



American Chemical Society Susquehanna Valley Section

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

The four hundred and sixty seventh meeting of the Susquehanna Valley Local Section of the American Chemical Society will be held on Wednesday, April 12th, 2023, in the Fitzgerald Room on the third floor of the Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center on the King's College campus in Wilkes-Barre, PA. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM and will be preceded by a reception and dinner starting at 5:30 PM. The speaker will be [Dr. Monica McCallum](#) from the University of Pennsylvania.

“Making Molecules from Microbes”

Dr. Monica McCallum
Assistant Professor of Chemistry
The University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

Microbes, the smallest living organisms on our planet, are talented chemists that produce a variety of bioactive compounds via their secondary metabolism. These ‘natural products’ have inspired human chemists to perfect their synthesis in the laboratory and understand the molecular origins of their biological activity. The small molecules hippolachnin A and alanosine are two such natural products, and their chemical and biological synthesis will be presented in this seminar.

BIOGRAPHY OF DR. MCCALLUM:

Monica McCallum has been an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania since 2021, where her laboratory looks for new microbial chemistry to apply to complex molecule synthesis. Born and raised in southern California, she attended the University of California at Irvine and graduated with a B.S. in Chemistry in 2011. She joined the laboratory of Prof. John L. Wood at Colorado State University for her graduate studies, and moved with the Wood group in 2013 to Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where she finished her Ph.D. in 2016. Having spent her Ph.D. making natural products in the lab with synthetic chemistry, she secured a postdoctoral position in the laboratory of Prof. Emily P. Balskus at Harvard University to learn how microbes make natural products with biological chemistry. She also attended the Microbial Diversity Course at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole in the summer of 2018, where she received training in microbial ecology and microscopy.

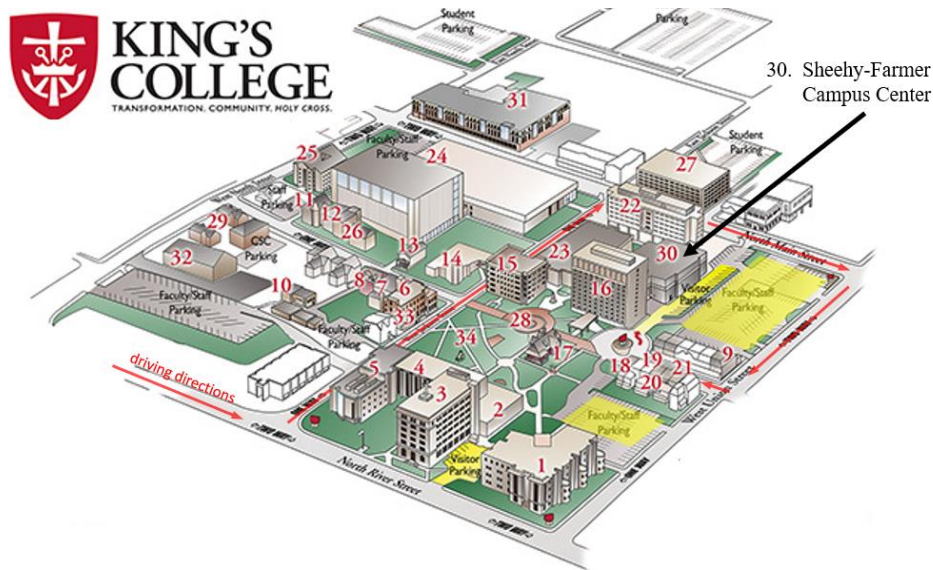
DINNER:

5:30 PM in the Fitzgerald Room of the Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center at King’s College. The dinner will be a buffet with chicken marsala, penne marinara, a vegetable and desert and cost \$17 payable by cash or check made out to “King’s College.” Please call or email reservations to Ron Supkowski (ronaldsupkowski@kings.edu or 570-208-5900x5733) by Wednesday, April 5. Include any dietary restrictions with your reservation and we can attempt to be accommodating.

DIRECTIONS TO KING’S COLLEGE:

Address for parking: 133 N Franklin St. Wilkes-Barre PA 18711

- From Route I-81, take Exit 170B which will put you on Route 309 North.
- Follow Route 309 and take exit 3 (Wilkes-Barre/Plains).
- Turn left off the exit ramp onto North River Street. Proceed about 1.5 miles, and you will see the Luzerne County Courthouse on your right. Continue through the light at the courthouse.
- Turn left at the next street, West Jackson Street. There is no traffic light at West Jackson Street, so do not go as far as the next light.
- Go through the stop sign, and at the first traffic light turn right onto North Main Street.
- Turn right at the next light onto West Union Street.
- Proceed to the next light and turn right onto North Franklin Street.
- The Visitors Lot is located to your right off the cul-de-sac.
- The lots colored yellow also have limited parking available.



