, he went on to an NSF fellowship studying the post-doctoral experience. This work exposed David to science policy and the interaction between science and society. He is still motivated by a strong belief that to be good citizens, people must understand evidence-based decision making. Through working as a professor at SVSU, Mid-Michigan Community College, and MSU St. Andrews, David has had a chance to help his students learn what it means to make evidence-based decisions. The research his students do over the summer also has a wider impact on the community, as it is tied into David's position at the Midland based International Microbial Council (IMC). Currently he is working with the students on analytical methods to evaluate the effectiveness of anti-odor textile treatments. Being able to bring IMC and MSU resources together to tackle a meaningful analytical problem aligns with the value David places on relationships within science. He sees collaboration essential to science and to community.



William (Jack) Kruper

Jack Kruper had a successful 33-year career at Dow, where he was involved with renewable feedstocks research and discovery efforts in routes from glycerin to epichlorohydrin and propylene glycol, among many other projects. Since retiring from Dow in 2015, Jack has pursued contract-based research at MSU St. Andrews, often focusing on novel routes to commercially relevant monomers. The confidential nature of some of these projects means Jack has to find creative ways to work on analogous chemistry with his students. This allows the students to have research they can present at the end of the summer. Many of his students have benefited from this strong research experience, with one going on to publish eight papers as an undergraduate. Jack has always been impressed by the caliber of students in the summer research program. He credits the Midland community with having a strong drive for education. While he feels a stronger pull towards spending time in the garden these days, he is still excited for every NMR spectrum he collects.

Summer Art Event with ACS YCC and WCC! – Summer Swirls, August 27

Paulami Majumdar and Clare Leahy, Midland Section ACS

We are excited to host a social gathering and art event – Summer Swirls! – on August 27, at Emerson Park, Midland, MI. Join us for casual conversations and networking over a relaxing paper quilling activity. All art supplies will be provided and no prior experience is needed. Snacks and drinks included.

What: Paper quilling event and networking

When: Thursday, August 27, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Where: Emerson Park Shelter C (911 W Main St, Midland, MI 48640)

Link to RSVP: [ACS YCC & WCC - Summer Swirls!](#)

SUMMER SWIRLS

A casual social and art event in the park

**ACS**
Chemistry for Life®

**Women
CHEMISTS
Committee**

**YCC**
The Future of Chemistry

WHAT IS PAPER QUILLING?

Curl • Shape • Create Thin strips of paper are rolled into coils, pinched into shapes, and arranged into colorful designs.

No experience needed

All art supplies and tutorials provided

Food + drinks included

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 **5:00 – 7:00 PM**

EMERSON PARK • SHELTER C

911 W Main St, Midland, MI 48640

RSVP ONLINE

Questions?
PMajumdar@dow.com • KJangam@dow.com



FROM A PAPER STRIP TO ART

ACS Fall 2026 National Meeting & Exposition, August 23–27

Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information in this article is reprinted, in part, from an email communication that was sent to all ACS members from the ACS Fall 2026 National Meeting & Exposition team on Monday, July 20, 2026.



Join us August 23–27 in Chicago, IL, or participate digitally from anywhere in the world as we bring together the global chemistry community for one of the most dynamic scientific gatherings of the year.

[Register Now – ACS Fall 2026 – American Chemical Society](#)

New at ACS Fall 2026 – Visit the Pharma Zone on the Expo Floor

Explore the science behind today's therapeutics, from small molecules and biologics to advanced drug delivery systems. Connect with pharmaceutical and biotech innovators, CROs, and regulatory leaders, and discover Expo Theater sessions on medicinal chemistry, chemical biology, AI-driven drug design, regulatory science, and industry collaboration.

Participating companies include AiFChem (XtalPi), Ambeed, Benchling, Buchiglas USA, ChemScene, Medicilon, Onepot AI, SOTAX, and Technobis.

Find Your Community at ACS Fall 2026

Connect with peers who share your interests through curated community programming featuring sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities. Explore dedicated programming in [Pharma](#), [Startups](#), [Sustainability](#), and [Data Science & AI](#), covering topics from drug discovery and entrepreneurship to clean energy, advanced materials, and AI-powered research. Whether you're looking to learn, collaborate, or grow your professional network, ACS Fall 2026 offers a community for you.

