



DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

<http://www.divbiolchem.org/>

Secretary: T. D. Meek

Spring 2018

Message from the Chair: Craig Townsend, Ph.D.

If you weren't able to join us for the BIOL program in sunny New Orleans in March, I hope you can attend the National Meeting in historic Boston August 19-23. The highlights of the Division's program (more details below) will be the three major award symposia honoring Professors Mohammad Seyedsayamdost (Princeton, Pfizer Award in Enzyme Chemistry), Brad Pentelute (MIT, Eli Lilly Award in Biological Chemistry) and Michael Gelb (University of Washington, Repligen Award in the Chemistry of Biological Processes). The Hammes Award Lecture will be given by Professor Vern Schramm (Albert Einstein College of Medicine) and a reception will follow directly afterward (please plan to take part!). The ACS-Infectious Diseases Young Investigators Award Symposium will feature keynote speaker Dr. Jennifer Leeds, Executive Director and Head of Antibacterial Discovery at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research, Inc.

To bring all Division attendees, speakers, journal editors and Divisional Officers together to meet and talk over light refreshments, we are organizing receptions at both National Meetings, for all to attend and enjoy. The Hammes lecture honors Professor Gordon Hammes who was Editor in Chief of *Biochemistry* for many years, and the journal and the Division will host the reception at the upcoming meeting. Similarly, at the spring meeting, *ACS-Chemical Biology* will sponsor a symposium complete with a reception to take place directly after the last speaker. Jim Wells was honored in this symposium at the recent New Orleans meeting.

Important deadlines: Nominations for Division of Biological Chemistry Awards (see DBC website)

- Pfizer, Lilly, Repligen Awards: 15 June 2018
- Gordon Hammes Lectureship: 1 June 2018
- *ACS-Chemical Biology* Lectureship: 31 August 2018

- Murray Goodman Memorial Prize: 22 August 2018

Officer updates: The Biological Division of the ACS is a responsibility I am pleased to share with an excellent team of colleagues. I invite you to the reception described above to meet them: Anne-Frances Miller (Chair-Elect), Tom Meek (Secretary) and Christy Chow (Treasurer). I am fortunate to have these dedicated and experienced hands at my side and thank them for their continuing help. Brief biographies of the new Officers can be found below. Liz Hedstrom did an outstanding job as Program Chairman last year. She played the key role running our meeting programs, which is now headed up by Shana Kelly with the help of Phil Bevilacqua and newly elected Mark Distefano. I am pleased to have an Advisory Committee of the seasoned players Karen Allen, Michele Hamm, Suzanne Walker and Squire Booker. Our current Councilors are Coran Watanabe and Andrew Murkin with Barb Golden and Lana Saleh newly elected. The Alternate Councilors are Keri Colabroy and Rob Minto who are joined this year by Tonya Zeczycki and Andy Fisher. The Nominating Committee consists of James Hougland and Victoria DeRose, who are joined by a new member, Sarah Michel. Welcome to all of you just beginning your terms in office. We are grateful

for your commitment to the Division's work. Yi Tang continues as our MPPG representative. We gratefully acknowledge the continued service of Paul Martin Thomas as our Webmaster.

Our goal in organizing the program for the twice-yearly National Meetings is to have traditional thematic and award symposia that highlight both established and early career investigators. In addition to this familiar format, we will continue to organize sessions that focus on the research of young faculty, postdoctoral fellows and senior graduate students with exciting new science to report, much of it drawn from submitted abstracts. Our intention is that biochemists at all stages of their careers, from participants to presenters, will have opportunities for active participation through talks, posters and post-session receptions. To maximize their impact, all sessions are planned to occur at separate times. I hope you will join me in the open, intellectual health of the Division by interacting with scientists from all over the country, and world.

Another important role of the Biological Division is to provide financial support to a range of meetings that feature biological chemistry. Our resources, however, are limited. We encourage our industrial and governmental colleagues to find financial and other ways to support our community of scientists, especially at meetings like this where interaction and open discussion takes place. At its business meeting during the New Orleans ACS in March, the officers voted to provide support for the following conferences: the 37th Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference, Gordon Research Conference Enzymes, Co-Enzymes and Metabolic Pathways, the 69th Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Penn State Bio-Inorganic Workshop, Southeast Enzyme Conference, FASEB Trace Elements and the Telluride workshop on nucleic acid chemistry.

256th ACS Meeting August 18-23, 2018 in Boston

Symposia

Repligen Award in Chemistry of Biological Processes

Michael Gelb (University of Washington)

Speakers: T. Scanlan (Oregon Health and Science Univ.), S.G. Withers (Univ. of British Columbia), C. Gersbach (Duke Univ.)

