AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Division of Polymer Chemistry

National Graduate Research Polymer Conference Proposal Template

Submission Instructions: All proposal submissions and reviews are handled electronically. The following application form includes all the details required for this initial review. The completed application form should be e-mailed to the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry (POLY) Business Office: KATHYL@vt.edu with cc: to the POLY Workshop Committee Chair (Currently: Prof. Marc Hillmyer hillmyer@umn.edu.) For additional questions call: 540-231-3029.

☑ **Commitment to Diversity**	POLY believes in the strength of diversity in all its forms because the inclusion of and respect for diverse people, experiences, and ideas lead to superior solutions to world challenges and advances polymer chemistry as a global, multidisciplinary science. It requires this to be demonstrated within the conference experience. **By checking the "Commitment to Diversity" box, you affirm your commitment to reflect this within your organizing team and programming.**

Lead Conference Chair [a single point of contact]: (Name, Affiliation, E-mail, and Address)
Eileen Seo, Biodesign Center for Sustainable Macromolecular Materials and Manufacturing, School for Engineering Matter, Transport and Energy, Arizona State University, eileenseo@asu.edu, Tempe, AZ 85281
Conference Co-Chair(s): (Name, Affiliation, E-mail, and Address)
Jeff Yu (graduate student in the Seo group), Biodesign Center for Sustainable Macromolecular Materials and Manufacturing, School for Engineering Matter, Transport and Energy, Arizona State University, jenchieh@asu.edu, Tempe, AZ 85281 **Rose McDonough** (graduate student in the Long group), Biodesign Center for Sustainable Macromolecular Materials and Manufacturing, School of Molecular Sciences, Arizona State University, rkmcdono@asu.edu, Tempe, AZ 85281 **Aniket Mali** (graduate student in the Bakshi group), Biodesign Center for Sustainable Macromolecular Materials and Manufacturing, School for Engineering Matter, Transport and Energy, Arizona State University, amali39@asu.edu, Tempe, AZ 85281
Faculty Advisor(s) [if none is included in the above Chair/Co-Chair list]: (Name, Affiliation, E-mail, and Address)
Timothy Long, Biodesign Center for Sustainable Macromolecular Materials and Manufacturing, School of Molecular Sciences, School for Engineering Matter, Transport and Energy, Arizona State University, Timothy.E.Long@asu.edu, Tempe, AZ 85281 **Matt Green**, Biodesign Center for Sustainable Macromolecular Materials and Manufacturing, School for Engineering Matter, Transport and Energy, Arizona State University, mdgreen8@asu.edu, Tempe,

AZ 85287

Kailong Jin, Biodesign Center for Sustainable Macromolecular Materials and Manufacturing, School for Engineering Matter, Transport and Energy, Arizona State University, Kailong.Jin@asu.edu, Tempe, AZ 85287

Caitlin Sample, Biodesign Center for Sustainable Macromolecular Materials and Manufacturing, School of Molecular Sciences, Arizona State University, caitlin.sample@asu.edu, Tempe, AZ 85281

Jeff Self, Biodesign Center for Sustainable Macromolecular Materials and Manufacturing, School for Engineering Matter, Transport and Energy, Arizona State University, jeffreyself@asu.edu, Tempe, AZ 85281

Bhavik Bakshi, School for Engineering of Matter, Transport and Energy, School of Sustainability, School of Complex Adaptive Systems, Arizona State University, Bhavik.bakshi@asu.edu, Tempe, AZ 85281

Yoan Simon, Biodesign Center for Sustainable Macromolecular Materials and Manufacturing, School of Molecular Sciences, Arizona State University, yoan.simon@usm.edu, Tempe, AZ 85281

Conference Overview and Vision: Give a brief overview of the National Graduate Research Polymer Conference that you plan to organize. Discuss the focus of the conference, a brief history and current state of the field, and why this event will be of interest to graduate students in the field and the broader polymer chemistry community [500-word maximum].

The Biodesign Center for Sustainable Macromolecular Materials and Manufacturing (SM3) at Arizona State University (ASU) recognizes the necessity of interdisciplinary research to solve the growing crises surrounding plastics to ensure their responsible use while retaining their benefits to society. As a result, we have gathered scientists and engineers representing the convergence of chemistry, engineering, and polymer science with expertise including chemical synthesis, composites, rheology, 3D printing, and self-assembly to work together to address these surmounting challenges. To extend our core values to a larger community, our center is eager to host the National Graduate Research Polymer Conference, centered around discussions on "**Polymer Sustainability: Diverse Strategies for Addressing Global Challenges**," to provide a platform for those in their early careers and expand the scope of their research, establish meaningful collaborations, mentorships, and gain a global perspective of their research.

