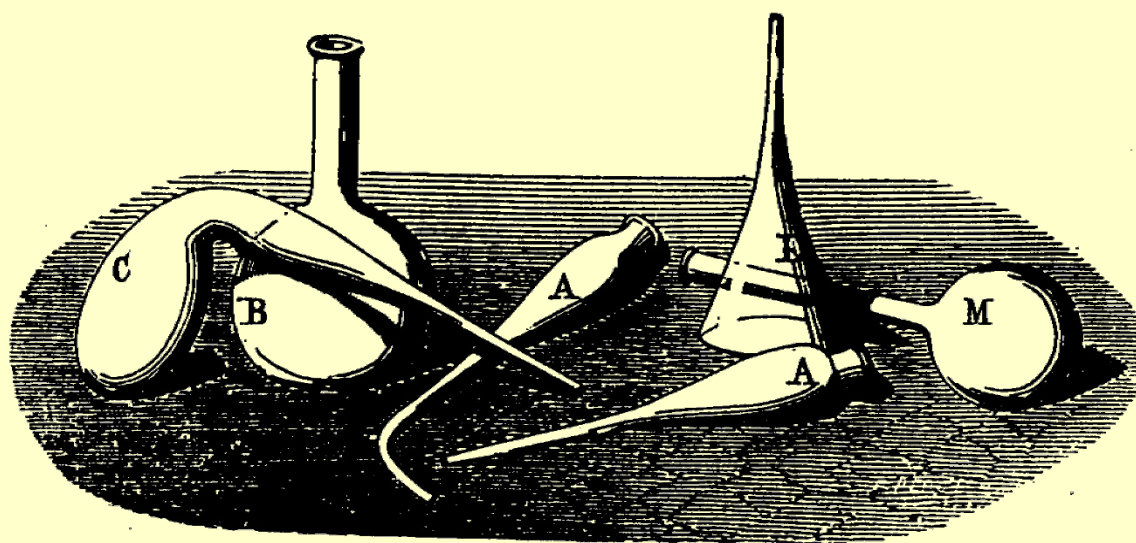




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American Chemical Society
**DIVISION OF THE
HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY**



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024 ACS National Meeting
New Orleans, LA (Hybrid)
March 17-21, 2024

Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Program Chair

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Mission Statement

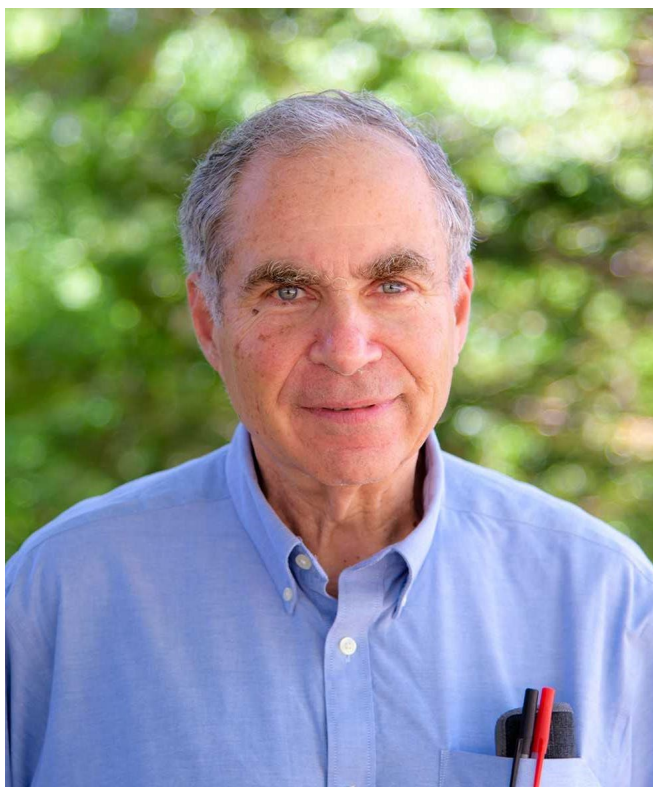
The Division of the History of Chemistry ([HIST](#)) of the American Chemical Society (ACS) seeks to advance knowledge and appreciation of the history of the chemical sciences among chemists, students, historians of science, and the broader public by

- Encouraging research and scholarship in history of the chemical sciences;
- Providing a welcoming environment for the discussion of history of chemistry in a variety of venues, particularly in symposia at national ACS meetings;
- Serving as a resource for chemical scientists in general, and members of the ACS in particular, who seek to understand the roots of their discipline, sub-discipline, or interdisciplinary subject;
- Recognizing major achievements from the past in the chemical sciences and the individuals who made those achievements;
- Publishing a scholarly journal in history of chemistry;
- Interacting with other organizations interested in the history of science; and
- Adding value to the ACS by helping it achieve its vision and missions.