[Register Now – ACS Fall 2026 – American Chemical Society](#)

ACS National Awards for 2026–2027 Nomination

Allison Abdilla and Kajari Bera, Awards Committee Co-Chairs, Midland Section ACS

Editor's note: Several Midland Section ACS members have received various National ACS awards over the years. A list of past recipients may be found on pages 16 to 17 in the February edition of the newsletter at [The Midland Chemist – February 2026 \(midlandacs.org\)](#).

Now is the time to begin nominations for National ACS awards for 2026-2027 as most annual reviews have a deadline of around November 1, 2026.

Criteria and deadlines for the National ACS awards, and other grants and considerations, can be found at [National Awards - American Chemical Society](#).

The full list of National ACS awards by title can be found at [Awards by Title - American Chemical Society](#).

Call for Abstracts for the Great Lakes Microscopy Society Annual Meeting, October 9

Daria Monaenkova on behalf of GLMS

The Great Lakes Microscopy Society invites you to submit an abstract for the upcoming Great Lakes Microscopy Society Fall Meeting at Michigan Technological University.

This meeting provides an excellent opportunity to showcase your research, share ideas with fellow scientists and students, and connect with members of the microscopy and microanalysis community from across the Great Lakes region. Students are especially encouraged to participate. In addition to presenting your work, you may be eligible for student travel awards to help support attendance at the meeting. Monetary awards will also be presented for outstanding student presentations for both platform and poster presentations.

We welcome abstracts covering all areas of microscopy, microanalysis, imaging, and related fields. Whether your work is in materials science, biological sciences, chemistry, engineering, or another discipline that utilizes microscopy techniques, we encourage you to submit your research.

We look forward to receiving your abstract and seeing you at Michigan Tech for an engaging and rewarding scientific meeting! For submission details, deadlines, and meeting information, please visit the meeting website at [2026 GLMS Meeting](#). Please also see the meeting poster below.



Great Lakes Microscopy Society Annual Meeting

Friday, October 9th, 2026
Michigan Technological University



Michigan Tech

1400 Townsend Dr.
Houghton, MI
49931

Join us for the 2nd GLMS Annual meeting,
featuring platform presentations,
posters, vendor talks, and exhibits!

Biological Sciences

Caryn Heldt (MTU)

Kevin Eliceiri
(U. Wisconsin, Madison)

Wei Zhang
(U. Minnesota)

Vendors

Anahita Pakzad
(Gatan/Ametek)

Platform & Poster

Awards

Poster:

1st - \$100

2nd - \$75

3rd - \$50

Fan Favorite - \$100 (x2)

Platform:

1st - \$150 (x2)

2nd - \$100 (x2)

3rd - \$75 (x2)

**Awardees MUST be
present for awards*

Materials Sciences

Sriram Vijayan (MTU)

Xiaobing Hu (Northwestern)

Chia-Hao Lee (Cornell)

Student travel
awards available!



Register

Questions? Send us a message!
greatlakesmicroscopy@gmail.com

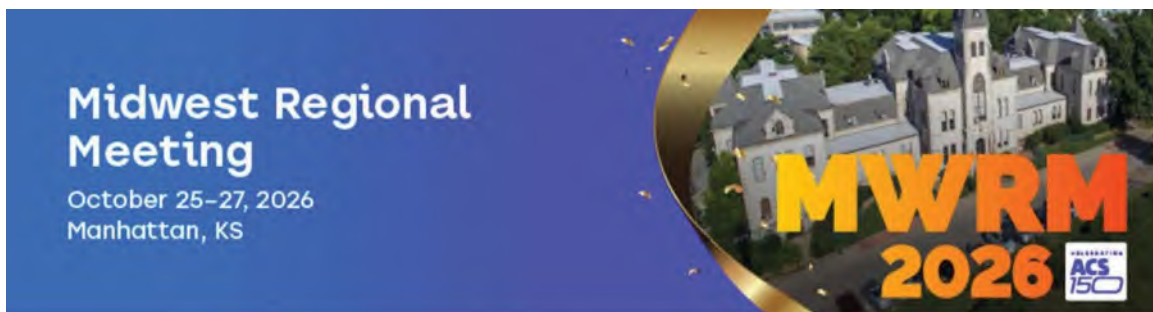
MCFE

Materials Characterization
& Fabrication Facility

ACS 2026 Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM), October 25–27

Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information in this article is reprinted, in part, from an email communication that was sent to all ACS members from the ACS Midwest Regional Meeting promotion team on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, and another email communication with updated information on July 27, 2026.



Midwest Regional Meeting October 25 - 27, 2025 | Manhattan, KS

The **2026 Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (MWRM)**, hosted at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas, will take place October 25–27, 2026, beginning at 2:00 PM on Sunday and concluding at 5:00 PM on Tuesday.

Join researchers, educators, students, and industry professionals from across the Midwest to share discoveries, exchange ideas, and showcase the impact of chemistry across diverse fields. MWRM 2026 will feature an exciting scientific program, including plenary and public lectures from two distinguished chemists:

Plenary Lecturer: Professor Geri Richmond, Ph.D. University of Oregon • B.S. Kansas State University • Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley • Honorary Doctorate, Kansas State University • 2013 National Medal of Science • 2018 Priestley Medal of the American Chemical Society

Public Lecturer: Professor Tom Kuntzleman, Ph.D. Wayne State University • B.S. Ed. Bloomsburg University • M.S. University of North Carolina, Greensboro • Ph.D. University of Michigan • 2022 YouTube Silver Creator Award • 2024 Helen M. Free Award for Public Outreach, ACS

Special Symposia and Workshops:

Science Writing Workshop (Sunday afternoon):

From Data to Story: Making Your Writing Clear, Compelling, and Memorable

Great science advances when scientists communicate effectively. This interactive workshop helps participants uncover and communicate the story behind their research so that others can understand, use, and cite it. Participants will learn how to move beyond presenting results to crafting clear, compelling narratives in their writing and, through hands-on exercises, will distill their work into core story elements and revise them for clarity and impact.

Presenter: Theresa Merrick Cassidy, Writing Center Assistant Director, Presidential Engagement Fellow

Science Leadership Panel and Discussion

Leap into Leadership

Many science professionals, educators, and aspiring leaders find themselves in leadership roles at different stages of their careers. Whether you are a high school teacher, undergraduate or graduate student, postdoctoral scholar, or an early- or mid-career professional, developing leadership skills is essential for success. This interactive workshop will feature a panel discussion with professionals from academia and industry who will share their leadership experiences, insights, and practical advice on navigating and excelling in leadership roles.

Moderator: Dr. Radhika Reddy Nareddy, Graduate Teaching Professor, Kansas State University

Symposia:

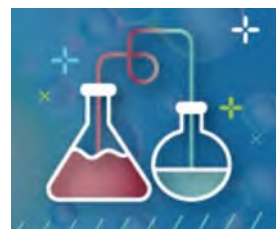
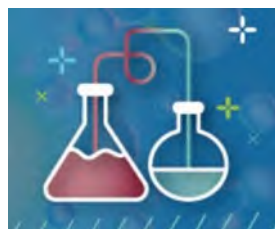
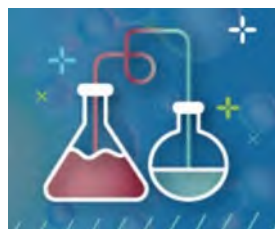
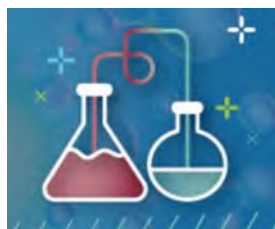
- Advancement in Electrocatalytic Materials
- Recent Progress in Electrochemical Sensing, Energy Storage, and Synthesis
- Advances in Catalysis and Methods for Organic Synthesis
- Synthesis and Applications of Functional Polymeric Materials
- Advances in Molecular Probes for Therapeutics
- Machine Learning for Computational Chemistry
- Super-Resolved Spectroscopy
- Chemistry Under Nanoconfinement
- Theory, Modeling, and Simulation of Biomolecular Systems
- Midwest Awards Symposium
- Undergraduate Research

Additional oral and poster sessions will cover **Organic, Inorganic, Analytical, Biochemical, Physical, Theoretical Chemistry**, and more.

