NEWSLETTER Oct-2025

Division of Nuclear Chemistry and Technology

American Chemical Society

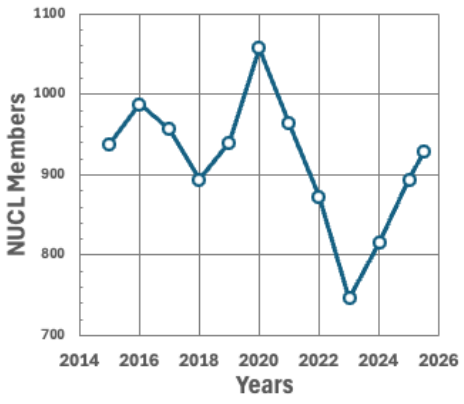
American Chemical Society
Nuclear Chemistry & Technology

60 ANNIVERSARY 1965 - 2025

FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings. A big thanks to all those who participated in making the fall meeting a great success, and a special shout out to our amazing program chairs (Sarah Finkeldei, Deborah Penchoff and Todd Bredeweg) who work diligently to get our sessions organized.

I'm happy to announce that all our NUCL membership efforts are paying off. We currently have 929 NUCL members, this translates to a steady growth of about 25% in the last 3 ½ years. We are back up to pre-COVID membership numbers. Let's keep communicating the value of a NUCL membership, recruiting new members, and retaining older members. Don't forget students can join for free (new students are free now, and renewing students are free starting in January 2026). Also, ACS has continued its GROW 2025 campaign, so all members (new and renewing) can get a 30% discount if they join or renew by November 15. Use the code: LSGROW2025. I know it works because I just used it! Please guide any potential new members to our new website where they can easily join.



Congratulations to Donivan Porterfield for writing a successful Translational Project Grant (TPG) for supplemental funding for three of our regional meetings (WRM2025, RMRM, and SERMACS/SWRM). He was awarded 4.5K, and with a NUCL match of 3K, there is significant funding to use for activities designed to increase interest and membership to both ACS and NUCL.

It is with sadness that I announce the recent passing of one of our own, Dr. Darleane C. Hoffman, a pioneering nuclear chemist whose career profoundly impacted our field. She was a dedicated mentor, a strong advocate for younger scientists, and a successful radiochemist who opened many doors for the next generation of women nuclear chemists. She worked hard to establish the first three Glenn T. Seaborg Institutes at the national laboratories that were, at the time, all managed by University of California. Among her numerous honors, she received ACS's Priestly Medal in 2000 and the Enrico Fermi Presidential Medal in 2023. She will be missed by many. Read more about her amazing career with links to several recent obituaries on our In Memoriam page of our website.

And last, but not least, it is time for us to start thinking about new officers for the Division's executive committee. Later in this newsletter you can read the statements from those running. Thanks to all who have volunteered to run for these positions.

CELEBRATING GROWTH

2025 DIVISION GROWTH CONTEST RESULTS ARE IN!

By Julie Ezold

The 2025 Division Growth Contest was a resounding success, encouraging ACS Divisions to grow alongside national membership. Members who joined during the campaign received a 30% discount on national dues, and their division selections helped boost division tallies.

Top Growing Divisions by size group:

- Small: Nuclear Chemistry & Technology (1.81%)
- Medium: Cellulose & Renewable Materials (1.34%)
- Large: Catalysis Science & Technology (1.03%)

By the Numbers:

- Nearly three hundred new members joined
- 384 total division memberships were added

Winning Divisions will receive cash awards to support future programming. Thanks to all who participated and helped strengthen our ACS community!

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

By Matt Gott

The ACS Fall 2025 meeting was held from August 17–21. As of August 19, there were 11,640 registrations (10,602 in-person and 1,038 online). The ACS Council meeting was held on August 20. I attended representing the NUCL division. Council acted on several elections and resolutions.