Division Governance

Message from the HIST Division Chair

It continues to be an honor to serve as HIST Chair and I am grateful for the efforts and advice of an outstanding Executive Committee as well as advice and input from other HIST Division members. On March 15, 2024, just prior to the start of the ACS meeting HIST will conduct its first official Strategic Planning activity since 2008. We have already had two zoom sessions with one more pre-New Orleans zoom session planned. The members of the Strategic Planning Committee include Anna Bettencourt-Dias, Sibrina Collins, Roger Egolf, Carmen Giunta, Art Greenberg, Christine Hahn, Joe Jeffers, Kristine Konkol, Dave Lewis, Vera Mainz, Seth Rasmussen, and Nick Tsarevsky. We will also work with the help and guidance of two ACS facilitators, Bill Carroll, Jr and Larry K. Kranich. Dr. Carroll, an organic chemist, has been both a President of the ACS as well as Chair of the ACS Board of Directors. In 2009, he was Chair of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents. Dr. Kranich is an organometallic chemist, who served twenty-seven years as Chair of the Chemistry Department of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Director of the UAB Center for Community Outreach and Development, and Executive Director of the Alabama Academy



of Sciences. Both Drs. Carroll and Kranich have extensive experience in ACS, many recognitions, and extensive experience in strategic planning.

While development of strategic plans may sometimes appear to be merely bureaucratic exercises, the need and desirability for a new HIST strategic plan is self-evident to the Executive Committee. Fortunately, HIST has many strengths including a motivated, devoted, and sophisticated membership and an excellent Executive Committee that is active and collegial. Our journal, *Bulletin for The History of Chemistry*, continues to publish, typically twice per year, outstanding works (black and white in print, color online) and is a wonderfully tangible return for our division dues. Nonetheless, we confront challenges. These include some decline in division membership including a reduction of HIST Division councilors from two to one, reflecting only in part the decline in ACS membership. Additionally, we need to recruit younger and more diverse membership into our division and division leadership. As ACS introduces changes into the nature of the spring and fall meetings, it has increased incentives for innovative as well as interdisciplinary programs and initiatives. We need current members and new members willing to propose and chair symposia, particularly inter-divisional symposia. Such symposia can be purely historical as well as forward-looking, providing present-day and future chemistry in historic context.

The History of Chemistry Division 2024 Award will go jointly to James and Virginia Marshall in recognition of their scholarship and popularization of the history of the chemical elements amply illustrated by their photographic record of discovery sites. There was one unusual twist to this award. Sadly, Virginia (“Ginny”) died a few short years ago. Our standard operating procedure has been to not make posthumous awards. However, their effective, enduring partnership was one of co-equals in this endeavor. Following discussion among the Executive Committee members, the decision was overwhelmingly in favor of accepting the Award Committee’s recommendation. Congratulations to the Marshalls!

Among our activities in New Orleans will be the symposium all day on Monday, March 18: “Chemistry Discovers the 3rd Dimension”. It celebrates the sesquicentennial of the two independent papers by van ‘t Hoff and Le Bel in 1874 that firmly established stereochemistry, a field first pioneered by Pasteur in 1848 before any solid understanding of valence. There will be fifteen exciting papers presented.

Let me conclude this brief narrative by encouraging you, our dear friends and colleagues, to attend our sessions, consider proposing (and chairing) symposia (including interdisciplinary), and encouraging friends and colleagues to join HIST.

As we ready ourselves for our Strategic Planning meeting on March 15, we encourage you, as HIST members, to submit your ideas to us. Your perceptions of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges and any of your own ideas for improving our division. Again, thank you for the honor of serving as division chair. Stay healthy. Safe travels.

Art Greenberg, HIST Chair

Report of Councilors, Division of the History of Chemistry Fall 2023 ACS National Meeting, San Francisco, CA – Hybrid Council Meeting (August 16, 2023)

Actions of the Council

1. Election Results: Elected Committees of Council

1.1. Council Policy Committee (CPC)

By electronic ballot, the Council elected Martha G. Hollomon, Elizabeth M. Howson, Jeanette M. Van Emon, and Lydia E. M. Hines for a three-year term (2024-2026) on the Council Policy Committee (CPC). James C. Carver was elected for a one-year term from 2024-2025 to fill the unexpired term of Will E. Lynch, who was elected to the ACS Board of Directors.

