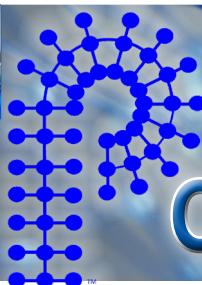


Fall 2025



**2025 POLY Chair
Laura Stratton**



OLY NEWSLETTER

American Chemical Society
Division of Polymer Chemistry, Inc.

As we near the close of 2025, I'm energized by the generosity and grit across our community. Thank you for showing up—for one another, and for the profession. Your mind is your most valuable professional tool—protect it. I encourage you to build mental health into your calendar: consistent sleep, movement, and honest check-ins are investments that pay back in clarity, resilience, and better work.

First, gratitude. POLY's business office keeps the wheels turning with quiet excellence—programs on time, members supported, deadlines met. To POLY's Executive Committee, thank you for setting thoughtful, long-range financial and service-focused goals. To our Programming Committee, all our committee volunteers, and specific task volunteers thank you.

Next year is a double milestone: POLY's 75th anniversary and ACS's 150th. We'll mark the occasion in several ways. More details—and invitations to participate—are on the way. Anniversaries are also a perfect time to invest. If you or your organization would like to support awards, regional meetings, or student travel, sponsorships make a direct, visible difference.

You'll also see increased clarity in our awards process. Updated rubrics will be posted with the nomination forms so nominators and reviewers share the same expectations. Please nominate generously. Recognition uplifts the individual and raises the bar for all of us. Staying connected matters. Keep an eye on our website and social channels for calls, deadlines, and member spotlights. Send us your news—we want to celebrate you.

And if you're ready to plug in, we have meaningful ways to contribute. We welcome poster judges; symposium organizers and presiders; help with the website, communications, and social media; and ad hoc committee service, especially for Awards. Our webinar team is actively gathering topics. Regional meeting ambassadors are needed too—a great place to organize, preside, and present research. Industrial members, remember you have a voice in the IAB; we want it heard. If your company is not yet a member of IAB, now is a perfect time to join.

Applause is in order. Congratulations to PoWER on a ChemLuminary award—well deserved and inspiring. Read more about their conference on pg.11!

Why does being a member of POLY matter now? Information is abundant; trust, curation, and connection are not. Work is more remote, interdisciplinary, and fast-moving; careers are nonlinear. The POLY division is your professional home for community and real-world impact—organic mentorship, networking and warm introductions, purposeful events, inclusive paths into leadership, and a bridge from your local chapter to a global network. Your ROI is our metric: If each year you meet a few people you can call for real help, present once, and help build something that lasts (while lifting someone behind you), we're doing our job. We keep it practical and member-driven with low-lift roles that grow into leadership and quick feedback loops so your voice shapes what we do. This is your professional home—share your strengths, connect with peers, and help us make a bigger difference together. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as Chair this year.

Inside

Chair's Message

Awards

Elections

IAB

Workshops

Regional Mtgs.

Webinars

MACRO Edu.

Student Chapters

PoWER Conf.

National Mtg.

Councilors' Rpt.

POLY ACS Fellows

Treasurer's Rpt.

Upcoming

October 16
POLY Elections
Go Live

November 1
Mark Scholar
Awards
Deadline

November 2
Fuel Cells POLY
Workshop

November 30
POLY Fellows
Award Deadline

December 1
ACS Bio/Macro
Early Career
Awd Deadline

January 23, 2026
Henkel Award
Deadline

POLY/PMSE PLENARY & AWARDS PROGRAM

The POLY/PMSE awards reception was held Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at the ACS National Meeting in Washington, D.C. honoring outstanding achievements by its members. POLY Chair, Laura Stratton, had the pleasure of congratulating the Fall POLY awardees.



POLY/PMSE PLENARY SPEAKER

THUC-QUYEN NGUYEN, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
SANTA BARBARA

"Harnessing the Sunlight: A Villager's Dream"



HERMAN F. MARK POLYMER CHEMISTRY AWARD

CRAIG HAWKER, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
SANTA BARBARA

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AND LEADERSHIP IN POLYMER SCIENCE



POLY PAST CHAIR AWARD

DAWANNE POREE, US ARMY RESEARCH LABORATORY
FOR DEDICATION TO THE DIVISION AS POLY CHAIR IN 2024



CHARLES G. OVERBERGER INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN POLYMER RESEARCH

KRISTI S. ANSETH UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER
*RECOGNIZES AND ENCOURAGES ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF UNUSUAL MERIT IN THE
FIELD OF BASIC OR APPLIED POLYMER SCIENCE, FROM RESEARCHERS FROM
ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD*

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M macro

PMSE

OLY

POLY/PMSE PLENARY & AWARDS PROGRAM (continued)