All attendees will have the opportunity to share their latest work and obtain constructive input from their peers to expand their research. The proposed topics cover broad fields of polymer science to stimulate creative thinking and promote interdisciplinary collaboration. The program will primarily feature oral and poster presentations by graduate students with invited plenary lectures from the leaders of polymer science in industry and academia. From these sessions, students will learn about leading research from within and outside their fields leading to greater innovation within the community. Graduate students will serve as session chairs to facilitate discussions centering on their developing expertise. Our organizing committee will offer tools to session leaders enabling them to establish soft skills associated with leadership and communication. We believe that early exposure to diverse polymer research will promote the development of creative and innovative graduate students, maximizing their success as they begin their scientific careers.

It is essential to establish robust research networks and relationships between industry and academia. Attendees can connect and collaborate through after-hour social events, panels, and a career fair. These activities will facilitate the creation of the necessary networks to help students plan the next step in their careers. SM3's relationship with the Technical Advisory Board (TAB) offers the opportunity to connect with universities, industry, and government research centers such as 3M, Intel, Carbon, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), and Oakridge National Laboratory. We will utilize our resources to organize a career fair where the leaders within different organizations serve to recruit and connect with students. A panel of early career chemists and engineers (<5 years) will be formed to better inform students of the current job landscape in a post-COVID environment.

A No. 1 ranking in innovation and sustainability positions ASU to hold a workshop on the power of innovation towards entrepreneurship. To provide a real-world perspective, the program will also feature an excursion to the City of Phoenix Material Recycling Facility, allowing attendees to gain insight into current recycling processes and challenges. To reinforce our commitment to sustainability, a visit to the Phoenix Botanical Garden will inspire students to preserve the natural beauty of our world.

Topics/*Speakers Proposed:

All polymer topics are welcome. Except for invited talks, all presenters will be graduate students. Talks will be organized in the following areas. *Plenary speakers will be recruited from academia and industry and will be chosen to represent a diverse background across science, engineering, and society. These talks will be followed by a panel discussion to provide further information to the students. The proposed conference schedule is shown below.

DAY 0

Registration, Badge Pickup
Welcome Reception at 6 pm (Culinary Dropout in Tempe, AZ)

DAY 1

Breakfast (7:30 am – 8:30 am)

Morning Session: Creating a Circular Plastic Economy (8:30 am – 11:30 am)
Description: This session will focus on technologies and strategies aiming to close the loop on manufacturing plastics thereby giving a second life to valuable polymers.
***Invited Speaker:** Dr. Robert Allen (NREL) or Prof. Timothy Long (ASU)

- Upcycling of plastic waste
- Efforts to increase post-consumer recycled content to enable mechanical recycling
- Catalytic and chemical transformations for recycling of polymers
- Design for degradation and chemical recycling
- Separations

Lunch (11:30 am – 1 pm)

Lecture about Sustainability Initiatives at Materials Recovery Facility (1 pm – 2 pm)
An invited lecture by Jeff Whitlock from Phoenix Public Works about the current efforts towards improving the materials sustainability practices at Phoenix Transfer Station and Materials Recovery Facility.

DEI Moment (2 pm – 3 pm)
Discussion Leader: Dr. Mara Lopez; Associate Director, Center for Broadening Participation in STEM at ASU.

Afternoon Session: Quantitative Sustainability (3 pm – 6 pm)
Description: This session will focus on the economic and social considerations to ensure the feasibility of the circular economy.
***Invited Speaker:** Avantika Singh (Carbon Direct Inc.), Prof. Jennifer Russell (Virginia Tech), or Prof. Bhavik Bakshi (ASU)

- Lifecycle analysis (LCA) and techno-economic analysis (TEA)
- Human behavior and sustainability
- Analyses to evaluate the impacts (i.e., circularity, economic, social, and environmental) of circular plastic ecosystems
- System's level perspective from process to supply chain to economy to global

Dinner and Poster Session (6 pm – 9 pm)

DAY 2

Breakfast (7:30 am – 8:30 am)

Morning Session: Designing with Nature: Green Chemistry Approaches to Macromolecular Synthesis (8:30 am – 11:30 am)
Description: This session will focus on the use of the principles of green chemistry to create polymers.
***Invited Speaker:** Dr. John Warner (Warner Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry) or Prof. Marc Hillmyer (University of Minnesota)

- Green chemical synthesis
- Catalysis
- Green pathways for creating traditional polymers

Lunch (11:30 am – 2 pm)
Visit to the Desert Botanical Garden and Networking Lunch.