1.2. Committee on Committees (ConC)

By electronic ballot, the Council elected Anna G. Cavinato, Andrea B. Twiss-Brooks, Thomas R. Gilbert, Jeanne R. Berk, and W. Matthew Reichert for a three-year term (2024-2026) on the Committee on Committees (ConC).

1.3. Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E)

By electronic ballot, the Council elected Linette M. Watkins, Arlene A. Garrison, Zaida C. Morales Martinez, Amber F. Charlebois, and Jetty L. Duffy-Matzner for a three-year term (2024-2026) on the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E). Kevin J. Edgar was elected for a one-year term from 2024-2025 to fill Silvia Ronco's vacancy.

2. Highlights from Reports and Key Actions

- Chief Executive Officer Albert Horvath honored the memory of our newly-appointed Editor-in-Chief of C&EN, Mohammed Yahia, who passed away on the way to the San Francisco meeting. Our thoughts go out to his wife Ola and their two young children.
- Horvath also shared ACS's efforts to engage more members while recruiting and retaining talented staff as we continue to adapt to the post-pandemic workplace. He shared an update on the ACS Strategic Initiatives and the Society's continued strong financial performance.
- On the recommendation of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to amend the Council Executive Function. This amendment codifies the current practice in the Standing Rules, removing the oral reporting requirement for non-elected Society Committees. CPC welcomes oral reports from all Society Committees including those without action before Council.
- CPC voted to discontinue the Councilor Travel Expense Program, effective December 31, 2023, and replace it with the Councilor Attendance Incentive Allotment, effective January 1, 2024. This new approach will provide a single payment of \$2,000 per Councilor, per meeting, directly to Local Sections and Divisions that opt in to the program.
- CPC also voted to move oversight for the Non-Councilor Reimbursement Program to the Committee on Committees with the recommendation that it be renamed the "Volunteer Committee Reimbursement Program."
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on International Activities (IAC), providing the committee with the same authority permitted to its unit counterparts to assist International Chemical Sciences Chapters with issues arising from officer turnover and other administrative difficulties.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Nominations and Elections, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Add International Representation to the Board of Directors, decreasing the total number of Directors-at-Large from six to five and creating an International District Director. Following approval by the Board of Directors, the amendment to the ACS Constitution will require the support of two-thirds (2/3) majority of voting members.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities, Council approved the creation of the Singapore International Chemical Sciences Chapter.

- The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) reported the certification of bylaws for six Local Sections in 2023: Cornell, East Tennessee, Idaho, Puerto Rico, Tennessee-Virginia Highlands, and Wooster.

3. Council Special Discussion

ACS President Judith Giordan introduced and led a special discussion on "ACS Council: Equitable Governance for the Future." She sought Councilor input on ideas to improve representation, broadly defined, on Council and across ACS governance.

Three specific prompts were posed to Councilors for their input and suggestions:

1. Ideally, for ACS Council to *equitably represent all members* we would...
2. The key areas where we need to ensure *greater equity and inclusion in Council* are...
3. I wish ACS Council would/could... ..to engender greater equity and inclusion.

Councilors provided their ideas and thoughts, and relevant Society units will receive this input within the next several weeks. Please share further input with secretary@acs.org.

4. Resolutions

The Council passed several resolutions:

- In memory of deceased Past President Ned D. Heindel
- In memory of deceased Past President Paul H.L. Walter
- In memory of deceased Councilors
- In appreciation of the California and Silicon Valley Sections, host Sections for the fall 2023 ACS meeting, the Divisional program chairs, symposium organizers, and ACS staff for the planning and execution of the meeting
- In appreciation of the outgoing Chair of Council, Judith C. Giordan

The fall 2023 meeting was held from August 13-17. As of August 16, there were 15,019 registrations (13,363 in-person and 1,656 online).

HIST Councilors

Mary Virginia Orna is serving as a member of the Senior Chemists Committee (SCC) and of its Executive Committee. She serves as the Champion on Tutorials for the SCC Inreach Subcommittee. She also serves as Co-Chair of the Partnerships Subcommittee and the Co-Champion of the Undergraduate Networking Activity. (These are all newly designated divisions of labor following the fall Strategic Planning Workshop.)

Roger Egolf timed out from serving on the Meetings and Expositions Committee (M&E) and has been appointed for the 2024 year as an Associate on the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) and its Governance Sub-committee.