YOUNG INDUSTRIAL POLYMER SCIENTIST AWARD

JEFFREY TING, NANITE, INC.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY IN THE APPLICATION OF POLYMER SCIENCE, CONDUCTED BY YOUNG INDIVIDUAL SCIENTISTS

Sponsored by



ACS MACROLETTERS/BIOMACROMOLECULES/MACROMOLECULES YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD

GUILLAUME DE BO, UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

JULIA ANN KALOW, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

RECOGNIZES TWO INDIVIDUALS, EARLY IN THEIR CAREERS, WHO HAVE MADE A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE FIELD OF POLYMER SCIENCE

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HENKEL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATE EXCELLENCE IN POLYMER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

ELIZABETH MURPHY, DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

Graduate studies completed at University of California, Santa Barbara
Advisors: Prof. Craig Hawker & Prof. Christopher Bates

RECOGNIZING A PHD GRADUATE STUDENT OR RECENT GRADUATE WHO HAS COMPLETED AN OUTSTANDING PHD THESIS IN RESEARCH AT A UNIVERSITY IN THE US OR CANADA

Sponsored by



POLY GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD

BROCK HUNTER, UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

WINDFIELD SWETMAN, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS STUDYING POLYMER SCIENCE AT US INSTITUTIONS TO TRAVEL TO NATIONAL ACS MEETINGS AND PRESENT THEIR RESULTS

Sponsored by



POLY/PMSE PLENARY & AWARDS PROGRAM (continued)



Sponsored by

SPRINGER NATURE



Not pictured Julia B., Joshua R., and Seiyoung Yoon

Sponsored by



POLY OUTSTANDING POSTER AWARD

SAYAN KUMAR BISWAS, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
EMANUELLA FIORENZA FIANDRA, DURHAM UNIVERSITY
NANTAWAT KAEKRATOKE, VISTEC
ESTABLISHED TO INCREASE THE IMPORTANCE AND VISIBILITY OF POSTERS BEING PRESENTED AT ACS NATIONAL MEETINGS, POLY SECTION DURING SCI-MIX

View their work at <https://polyacs.org/poly-outstanding-poster-award>

POLY OUTSTANDING GENERAL TOPIC PRESENTATION AWARD

JULIA BOROWSKI, CORNELL UNIVERSITY
BRENDAN KUZMINSKI, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
JOSHUA ROAN, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
ALLISON WONG, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
SEIYOUNG YOON, UNIVERSITY OF AKRON
ESTABLISHED TO RECOGNIZE EXCELLENT PRESENTATIONS FROM GRADUATE STUDENTS DURING ACS NATIONAL MEETINGS

View their work at <https://polyacs.org/general-topics-presentation-award>

UPCOMING POLY AWARDS

-Nominate Outstanding Colleagues-

Mark Scholar Awards (Young, Scholar, and Senior Scholar)

Application Due: 11/1/2025

Recognize excellence in basic or applied research and leadership in polymer science by scientists of all ages

Outstanding Poster Award

Judged during POLY Sci-Mix Poster Session (Spring & Fall)

Sponsor: Springer/MRS Communications

POLY Fellows Award

Application Due: 11/30/2025

Recognize excellence in all ways that POLY members advance our field of polymer science, either through scientific accomplishments, service to the profession, or both.

Carl S. Marvel Award for Creative Polymer Chemistry

Application Due: 7/1/2026

Recognize and encourage accomplishments and/or innovation of unusual merit in the field of basic or applied polymer science by younger scientists.

Henkel Award for Outstanding Graduate Excellence in Polymer Science & Engineering

Application Due: 1/23/2026

Recognize a PhD graduate student or recent graduate who has completed an outstanding PhD thesis in research at a university in the US or Canada.

For complete award information
scan the QR code
or visit:
<https://polyacs.org/awards/>



The Awards Committee is unable to solicit individual nominations and serve to select awardees. In order for POLY to provide a diverse awards recipient list, we need YOU to nominate outstanding scientists.

An email will be sent to voting members containing login instructions.

Watch for an email from VOTENOW on October 16th.

If you do not receive an email, send an email to KATHYL@VT.EDU.

Keep your contact information up-to-date! Send updates to SERVICE@ACS.ORG.

Vice Chair Candidates



Erik Berda
Univ. of New Hampshire



Chuanbing Tang
Univ. of South Carolina

Secretary Candidates



Tayler Hebner
Purdue Univ.



Ying Yang
Univ. of Nevada-Reno

Councilor Candidates



Rigoberto Advincula
Univ. of TN-Knoxville



Greg Tew
Univ. of MA-Amherst

Councilor Candidates



Allan Guymon
Brigham Young Univ.



Brian Long
Univ. of TN-Knoxville

Alternate Councilor Candidates



Danniebelle Haase
Dow Chemical Co.



Oleg Davydovich
Sandia National Labs

Alternate Councilor Candidates



Toby Nelson
Univ. of TN-Knoxville



Caroline Szczepanski
Michigan State Univ.