Afternoon Session: Bioinspired Macromolecular Design (2 pm – 5 pm)
Description: This session will focus on the use of bio-based materials or bioinspired processes for the creation of sustainable materials.
***Invited Speaker:** Prof. Javier Read de Alaniz (Director of NSF BioPACIFIC Materials Innovation Platform) or Prof. Matthew Becker (Duke)

- Bio-sourced monomers for polymer synthesis
- Bioinspired material properties
- Biomimicry in polymers

Breakout Sessions:
Early Career Panel (5 pm – 6 pm)
Panels will consist of early career academic and industrial researchers who have entered workforce in <5 years.

Entrepreneurship Workshop (5 pm – 6 pm)
Discussion Leader: Dr. Anthony Pullen (IP Manager at Skysong Innovations; Patent Office affiliated with ASU)

- Entrepreneurship and patenting
- CV/resume building

Dinner and Poster Session (6 pm – 9 pm)

DAY 3

Breakfast (7:30 am – 8:30 am)

Morning Session: Additive Manufacturing and Sustainability (8:30 am – 11:30 am)
Description: This session will focus on the use of additive manufacturing for sustainable production.
***Invited Speaker:** Prof. Joseph DeSimone (Stanford), Prof. Chris Bates (UCSB), or Dr. Stephen

Patterson (Honeywell)

- Creating sustainable manufacturing processes
- Dematerialization or mono-materialization
- Link between industrial application and academic research
- Sustainable materials for printing

Lunch (11:30 am – 1 pm)

Career Fair (1 pm – 3 pm)

Social Activities (3 pm – 5 pm) – these activities will be organized and arranged ahead of time.

- Explore Downtown Phoenix (Transportation: Campus Shuttle)
- Hike in Phoenix/Scottsdale Area (*e.g.*, Hole in the Rock, Papago Park)
- Shopping in the Old Town Scottsdale

Afternoon Session: Systems Modeling and Computations (5 pm – 7:30 pm)
Description: This session will focus on the use of computation to drive rapid assessment of polymer materials.
***Invited Speaker:** Prof. Jay Oswald (ASU) or industrial speaker

- High throughput materials discovery
- Sustainability assessment
- AI driven polymer synthesis and characterization
- Ecosystem level optimization

Dinner and Wrap-Up: Oral and Poster Presentation Award (7:30 pm – 10 pm)

Proposed Location: Describe your location. Why do you feel it would be desirable for your target audience and discuss why?

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

From our charter: "ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves."

The beautiful and historic Arizona State University campus in Tempe, Arizona is home to 144,800 undergraduate and graduate students across 16 colleges and schools with over 400 undergraduate degree programs and 450 graduate programs. Further, ASU promotes its commitment to interdisciplinary research and sustainability firstly through its use of solar energy for over half its electricity and through the founding of entire centers such as the Biodesign Institute and the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability towards the creation of a sustainable future. As a result of ASU's dedication and the hard work of students and faculty, ASU has been ranked No.1 in Innovation in the US for the seventh year in a row and No. 1 in sustainability and global impact.

The ASU campus in Tempe encourages the use of facilities for events such as conferences for a broadened participation in research and collaboration. There are many locations for hosting poster sessions, oral presentations, and banquets across campus, including Old Main, Memorial Union, the Fulton Center, Interdisciplinary Science and Technology 7, College Avenue Commons, and the Grady Gammage Memorial Auditorium.