Prepared and submitted by Mary Virginia Orna and Roger Egolf

News and Announcements


Awards

Joseph B. Lambert HIST Award

For the second year in a row a husband and wife team has won the Joseph Lambert HIST Award for Excellence in the History of Chemistry. We are happy to announce that James and Virginia (Jenny) Marshall are the 2024 winners of this award. The Marshalls will be honored with a special symposium at the ACS fall meeting in Denver. The Marshalls spent ten summers in a row investigating the many sites of element discovery around the world. The project was essentially completed in 2008, and Jenny told Jim that the results should be made available in the form of a DVD. Jenny took the lead in making the first DVD edition in 2010 and Jim followed up by creating two later editions. Their project received major coverage in *Nature* and *C&EN*. The updated DVD still remains a major source for the teaching of chemistry. The attendees of the fall 2024 ACS national meeting can look forward to a stimulating symposium.

Submitted by Tom Strom

2023 HIST-Substantia Outstanding Paper Award

 In collaboration with the history of chemistry journal *Substantia*, HIST has launched a new "HIST-Substantia Outstanding Paper Award" to highlight the best history paper published in *Substantia* each year. For those unfamiliar with the journal (<https://riviste.fupress.net/index.php/subs/about>), it is an open-access journal launched in 2017. The journal is edited by the Department of Chemistry of the University of Florence and currently has several members of the HIST leadership as part of their advisory board. The recipient of this annual award is selected by a new HIST award committee, with the award consisting of a 500 € prize provided by *Substantia*. For 2023, the award committee has selected "*Animal Oil, Wound Balm, Prussian Blue, the Fire and Light Principium and the*

Philosophers' Stone Made from Phosphorus: on the 350th Birthday of the Chymist Johann Conrad Dippel (1673-1734)" by Alexander Kraft (*Substantia*, **2023**, 7(2), 137-159).

Submitted by Seth Rasmussen

SHAC Award Scheme 2024

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (SHAC) invites applications for its Award Scheme for 2024. The opening date for applications is March 1, 2024, and the closing date is May 31, 2024. SHAC offers two types of awards: support for research into the history of chemistry or history of alchemy by both new and independent scholars and support for subject development of either history of chemistry or history of alchemy. It is expected that applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application by July 31, 2024. The Awards are most suitable for activities planned to be undertaken during the period August 2024–September 2025. However, in exceptional circumstances applications for activities planned for June 2024 and July 2024 will be considered. A two-year window for completion of all Awards will be given.

Research Awards are open to post-graduate (masters or doctoral) students, those who have obtained a PhD since January 1, 2014, and also to independent scholars. Given that the circumstances of independent scholars differ, we are letting members 'self-define' and if there are any unclear cases it will be left to the discretion of the Awards Panel. Awards of up to £1000 will be made to cover research expenses, including travel, accommodation, subsistence (at the discretion of the Panel), the copying or scanning of documents, and library fees. Applications may also include the costs of reproducing images for publication. Those who have obtained a PhD degree since January 1, 2014, and independent scholars may apply for the costs of travel to conferences and accommodation, but only in order to give a paper. The scheme does not fund the purchase of equipment or course fees,

the costs of open access publications, or conference registration fees.

Subject Development Awards of up to £1000 may be made to support activities such as seminars, workshops, colloquia, lecture series, conference sessions, conferences, exhibitions, and outreach activities that support either the history of chemistry or history of alchemy as academic subjects. The awards do not cover the costs of refreshments or catering for these events or the costs of open access publications.

Activities covered by the awards do not have to occur in the UK, and that the Awards are open to members of the Society resident both in the UK and elsewhere. Members who have applied to the Scheme in previous years, whether successfully or not, are entitled to make an application in 2024. Members are only permitted to make one application to each annual Award Scheme. Applicants must be members of the Society in good standing at the time of making an application, and, if successful, throughout the period of an award. For more information and application forms, please contact grants@ambix.org. Membership enquiries should be made to newjoiner@ambix.org. An activity report must be submitted at the end of the Award. This will usually be published in SHAC's Chemical Intelligence newsletter.

HIST News

Historian's Report for Spring 2024

History marches on and will never be done. This is good news. The book on the history of heat is finished. It is now in the editing phase. The Spring ACS meeting will exhibit the next example of the importance of crystallography in the history of chemistry. My co-author, Carmen Schmechel, will also attend.

The Centennial History of HIST project is continuing to produce chapters. The two chapters written in 2024 are on Henry M. Leicester and his contributions to both HIST and to the overall history of biochemistry. Look for them on the HIST website.

