

## SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

The four hundred and sixty ninth meeting of the American Chemical Society Susquehanna Valley Section will be held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 7:00pm in the Academic West building, room 108, on the Bucknell University campus in Lewisburg, PA. The speaker will be Hasan Arslan, PhD., Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Bucknell University. The talk will be preceded by a reception and dinner at 6:00pm in Academic West room 111.

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### *“Switchable host-guest interactions of cationic macrocycles”*

Dr. Hasan Arslan  
Assistant Professor of Chemistry  
Bucknell University  
Lewisburg, PA



Intermolecular forces and shape complementarity control binding interactions found in molecular systems such as enzyme-substrate complexes. Taking inspiration from nature, organic chemists have built a plethora of host-guest systems, and used them for various applications, from highly selective and sensitive chemical sensors to molecular machines that can perform unidirectional motion. In this talk, I will discuss two different projects involving polycationic molecular hosts, focusing on the modulation of host-guest interactions using different inputs. 1) Redox and acid–base chemistry are well-established stimuli to switch supramolecular systems. I will introduce a cationic macrocycle that can be switched by either of these two pathways, resulting in clear changes in affinity towards different polycyclic aromatic compounds (PAC). 2) Host-guest binding can be influenced by the presence of competitor binders. I will discuss how we are using this competitive binding for growing diffraction quality single crystals of highly insoluble PACs. Throughout this talk, I will explain how we use analytical tools such as NMR spectroscopy and X-ray crystallography to elucidate these complex systems.

## BIOGRAPHY OF DR. ARSLAN:

Dr. Hasan Arslan received a B.S. degree in chemistry from Middle East Technical University (Ankara, Türkiye) in 2009 before working with Dr. William R. Dichtel at Cornell University, receiving his Ph.D. in chemistry in 2014. After three years as a postdoctoral fellow at Northwestern University with Sir Fraser Stoddart, he accepted a faculty appointment at Bucknell University in 2017, where he is currently an Assistant Professor of Chemistry. His research interests include host-guest complexation, crystal growth, and solvatochromic dyes.


## DINNER:

The lecture will be preceded by a reception and dinner at 6:00pm in the Academic West building, room 111. Dinner will be buffet style, including a vegetarian option and dessert. Those wishing to reserve a spot for dinner should contact Charlie Guttendorf by email ([charlie.guttendorf@bucknell.edu](mailto:charlie.guttendorf@bucknell.edu)) by 3:00pm Wednesday September 13.

## DIRECTIONS TO BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY:

Address of the Academic West Building: 616 Coleman Hall Dr, Lewisburg, PA 17837

<b>East of Lewisburg:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Interstate 80 West to Exit 210A</li><li>2. Route 15 South</li><li>3. At 11th traffic light (the first light after crossing Route 45 (Market Street)), turn left onto Moore Avenue. (Look for the Bucknell Athletic Stadium on the left.)</li></ol>	<b>West of Lewisburg:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Interstate 80 East to Exit 210A</li><li>2. Route 15 South</li><li>3. At 11th traffic light (the first light after crossing Route 45 (Market Street)), turn left onto Moore Avenue. (Look for the Bucknell Athletic Stadium on the left.)</li></ol>
<b>South of Lewisburg:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Take Routes 11&amp;15 North</li><li>2. When Routes 11 &amp; 15 split, stay on Route 15</li><li>3. Approx. 7 miles after Selinsgrove / Shamokin Dam, you'll come to a stop light. Bucknell is on your right. (Look for the Bucknell Athletic Stadium on right.)</li></ol>	<b>North of Lewisburg:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Take Route 15 south</li><li>2. Once past Interstate 80, turn left on Moore Avenue at the 11th traffic light (the first light after crossing Route 45 (Market Street)). (Look for the Bucknell Athletic Stadium on the left.)</li></ol>

**Once on campus:** Follow the campus map below to the visitor parking designated with a  .

## CAMPUS MAP

LEWISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA



Online campus maps can be found at <https://www.bucknell.edu/sites/default/files/public-safety/campusmap.pdf>

## LOCAL SECTION NEWS:

### LOCAL SECTION ELECTIONS FOR 2024 OFFICERS:

Nominations are due for the positions of:

**Chair-elect** (one year term as Chair-Elect, one year as Chair, and one year as Past Chair)

**Secretary, Treasurer, Councilor, and Alternate Councilor** (all three-year terms)

If interested, please contact any [section officer](#).

## 2023 LOCAL SECTION AWARDS:

### ACS Longevity Awards

DR. MICHAEL C. CANN	50-year member
DR. WILLIAM H. SIMPSON	60-year member
DR. WILLIAM J. SNYDER	60-year member
DR. JOE A. VINSON	60-year member

### Joseph Priestley Service Award

DR. ERNIE TRUJILLO

### David H. Frederick Memorial Awards in High School Chemistry

#### Exam A Winners

AUBREY FLUMAN	Mifflinburg Area High School Teacher – Mr. Jeffrey Kiss
ADDISON CONFER	Montoursville Area High School Teacher – Mrs. Natalie Smith
WILSON HE	Scranton Preparatory School Teacher – Mrs. Donna Barrett
LIAM MILLER	Honesdale High School Teacher – Ms. Michelle Tonkin
BRAEDYN HARASCHAK	Berwick Area High School Teacher – Mrs. Christine Readler

#### Exam B Winners

MATTHEW HE	South Williamsport Area High School Teacher – Mr. Matthew Easley
TYLER MCDERMOTT	Mid Valley Secondary Center Teacher – Dr. Jacob Banik