For additional directions, visit kings.edu/aboutkings/resources/directions

LOCAL SECTION NEWS:

2023 SVS AWARDS BANQUET:



The Susquehanna Valley Section of the American Chemical Society will be having their awards banquet this year. It is scheduled for 5:30 PM Tuesday, May 2 at the [Pine Barn Inn](#) in Danville, PA. Dinner is a buffet featuring Tuscan grilled chicken. All SVS members are invited to attend. Dinner will be \$10 per person, paid by cash or check at the event; awardees' dinner will be paid for by the section. To RSVP, use this [link](#).

To request more information about awardees and their guest, contact Dr. Daniel McCurry at 570-389-5320 or dmccurry@commonwealthu.edu.

Please RSVP by Friday, April 21. More information about the banquet will be forthcoming in the May newsletter.

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY CHEMISTRY CAMP:

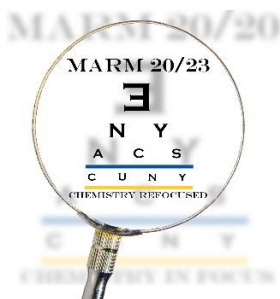
Bucknell University's Chemistry Department is hosting a hands-on and interactive chemistry day camp June 15-16, 2023. The camp is open to high school students who are rising sophomores and older. The camp includes:

- An overview of chemistry and the interesting ways it can be used
- Interaction with Bucknell chemistry students, faculty, and staff
- Hands-on chemistry demonstrations
- Lunch and snacks included
- A culminating dinner where campers demonstrate what they learned

The cost of the camp is \$250 per camper, and there is some financial aid available for students who may need financial support. If you have additional questions please contact Kaitlyn Connelly (kjc017@bucknell.edu). Apply with this [link](#).



MARM 2023



The 51st Mid Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) will be held Friday and Saturday, June 9-10, 2023. The meeting is hosted by the New York Local Section of the American Chemical Society. The technical sessions will be Friday at the CUNY Graduate Center in Midtown Manhattan and high school and Chemagination will be held on Saturday at St. John's University in Queens. For more information, see their [website](#).

2023 SVS HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY EXAMS:

The examination will be held on Saturday April 1, 2023 at six colleges throughout the region. Two distinct exams are given: Exam A for students in their first year of study in chemistry, and Exam B for students in an advanced high school chemistry course. For more information, please see the [website](#).



OPEN POSITIONS IN THE LOCAL SECTION:

Do you want to use your talents to help other chemists in the Susquehanna Valley section? Listed below are examples of positions that need to be filled by willing individuals along with websites that give organizing ideas:

- SVS Chair-Elect
This two-year position is the usual office taken on by local chemists who want to begin to become more involved in the local section.
- [Chemistry Olympiad](#) Chair
Administer Local Chemistry Olympiad Competitions in coordination with the National Chemistry Olympiad.
- CMA ([Committee on Minority Affairs](#)) Chair
Help increase the number & participation of racially & ethnically underrepresented scientists in the Society and its governance.
- Project SEED ([Summer Experiences for the Economically Disadvantaged](#)) Coordinator
Coordinators are responsible for establishing programs, identifying mentors, recruiting students, fundraising, and organizing activities such as field trips.
- CH&S ([Chemical Health and Safety](#)) Committee Chair
Help provide authoritative technical resources and mentorship in chemical health and safety for all.
- SCC ([Senior Chemists Committee](#)) Chair
Help improve communication among senior chemists, increase the number of senior chemists' groups and the level of their engagement within local sections, and encourage the involvement of senior chemists in programs focused on K-12 education, undergraduate networking, and mentoring.
- CCEW ([Chemists Celebrate Earth Week](#)) Coordinator
Help promote the positive role that chemistry plays in the protecting our planet (recyclable plastics, cleaner-burning fuels, phosphate-free detergents, environmental monitoring, and green chemistry initiatives).

If you are interested, contact the section Chair (Dan McCurry, dmccurry@commonwealthu.edu), Secretary (Ronald Supkowski, ronaldsupkowski@kings.edu) or any member of the Susquehanna Valley Section leadership team ([executive committee](#), [committee chairs](#), [liaisons](#)).