Abstract submission closed July 27, 2026. We encourage you to share your latest research and join us in Manhattan, KS, for an engaging and inspiring regional meeting.

[Submit an Abstract for 2026 MWRM](#)

[Register Now for 2026 MWRM](#)



ACS 2026 Southeastern Regional Meeting (SERMACS), November 4–7

Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information in this article is reprinted, in part, from an email communication that was sent to all ACS members from the ACS Southeastern Regional Meeting promotion team on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, and another email communication with updated information on July 17, 2026.



Southeastern Regional Meeting Nov 4 - 7, 2026 | Memphis, TN

We are excited to invite you to participate in the **2026 Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (SERMACS)**, taking place in Memphis, Tennessee. This special meeting coincides with the 150th anniversary of the American Chemical Society, and we are celebrating with an exceptional scientific program, focused symposia, and a historic presidential panel.

Key Program Highlights:

- **Opening Ceremony, and Plenary Address by Dr. Anang Shelat of St. Jude**
- **ACS Southern Chemist Award Plenary Double Header** featuring: • **Henry Fritz Schaefer III** (2019 Awardee) • **Sue Richardson** (2020 Awardee)
- **Super Plenary Presidential Panel:** “Change in ACS, Bridging Past to Present to Future” with: • 2006 ACS President **Ann Nalley** • 2008 ACS President **Bruce Bursten** • 2024 ACS President **Dorothy Phillips** • 2025 ACS President **Rigoberto Hernandez**
- **Symposia topics** include Polymer Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, Artificial Intelligence in Drug Discovery, Environmental Chemistry, and Chemical Regulation. The full list of symposia is available on the SERMACS 2026 website.

Abstract submissions for all symposia are now open and close on **August 10, 2026, at 11:59 PM EST.**

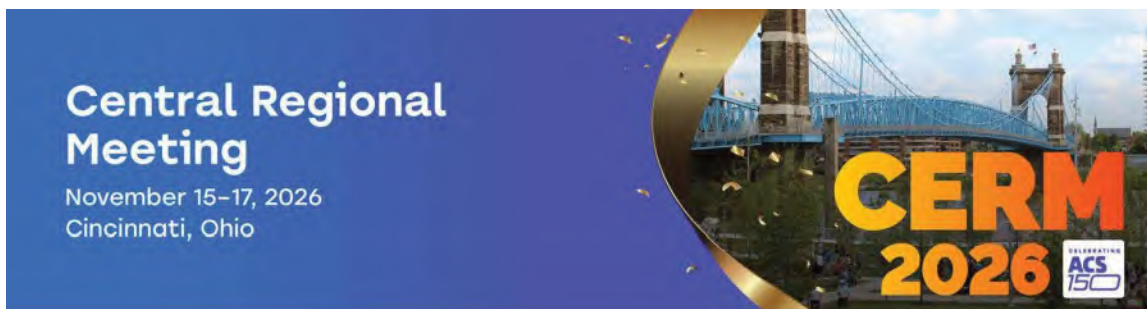
We encourage you to submit your work and join us in Memphis, TN, for an inspiring and memorable scientific gathering.

[Submit an Abstract for 2026 SERMACS](#)

2026 ACS Central Regional Meeting (CERM 2026), November 14–17

Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information in this article is reprinted, in part, from an email communication that was sent to all ACS members from the 2026 ACS Central Regional Meeting promotion team on July 8, 2026.



Central Regional Meeting November 15 - 17, 2026 | Cincinnati, Ohio

The **Central Regional Meeting 2026 (CERM 2026)** of the American Chemical Society will be held at the **Northern Kentucky Convention Center** in Covington, KY, from November 14–17, 2026, with technical sessions taking place November 15–17 and short courses on November 14. This year's theme, "**Chemistry Beyond Boundaries: Building Trust, Breaking Myths,**" highlights the critical role of chemistry in addressing global challenges while fostering transparency, collaboration, and trust across disciplines and communities. Join us for dynamic technical sessions, engaging poster presentations, and meaningful opportunities to connect with fellow chemists across academia, industry, and government.