Lilly Award in Biological Chemistry

Bradley Pentelute (M.I.T.)

Speakers: J. Cochran (Stanford Univ.), M. Shoulders (M.I.T.), C. Wu (Dana Farber)

Pfizer Award in Enzyme Chemistry

Mohammad Seyedsayamdost (Princeton Univ.)

Speakers: J. Stubbe (M. I. T.), L. Hedstrom (Brandeis Univ.), J. Clardy (Harvard Medical School)

The Gordon Hammes ACS *Biochemistry* Lectureship: Vernon Schramm (Albert Einstein College of Medicine)

Gordon Hammes Scholar Lectureship: Timothy Bumpus (Cornell Univ.)

ACS Infectious Diseases Young Investigators Award Symposium

Emily Derbyshire (Duke Univ.), Anushree Chatterjee (Univ. Colorado), Ting Lu (Univ. of Illinois) and Jennifer Leeds (Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research)

Future National ACS Meetings:

- 31 March 31- 4 April, 2019 Orlando, FL
- 25-29 August, 2019 San Diego, CA

Additional Meeting of Interest

- Penn State Bioinorganic Chemistry; 1-6 July Workshop and 6-8 July Symposium, 2018
<http://sites.psu.edu/bioinorganic/>
- Gordon Research Conference on Enzymes, Co-Enzymes and Metabolic Pathways; 22-27 July. <https://www.grc.org/enzymes-coenzymes-and-metabolic-pathways-conference/2018/>
- Telluride Workshop on Nucleic Acid Chemistry; 23-27 July 2018.
<https://www.telluridescience.org/meetings/workshop-details?wid=656>
- Gibbs Meeting of Thermodynamics; 6-9 October, 2018. <http://pages.jh.edu/~gibbs/>
- Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference (sponsored by DBC) 20 October, 2018.
<http://www.midwestenzyme.org/>
- 26th Enzyme Mechanisms Conference; 6-9 January, 2019; New Orleans, LA.
<https://www.enzymemechanismsconference.org/>
- Southeast Enzyme Conference (sponsored by DBC) 13 April 2019. <http://sec.gsu.edu/>

Lastly, mini-biographies of the newly-elected officers of the Division may be found below.

Best wishes,

Craig Townsend
Chairman, Division of Biological Chemistry

Biographies



Christy Chow, Treasurer Professor, Department of Chemistry, Wayne State University

Areas of Research: Structural and functional roles of modified nucleosides in RNA. Methodologies for the site-specific incorporation of modified nucleosides into RNA, methodologies for the site-specific incorporation of modified nucleosides into RNA, characterization of drug-RNA interactions in solution



Mark Distefano, Program Committee Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Minnesota

Areas of research: molecular recognition and catalysis in the context of proteins. Protein prenylation involved in cellular signaling, facilitating the development of new anti-cancer, anti-bacterial and anti-viral agents, selectively modify proteins for therapeutic applications.



Sarah Michel, Nominating Committee Professor, University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy

Areas of research: New families of non-classical zinc-finger proteins, analytical approaches to measure iron speciation in biological systems, NikR regulatory proteins.



Barb Golden, Counselor Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Purdue School of Agriculture

Areas of Research Structural basis of RNA function.

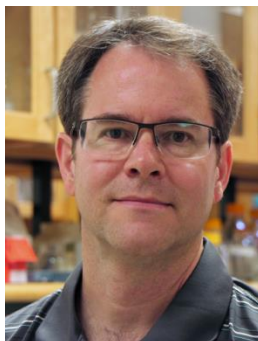


Lana Saleh, Councilor Senior Scientist, New England Biolabs



Tonya Zeczycki, Alternate Councilor Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

Areas of research Allosteric regulation of enzyme activity and the role of aberrant or dysregulated enzyme activity in the pathogenesis of metabolic and neurodegenerative diseases.



Andrew Fisher, Alternate Councilor. Professor, Departments of Molecular and Cellular Biology, and Chemistry, University of California, Davis

Areas of research: Mechanistic structural biology: sulfate activation, RNA editing, glycochemistry and plant immunity

Apply for a travel award! The division offers travel awards for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to attend the 256th ACS National Meeting in 2018 and present in the BIOL program. **The deadline for submission is June 4, 2018, and submission details may be found [here](#).** The level of support is \$750, which can be used to offset travel costs and registration fees.

Propose a symposium! Please submit the application [form](#) no later than **July 25, 2018** for the Fall 2018 meeting to Shana Kelly (shana.kelley@utoronto.ca).