



## FOR DISTRICT I DIRECTOR, 2019-2021



**KATHERINE L. LEE**

**Pfizer, Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts**

**LEE, KATHERINE L. *Northeastern Section.*** Pfizer, Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**Academic record:** MIT Ph.D., 1996, Organic Chemistry; Yale University, B.S., 1991, summa cum laude, with Distinction in Chemistry; University of Texas at Austin, postdoctoral fellow, 1996-98.

**Honors:** ACS Fellow, 2017; Invited Speaker, ACS MEDI First-Time Disclosures, 2016; Invited Speaker, Pfizer Research Grand Rounds (Pfizer internal recognition), 2016; Recipient, ACS ChemLuminary Award for Best Industry Event, for NESACS Process Chemistry Symposium, 2015; Recipient, Wyeth Research and Development Team of the Year Award, for cPLA<sub>2</sub> Project Team (Wyeth internal recognition), 2001; Recipient, Department of Defense, Office of Naval Research Predoctoral Fellowship, 1991-94.

**Professional positions (for past 10 years):** Pfizer, Inc., Associate Research Fellow, 2011 to date; Senior Principal Scientist II, Medicinal Chemistry, 2009-11. Wyeth, Principal Research Scientist II, 2008-09; Principal Research Scientist I, Medicinal Chemistry, 2004-08.

**Service in ACS national offices:** Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs, 2017-18, 2014, Committee Associate, 2013.

**Service in ACS offices:** *Northeastern Section:* Councilor, 2016-18; 2012-14; Immediate Past Chair, 2016; Chair, 2015; Chair-Elect, 2014; Chair, Nominating Committee, 2016; Program Chair, 2014; Board of Publications, 2016 to date; NESACS Process Chemistry Symposium Committee,

2014 to date; Host Local Section Committee, Chair, 2010. *Organic Chemistry Division*: Chair-Elect, 2017; Member-at-Large, 2011-16; Technical Achievements in Organic Chemistry Award Committee, Chair, 2015, 2013; Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Committee, Co-Chair, 2016, 2012-13.

**Member:** ACS Member since 1992. ACS Divisions: Medicinal Chemistry, Organic Chemistry.

**Related activities:** Mentor, Healthcare Businesswomen's Association, 2009-10; published 14 peer-reviewed journal articles; holds 15 patents or published patent applications.

## **STATEMENT**

*(As provided for Council Agenda, March 2018)*

*The statements of the candidates represent their opinions and do not necessarily represent the views of the ACS.*

I am honored to be a nominee for District I Director and have the opportunity to share my vision for addressing the issues facing the ACS.

**Clearly communicate the value of the ACS.** Perhaps you joined the ACS as I did, as a graduate student, and promptly benefited from receiving discounts for journal subscriptions and books, reading *C&E News* each week, and attending ACS National Meetings. Today, why should one maintain membership in the ACS, and further, in ACS technical divisions and local sections? Indeed we are grappling with the issue of declining membership in the Division of Organic Chemistry (DOC), for which I have served for several years as a Member-at-Large and the Chair-Elect in 2017. I believe that the solution is generally not to do more, but to better communicate, through our web presence and various forms of outreach, including social media, what we offer to ACS members as exclusive benefits. For example, we piloted a one page DOC "brag sheet" and are continually working to better engage current and future DOC members. Let's seize the opportunity to personalize ACS communications with members, to better align information being shared with members' interests.

**Advance excellence in chemistry.** ACS journals, SciFinder, and CAS are deservedly highly respected sources of scientific knowledge; I look forward, if elected as District I Director, to directly interacting with the leaders of ACS Publications and CAS. As a scientist, I have gained valuable experience from presenting at ACS National Meetings and publishing papers in ACS journals. As a dedicated volunteer, I have enjoyed helping to shape organized symposia for DOC technical sessions at ACS National Meetings and being an active member of the Northeastern Section of the ACS (NESACS) Process Chemistry Symposium organizing committee, bringing together scientists from academia and industry for a daylong symposium in the Boston area each year. What is our future state in the ACS? Can we do a better job educating the general public about the beauty and relevance of chemistry? What should the global impact of the ACS be? Should we invest more in interactive, virtual meetings and seminars?

**Support ACS members in all stages of our careers.** I am a medicinal chemist at Pfizer, and I lead a chemistry team on one project, an interdisciplinary team on another, and am a member of

the Inflammation and Immunology Medicinal Chemistry leadership team. I believe that the ACS should be the go-to resource for chemists at all stages of education, career, and retirement. What might a career in chemistry look like nowadays? Can we make ACS resources for students, job seekers, and retirees more easily located and accessed? Are we thinking broadly enough about careers in chemistry? As a member of CEPA and a leader of NESACS and the DOC, I have worked to advance the careers of chemists: for example, I organized and moderated a NESACS panel discussion to learn from chemists who have experienced corporate restructuring. We urgently need to do more for people who have undergone career changes, planned or unplanned. Getting hard data is the first step, and reaching out to our members to understand their needs is a key action I would like us to take.

**Apply the resources of the ACS wisely.** Serving on the ACS Board of Directors brings about fiscal responsibilities in implementing the mission and vision of the ACS. As the 2014 Chair-Elect and 2015 Chair of the Northeastern Section, I gained firsthand experience in influencing decisions, many of which were not easy to make, for our over \$300K annual operating budget. Working with Michael Filosa, Editor of *The Nucleus*, I gained approval from our Board of Directors to make our monthly newsletter go green, with an opt in required to receive a printed copy, leading to substantial savings in print costs and environmental impact. Likewise, I recognize that time and energy are resources that we should commit intentionally: our ACS volunteers and staff must be confident that what we all are working on is clearly defined, not redundant, free from unnecessary process and relevant to our mission.

In closing, thank you for your consideration for the role of candidate for District I Director. With your support, I would bring fresh eyes to the role and experience in the ACS as a local section and technical division leader, as a chemistry and project team leader in the pharmaceutical industry, and as a person who fosters clear communication and team engagement in her endeavors.