



## Fall 2021 Newsletter

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### I. ACS Efforts and Resources on COVID-19

As a leading scientific society and publisher of scientific research and information, the American Chemical Society (ACS) is committed to helping combat the global COVID-19 pandemic. Follow the link below to browse ACS's resources and initiatives and share them with colleagues, friends and family.

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/covid-19.html>

### II. Supporting our Members Impacted by COVID-19

From 2020 ACS President Luis Echegoyen:

"During these unprecedented times, we are more grateful than ever to have such a strong community of members committed to the field of chemistry, and we want you to know that we are here to support you. That's why, effective [April 21, 2020], and for the duration of the crisis, we are offering renewing members a one-year waiver on your unpaid national dues if you've suffered hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic." For more information, please contact ACS Member Services at [service@acs.org](mailto:service@acs.org), or call 1-800-333-9511 (1-614-447-3776 for members outside the U.S.). Please follow the link below for more information: <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/covid-19/member-support.html>

### III. Central NM News and Events

#### LANL Frontiers in Science

Breaking the cycle of plastic pollution The LANL Frontiers in Science program featured a *September* presentation by Dr. Taraka Dale (LANL) on "Breaking the cycle of plastic pollution". The presentation provides information on the BOTTLE Consortium, an alliance of 10 research institutions and the U.S. Department of Energy that are striving to use Bio-Optimized Technologies to keep Thermoplastics out of Landfills and the Environment. Each institution is contributing to solve the global plastic problem in a unique way. This presentation is available through the LANL YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/losalamosnationallab>

### **ACS Fellow – David E. Chavez**

David Chavez, deputy group leader of the High Explosives Science and Technology group at Los Alamos National Laboratory, has been selected as a member of the 2021 class of Fellows of the American Chemical Society (ACS). David is recognized by the ACS for distinguished contributions to the field of energetic materials chemistry, particularly the development of highly energetic, fundamentally novel, and environmentally friendly materials important to national security. His contributions to the ACS community also include mentoring early-career scientists from historically marginalized groups in both laboratory and classroom environments, providing access to quality chemical education, and serving and promoting ACS Project SEED. The Summer Experiences for the Economically Disadvantaged program is a paid summer internship for high school students, a program Chavez participated in at LANL after his sophomore year in high school. David also began service in 2021 on the Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

### **New Mexico Research Symposium**

The New Mexico Research Symposium (NMRS), collaboratively hosted with the New Mexico Academy of Science (NMAS), is an annual conference with oral presentations, a poster competition, and a keynote address. The conference is geared to undergraduate and graduate students from New Mexico's colleges and universities. Presentation and poster abstracts are published in the New Mexico Journal of Science. *NMRS 2021 is an all-virtual event occurring November 8-12, 2021.* The schedule of events and free registration page are available at the following URL:

<https://www.nmepscor.org/what-we-do/programs/NM-Research-Symposium>

### **Summer Physics Camp for Young Women**

Our Local Section Advisor, Ning Xu, participated in this year's virtual Summer Physics Camp for Young Women (**June 7-8, 2021**) giving a talk on the Pu-238 batteries that power the NASA Mars rovers and the chemical processing and characterization involved. This was the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the annual camp. Our local section plans to sponsor a few participants for the 2022 camp.

### **Los Alamos 2021 Science Fest**

This year's July 2021 event was a hybrid event with both virtual and limited in-person activities. Local Section Councilor, Donivan Porterfield coordinated an effort to provide a variety of chemistry related materials for Discovery Boxes for three age groups (Preschool, Kids, and Teen/Adult). The materials provided by our Local Section were utilized in 300 distributed boxes.

### **Breakfast at the Bradbury Student Event**

Our Local Section along with the Bradbury Science Museum in Los Alamos hosted, "Breakfast at the Bradbury" on August 5, 2021. This was an event where LANL students had a private visit to the Bradbury (for 2 hours before normal Museum hours). Our Local Section provided bagels & coffee and lots of Chemistry Swag that was raffled off at the event which was attended by over 40 students.

### **Upcoming Science & Engineering Fairs**

Our Local Section sponsored special awards at the Northeastern Region and Central Region, and State Science & Engineering Fairs in 2021 – all of these fairs were conducted virtually. Our Local Section typically provides three awards of \$150 at each of the two regional fairs and three awards of \$200 at the State fair. However, given the challenges faced by the this year's participants in conducting their projects, we also provided additional awards of \$25 / \$50 to every Chemistry category junior / senior

participant. Unfortunately, we observed a significant reduction in the number of junior division Chemistry category participants compared to previous years at these fairs. Our thanks to Patrick Burton (SNL), Donovan Porterfield (LANL), Ning Xu (LANL), and Dali Yang (LANL) for their judging efforts at these fairs.

We look forward to participation in these same fairs in 2022 and welcome interest by any of our members in assisting with judging. Please message Jackie Veauthier ([veauthier@lanl.gov](mailto:veauthier@lanl.gov)) if you would like to add your name as a potential contact for judging at upcoming fairs.

### **2022 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad**

Our Local Section has for many years participated in the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) competition to identify top students who can go on to represent the United States in the annual International Chemistry Olympiad (ICO). This year's National Exam will take place between April 23 and May 1, 2022. For more information, please contact our Local Section USNCO chair, Jackie Veauthier ([veauthier@lanl.gov](mailto:veauthier@lanl.gov)) or visit the following website, <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/students/highschool/olympiad.html>

### **ACS 2021 Rocky Mountain Region Meeting**

The ACS 2021 Rocky Mountain Region Meeting was held in Tucson, AZ (adjacent to the University of Arizona campus) over the dates of October 20-23, 2021 and included the opportunity to participate both in-person and virtually in a variety of technical session and other events. In-person attendance was a little less than 500. The meeting theme was "Diverse Chemistry in a Diverse Region" and was hosted by the Southern Arizona Local Section.