Go online to <https://polyacs.org/elections/> to see election history, officer duties, and other election information.



POLY INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY BOARD

The POLY Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) remains resolute in our mission of fostering meaningful engagement between industry and the Division of Polymer Chemistry. As Chair this past year, I am indebted to our company representatives, countless volunteers, and POLY leadership for their firm support of our technical programming, networking opportunities, and various new initiatives. With support from the POLY Chair Elect I am pleased to hand off the IAB leadership role to the 2026 Chair Mike Sims (Seqens) and Co-Chair Kapil Dev Sayala (Seqens). Mike and Kapil will continue bringing both large and small company perspectives to the IAB and highlighting how industrial polymer research benefits our broader scientific enterprise.

At the Fall ACS Meeting in DC, the Industrial Innovations in Polymer Science (IIPS) symposium at one point attracted over 60 attendees. Michael Petr (Dow), Rohini Gupta (BASF), and Manesh Sekharan (Dow) did a wonderful job organizing the IIPS around high-interest topics. Similarly, new POLY sessions such as the full day “Next Generation Materials Discovery and Production” allowed industrial scientists and stakeholders to meet and discuss success stories, pitfalls, and lessons learned as industries integrate advances in materials manufacturing and digital discovery. Congrats to Mike Sims on running successful sessions! As always, POLY members from IAB member companies are welcome to propose technical symposia topics for programming at ACS National Meetings; please reach out to Mike to learn more.

Finally at this conference, I had the privilege of receiving the Young Industrial Polymer Scientist (YIPS) Award. Established only eight years ago to celebrate early-career polymer scientists in industry, this recognition reflects not only my technical contributions at Nanite and previously 3M, but also the guidance and encouragement of mentors who believed in me and took the time to write the nomination. I am humbled to join the accomplished past awardees from IBM, Carbon 3D, and Dow.

This fall, IAB supported two Graduate Student Travel Awards, supporting Brock Hunter at the University of Delaware and Windfield Swetman at the University of Southern Mississippi to share their research at an ACS meeting. Financial support was also provided for the 2025 MIT Polymer Day and the 2025 Future Faculty Workshop on Soft Matter to strengthen relationships with the broader polymer community.

Looking ahead at the 2026 Spring ACS Meeting in Atlanta, alongside the recurring IIPS symposium there are two symposia to highlight organized by IAB company volunteers: (1) “Capturing the Power of Data for Materials and Chemical Scientists in Industry” by Michael Heiber, Alix Schmidt, Vikas Varshney, and Hendrik Heinz, and (2) “Academic Entrepreneurship and Tech Transfer: Turning Research into Revenue” by Kapil Dev Sayala and myself. These initiatives speak both to the changing landscape of career paths available to young polymer scientists, as well as new opportunities of developing emerging technologies across applications in sustainability, human health, energy, infrastructure, and water/food availability.

The Life of a Polymer Scientist (drawing inspiration from an anticipated pop album that's likely available at the time of this newsletter's publication) is rapturous, frightening, and beautiful – and with organizations like the IAB, the winding journey can become one that we don't have to navigate alone. Here's to building on our momentum and continuing to shape what's to come ahead!

JOIN IAB

IAB would like to invite you to join us to ensure that you and your company have a voice in divisional education, awards, and programming. For more information, visit <https://polyacs.org/iab/>

IAB COMPANIES



POLY IAB Co-Chair
Jeff Ting
Nanite



POLY IAB Co-Chair
Mike Sims
Seqens



Upcoming 2026
POLY IAB Co-Chair
Kapil Dev Sayala
Seqens



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POLY WORKSHOPS & OTHER AFFILIATED MEETINGS

Polymers for Fuel Cells, Energy Storage, and Conversion

November 2-5, 2025

Safety Harbor, FL USA

Organizers: Brian Benicewicz, Michael Hickner, & Tom Zawodzinski

<https://polyacs.org/2025fuelcells/>

There is still time to register to attend!

Visit <https://polyacs.org/2025fuelcells/> to reserve your spot today!

Reversible Deactivation Radical Polymerization (CRP)

November 9-12, 2025

Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS)

Stellenbosch, South Africa

Advisory Committee: Bert Klumperman, Kris Matyjaszewski, Nick Tsarevsky, & Brent Sumerlin

Organizers: Elaine Barnard, Bert Klumperman, & Gestél Kuyler

Registration/Website/Program:

<https://crp2025.org/>

Fire & Polymers

May 17-20, 2026

San Diego, CA USA

Organizers: Jaime Grunlan & Alexander Morgan

<https://polyacs.org/2026fireandpolymers/>

KEY DATES:

Speaker Abstracts Due: Early-Bird Registration: February 1, 2026 April 16, 2026

Poster Abstracts Due: Lodging Discount Until: March 20, 2026 April 16, 2026

NGRPC

Theme: Novel Polymers: Innovations in synthesis, design, material properties, and application
April 2027
University of Florida