LOCAL STEM COMPETITIONS:



A list of all STEM competitions for high school students is posted on our [website](#). If you have any questions about the contests or have suggestions for others, please contact either the person indicated on the site or the section webmaster, Ron Supkowski at ronaldsupkowski@kings.edu or 570-208-5900 x5733

NATIONAL ACS NEWS:

COVID-19

ACS is committed to helping combat the global COVID-19 pandemic with initiatives and free resources. Learn More at their website [acs.org/content/acs/en/covid-19](https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/covid-19)

ACS LEGISLATIVE ACTION NETWORK:

Legislation that may impact the chemical enterprise comes before Congress on a regular basis, and the ACS is committed to keeping its members informed and encouraging them to weigh in on high-priority issues. To see the position of the ACS on many legislative issues visit the ACS LAN website:

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/policy.html>

To find out how to become more active in ACS advocacy activities, see the website:

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/policy/memberadvocacy/advocacy-tools.html>

To join ACS' grassroots legislative advocacy network, ACT4CHEMISTRY, which will allow you to stay up to date on policy issues and contact legislators on behalf of chemistry and chemists, go to their website, follow the [Act4Chemistry Twitter](#) account, or email advocacy@acs.org.

Act4Chemistry Advocacy Issues. To take action go to the website
[acs.org/content/acs/en/policy/memberadvocacy/issues.html#/takeaction](https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/policy/memberadvocacy/issues.html#/takeaction)

Ask Congress to support funding of the CHIPS and Science Act

Last year Congress passed the CHIPS and Science Act into law, one of the largest research and innovation bills of the decade. Now, Congress must act to ensure the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology have the funding necessary to support the ambitious research agenda outlined in the law in the upcoming fiscal year 2024 appropriations process. We are asking you to highlight the importance of adequately funding research priorities already outlined by Congress in the CHIPS and Science Act to your Representative and Senators.

Ask Congress to support climate change legislation

With the growing climate crisis, the American Chemical Society recently endorsed a package of legislation to help address climate change, both to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve the sustainability of our energy and transportation sectors, and adapt to a changing world. ACS believes these steps are only part of addressing our changing

climate, but it is a step towards leaving a better planet to our children and grandchildren. We ask you to raise these important issues to your Representative and Senators as they consider their legislative activities and priorities.

Ask the Senate to confirm science nominees for key positions & consider a chemist for the Chemical Safety Board

We In 2021, the Biden Administration nominated three chemists for three important roles at the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Dr. Geri Richmond and Dr. Laurie Locascio have been confirmed as DOE's Under Secretary for Science and Energy and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology, respectively. Dr. Asmeret Berhe has been nominated as the Director of the DOE Office of Science. ACS asks the Senate to vote on her nomination as quickly as possible.

ACS is also asking Congress to encourage the nomination of someone with experience and a background in chemistry for one of the two remaining vacancies on the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB).

Support the Chemical Safety Board

The CSB is an independent federal agency that saves companies, universities, and local communities billions of dollars and countless lives by helping them prevent catastrophic incidents. Despite its great value, the administration has called for \$9.4 million for FY 2019 to be allocated to CSB, specifically for its elimination. Join us in asking appropriators and other members of Congress for their continued support of the CSB and its mission to protect workers and the public.

Keep Science Funding Strong

Congress and the White House are working to complete the appropriations process for fiscal year 2021. Join us in asking appropriators for a strong and predictable boost in federal funding for scientific research.

Congressional Chemistry Caucus

The Caucus' mission is to educate Members of Congress, their staff, and the public on the benefits of chemistry in today's society and its economic impact on our country. If you do not see your Representative or Senators represented in the Chemistry Caucus ask them to join.

JOIN THE ACS:

If you know of anyone who would benefit from being a member of the American Chemical Society, please direct them to the membership website:

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/membership.html>

NATIONAL MEETINGS:

Fall 2023 ACS National Meeting

The fall 2023 national meeting, “Harnessing the Power of Data” will a hybrid event. The meeting will be held August 13-17, and the in-person event will take place in San Francisco, CA. Abstracts are now being accepted; submission deadline is April 4. See the [website](#) for more information.



Green Chemistry & Engineering Conference

The 2023 meeting, “Closing the loop: Chemistry for a sustainable future” will a hybrid event. The meeting will be held June 13-15, and the in-person event will take place in Long Beach, CA. Early registration closes April 30. See the [website](#) for more information.

Susquehanna Valley Section Web Page: <http://departments.kings.edu/SusquehannaValleyACS>

Please send any comments about the monthly newsletter to Ron Supkowski, Section Secretary
King's College 131 N River St Wilkes-Barre PA 18711 ronaldsupkowski@kings.edu
