

POLY Industrial Advisory Board | Fall 2026 Update

The **ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry (POLY) Industrial Advisory Board (IAB)** had an active and productive Fall 2026, with continued efforts to strengthen connections between industry, academia, and the broader POLY community.

Strong Industry Engagement at ACS Fall 2026

At the ACS Fall Meeting in Chicago, the IAB welcomed representatives from **more than a dozen companies** to its Business Meeting. Discussions focused on strengthening industry representation and voice within POLY through technical programming, outreach and education, awards and recognition, career development, and other initiatives that connect the polymer community with industry.

Advancing Industrial Polymer Science through IIPS

The IAB was proud to support the **Industrial Innovations in Polymer Science (IIPS) Symposium**, organized by **Elizabeth Murphy, Ph.D. (Dow)** and **Jacob Blankenship (Syensqo)**.

The symposium brought together an outstanding group of industry speakers covering industrially relevant synthetic routes, manufacturing process development, advanced polymer characterization, antimicrobial and non-fouling coatings and surfaces, polymers for medical devices, and other technologies with real-world applications. The program also provided students and postdoctoral researchers with valuable perspectives on industrial research, product development, innovation, and career pathways.

Building on the success of the Fall program, **Elizabeth Murphy will serve as a senior organizer and mentor for ACS Spring 2027**, supporting **Mayuri Porwal (Qnity)** and **Joe Hassler (Medtronic)** as they take the lead in organizing the next IIPS symposium. This model provides continuity while also creating opportunities for new IAB members to develop leadership experience in technical programming.

Building Connections Across POLY and INOR

The IAB Social Hour at ACS Fall 2026 was organized in collaboration with the INOR symposium, *“Celebrating 150 Years of Industry-Academia Collaborations in Polymeric and Inorganic Materials for Societal Needs,”* organized by **Prof. Rachel Letteri** and IAB members **Jeff Ting (Nanite)** and **Nora Radu (Qnity)**.

The joint event successfully brought together the POLY and INOR communities in an informal setting, creating new connections across polymer and inorganic materials research and between colleagues from industry and academia. It also provided an opportunity to extend conversations from the technical sessions into networking and potential future collaborations.

Supporting Local Scientific Programming

Beyond the national ACS meeting, the IAB supported local scientific programming during Summer 2026 by sponsoring two symposia organized through the **Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society (NESACS): Sustainable Innovations in Materials Science & Engineering (SIMSE)** and **Chemical Innovation in Battery Science: From Fundamentals to Scalable Technologies**.

Supporting these programs helped extend the IAB’s industry–academia engagement to the local level while enabling scientific exchange around sustainability, advanced materials, and emerging battery technologies.

Recognizing Excellence and Supporting Students

The IAB also continued its commitment to recognizing excellence in industrial polymer science through its support of the **Industrial Polymer Scientist Award**. In parallel, the Board supported **graduate and undergraduate student travel awards**, helping students participate in national ACS meetings, present their research, and engage with the broader POLY community.

Together, these activities reflect the IAB’s commitment to **strengthening industry participation within POLY, recognizing outstanding industrial scientists, supporting emerging researchers, and creating meaningful connections between industry and academia**.

We thank all of our IAB members and partners for their engagement, ideas, and contributions throughout 2026 and look forward to building on this momentum in 2027.



IAB Business Meeting at ACS Fall 2026 in Chicago



POLY & INOR members connecting during the IAB Social Hour at ACS Fall 2026 in Chicago