- New committee members were elected to the Council Policy Committee, Committee on Committees, and Committee on Nominations and Elections.
- Council approved the Petition to Establish the Committee on the Advancement of LGBTQ+ Chemists (CALC).
- Council approved the Petition to Realign the Committee on Publications. This petition dissolves the committee; the work formerly performed by this committee will be handled by a new Journals Advisory Board reporting to the Governing Board of Publishing.
- Council approved the Petition to Amend the Name and Duties of the Committee on Public Relations and Communications. This petition changes the name from the Committee on Public Relations and Communications (CPRC) to the Committee on Communications (COMM).
- Council approved the Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on International Activities. This petition aligns the duties of the Committee on International Activities (IAC) with those of other committees responsible for Unit functions (such as the Committee on Local Section Activities).
- Council approved a new, amended version of the Professional Employment Guidelines.
- Council approved the *Petition for Changes in Local Section Territory*. This petition adds territory not currently within the boundaries of a Local Section to adjacent Local Sections.
- Council approved the creation of a new International Chemical Sciences Chapter in Guatemala.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns about anything ACS-related, please do not hesitate to contact your councilors. We will do our best to be your voice.

DEBRIEFING ON THE FALL 2025 ACS PRESIDENTIAL SYMPOSIUM CELEBRATING NUCLEAR SCIENCES

By Zach Heiden

On August 18th, 2025, the NUCL Division in conjunction with the ACS President's Office hosted a Presidential Symposium entitled "Nuclear Today and Tomorrow" at the Fall 2025 National ACS Meeting in Washington D.C. This symposium was organized by Drs. Dustin Demoin (Eckert & Ziegler), Zachariah Heiden (Washington State University), Deborah Penchoff (University of Central Florida), and Nic Uhnak (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory), and encompassed a full-day symposium consisting of 18 invited lectures, a poster session with 38 posters, and an evening reception. The symposium provided attendees with broad perspectives on the current state of the nuclear field and its growth in the next 10-15 years in the fields of Radiochemistry, Radiopharmaceuticals/Isotope Production, Workforce/Education, National Security, and Energy. The symposium was rather popular, averaging more than 50 attendees over the course of the day. Funding for the evening reception was provided by: TrisKEM International, the Washington State University Nuclear Science Center, the University of Maryland Radiation Facilities, ORTEC – AMETEK, the Glenn T. Seaborg Institute at Idaho National Laboratory, Eckert & Ziegler, the ACS Division of Nuclear Chemistry and Technology, Macrocyclics, the Washington-Idaho Border Section, 2025 ACS President Dorothy Phillips, and Battelle.

Photographs of the symposium organizers and speakers from the morning session (top) discussing Radiochemistry, Radiopharmaceuticals, and Isotope Production and afternoon session (bottom) discussing Workforce/Education, National Security, and Energy.

From L to R: Donivan Porterfield (LANL), Valentina Espinosa-Canon (UCF), Deanna Nguyen (UCF) and Deborah Penchoff (UCF) at the Sci-Mix Division Row table for the NUCL Division. Donivan has been taking care of getting permission and bringing radioactive samples and Geiger counters to the ACS meetings so that attendees at Sci-Mix can interact with them and ask questions about the NUCL division and nuclear/radiochemistry. Valentina and Deanna, both undergraduate researchers, presided over the Nuclear Today and Tomorrow Presidential Symposium and then helped at the Sci-Mix table.

NATIONAL MEETING PROGRAMMING

If you would like to propose a symposium for Spring or Fall 2027, you need to fill out this form. Please note that this submission is added to a time-stamped queue used to determine priorities with available sessions.

Spring 2026 – Atlanta, GA

March 22 - 26 (Abstracts were Due 29 Sep)
Please contact Deborah Penchoff for more information. Currently planned symposia for the meeting:

- **General Topics in Nuclear and Radiochemistry**
  Organizers: Dustin Demoin (EZIP); Outi Keinänen (UAB)
- **Horizon-broadening Isotope Production Pipeline Opportunities Program (HIPPO)**
  Organizers: Tara Mastren (Utah); Lauren McIntosh (TAMU)
- **In Honor of Professor George Schweitzer**
  Organizers: Deborah Penchoff (UCF), Jack Burn (EPA), John Auxier (UTK)
- **Industrial and Nuclear Chemistry and Engineering (Co-sponsored with I&EC)**
  Organizers: Deborah Penchoff (UCF), Charles Peterson (UCLA), Ashley Shields (ORNL), Erich Molitor (Dow)
- **Kinard Award Symposium in honor of Lynn Francesconi**
  Organizers: Nathalie Wall (UF), Melissa Deri (Lehman), Vanessa Sanders (BNL)
- **NUCL-ACS Networking Meet-Up – Young Investigators in Isotope Production & Beyond**
  Organizers: Dustin Demoin (EZIP), Lauren McIntosh (TAMU), Jordan Roach (ORNL)
- **Radiopharmaceutical Symposium (Co-sponsored with FLUO)**
  Organizers: Suzanne Lapi (UAB), Neil Vasdev (U of T), Ivis Chaple Gore (UTK), Dustin Demoin (EZIP)
- **Seaborg Award Symposium in honor of Henry VanBrocklin**
  Organizers: Nathalie Wall (UF), Kishore Pillarsetty (MSKCC), Peter Scott (U-M)
- **Young Investigators in Nuclear and Radiochemistry -** This will now reoccur at Spring Meetings
  Organizers: Dustin Demoin (EZIP), Outi Keinänen (UAB)

Fall 2026 – Chicago, IL

August 23-27 (Program is due to ACS by 1 Nov 2025)
Please contact Sarah Finkeldei for more information. Currently proposed symposia for the meeting:

- **Empowering Actinide Science and Talent through the Glenn T. Seaborg Institutes**
  Organizers: J. Rory Kennedy (INL), Ping Yang (LANL), Mavrik Zavarin (LLNL), Rebecca Abergel (LBL), Samantha Schrell (ORNL)
- **General Topics in Nuclear and Radiochemistry**
  Organizers: Nerissa Viola (Wayne State)
- **High Performance Computing, Data Science & Artificial Intelligence Applications in Nuclear & Radiochemistry**
  Organizers: Ashley Shields (ORNL), Deborah Penchoff (UCF), Charles Peterson (UCLA)
- **Molten Salt Symposium (Co-sponsored with I&EC)**
  Organizers: Joanna Mcfarlane (ORNL), Erich Molitor (I&EC, Dow)
- **NUCL-ACS Networking Meet-Up**
  Organizers: Dustin Demoin (EZIP), Breanna Vestal (ORNL), Tyler Spano (ORNL)
- **User Facilities for Nuclear & Radiochemistry**
  Organizers: Tyler Spano (ORNL), Derek McLain (ANL)

SPRING 2027 – New Orleans, LA

March 21-25 (Program is due to ACS by 1 Jun 2026)
Please contact Deborah Penchoff for more information. Currently planned symposia for the meeting:

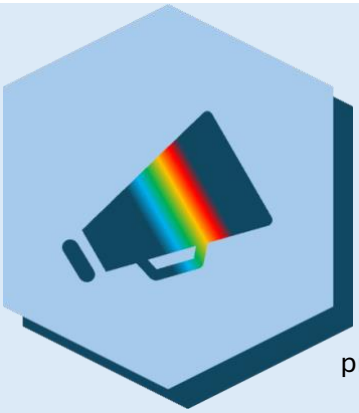
- **Facilitating Advances in Nuclear and Radiochemistry through Computational Science**
  Organizers: Ashley Shields (ORNL), Sarah Finkeldei (UCI), Deborah Penchoff (UCF), Charles Peterson (UCLA)
- **General Topics in Nuclear and Radiochemistry**
  Organizers: UNK [Looking for help if you are interested]
- **In Honor of Darleane C. Hoffman (maybe Fall 2027)**
  Organizers: Howard Hall, Annie Kersting
- **Nuclear Forensics**
  Organizers: Brittany Stieferman (UCF), Madeline Forbes (UF), Rachel Wood (UF)
- **NUCL-ACS Networking Meet-Up**
  Organizers: Dustin Demoin (EZIP) [Looking for help if you are interested]
- **Radiochemical Separations**
  Organizers: Dustin Demoin (EZIP), Lætitia Delmau (ORNL)
- **Seaborg Award Symposium (maybe Fall 2027)**
  Organizers: UNK
- **Young Investigators in Nuclear and Radiochemistry**
  Organizers: UNK [Looking for help if you are interested]

Fall 2027 – San Diego, CA

August 22-26 (Program is due to ACS by 1 Nov 2026)

Please contact Sarah Finkeldei for more information. Currently planned symposia for the meeting.