<https://sites.google.com/view/ngrpc2027/home>

Innovations in Plastics Recycling & Sustainability

November 8-11, 2026

Santa Rosa, CA USA

Organizers: Brett Helms, Katrina Knauer, LaShanda Korley, & Megan Robertson

<https://polyacs.org/2026upcyclingsustainablepolymers/>

KEY DATES:

Speaker Abstracts Due: Early-Bird Registration: August 8, 2026 October 6, 2026

Poster Abstracts Due: Lodging Discount Until: September 14, 2026 October 8, 2026

Advances in Polyolefins

June 6-9, 2027

Rohnert Park, CA

Website coming soon...



For more information or to propose a new workshop, please contact the Workshop Committee Chair Beth Elacqua (eze31@psu.edu) or Kathy Mitchem (kathyl@vt.edu) in the POLY Business Office.

<https://polyacs.org/poly-workshops/>

LIVE WEBINARS & YOUTUBE POSTS

The POLY-sponsored ACS Webinar “Some Polymers Like It Hot: Tuning Thermal Transport in 2D Polymers and COFs” was held on July 10th, 2025. The webinar was given by Prof. Dana Medina of Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, and Prof. Austin Evans of the University of Florida and was moderated by Prof. Ron Smaldone of University of Texas – Dallas.



Austin Evans
University of Florida

Prof. Medina discussed her lab’s work in developing innovative synthetic strategies for the precise control over COF structure, chemistry, and photophysical properties. The talk also touched on the discovery of cutting-edge tools for tailoring light absorption and photoluminescence (PL), including one-pot syntheses of azaacene-based COFs and regioisomer doping techniques using thienothiophene. Prof. Evans introduced compelling new research that demonstrates how polymers, when properly engineered, can exhibit high thermal conductivity. His talk focused on how two-dimensional polymers, particularly covalent organic frameworks (2D COFs), can significantly outperform traditional linear polymers in heat transport, especially when non-covalent interactions are strategically optimized.



Dana Medina
LMU Munich



Kevin Edgar
Virginia Tech

The upcoming POLY ACS webinar will cover “Carbohydrate Polymers” on October 29, 2025. The speakers will be Prof. Kevin Edgar of Virginia Tech and Prof. Kamil Godula of University of California, San Diego, moderated by Prof. Cassandra Callman of the University of Texas at Austin.

This webinar series features two 25-30 minute presentations followed by a moderated question and answer session. The webinars are organized by the POLY Webinar committee composed of Tomonori Saito, Brent Sumerlin, Rebecca Olson Short, and Bob Lambeth. The committee welcomes your ideas for topics and speakers for future webinars.

[View Past POLY Webinars on YouTube](#)

[View POLY/ACS Co-Sponsored Webinars](#)



Kamil Godula
UC San Diego

IN MEMORIAM...



Former Chairman and present Secretary of the Scientific Committee of the Polymer Networks Group (PNG), Ferenc Horkay, passed away suddenly after a short illness. He was a POLY division member over 26 years and served the Division as the ACS National Meeting POLY General Topics organizer for many years.

Ferenc started his academic career in Hungary before coming to the United States to take a position as a guest researcher at NIST’s Polymer Division in Gaithersburg to work on an Army/Navy/Air Force project. After his time at NIST, he transitioned to the GE Corporate R&D Center where he excelled in the corporate scientific culture of GE.

Following his work at GE, he returned to fundamental research at NIH in a research group run led by Peter Basser at the National Institutes of Health. His time at NIH garnered and conducted important research for which he is internationally recognized.

His death is a great loss to the polymer community and general community alike. Our thoughts go to his wife, Iren during this difficult time.

Ferenc's obituary: <https://polymernetworksgroup.org/ferenc-horkay.htm>



MACRO REPORT

The Macromolecular Alliance for Community Resources and Outreach (MACRO) is jointly sponsored by the POLY and PMSE technical divisions. Co-chairs Philip Costanzo (POLY) and Elizabeth Sterner (PMSE) lead a group of volunteers offering professional development events and resources, generating curricular modules for undergraduate chemistry courses, and developing a repository of polymer-based outreach activities. All of these resources can be accessed through the MACRO website at <https://macro-poly-pmse.org/>. We recently updated the website so please check it out and provide us with some feedback.

Curricular resources consist of lecture slides (PowerPoint and PDF) for use in the classroom and a paired instructor support document that contains additional background information, suggested pedagogy, and a list of further resources. Slides with voiceover and videos are also available. To date, the modules available include basic definitions and concepts, fundamentals of polymer synthesis (condensation polymerization of acyl functional groups, addition polymerization of alkenes, and polymer stereochemistry), polymer characterization (FTIR, NMR, and SEC), exploration of polymer molecular weight, and introductory viscoelasticity. Part of the website update will include the posting of new modules and formats. The Curriculum subcommittee has acquired a collaborator to create physical chemistry modules on modeling ideal polymer chains, Flory-Huggins theory, and the thermodynamics of phase segregation. The organic chemistry modules are being expanded to include living polymerization methods. The subcommittee is still seeking collaborators for generating new modules, particularly in the area of biochemistry. Interested members should send an email to esterner@lvc.edu.