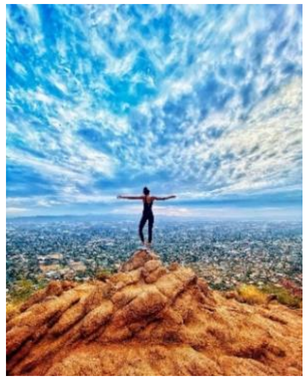





In addition to being home to thousands of Sun Devils, the City of Tempe is a convenient location for graduate student travel, as the campus resides only 10 minutes from the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, providing direct flights to 120 domestic locations between 23 airlines. The Tempe campus also offers many exciting attractions nearby, ranging from metropolitan arts to natural beauties. Less than 15 minutes away is the vibrant Phoenix downtown, where museums of art, history, science, and music are located. It is also home to the famous Roosevelt Row walkable arts district. Just a few miles north of the campus, Old Town Scottsdale has some of the finest dining and shopping malls in the Greater Phoenix area.

Tempe is also home to the Desert Botanical Garden, home to the world's finest collection of over 50,000 arid plants from deserts of the world in a unique outdoor setting. This event will take place on Day 2 in between the sessions on green chemistry and sustainable materials to inspire and engage students with the greater connection between polymer science and the natural world. In addition, we plan to host a lunch at the gardens using the Dorrance Center which will provide seating and an outdoor courtyard to socialize and network with the industry and national lab representatives present at the meeting. This lunch can be catered by Artisan by Santa Barbara Catering, an all-female team of caterers that plan menus using locally sourced foods, supporting our message of diversity and sustainability. We can also leverage a connection to the Footprint Center to supply sustainable and biodegradable utensils for this event.





We will also organize a trip to the City of Phoenix Transfer Station and Material Recycling Facility to educate and inspire students about the recycling of our most widely used plastics. Led by Jack Whitlock, the attendees will be led on a tour of the facility and learn about the social, economic, and practical considerations when designing materials for the future. This will be connected to that afternoon's session on those very same topics.

We plan to host all plenary and invited talks in a conference center in the Interdisciplinary Science and Technology 7. This location is especially exciting as it is the pinnacle of the recent efforts of ASU to reduce its carbon footprint, creating a structure that flows and pays homage architecturally to its environment, while also collecting 100% of its rainwater for reuse and minimizing energy requirements for airflow. The Grady Gammage Memorial Auditorium is also a potential location for the event, being on the National Register of Historic Places and one of the largest exhibitors of performing arts at universities in the world. We anticipate the reception banquet on the final day to be held in the historic Old Main, the first building in Tempe to be fitted for electricity. To cater to the needs of upcoming graduates, we plan to organize a career fair in the Arizona Ballroom in the Memorial Union. The poster sessions will take place in the home of the School of Sustainable Engineering and LEED Gold building, the College Avenue Commons.

The newly founded Sustainable Macromolecular Materials and Manufacturing (SM3) center within the Biodesign Institute shows the strong presence and interest in polymer science at ASU to build one of the top polymer research centers in the world. Led by Prof. Timothy Long, SM3 includes core faculty members Profs. Matthew Green, Kailong Jin, Eileen Seo, Yoan Simon, Jeff Self, and Caitlin Sample and show the excitement for the growing program and opportunities available at ASU. We are fully committed to hosting a national-level polymer conference for graduate students which demonstrates the greatest innovations towards a sustainable materials economy.

Additionally, we intend to leverage the vast network of industry contacts through the Technical Advisory Board (TAB) and other Phoenix-based companies to bring together representatives from industry and national labs that lead chemical, apparel, packaging, semiconductor, aerospace, health care, food, and/or agricultural research. We also believe that hosting a career fair attracts more graduate students to this conference and provides a unique opportunity for companies to recruit from one of the largest gatherings of graduate students in polymer science and engineering.

Proposed Dates: Propose the time of year that would be optimal and why. If approved, you will work with the Workshop Committee and POLY Business Office to minimize overlap with related workshops, symposia, and other logistical restraints.

Proposed Dates: Jan. 7-10, 2025 (Early Jan)

The weather in Phoenix is wonderful in early January (*i.e.*, mid-60s degrees, light breeze, low humidity, snow-free, mostly sunny). The first week of January also avoids the mass of undergraduate students before the class starts in the following week.

Budget: Describe your proposed financial model and method for setting registration fees. Communicate with your university. Who do you plan to rely on for financial planning, support, registration collections, and payment processing? An example budget can be found below or contact the POLY Business Office for further guidance (Kathy Mitchem, KATHYL@vt.edu)

Our budget is devised based on a 3-day conference for approximately 300 attendees, including 270 graduate students and 30 professionals. The expense below has been prepared by our Research Advancement Administrator in ASU's Knowledge Enterprise, Lucas Marshall.