- **General Topics in Nuclear and Radiochemistry**
  Organizers: UNK [Looking for help if you are interested]
- **High Performance Computing, Data Science & Artificial Intelligence Applications in Nuclear & Radiochemistry**
  Organizers: Ashley Shields (ORNL), Deborah Penchoff (UCF), Charles Peterson (UCLA)
- **NUCL-ACS Networking Meet-Up**
  Organizers: Dustin Demoin (EZIP) [Looking for help if you are interested]
- **Nuclear Forensics**
  Organizers: Deanna Nguyen (UCF), Jackson Stanley (UTK)



NUCL CLIMATE SURVEY

By Tyler Louise Spano

The NUCL Executive Committee and Committee on CommUnity & Belonging are asking division members to participate in a brief survey to assess the climate within the division. If you haven't done so already, please consider participating and sharing your insights by following the link here: **survey link**

We are planning to use this information for long-term planning and division improvement projects.

Some Great New for Nuclear Science Education and User Facilities in the Pacific Northwest

By Zach Heiden

The Nuclear Science Center at Washington State University has received a $7.56 million federal earmark to build a hot cell facility connected to the Dodgen Research Facility in Pullman, WA. The proposed 5,000-square-foot facility will house three hot cells, a wet lab, two gloveboxes, and a manipulator training area. The new hot cell facility will support the 1 MW TRIGA nuclear reactor housed at the Dodgen Research Facility and new coursework in nuclear science. Construction started in August of 2025 with the building shell to be completed in Fall of 2026, with hot cells arriving after.

Visit their website: here

Rendering of the planned addition of a hot cell facility to the Dodgen Research Facility at Washington State University.

NUCL ELECTION INFO & CANDIDATES

Please, find below a list of the positions and candidates for the upcoming NUCL officer election (listed in alphabetical order). We are planning to send a link for the election on 1 Nov 2025.

Vice-Chair
Thibaut Lecrivain
Ralf Sudowe

Secretary
Breanna Vestal

Councilor
Mike Lewis
Nathalie Wall

Alternate Councilor
Ben Burton-Pye
Ivis Chaple Gore
Breanna Vestal

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

(In the order of the list above)

Dr. Thibaut Lecrivain, *Material and Chemistry Laboratory Inc. (Oak Ridge, TN),* is the Scientific and Technical Director for an Inorganic Radioanalytical Laboratory and Uranium-Nuclear-Fuel-Cycle consulting expert. He joined MCLinc. in 2024 as lead of the Radioanalytical division, and isotope analysis. MCLinc. is performing analytical projects for DOE, DOD and their subcontractors in the Oak Ridge Area and across the US. He also trains and mentors new employees to handle radioactive material, to use analytical methods, and to perform analytical separation methods. Dr. Lecrivain has guest lectured on nuclear science and energy production related topics at local community colleges, out-of-state universities, and France.

Previously, Dr. Lecrivain worked as a Glen Seaborg Distinguished Fellow Postdoctoral Scientist at Idaho National Laboratory. During that time, he was the vice chair and chair of the INL Early Career Researcher Association and was part of the mentoring program. He completed his Ph.D. at Washington State University under Prof. Nash's supervision and worked for the Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique in Saclay, France, and the Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique in Marcoule, France. He is actively involved in the American Chemical Society (ACS) and currently serve as newsletter editor for the NUCL Division.