We are currently looking for an additional lead for the Professional Development initiative. If you are interested or have any suggestions, please send an email to pcostanz@calpoly.edu.

On the Outreach page, we've begun to create a depository of materials for individuals to be able to spread their passion and knowledge of science to the general population. MACRO launched an interface where individuals can share what they are currently utilizing in their communities and receive appropriate recognition for their contributions to the Polymer community. We've begun to solicit individuals to create content and have posted several modules. In collaboration with the POLY/PMSE student chapters, MACRO will be running an Outreach Pilot program. Each student chapter will be eligible to apply to a funding pool of \$5000 for financial support to host an outreach event. The goal of this program is to produce shareable content to be displayed upon the MACRO website. Entries will be reviewed and will receive feedback on the preparation of materials to be distributed. Please direct any contest questions to Phil Costanzo (pcostanz@calpoly.edu). Full details on the pilot program and application materials are expected to be distributed via email to Chapters soon.

MACRO TEAM



Philip Costanzo
CAL POLY



Liz Sterner
Lebanon Valley College



CONNECTING WITH POLY MEANS CONNECTING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

https://x.com/POLY_ACS@POLY_ACS



POLY E-LIST

<https://polyacs.org/poly-electronic-discussion-list/>

POLY WEB

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"ACS Division of
Polymer Chemistry"



<http://bit.ly/youtubepoly>
"ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry"



www.linkedin.com
"ACS Division of Polymer
Chemistry (POLY)"

SIGN UP TODAY!

The discussion list is a great way to inform others and receive information about upcoming symposia, workshops, job positions, share questions and answers, and more. The list is available to all POLY members who choose to sign-up.

To sign up, sign off, or change e-mail address . . .

Go to: <https://polyacs.org/poly-electronic-discussion-list/>

STUDENT CHAPTER REPORT

POLY/PMSE Student Chapters are student run organizations affiliated with both ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry (POLY) and the Division of Polymeric Materials Science and Engineering (PMSE) that provide networking and career development opportunities to students and post-doctoral associates in the polymer field. Student Chapters provide access to other graduate students, faculty, government lab researchers, and industrial employees and administrators in both professional and social environments.

Each year, after student chapters complete the required tasks, a few chapters are selected for the Best Student Chapter Award (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place) granting additional funding that could go towards a myriad of things like seminar support or group activities.

To start your own student chapter or for more information visit <https://polyacs.org/student-chapters>.

2025 Student Chapter Winners

1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place

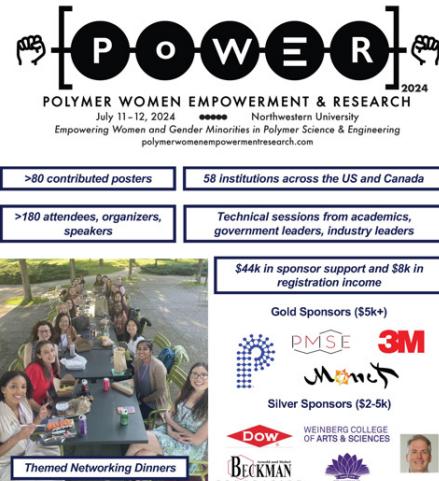


View each chapter's winning report at <https://polyacs.org/student-chapters>!

PoWER - A CHEMLUMINARY AWARD WINNER

ACS ChemLuminary Awards honor the best examples of programming, outreach, and operations from local sections, divisions, regional meetings, and international chemical sciences chapters.

The Polymer Women Empowerment and Research conference (PoWER) won the ACS ChemLuminary Award at ACS Fall 2025 for: Most Unique Project as Funded by a Division Innovative Project Grant! The conference shared cutting-edge scientific results, highlighted women's contributions and voices, and addressed issues pertinent to women and gender minorities in polymer science.



PoWER's vision was to hold a conference dedicated to women and gender minorities in polymer science, thus empowering and supporting women to enter the field and become leaders. Their conference taught values on belief that true discovery is aided by the consideration of multiple perspectives that can only be achieved through a diverse group of scientists. PoWER emphasized diversity along multiple axes, not just gender (career stage, race, ethnicity, place of work, sexual orientation, ability, etc.). The conference taught advocating for oneself and the women who came before us to cultivate a better experience for the women who come later.