Our Local Section will be organizing an ACS Rocky Mountain Region mini-Meeting in the fall of 2022. We welcome the participation of anyone who would like to be involved in the organization of this event. Please contact Alex Edgar ([aedgar@lanl.gov](mailto:aedgar@lanl.gov)) or any Central New Mexico Local Section Executive Committee member about volunteering or supporting this effort.

## **IV. ACS Membership – New Choices and Core Values**

### **New Membership Choices**

As noted in our Spring Newsletter, ACS is introducing new membership choices for new and renewing members in January 2022. Packages range from Premium (Regular Members, \$160), Standard (Regular Members, \$80), and Basic (no cost). The cost of the Premium package has a reduced cost over current Member pricing. For more information on the benefits of each membership package please visit the following website, <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/membership.html>.

### **ACS Core Value of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect**

Earlier this year the ACS Board of Directors approved a revised core value of "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect" (DEIR) with the associated description of:

We embrace and promote diversity in all its forms, not only to create a more inclusive environment for the practice of chemistry, but also to provide fair and just outcomes for all to achieve their full potential. Inclusion of and respect for people of all backgrounds, perspectives, experiences, and ideas will lead to superior solutions to world challenges and advance chemistry as a global, multidisciplinary science.

The Board also approved the addition of an associated goal to the ACS Strategic Plan - Goal 5: Embrace and Advance Inclusion in Chemistry - Promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect; identify and dismantle barriers to success; and create a welcoming and supportive environment so that all ACS members, employees, and volunteers can thrive. The supporting language in the strategic plan:

ACS will exemplify diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect and highlight their importance to the profession at every level by embracing and celebrating our differences in our programs, products, services, and leadership. We recognize that the world has not been an equal nor equitable space for everyone, and science is no different. ACS will evaluate the impact of administrative and governance actions intended to enhance inclusion and will build sustainable processes for addressing inequities. The Society will speak out against injustice, establish professional standards, and provide training for creating an inclusive culture, both internally and externally. ACS will recruit, retain, develop, and recognize members, employees, and volunteers from all backgrounds by building an inclusive culture. ACS will support partnerships aimed at creating equal opportunities and a sense of belonging in science.

The complete ACS Strategic Plan can be viewed at the following URL:

<https://www.acs.org/content/dam/acsorg/about/strategicplan/images/ACS-Strategic-Plan-2021.pdf>

## V. Proposed Change to Section Bylaws

A proposed edchange to our bylaws has been submitted, this change will move our elections from a paper format delivered by US mail to a digital format and make a number of other general updates. Those members who do not have access to email will still receive their ballots through US mail. If anyone has question/comments/concerns with this proposed change please email Alex Edgar ([aedgar@lanl.gov](mailto:aedgar@lanl.gov)) Alternatively, any Central New Mexico Local Executive Committee member can be contacted about this change (contact info in following section).

Please watch your email for an upcoming ZOOM meeting of the membership to consider a petition to revise our bylaws through a ballot to be distributed to the membership.

## VI. Elections for 2022 Local Section Executive Committee positions

Our Local Section will be holding elections this fall for many of the positions on our Executive Committee. Anyone who may be interested in standing for election to any of the positions are encouraged to contact ([pdburto@sandia.gov](mailto:pdburto@sandia.gov)) or any other member of our Local Section Executive Committee. To be added to the 2022 election ballot, please respond no later than Nov. 2, 2021.

## VII. Current Central New Mexico Local Section Officers

The following are our 2021 members of the Local Section Executive Committee. Please feel free to contact them for information or suggestions regarding the Local Section or ACS in general.

Position	Name	E-mail
Chair	Hongyou Fan (SNL)	<a href="mailto:hfan@sandia.gov">hfan@sandia.gov</a>
Chair-Elect	Alex Edgar (LANL)	<a href="mailto:aedgar@lanl.gov">aedgar@lanl.gov</a>
Past-Chair	Patrick D. Burton (SNL)	<a href="mailto:pdburto@sandia.gov">pdburto@sandia.gov</a>
Secretary	Jackie Veauthier (LANL)	<a href="mailto:veauthier@lanl.gov">veauthier@lanl.gov</a>

Treasurer	Jacob Harvey (SNL)	jharve@sandia.gov
Advisors	David E. Chavez (LANL)	dechavez@lanl.gov
	Dayton (Jon) Vogel (SNL)	dvogel@sandia.gov
	Ning Xu (LANL)	ningxu@lanl.gov
	Dali Yang (LANL)	dYang@lanl.gov
Councilors	Dominic Peterson (LANL)	dominicp@lanl.gov
	Donivan Porterfield (LANL)	dporterfield@lanl.gov
Alternate Councilors	David E. Chavez (LANL)	dechavez@lanl.gov
	Dayton (Jon) Vogel (SNL)	dvogel@sandia.gov

### VIII. Address Updates

The distribution of our Local Section newsletter is dependent on accurate e-mail and US mail addresses being supplied to the ACS. Address changes can be submitted to ACS through the following means: [service@acs.org](mailto:service@acs.org), (800) 227-5558, or logging in to [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org).