Dr. Ralf Sudowe, *Colorado State University*, is a Professor for Radiochemistry & Health Physics in the Department of Environmental & Radiological Health Sciences. His research focuses on the development and optimization of advanced radioanalytical techniques for environmental monitoring, emergency response, nuclear forensics, nuclear safeguards, and isotope production. He has been an active member of the NUCL section for over two decades and has organized a variety of symposia at various ACS meetings. He is also one of the lecturers at the ACS Nuclear Chemistry Summer School at Brookhaven National Laboratory. In addition, he is a member of the American Nuclear Society and the Health Physics Society.

Dr. Sudowe received a M.S. in Chemistry and a Ph.D. in Nuclear Chemistry from the Philipps-University Marburg in Germany. He spent two years as a Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow in the Nuclear Science Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and worked for five years as a staff scientist in the Nuclear Science and Chemical Sciences Division at LBNL. From 2006 to 2016, he was a faculty member in the Department of Health Physics & Diagnostic Sciences at University of Nevada Las Vegas, where he held positions as Assistant & Associate Professor. In 2016 he joined the faculty at Colorado State University, where he was promoted to full professor in 2020.

Dr. Breanna Vestal, *Oak Ridge National Laboratory,* is a Staff Scientist in the Enriched Gaseous Chemistry group. She earned her B.S. in Chemistry from Tennessee Wesleyan University in 2018 and her Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Tennessee in 2023. Her passion for nuclear science began in graduate school, where she researched alternative waste processing methods for used nuclear fuel—a focus she continued as a postdoctoral research associate at ORNL. In addition to her research, Breanna is actively involved in the American Chemical Society (ACS). She currently serves as Vice President of the Women'sChemists Committee for the East Tennessee Local Section and is eager to continue contributing to ACS through service to the Nuclear Chemistry Division.

Dr. Michael Lewis, *University of Missouri,* is a Professor in the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. He received his B.S. degree with Highest Honors in Chemistry from the University of North Carolina and an M.S. degree in Chemistry from the California Institute of Technology. Dr. Lewis obtained his Ph.D. degree in Biological Sciences from the Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences, and he subsequently undertook postdoctoral studies with Dr. Carolyn Anderson and Dr. Michael Welch at Washington University in St. Louis. He joined the faculty of the University of Missouri in 2000 as Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2006 and to Professor in 2013. Dr. Lewis's research focuses on the development of novel radiopharmaceuticals for molecular imaging and targeted radiotherapy of cancer. These agents include radiolabeled antibodies, peptides, and peptide nucleic acids for targeting cell surface receptors and oncogene products in colorectal, prostate, and breast cancer, as well as in non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Research in his laboratory has been translated to three veterinary clinical trials for imaging dogs with prostate cancer and with B-cell lymphoma, as well as one for imaging cats with mammary carcinoma.

Nathalie A. Wall, *University of Florida,* is a Tenured Professor and Interim Director of the Nuclear Engineering Program. Her research focuses on the environmental behavior of radionuclides, with applications in the nuclear fuel cycle and nuclear forensics. A Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, she has been an active member of the ACS Nuclear Chemistry Division for many years. She was the 2006 Chair of the ACS Washington-Idaho Border Section, the 2022 Chair of the ACS NUCL division, and participating in multiple NUCL Division Strategic Planning activities. She is currently co-Chair of the Awards Committee.

Originally from France, Wall earned an undergraduate degree in Physical Sciences and a doctorate in Radiochemistry from the University of Paris, followed by a postdoctoral research appointment at Florida State University. She has worked in the Department of Nuclear Waste Management at the Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique (CEA, the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission) and as a staff scientist at Sandia National Laboratories.

Before joining the University of Florida in 2019, she was a faculty member in the Chemistry Department at Washington State University.

Dr. Ben Burton-Pye, *Lehman College of the City University of New York,* is an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry. He received a PhD from the University of Manchester. He has dedicated much of his 20-year career to facilitate learning and mentoring of students, postdocs, and early career scientists. He believes that science should be simple, affordable and accessible. Trained as an analytical chemist, he specializes in synthetic radiochemistry and analytical applications of molecules. He seeks to create opportunities and advance workforce development in radiochemistry and radiation science. Dr. Burton-Pye is committed to serving the ACS-NUCL community to recruit new members and assist current members in their career growth. He will continue to develop programs and strategies to mentor radiochemists at all levels, including established scientists to train the next generation.