A special thank you goes out to the wonderful organizers who worked hard to put together this ever-important conference: Prof. Julia Kalow (Northwestern Univ.), Dr. Jill Alty (MIT), Prof. Helen Tran (Univ. of Toronto), Prof. Symone Alexander (Auburn Univ.), Dr. Sara Orski (NIST), and Dr. Katie Houston (Eastman Chemical Co./ Co-Founder of FytFeed)! Stay tuned for more information about PoWER 2026 in Toronto!

POLY/ACS NATIONAL MEETING ACTIVITY

Programming Team

Pictured top to bottom: *Graham Collier, Danniebelle Haase, Julia Kalow, and Alice Savage*



Welcome to the
Programming Team,
Michael Petr (Dow)!



Past POLY
Graphical Abstracts
<https://polyacs.org/poly-at-previous-national-acs-meetings/>

POLY Symposia
Submission
(Spring & Fall)
<https://polyacs.org/information-for-symposia-organizers/>

272nd ACS National Meeting (Spring) March 22-26, 2026 *Atlanta, GA (& Virtual)

ACS Theme: Celebrating ACS 150 years

Lead Program Chair: Alice Savage (Alice.m.savage3@gmail.com)

- Academic Entrepreneurship and Tech Transfer: Turning Research into Revenue
- Advanced Manufacturing and Concepts for Functional Coatings, Thin Films, and Interphases
- Advances in Polymer Electrolytes
- Capturing the Power of Data for Materials and Chemical Scientists in Industry
- Circular Polymer Economy
- Data Analytics and AI for Manufacturing and Healthcare
- Excellence in Polymer Graduate Research
- Excellence in Polymer Research at HBCU/MS Institutions
- Functional Hydrogels for Energy and Soft Machines
- General Topics
- Green Chemistry and Beyond: Modern Mechanochemistry as a Frontier in Synthetic Innovation Industrial Innovations in Polymer Science
- Mechanically Interlocked Polymers and Networks
- Microplastics
- Molecular Engineering of Stimuli-Responsive Polymers
- Paul J. Flory Polymer Education Award
- POLY/PMSE Plenary Lecture & Awards
- Polymer and Neutron Science
- Polymers and Boron Nitride
- Polymers at Bio-interfaces
- Soft Polymer Networks: Linking Chemistry, Mechanics, and Recycling
- Undergraduate Research in Polymer Science

273rd ACS National Meeting (Fall) August 16-20, 2026 *Chicago, IL (& Virtual)

ACS Theme: TBA

Lead Program Chair: Julia Kalow (jkalow@northwestern.edu)

- ACS Macro Letters/ Biomacromolecules/Macromolecules Young Investigator Award
- Charles G. Overberger International Prize for Excellence in Polymer Research
- General Topics
- Henkel Award for Outstanding Graduate Research in Polymer Science and Engineering Industrial Innovations in Polymer Science
- Industrial Polymer Scientist Award
- Mark Scholar Awards (Young, Scholar, and Senior)
- POLY/PMSE Plenary Lecture & Awards

POLY SYMPOSIA SELECTION GUIDELINES

Starting with the 2026 ACS Fall Meeting, we are pleased to introduce the new POLY Symposium Selection Guidelines, designed to foster transparency, inclusivity, and diversity in our programming and align with ACS priorities. Under the updated framework, each symposium proposal will be evaluated using a rubric. This rubric prioritizes proposals demonstrating interdivisional collaboration; additional criteria include sector representation among organizers, first-time organizer participation, and inclusivity in topic selection. These enhancements aim to ensure a balanced and representative slate of symposia that reflect the breadth and depth of our community. We encourage all members to consider these guidelines when submitting proposals and look forward to an exciting and inclusive lineup at future meetings.

View grid and other updates: <https://polyacs.org/poly-at-national-acs-meetings/>



POLY COUNCILORS' REPORT

This report summarizes the major outcomes of the American Chemical Society (ACS) Fall 2025 meeting. The meeting registered 11,640 attendees, signaling strong engagement with 10,602 attending in-person.

Brian Long
UT Knoxville



Mary Ann Meador
NASA Glenn (Retired)



Greg Tew
UMass Amherst



Kathryn Uhrich
UC Riverside

CEO Albert Horvath reported on the strong organizational performance and growth in 2025, noting registration exceeding the expected 11,000. Highlights of the CEO's update included success in solutions-driven programs for industry, continued ACS advocacy efforts with federal agencies and Congress, and ongoing planning for the ACS 150th Anniversary Celebration. Additionally, the Washington, D.C. office buildings were certified as LEED platinum, emphasizing sustainability.

CFO Emily Kunchala confirmed the strong financial health of the organization, with Q2 2025 financial guidelines having been met. Board discussions focused on strategic themes emerging from member feedback and structural strengths of ACS component groups.

Actions of the Council - The ACS Council meeting focused on elections, committee realignments, and policy approvals. The Council elected members to three key committees: the Council Policy Committee (CPC) (2026–2028 terms), the Committee on Committees (ConC) (2026–2028 terms), and the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) (2026–2028 terms).