Budgeted Expenses		
Cost Categories	**Period 1 1/1/25 1/31/25**	**Cumulative**
1. Conference Space	$6,540	$6,540
2. Transportation	$1,500	$1,500
3. Career fair hors d'oeuvres	$1,500	$1,500
4. On Campus Food Service	$40,000	$40,000
5. Welcome Banquet	$15,800	$15,800
6. Desert Botanical Lunch	$10,200	$10,200
7. Office Supplies, Name Badges etc.	$500	$500
Total Costs:	**$76,040**	**$76,040**

Funding Income		
Registration Income	**$49,500**	**$49,500**
Sponsor Income	**$26,540**	**$26,540**
Total	**$76,040**	**$76,040**

Estimated Registration Income		
Student Registration	**$40,500**	**$40,500**
Faculty/Industrial Partner Registration	**$9,000**	**$9,000**
Total	**$49,500**	**$49,500**

Estimated Budget Total: $76,040 (*will vary by the number of attendees etc)

We hope to keep the registration fee under $150 for students (early bird registration $125), $250 for faculty (early bird registration $225), and $350 for industrial partners (early bird registration $325). Participants are responsible for hotel and airfare. Our team will negotiate with one or two hotels near campus to book room blocks with conference rates.

Target fundraising amount: $27,000+. Conference costs will be offset by corporate and professional sponsors who will receive recognition for sponsoring items such as the banquet, poster sessions, or plenary talks. There will be an additional buy-in for our job fair, as well as a buy-in for instrument manufacturers to advertise their equipment in a similar environment. An interdisciplinary team of faculty members at ASU will reach out to School for Engineering of Matter, Transport & Energy (which houses chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, materials engineering, aerospace engineering), School of Molecular Sciences (chemistry and biochemistry), Center for Sustainable Macromolecular Materials and Manufacturing, and Biodesign Institute (ASU's flagship research institute). **We plan to provide travel fellowships to students on a need basis, where the committee members will evaluate their applications to select participants. We will allocate funds to provide honorarium for oral and poster presentation awards.** The amount for travel fellowships and honorarium are not included in the expense and will be determined based on the success of fundraising efforts.

Advertising Plan
We propose to coordinate with the business office to create appropriate materials (*i.e.*, social media posts, a website, flyers etc.) and promote the conference through SM3, the Biodesign Institute, SMS, ASU, ACS POLY, SMS, SEMTE, The School of Sustainability and other associated centers and colleges. We will coordinate with universities and academic professionals to gain attendance from graduate students across the U.S.

Administration Team to Support Operations
Laura Grosso (Program Manager, Biodesign Admin. Support Operations)
Jared Brooks (Admin. Specialist for SM3)
Sam Lake (Center Coordinator for SM3)
Lucas Marshall (Research Advancement Administrator)

Professional Groups
The Center for Sustainable Macromolecular Materials and Manufacturing at ASU maintains affiliated professional groups who will act as subcommittees in the planning and hosting of NGRPC 2025.

<u>ACS POLY Student Chapter at ASU</u>
President: Clarissa Westover (ccwestov@asu.edu)
Faculty Advisor: Prof. Timothy Long

<u>AIChE Student Chapter at ASU</u>
President: Zachary Hargus (zhargus@asu.edu)
Faculty Advisor: Prof. Eileen Seo

Prospective Sponsors: Discuss what funding sources you anticipate requesting to aid in funding the workshop. Typical external funding is through individual, industry or university sponsors. The additional funds raised can be used to cover items not included in a standard budget.

1) **POLY $1,000**
2) **Anticipated Sponsors**

Technical Advisory Board of the Center for Sustainable Macromolecular Materials and Manufacturing at ASU consists of major players in polymer industry and academic institutions, including TPI Composites, Honeywell, Illumina, Corumat, 3M, Adidas, P&G, HRL Laboratories, Milliken, Dupont, PPG, University of Minnesota, Facebook, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Johnson & Johnson, Oakridge National Lab, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Avient, Align-Tech, Exxon, Pepsi, Carbon 3D, Intel, SABIC, and Solvay. We will seek for additional sponsorship from locally based polymer companies in Arizona and expand to industries in California, Colorado, Texas, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico and etc.