Dr. Ivis F. Chaple, *University of Tennessee Knoxville,* is an Assistant Professor of Radiochemistry in the Nuclear Engineering Department. She received a Bachelor's of Chemistry from Florida International University, and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry with a radiochemistry focus from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She then completed a postdoctoral position in the Chemistry division at Los Alamos National Laboratory. She is working on establishing a radiochemistry program at UTK and routinely serves as a symposia organizer at the ACS annual meetings. As an assistant professor, her goals are to increase outreach to students, enhance participation and learning outcomes, and provide new opportunities for student engagement at the local and national level. She is passionate about her work with the ACS and is committed to student success.

OUR ONLINE PRESENCE

Find us on your social media and on our website

AWARDS NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE OF NUCL

Deborah Penchoff and Nathalie Wall

The Awards Nominations Committee of the Division was formed to encourage and facilitate nominations for national ACS awards. Please nominate a colleague for one of the awards given below or another ACS Award. As the new committee is updating the nomination process, feel free to contact them by email if you have any questions about the awards (deborah.penchoff@ucf.edu, nathalie.wall@ufl.edu).

http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/funding-and-awards/awards/national.html

The Coryell Award

Nominations due January 1, 2026

The Charles D. Coryell Award honors undergraduate students who have completed research projects in nuclear or nuclear-related areas. Each year there is a $1,000 prize to be awarded to the successful nominee(s). Contributions are judged based on ingenuity, novelty, and potential usefulness. To be eligible, a student must have been an undergraduate at some time during the 12-month period prior to the deadline date for submission of applications for the award. The student may be sponsored by a faculty member at the home institution or by a research director at another institution where the student performed the work. Please consider nominating your student(s).

The Kinard Award

Nominations due July 1, 2026

The W. Frank Kinard Distinguished Service Award recognizes NUCL members for outstanding service to the division and the field of nuclear science. For more information, please check out the award website.

JOB POSTINGS

Job postings for NUCL opportunities can now be found on our new website and on LinkedIn – Check out and spread the word! You can also submit a job posting here: link

Radiochemist -Univ of Missouri (Columbia)

University of Missouri Research Reactor

The University of Missouri Research Reactor (MURR) is seeking a Radiochemist to join our Innovative Development & Translation (ID&T) division. The ID&T division at MURR focuses on advancing radioisotope production methodologies with an emphasis on their translatability into current Good Manufacturing Practice (cGMP) standards. Core objectives of the ID&T division include: first, developing innovative and scalable radioisotope production techniques; second, optimizing and continuously improving existing isotope production lines at MURR to address any emergent issues; third, providing support to MURR's research groups through a blend of technical expertise, collaborative projects, and tailored solutions; and fourth, evaluating new opportunities and managing new projects that will become the foundation of tomorrow's growth and success.

This position will report to the Developmental Radiochemistry Manager and will be responsible for the development of radioisotope processing methods with a focus on the pharmaceutical development for the manufacturing of new cGMP medical radioisotopes that will be utilized as Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) in radiopharmaceutical formulations.

More information: link

Tenure Track Assistant Professor in Chemistry

San Jose State University

Tenure Track Assistant Professor in Chemistry, with teaching focus of Analytical, Organic, and/or Physical Chemistry. SJSU has a specialized teaching and research laboratory for nuclear & radiochemistry equipped with comprehensive nuclear counting instrumentation.

More information: link

Nuclear or Radiochemistry Assistant Professor

James Madison University

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at James Madison University invites applications for a tenure track appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor to begin in Fall 2026. Applicants with expertise in analytical, environmental, physical, nuclear, or inorganic chemistry are especially encouraged to apply. This position builds on our history of undergraduate teaching and research training that leverages over $10 million of existing instrumentation, including comprehensive nuclear chemistry facilities.

More information: link