#### Exam A Runners-Up

ROY ANDREW SASSAMAN	Selinsgrove Area High School Teacher – Ms. Tracy Hepner
EMILY KIME	Williamsport Area High School Teacher – Mr. Chase Smith
CAEL KRUSHNOWSKI	Old Forge Junior Senior High School Teacher – Ms. Adrianna Rupprecht
NICHOLAS PANE	Western Wayne High School Teacher – Ms. Maria Masankay
DAVYN PIATT-FERREIRA	Hanover Area Jr/Sr High School Teacher – Dr. Jocelyn Holodick-Reed
DEREK DANG	Marian Catholic High School Teacher – Mr. Robert Valente

#### Exam B Runners-Up

CASSANDRA SNYDER	Line Mountain High School Teacher – Dr. Shelley Herb-Fausey
MACKENZIE VASBINDER	Mifflinburg Area High School Teacher – Mr. Matthew Wells
MERCEDEZ FARR	Milton Area High School Teacher – Mr. Jonathan Bixler
ELLA OAKES	Shikellamy High School Teacher – Mrs. Jenna Mowery

### National Chemistry Week Award

FAITH GOMBITA Grade 9-12	Honesdale High School Teacher – Ms. Michelle Tonkin
KAILEY NEMETH Grade 6-8	Drums Middle School Teacher – Ms. Catherine Tombasco
GARRISON REINER Grade 3-5	Upper Dauphin Elementary School Teacher – Ms. Emily Renn
BLAISE GASPER Grade K-2	Drums Elementary Teacher – Ms. Cathy Tombasco

Blaise also came in second place in the ACS national competition

### College Award Winners

CONNIE CHEN	Bucknell University
JESUS VAZQUEZ HERNANDEZ	Lycoming College
KYLE BOHLIN	Misericordia University
HANNAH CHANTAVORALAK	University of Scranton
LAUREN STETTLER	Susquehanna University

## 2023 – 2024 LOCAL SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE:

20-Sept-2023: Bucknell University  
*Note this is the third Wednesday in September*

18-Oct-2023: Wilkes University  
*Note this is the third Wednesday in October*

8-Nov-2023: Lycoming College

Jan 2024: Executive Board Meeting

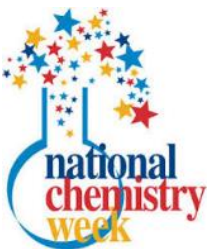
14-Feb-2024: Commonwealth University,  
Bloomsburg campus

13-March-2024: Susquehanna University

10-April-2024: King's College

May-2024: Awards Banquet

## NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK:



NCW will be celebrated October 15-21, 2023, with the theme, “The Healing Power of Chemistry” The Susquehanna Valley Section is once again collecting illustrated poems for this year’s event. If you know of a student in K-12 who would like to participate, please contact Charlie Guttendorf at [cg029@bucknell.edu](mailto:cg029@bucknell.edu). The deadline for submissions is Sunday, October 22. For further details, 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 three-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.*
- WCC ([Woman Chemists Committee](#)) Chair  
*Help attract, retain, develop, promote, and advocate for women to positively impact diversity, equity and inclusion in the Society and the profession*
- 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 (Daniel McCurry, [dmccurry@commonwealthu.edu](mailto:dmccurry@commonwealthu.edu)), Secretary (Ronald Supkowski, [ronaldsupkowski@kings.edu](mailto: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](mailto:ronaldsupkowski@kings.edu) or 570-208-5900 x5733



### **Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh**



300 Penn Center Boulevard, Suite 332, Pittsburgh, PA 15235-5503  
Phone 412-825-3220 / FAX: 412-825-3224  
e-mail: [sacpinfo@pittcon.org](mailto:sacpinfo@pittcon.org) / [www.sacp.org](http://www.sacp.org)  
e-mail: [sspinfo@pittcon.org](mailto:sspinfo@pittcon.org) / [www.ssp-pgh.org](http://www.ssp-pgh.org)

The Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh (SSP) and the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP) have decided to expand their geographical membership location to include the SVS. The membership of the SSP and SACP organize the Pittsburgh Conference (Pittcon), a nonprofit whose proceeds are distributed to their societies so that they may complete various outreach and educational programs. The SSP and SACP has provided their technical program for the current season, which has been included in this newsletter. If you would like more Information about joining these societies or attending their meetings virtually, please visit their website at [chemistryoutreach.org](http://chemistryoutreach.org).

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## 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 X](#) (formerly Twitter) account, or email [advocacy@acs.org](mailto:advocacy@acs.org).

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

### **Ask Congress to fund 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**

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.

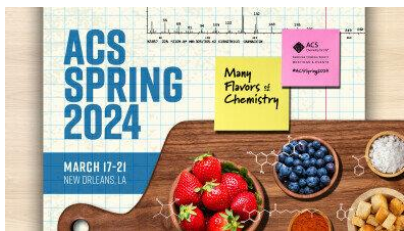
## Congressional Chemistry Caucus

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/membership.html>

### NATIONAL MEETINGS:



### *Spring 2024 ACS National Meeting*

The Spring 2024 national meeting, “Many Flavors of Chemistry” will be a hybrid event. The meeting will be held March 17-21, and the in-person event will take place in New Orleans, LA. See the [website](#) for more information. The call for [abstracts](#) has been placed with an October 2 deadline.

### SAVE THE DATE:

The 28<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Chemical Education will be held at the University of Kentucky in Lexington on July 28 – August 1, 2024. See the [website](#) for more details.



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Susquehanna Valley Section Web Page: [svs-acs.org](https://svs-acs.org). Please send any comments about the monthly newsletter to Ron Supkowski, Section Secretary [ronaldsupkowski@kings.edu](mailto:ronaldsupkowski@kings.edu) King's College 131 N River St Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

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