CERM 2026 welcomes abstract submissions across a broad range of chemistry disciplines, with programming spanning more than 25 technical symposia and a dedicated poster session designed to promote collaboration and scientific exchange. The meeting will feature distinguished plenary and keynote speakers, including **Omar K. Farha** (Northwestern University), **Jie Xu** (University of Chicago), **Mickey Rogers** (U.S. Department of Energy), and **Paul S. Weiss** (UCLA), representing cutting-edge research in sustainability, AI-driven chemistry, science communication, and nanoscience. The awards banquet will feature a talk from **Sam Dinkins** (Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission).

Abstract submissions for all symposia are now open. We encourage you to submit your work and join us in Covington, KY, for an inspiring and memorable scientific meeting.

The deadline to submit an abstract has been extended to Monday, August 17, 2026.

[Submit an Abstract for CERM 2026](#)

In Memoriam – Michael James Owen

Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: Mike Owen's obituary notice as it appears here is reprinted, in part, from the Saturday-Sunday (Weekend), August 1-2, 2026, issue of the *Midland Daily News*. Mike joined the American Chemical Society in 1976 and maintained his membership through 2015-2016 meaning that he had achieved a 40-year milestone of ACS membership.

According to Past Midland Section ACS Historian Wendell Dilling, Mike Owen served in the following elected Midland Section ACS officer roles: Treasurer, 1995-1998; Alternate Councilor, 1999-2001; Chair-Elect, 2002; Chair, 2003; and Past Chair, 2004. As Past Chair, he also served as the Long-Range Planning Committee Chair in 2004. He was a participant and co-organizer of several national and regional ACS symposia, in particular, related to Silicones and Silicone Modified Materials in 1998 and 2001. Mike Owen received the Midland Section ACS Outstanding Achievement and Promotion of the Chemical Sciences Award in 2005 and was named an ACS Fellow in 2010.



Dr. Michael James Owen passed away peacefully on July 29, 2026, in Adrian, Michigan, at the age of 85. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, scientist, and lifelong learner, Michael was known for his intellect, kindness, curiosity, and genuine care for those around him.

Born on May 8, 1941, in Cardiff, Wales, Michael grew up with a love of learning and a fascination with how the world worked. He earned his B.Sc., Ph.D., and later a D.Sc. in Chemistry from the University of Bristol, laying the foundation for a distinguished career in silicone science. He began his career with Midland Silicones in the United Kingdom. Following Dow Corning's acquisition of Midland Silicones, Michael continued his work with the company, and in 1975 he and his family moved to Michigan to join Dow Corning's research organization in Midland. Over the course of his 35-year career, he became one of the company's most respected scientists, earning the title of Senior Scientist. He held many patents, authored numerous scientific papers, and made lasting contributions to the development of silicone technology. While he took quiet pride in these accomplishments, he was equally valued as a thoughtful colleague, generous mentor, and careful listener.

Beyond his professional life, Michael found joy in exploring the world. He and his much-loved wife, Christine, shared a love of travel and discovering new places together. He delighted in walking in the mountains, studying history, and asking questions simply for the pleasure of understanding. His curiosity was infectious, and nowhere was that more evident than in the time he spent with his three grandchildren. He encouraged them to wonder, to investigate, and to think critically, helping to inspire a love of science and discovery that each carried into adulthood. Today, all three are following careers in science or engineering – a legacy that brought him great pleasure.

Michael married the love of his life, Christine, in 1963, and together they built a life centered on family, learning, and travel. They spent the last ten years of his life living in Saline, Michigan. He is survived by Christine; his daughters, Siân (David) Owen-Cruise of Ypsilanti, and Catherine (Brian) Ruster of Grand Haven; his cherished grandchildren, Morgan (Tim) Cencer, Owen Ruster, and Erin Ruster; his sister, Pat (Tim) O'Donoghue of Ireland;

and many loved nieces and nephews in England and Wales. He was preceded in death by his sister, Eileen Davies, and his parents.