Governance and Policy Petitions - The Council approved several critical petitions; all subject to concurrence by the Board of Directors. The Council approved the petition to establish the Committee on the Advancement of LGBTQ+ Chemists (CALC) as a new standing committee with an 86.40% vote in favor, underscoring a commitment to diversity and inclusion. Members will be appointed to this committee with terms beginning in 2026. The Council approved the dissolution of the Committee on Publications with an 83.58% vote in favor. Its functions will be transitioned to a new Journals Advisory Board that reports to the Governing Board of Publishing. The council approved the name change of the Committee on Public Relations and Communications (CPRC) to the Committee on Communications (COMM) (97.52% in favor). Lastly, they approved the updated

Professional Employment Guidelines, including an amendment clarifying intellectual property ownership language (93.02% in favor).

Financial and Operational Approvals - The Board approved maintaining the advance member registration fees for the 2026 Spring and Fall meetings as \$549 for in-person and \$149 for virtual attendance. Also, ACS president announced that one hundred \$25,000 grants will be disbursed by year end under the one-time Graduate Student Success grant initiative as approved by the Board in June. The ACS Graduate Student Success Grant provides \$25,000 for one year to a faculty member who lost funding after October 1, 2024, that supports one or more graduate students. The award will also connect supported graduate students to ACS career development resources and programming to catalyze their transition into the workforce. Applications by Principal Investigators are accepted between September 15, 2025, at 2 p.m. ET and October 1, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. ET only. Applications are considered in the order they are received. Find more information at <https://www.acs.org/funding/grants/graduate-student-success-grant.html>.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering with POLY provides excellent opportunities for networking across a broad technical community. Energetic, excited volunteers are what fuel POLY! We need the engagement of people like you to help maximize our impact within the community of polymer science.

For more information: <https://polyacs.org/poly-volunteer-interest-form/>

POLY MEMBERS INDUCTED AS ACS FELLOWS

Congratulations to the POLY/PMSE members who were inducted as 2025 ACS Fellows!



Christopher Bowman
University of Colorado Boulder



Jerry Wayne King
University of Arkansas



Chieh-Min Cheng
Polaroid



Dhriti Nepal
Air Force Research Laboratory



Yuanqiao Rao
Dow



Florian J. Schattenmann
Cargill Incorporated



Michael Stephen Silverstein
Technion



Brent Sumerlin
University of Florida



Davita L. Watkins
Ohio State University

Nominations for the 2026 Class of ACS Fellows will be open from February 1 to April 1, 2026.

To read more about nominations, please visit:
<https://www.acs.org/funding/awards/acs-fellows.html>

RECENTLY ANNOUNCED AWARDS

Paul J. Flory Polymer Education Award

Richard Spontak,
North Carolina State University

<https://polyacs.org/paul-j-flory-award-for-polymer-education/>

Industrial Polymer Scientist Award

Kimberly Chaffin,
Medtronic, Inc.

<https://polyacs.org/industrial-polymer-scientist-award/>

POLY Graduate Student Travel Award

Baiqiang Huang,
Carnegie Mellon University
Ivan Levkovsky,
University of Virginia

<https://polyacs.org/poly-graduate-student-travel-awards/>

POLY recognizes all of their awardees during the POLY/PMSE Plenary Lecture & Awards Reception each meeting.

This Spring, the Plenary Event will take place on Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

POLY is excited to announce the Spring 2026 Plenary Lecturer: Brett Helms
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory



Interested in organizing?
Visit <https://polyacs.org/information-for-symposia-organizers/>

Organizers

Athina Anastasaki
Michael Appell
Christopher Bates
James Berry



Lauren Bishop
Summer Brown
Kelly Burke
Aaron Burkey
Patricia Calvo
Lingyun Chen
H.N. Cheng
Kensha Clark
Oleg Davydovich
Timothy Duncan
Xuetong Fan
Adrian Figg
Dillon Gagnon
Wei Gao
Richard Gross
Jay Guo
Rohini Gupta
Belma Haug
Craig Hawker
Maruti Hegde

Brett Helms
Marc Hillmyer
Rajeswari Kasi
Sadia Khan
Jinsang Kim
Dominik Konkolewicz
Olga Kuksenok
Edmond Lam
Yao Lin
Christine Luscombe
Paulomi Majumder
David McLeod
Shashi Murthy
Toby Nelson
Mu-Ping Nieh
Sara Orski
Gunzaya Otgonjargal
Michael Petr
Dawanne Poree
Yang Qin

Stuart Rowan
Alice Savage
Colleen Scott
Manesh Sekharan
Michael Sims
Graham Smeddle
Isaiah Speight
Cole Stearns
Luyi Sun
Chuangbing Tang
Barry Thompson
Kiana Treaster
Joshua Uzarski
Jun Wang
Davita Watkins
Karen Wooley
Changqing Wu
Wei You
Lucy Yu
Chunxiao Zheng

TREASURER'S REPORT



POLY Treasurer
John Matson
jmatson@vt.edu

The table below is a summary of the 2024 activity, the 2025 approved budget, and the 2025 income and expenditures for POLY as of August 31, 2025. POLY is a non-profit organization and as such, the Executive Committee is challenged to provide excellent services and benefits for its members while maintaining a balanced annual budget.