To demonstrate our commitment to successfully host 2025 ACS NGRPC at ASU, we have already collected the letters of support from the following internal and external organizations:

- Solvay
- Tosoh Bioscience
- Intel Corporation
- BioPACIFIC Materials Innovation Platform at UC Santa Barbara and UC Los Angeles
- Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University
- Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering at Arizona State University (endorsed by the Dean Squires)
- School of Molecular Sciences at Arizona State University
- Center for Sustainable Macromolecular Materials and Manufacturing at Arizona State University

Please find the attached letters of support.

Any other information you feel the reviewers might want to know:

We believe with a vibrant POLY community present on the west side of the country, it is time to hold a POLY NGRPC on the West Coast. Phoenix is very close to most cities in California, Colorado, Nevada, Washington, Texas etc. It is also a great time for the folks in the East Coast to escape the cold and be convinced that perfect winter weather exists!

TOSOH BIOSCIENCE

TOSOH

November 12, 2023

ACS POLY Business Office
1075 Life Science Circle, MC 0917
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear ACS POLY NGRPC Review Committee:

If the proposal entitled, *Polymer Sustainability: Diverse Strategies for Addressing Global Challenges*, submitted by the proposed conference chairs Prof. Eileen Seo, Jeff Yu (student in the Seo group), Rose McDonough (student in the Long group), and Aniket Mali (student in the Bakshi group) at Arizona State University (ASU), is selected for the 2025 NGRPC by the ACS POLY, it is my intent for Tosoh Bioscience LLC to provide partial financial support in the form of a sponsorship to successfully host this event at ASU in Tempe, AZ.

Sincerely,

Ilir Koliqi
VP Commercial
Tosoh Bioscience LLC
Ilir.koliqi@tosoh.com

November 10, 2023

ACS POLY Business Office
1075 Life Science Circle, MC 0917
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear ACS POLY NGRPC Review Committee:

If the proposal entitled, *Polymer Sustainability: Diverse Strategies for Addressing Global Challenges*, submitted by the proposed conference chairs Prof. Eileen Seo, Jeff Yu (student in the Seo group), Rose McDonough (student in the Long group), and Aniket Mali (student in the Bakshi group) at Arizona State University (ASU), is selected for the 2025 NGRPC by the ACS POLY, it is my intent to actively promote the conference with our industrial network, provide administrative support, and provide unrestricted financial support to successfully host this event at ASU in Tempe, AZ.

Sincerely,

Timothy Long

Timothy E. Long
Arizona State University
Professor, School of Molecular Sciences & School for Engineering Matter, Transport and Energy
Director, Biodesign Center for Sustainable Macromolecular Materials and Manufacturing

September 28, 2023

ACS POLY Business Office
1075 Life Science Circle, MC 0917
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear ACS POLY NGRPC Review Committee:

If the proposal submitted by the Proposed Conference Chairs, Dr. Eileen Seo, (graduate students) Jeff Yu, Rose McDonough, and Aniket Mali, at Arizona State University (ASU), entitled **Polymer Sustainability: Diverse Strategies for Addressing Global Challenges**, is selected for hosting 2025 NGRPC by the ACS POLY, it is my intent to provide some financial support and participate in the career fair to successfully host this event at ASU in Tempe, AZ.

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Frazee

[Andrew S. Frazee, Ph.D., Solvay, andrew.frazee@solvay.com]

BioPACIFIC
NSF Materials Innovation Platform
DMR-1933487

CNSI

CNSI, University of California
Santa Barbara, Elings Hall, Mesa Rd,
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

CNSI, University of California
Los Angeles, 570 Westwood Plaza,
Los Angeles, CA 90095

October 12, 2023

Dear ACS POLY NGRPC Review Committee:

If the proposal entitled, *Multifaceted, Modern Approaches to Tackle Polymer Sustainability Challenges*, submitted by the proposed conference chairs at Arizona State University (ASU), is selected for hosting 2025 NGRPC by the ACS POLY, it is my intent to provide financial support and participate with BioPACIFIC Materials Innovation Platform (MIP) Fellows to successfully host this event at ASU in Tempe, AZ.

BioPACIFIC MIP is a National Science Foundation Center that is dedicated to scalable production of bio-derived building blocks and polymers from yeast, fungi and bacteria. Our team is comprised of experts from a wide variety of disciplines including materials science, chemical biology, chemistry, computer science, and mechanical engineering, including >50 BioPACIFIC MIP Fellows at UC Santa Barbara and UC Los Angeles. The BioPACIFIC MIP links this collection of expertise to an automated high-throughput synthesis and characterization user facility to accelerate discovery and speed development of new high-performance materials. The BioPACIFIC MIP is available to a broad national user base through a proposal process (https://biopacificmip.org/).

The proposed conference is aligned with the scientific focus and capabilities of BioPACIFIC MIP and presents a wonderful opportunity to showcase our user facility at the conference. Participants at the conference will have the opportunity to submit a facility user proposal to BioPACIFIC MIP. If that facility user proposal is approved, they can use the MIP facilities to perform the proposed research. Use of BioPACIFIC MIP facilities is free with the exception of some cost of consumables and travel expenses to users of approved proposals.

Sincerely,

J. Read de Alaniz

Javier Read de Alaniz
Professor Chemistry and Biochemistry
Director of NSF BioPACIFIC MIP

October 30, 2023

ACS POLY Business Office
1075 Life Science Circle, MC 0917
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear ACS POLY NGRPC Review Committee:

We are very excited to support the proposal entitled, *Multifaceted, Modern Approaches to Tackle Polymer Sustainability Challenges*. This proposal has been assembled by the potential conference chairs at Arizona State University (ASU). If the ASU group is selected for hosting the 2025 NGRPC by the ACS POLY Section, the Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University will provide some financial support to the organizers to enhance their program at ASU in Tempe, AZ and to help ensure the success of the National Graduate Research Polymer Conference.

Thank you for your consideration. This will be a very exciting Conference and we are pleased to support this proposal to serve as the host University.

Best regards,

Steve

STEPHEN A. MUNK, Ph.D.
Professor of Practice
School of Molecular Sciences
Deputy Director
Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University
tel: (480) 965-2404 |
mail: PO Box 875001 | **physical address:** 727 E. Tyler Street
shipping and receiving: 1001 S. McAllister Ave. | Tempe, AZ 85287-5001

Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering
Arizona State University

Office of the Dean

P.O. Box 879309
Tempe, AZ 85287-9309

(480) 965-1730
Fax: (480) 965-4000
engineering.asu.edu

November 12, 2023

ACS POLY Business Office
1075 Life Science Circle, MC 0917
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear ACS POLY NGRPC Review Committee:

If the proposal entitled, *Multifaceted, Modern Approaches to Tackle Polymer Sustainability Challenges*, submitted by the proposed conference chairs Prof. Eileen Seo, Jeff Yu (student in the Seo group), Rose McDonough (student in the Long group), and Aniket Mali (student in the Bakshi group) at Arizona State University (ASU), is selected for the 2025 NGRPC by the ACS POLY, it is my intent to provide partial support to successfully host this event at ASU in Tempe, AZ.

Sincerely,

Kyle D. Squires, Vice Provost and Dean
Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering

ASU School of Molecular Sciences
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Tijana Rajh
School of Molecular Sciences
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ 85287-1604
Tijana.Rajh@asu.edu
www.sms.asu.edu
Tel: (602) 543-4415

October 12, 2023

To: American Chemical Society
Division of Polymer Chemistry (ACS-POLY)
National Graduate Research Polymer Conference

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the School of Molecular Sciences (SMS) at Arizona State University (ASU) to express our strong support for organizing the National Graduate Research Polymer Conference (NGRPC) at ASU in 2025. We understand that the NGRPC, established by the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry (POLY) in 1994, is an essential and significant tradition. Its purpose is to provide graduate students with an opportunity to present their work, network, and interact with polymer scientists in academia, industry, and government, which is an exceptional contribution to educating the next generation of polymer scientists.

Hosting the NGRPC at ASU in 2025 would be a remarkable event for polymer chemistry activities and a valuable contribution to promoting polymer science among the future generation of polymer scientists from Arizona and the United States. We would be honored to continue this tradition and facilitate the participation of the next generation of graduate students.

On behalf of the School of Molecular Sciences and Arizona State University, I wish you a very successful NGRPC conference in 2025. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tijana Rajh

Tijana Rajh
Director and Professor
School of Molecular Sciences