Those who knew Michael will remember his gentle nature, thoughtful conversations, sense of humor, and the genuine interest he took in the lives of others. Whether discussing science, history, or everyday life, he had a gift for making people feel heard and valued. He cared deeply for his family, his friends, and everyone who was fortunate enough to know him. His legacy lives on not only in the scientific advances he helped create, but in the curiosity he inspired, the kindness he showed, and the love he shared throughout his life.

His family would like to thank all the staff at Gaslight Village in Adrian for the care they gave Michael and the family over the past few weeks. In accordance with his wishes, no funeral will be held. The family will gather privately to celebrate his life at a later date. For anyone wishing to make a donation in his honor, the family encourages you to support the [Parkinson's Foundation](#).

Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates

- August 1 (12:00 – 4:00 PM) – Midland Area River Days Festival, downtown Midland near the H Hotel. Midland Section ACS Outreach Committee volunteers will host a booth offering free, hands-on, STEM activities. For more information, any questions, or to volunteer to help, please contact Gina Malczewski at reginamalczewski@gmail.com.
- August 3 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at [August 2026 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 247 692 044, Passcode: jJ34ZJ.
- August 7-8 – NOBCChE Annual Social. The Michigan Professional NOBCChE Chapter is hosting a Michigan-wide social for all of those in the area. It will feature some food, music, games, and an overall good time. For detailed information, and to sign up, please see the article and flyer on page 5 in this newsletter.
- August 23-27, 2026 (Save the Date) – ACS Fall 2026 National Meeting & Exposition, Chicago, IL. This meeting will be a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. For more information, please see the information on page 11 in this newsletter, or click on [ACS Fall 2026](#).
- August 27 (5:00 – 7:00 PM) – Summer Art Event with ACS YCC and WCC! – Summer Swirls! Paper quilling event and networking. Emerson Park Shelter C, 911 W Main St, Midland, MI 48640. Please see the article and flyer on page 10 for details.
- September 14 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at [September 2026 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 247 692 044, Passcode: jJ34ZJ. **Please note: This Board meeting is being held on the second Monday of September, not the usual first Monday of most months, due to the Labor Day holiday.**
- September 23 (12:00 – 4:00 PM) – Chemical Science Mentoring and Demonstration Day at Delta College. Located on the main campus in the D-wing. Please see the article on page 3 of this newsletter for details or to volunteer.

- October 5 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at [October 2026 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 247 692 044, Passcode: jJ34ZJ.
- October 9 (Save the Date) – Great Lakes Microscopy Society Annual Meeting at Michigan Technological University. **Abstracts are currently being accepted.** For details, please see the article on page 12, the meeting poster on page 13, and the website at [2026 GLMS Meeting](#).
- October 25-27 (Save the Date) – ACS 2026 Midwest Regional Meeting, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, featuring an exciting scientific program, plenary and public lectures, a science writing workshop, and oral and poster symposia. **Abstract submission closed July 27.** For more information, please see the article on pages 14 and 15 in this newsletter, or click on [2026 Midwest Regional Meeting](#).
- November 2 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at [November 2026 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 247 692 044, Passcode: jJ34ZJ.
- November 4-7, 2026 (Save the Date) – ACS 2026 Southeastern Regional Meeting, Memphis, TN, featuring an exceptional scientific program, focused symposia, a historic ACS presentational panel, and oral and poster sessions. **Abstract submission is now open through August 10.** For more information, please see the article on page 16 in this newsletter, or click on [2026 Southeastern Regional Meeting](#).
- November 14-17, 2026 (Save the Date) – ACS 2026 Central Regional Meeting (CERM 2026), hosted by the Cincinnati Section of the ACS. The 2026 ACS CERM will be held at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center, in Covington, KY, serving the Greater Cincinnati region and the broader Central United States. Meeting theme – *Chemistry Beyond Boundaries: Building Trust, Breaking Myths*. **Abstract submission has been extended to August 17.** For more information, please see the article on page 17 in this newsletter, or click on [Submit an Abstract for 2026 CERM](#).
- December 7 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at [December 2026 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 247 692 044, Passcode: jJ34ZJ.

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