While the subject of Natural History is often associated with the animal and vegetable kingdoms, most Museums of Natural History do have a Mineral collection. I have written an invited

article for the Aldrovandia Museum in Bologna, Italy on the Natural History of Minerals.

Current elementary chemistry textbooks often perpetuate old myths and current fads. The Philosophy of Chemistry community is currently wrestling with the subject of acids and bases. The appetite for new all-encompassing theories has degenerated into almost complete confusion. I have enjoyed consulting the classic Baker Lecture book: *The Proton in Chemistry* (1959) by R.P. Bell. It presents a coherent and comprehensive approach to chemical systems involving dissociable protons. There isn't a Lewis dot or a molecular orbital in sight. (An extensive article based on this book is available on request.)

Submitted by Gary Patterson

Announcements of interest to HIST members

Seeking a New Home for History of Chemistry (and More) Books

Available is a *free* technical library of approximately 3000 volumes, which contains a large collection of histories and specialist monographs dealing with the history of chemistry and alchemy, as well as many biographies of famous chemists and their collected papers. Includes hundreds of 19th and 20th century monographs and textbooks in all fields of chemistry, including general, analytical, inorganic, organic, biochemistry, electrochemistry, geochemistry, and the chemistry of glass and ceramics. Many items now sell for hundreds of dollars on the internet. Also included are large sections dealing with the history of physics (again, including many 19th century textbooks and monographs), the history of engineering and technology, the philosophy of science, the general history of science, and the popularization of science. The reason for this offer is that in 2025 the university is tearing down the building containing the office where these books are currently located. This means that most of the books are destined to be shredded.

This offer is extended to interested individuals, college and university libraries, or used book dealers. The only requirement is that the taker arrange for and be willing to pay for the packing

and shipping of the books and must take all of the books. Interested parties should contact Dr. William B. Jensen at Jensenwb.45220@gmail.com

Submitted by Vera Mainz on behalf of Bill Jensen

Auction

Art Greenberg is selling his collection of rare books in chemistry and alchemy, dating from the sixteenth century to Linus Pauling, via McInnis Auctions in Amesbury, MA. Some of the figures in his book *From Alchemy to Chemistry in Picture and Story* are from these books. The auction will be both in-house and online. Although the date for the sale is not yet scheduled, the McInnis website is: McInnisAuctions@yahoo.com. In addition, you may contact Art at art.greenberg@unh.edu if you have any questions about the auction schedule.

Paid advertisement submitted by Art Greenberg

BULLETIN FOR THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY

A publication of the Division of the History of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society

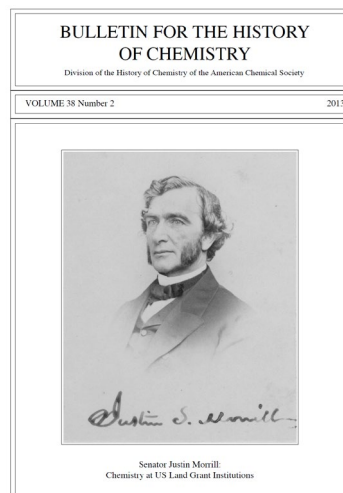
Available online: <http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/bulletin/index.php>

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Full instructions for authors can be found at <http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/info/bull-info.php>

All matters relating to manuscripts, etc. should be sent to:

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HIST Programming

Message from the HIST Program Chair

Dear friends and supporters of HIST, welcome to the 267th ACS National Meeting and to the beautiful and packed with history city of New Orleans! My fellow “chemstorians” and I are delighted to extend a warm invitation to you and your friends and colleagues (who may be unaware of our activities) to join us at our technical sessions. As always, all attendees will get exposed to fascinating stories related to the long and tortuous journey of our discipline, while at the same time they will have the opportunity to build new or strengthen existing connections with kindred spirits.

As has often been the case, we will start our programming early in the morning on Sunday with a *General Papers* session, which will continue in the afternoon. The variety of topics to be covered is quite impressive: from the birth and evolution of concepts and ideas, to the history of useful compounds and materials, to the connections between chemistry and art, to the life and work of individuals who changed our understanding of chemistry. There will be something for everyone.

On Monday (all day), we will offer our first specialized symposium: *The Birth of the 3rd Dimension in Chemistry*, which is organized by Art Greenberg and David Lewis. We are, of course, accustomed to think of molecules as not being flat, and we understand the rules that govern bond lengths, valence angles, and the overall molecular shapes, but how much do we know about the thought processes and discoveries that led to that knowledge? Well, the symposium is designed to enlighten all of us about that. In addition, it will offer a lot of interesting and useful information to educators teaching general, organic, inorganic, or structural chemistry, as well as experimental techniques employed to ascertain the structure of molecules.