POLY continues to prioritize member support by offering a wide range of opportunities to meet other members for scientific discussions. In addition to programming at National and Regional meetings, our members contribute by organizing Student Chapters and topical workshops that strengthen the Division and provide significant value to participants. We find that the in-person format delivers professional benefits with lasting connections. So far this year, the POLY Executive Committee has held one workshop, and another one is scheduled for later this year. Fluoropolymers (June 22–25, 2025) was a scientific success as well as financially sound. One more workshop is scheduled for this year: Polymers for

Fuel Cells, Energy Storage, and Conversion (November 2–5, 2025). POLY also financially supported the National Graduate Research Polymer Conference (NGRPC), which was run by graduate students at Arizona State University (March 18–21, 2025). Two workshops for 2026 are currently in the planning stages (Fire and Polymers, May 17–20, 2026 and Upcycling and Sustainable Polymers, Nov 8–11, 2026).

Beyond workshops, POLY leaders and members continue to generate innovative ideas and apply for and receive Innovative Project Grants (IPG) and Convergent Chemistry Communities (CCC) grants. The POLY Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) continues to support, organize symposia, and sponsor awards aimed at our members in industry.

The dedicated group of POLY volunteers continues to minimize spending and maximize output, as we have for the past several years. As of August 2025, POLY had \$1.18M in investments. The investments continue to support the budget annually, but over the past few years we have drawn from investments at an unsustainable level. Balancing our budget with less reliance on unpredictable investments remains a major goal of POLY leadership, for example by reducing A/V and food/beverage expenses at ACS National Meetings.

POLY continues to highlight an array of awards, with funding primarily through the POLY investment fund. Its major awards include the Carl S. Marvel Award for Creative Polymer Chemistry, the Herman F. Mark Polymer Chemistry Award, the Paul J. Flory Polymer Education Award, and the Industrial Polymer Science Award. POLY is seeking sponsors for these signature awards. POLY is extremely grateful for the contributions from our current ACS National Meeting and award and event sponsors, including Springer Nature (*MRS Communications*), Henkel, the Royal Society of Chemistry (*Polymer Chemistry*) POLY-IAB, Japan Analytical Industry (JAI), and Tosoh. We continue to seek additional sponsors for receptions, coffee breaks, awards, student and poster awards, newsletters, and workshops, to help offset growing expenses. Please contact John Matson, jmatson@vt.edu, or Kathy Mitchem, kathyl@vt.edu for further information about these opportunities.

The 2026 POLY budget will be developed during December 2025 and approved during the POLY Executive Committee Meeting in January 2026.

Budget Category	2024 Year-End Actual		2025 Budget		2025 Jan - Aug 31	
	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
Dues & ACS Allocations	\$107,410	\$0	\$109,250	\$0	\$96,343	\$0
National/Regional/Other Meetings Activities	\$58,507	\$161,070	\$39,000	\$128,300	\$73,361	\$147,153
Workshop Activities	\$250,997	\$170,581	\$138,500	\$98,500	\$72,650	\$44,015
Administrative	\$0	\$178,787	\$0	\$182,900	\$0	\$138,989
Publication/Advertising	\$9,181	\$2,418	\$4,150	\$2,850	\$4,540	\$1,659
Committee/Awards Activities	\$68,034	\$48,501	\$31,700	\$68,750	\$11,000	\$33,588
Cashed Investments + checking surplus	\$68,193	\$0	\$158,700	\$0	\$30,000	\$0
Total Budget	\$562,323	\$561,356	\$481,300	\$481,300	\$287,894	\$365,405

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?

On behalf of the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry, we would like to invite you to consider advertising in the POLY Newsletter. Our non-profit organization distributes the POLY Newsletter to approximately 2,500 of its polymer scientist members.

The POLY NEWSLETTER is distributed in June and October each year and describes the Division activities and announces polymer-related scientific activities worldwide. The POLY Newsletter provides an excellent opportunity for advertising.

For more information, email:

KATHYL@VT.EDU

Contact POLY for Advertising Opportunities, Membership Benefits, & More

- Newsletter & E-news Advertising
- Membership Benefits
- POLY Workshops
- POLY Webinars
- ACS National Meetings
- POLY Sponsored Events

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540-320-1679, **KATHYL@VT.EDU**

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ExComm & Past Chairs Dinner, Fall 2025

