

# Excellence in Graduate Polymer Research Symposium – 2026

Organizers: Jeffrey Self (Arizona State University), Christine Coltrain (Eastman Kodak Company – retired), Christopher Ellison (University of Minnesota), Ross Behling (3M), and Katherine Heifferon (Eastman Kodak Company)

The recognition symposium “**Excellence in Graduate Polymer Research**” will be held at the ACS National Meeting on March 22-26, 2026, in Atlanta, GA. This symposium is meant to provide recognition to outstanding graduate students engaged in polymer research. POLY has honored outstanding polymer graduate students with this annual symposium for over 20 years. The symposium will consist entirely of presentations by students.

## Congratulations to the 2026 Excellence Symposium cohort!

**Alexander Bushnell**  
Georgia Institute of  
Technology

**Elvis Enebeli**  
University of Houston

**Kihyeon Ahn**  
Virginia Tech

**Rebecca Anne Mikofsky**  
University of Colorado  
Boulder

**Vivek Garg**  
Iowa State University

**Alison Jean Shapiro**  
University of Delaware

**Faith Kern**  
University of Illinois  
Urbana-Champaign

**Marcel Roy Domalanta**  
North Dakota State  
University

**Saber Alyoubi**  
Clark Atlanta University

**Xiao Luo**  
Rutgers University-  
Newark

**Anagha Savit**  
Georgia Institute of  
Technology

**Ferdinando De Luca Bossa**  
Carnegie Mellon University

**Matteo Palesati**  
Georgia Institute of  
Technology

**Samuel Owoso**  
Louisiana State University

**Yen-Wen Huang**  
Northwestern University

**Baiqiang Huang**  
University of Virginia

**Hoang Phuc Pham**  
University of Colorado  
Boulder

**Megan Driscoll**  
Cornell University

**Srutashini Das**  
Texas A&M University

**Yun Wei**  
Northwestern University

**Carla Steppan**  
University of  
Massachusetts Amherst

**Jaehoon Jang**  
Florida State University

**Miguel Betanocourt-Ponce**  
University of  
Wisconsin-Madison

**Subeen Kim**  
Northwestern University

**Zahra Sekhavat Pour**  
The University of Alabama

**Carmen Byerly Dunn**  
University of Southern  
Mississippi

**Jared Baker**  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
and State University

**Natalie Neal**  
Texas A&M University

**Sydney Towell**  
University of North  
Carolina Chapel Hill

**Zhongren Jiao**  
Yale University

**Coby Santos Collins**  
University of South  
Carolina

**Joshua David Marquez**  
University of Florida

**Pranav Krishnan**  
University of Illinois  
Urbana-Champaign

**Tinting Cao**  
Westlake University

**David Kennedy**  
University of Colorado  
Boulder

**Junho Moon**  
Texas A&M University

## Special Recognition of Outstanding Nominations



**Hoang Phuc Pham**  
University of Colorado  
Boulder



**Jaehoon Jang**  
Florida State University

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PROF, SOCED, TOSOH, 3M, YCC, Chevron  
Phillips Chemical Company, Bausch +  
Lomb, and WILEY

The symposium is publicized broadly via POLY media channels and listserv. The organizers request departments nominate one outstanding graduate student to present their research at Spring ACS national conferences. Nominations and submissions are processed starting in August. A description of the application process and contact information can be found at:

<https://polyacs.org/excellence-in-graduate-polymer-research-symposium/>