At noon on Monday, there will be a poster session close by in the Convention Center, and I invite you to stop by the HIST posters and talk with the presenters. In the evening of that day, there will be more posters at SciMix, which you would not want to miss. While attending the event, please stop by our table at Division Row. Several of us will be there to share news about the Division or simply to meet and converse with you in an informal atmosphere. Please help us spread the word about HIST and bring with you friends, coworkers, or perhaps your students. We’d love to greet them and welcome new members. You and they will also be able to pick up a copy of our *Newsletter* or our outstanding publication, the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry*.

We will reconvene on Tuesday morning for our second specialized symposium dedicated to the *History of Catalysis*. The symposium is organized by Christine Hahn who has assembled a program of talks, which will cover several centuries of observations and innovation.



The schedule and abstracts of all HIST lectures and poster presentations are given on the following pages. We strongly suspect you'd want to stay with us till the very end of our program. Then, full of the newly acquired knowledge, spend some time for a well-earned animated banter with friends over a sazerac (the New Orleans "official" cocktail), a sweet Hurricane (with a similarly prominent NOLA ring to it), or a glass of wine at a good old Bourbon (or another) Street bar. You will be able to continue the conversation with other history of chemistry connoisseurs while enjoying the inspiration juices the wonderful Louisiana city has to offer. And there is a lot more to enjoy on the streets of New Orleans: art galleries, antiques shops, live music, and obviously – great food. Have fun!

We very much look forward to seeing you again soon. In the meantime, never hesitate to get in touch with us and share your thoughts about future history of chemistry events you'd like to attend or – why not? – organize. Have an inspiring and productive meeting, and be well.

Nick Tsarevsky, HIST Program Chair

HIST SYMPOSIA, Spring 2024 ACS National Meeting (March 17-21, 2024)

Schedules and abstracts are listed at the end of this Newsletter.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND HIST DEADLINES

Subject to change. Check the HIST website (<http://www.scs.illinois.edu/~mainzv/HIST/>) for updates.

Fall 2024 ACS National Meeting (Denver, CO, August 18-22, 2024)

HIST Award Symposium Honoring James and Virginia Marshall (Invited) E. Thomas Strom, Dallas, TX 75232, Phone: 214-376-9602, Email: tomstrom@juno.com

Solving Mysteries with Chemistry: History of Forensic Chemistry (Invited and contributed) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: 214-768-3259, Email: nvt@smu.edu

150th Anniversary of the Centennial of Chemistry Meeting (Invited and contributed) Roger Egolf, Department of Chemistry, Pennsylvania State University - Lehigh Valley, Center Valley, PA 18034, Phone: 610-285-5110, Email: rae4@psu.edu

Tutorial and General Papers (Seeking contributions) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: 214-768-3259, Email: nvt@smu.edu

Spring 2025 ACS National Meeting (San Diego, CA, March 23-27, 2025)

Chemical Technologists (Invited and contributed) Gary Patterson, Vancouver, WA 98661, Phone: 412-480-0656, Email: gp9a@andrew.cmu.edu

Chemistry in the 18th Century (Invited and contributed) Gary Patterson, Vancouver, WA 98661, Phone: 412-480-0656, Email: gp9a@andrew.cmu.edu; Art Greenberg, Durham, NH 03824, Phone: 603-862-1180, Email: art.greenberg@unh.edu

Light It Up: Light-Induced Processes (Invited and contributed) TBA

Tutorial and General Papers (Seeking contributions) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: 214-768-3259, Email: nvt@smu.edu and Christine E. Hahn, Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX 78363, Phone: 361-593-3592, Email: Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu

Fall 2025 ACS National Meeting (Washington, DC, August 17-21, 2025)

HIST Award Symposium (Invited) TBA

Past ACS Presidents: Frank Wigglesworth Clarke (1847-1931) (Invited and contributed) Gary Patterson, Vancouver, WA 98661, Phone: 412-480-0656, Email: gp9a@andrew.cmu.edu; Carmen Giunta, PO Box 522, Manlius, NY 13104, Phone: 315-632-4992, Email: giunta@lemoyne.edu.

Tutorial and General Papers (Seeking contributions) Christine E. Hahn, Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX 78363, Phone: 361-593-3592, Email: Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu