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Chair Column Krishnaja Duvvuri, Chair, Midland Section ACS



Dear Reader,

As we transition from summer into the rhythm of a new academic year, I'm energized by the sense of renewal and purpose that fall brings. We are also looking ahead to one of the most anticipated events of the year for ACS Midland Section —the Fall Scientific Meeting (FSM). This annual gathering is more than just a tradition; it is a celebration of scientific discovery, collaboration, and community! For this month's chair column, I reached out to Dale LeCaptain and Hunter Woodward, 2025 FSM co-chairs, and Wendell Dilling, past historian of the Section to learn more about the Section's Fall Scientific meeting and its history.

Introduction

The FSM is designed to highlight the breadth and depth of chemical sciences in the Midland region through technical presentations, keynote lectures, poster sessions, and networking across academia and industry. Each year, it centers around a theme that reflects timely challenges and opportunities in chemistry and related fields.

This year, the Midland Section is proud to host the 81st Fall Scientific Meeting which will be held jointly for the first time with the 2025 Central Regional Meeting (CERM). Focused on the theme 'Chemistry Reconnected: Empowering Scientists in a Disconnected World,' this expanded two-day event will take place on October 16-17th at Central Michigan University and promises to offer a unique opportunity to engage with colleagues across the region. It will feature a series of technical sessions, career and vendor expos and a robust poster session. Networking and edutainment events are planned for both evenings with opportunities to connect and unwind.

A Look Back: History and Growth

The Midland Section FSM has a proud legacy dating back to the 1940s, when it began as a small internal gathering of scientists at Dow Chemical and Heritage Dow Corning. Over the decades, it has grown into a vibrant, multidisciplinary forum that attracts hundreds of participants from across Michigan and beyond.

Initially focused on internal research presentations, the FSM grew to highlight outstanding keynote speakers—among them Nobel Laureates- Melvin Calvin (1963), Herbert C. Brown (twice,1964 and 1986), and Roald Hoffmann (1992)—and, eleven past, current, or future ACS Presidents, reflecting the meeting's prestige. Over time, the format expanded to include poster sessions (introduced in 1977), vendor expos, and public outreach programs such as Sci-Fest and National Chemistry Week activities.

The meetings have been held at various venues including Delta College, SVSU, CMU, and H.H. Dow High School, and have consistently received support from local companies including Dow, Heritage Dow Corning, and local vendors. Attendance was generally higher in the earlier decades, particularly from 1945 to the early 1990s, with peak attendance in 1969 (1,300 attendees) and 1970 (~1,100). In 2010, the FSM drew a record-breaking crowd of ~1400 attendees as a result of a month-long science outreach campaign in collaboration with WCMU and PBS's NOVA program, broadening the reach of the FSM beyond its traditional audience. Attendance has declined in recent years, with recent meetings drawing closer to 100–200 participants, and is partially attributed to reduced industry engagement.

However, despite challenges such as budget constraints, shifting venues, and declining attendance in recent years, the Fall Scientific Meeting has continued to thrive thanks to the unwavering dedication of volunteers and the support of our local scientific community. This year's joint FSM—CERM event stands as a powerful testament to that enduring spirit and commitment to advancing chemistry in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Two reports in *The Midland Chemist* have described the highlights of Midland Section FSM's: "Seventy-Four Years of Midland Section ACS Spring and Fall Scientific Meetings, 1945-2018"; 2019, *56* (January), p 15-21; and "Seventy-Five Years of Midland Section ACS Spring and Fall Scientific Meetings, Part 2", 2019, *56* (December), p 8-20.

Impact on Students: A Platform for Growth

One of the most rewarding aspects of FSM is its impact on local undergraduate and graduate students. For many, it serves as their first opportunity to present research, engage with professionals, and gain confidence in their scientific journey. The poster sessions are a highlight, offering students from local universities including CMU, SVSU, Delta College, and Michigan State University a chance to share their research and engage in scientific dialogue.

The upcoming 2025 CERM/FSM continues this tradition, with free registration for ACS members, a robust

poster session, and direct engagement with ACS national leadership. This accessibility and emphasis on student participation reflect the Midland Section's commitment to nurturing the next generation of scientists.

Meet the 2025 FSM-CERM Committee

This year's FSM-CERM would not be possible without the tireless dedication and leadership of our organizing committee. I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to the following:

Meeting Co-Chairs-Dale LeCaptain and Hunter Woodward

EXPO Careers, Vendors, and Universities-Allison Abdilla and Wendy Flory

Al Session (Invited Technical Session)-Mark Jones, Dan Dermody, Prakash Shee, and Wenyen Xu

Chemistry Reconnected (Invited Technical Session)-Isabel Meza, Judith Espinoza Perez, Ana Ulloa Gomez, Raghida Bou Zerdan, Gina Malczewski, Sayli Bote, Ashlin Sathyan, Julia Sunderland, and Pranavi Aradhyula

Member Education (Invited Technical Session)-Caroline Szczepanski and Angela Chen

Poster Session-Ben Swarts, Anja Mueller, Janice Tomasik, and John Etienne.

Website & Publicity-Mark Jones

Registration-Michelle Rivard

As we gather this fall, let us celebrate not only the science but also the spirit of community that defines the Midland Section. I encourage you to attend, present, volunteer, and most importantly—connect. Together, we continue to build a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-looking scientific community.

Looking forward to seeing you at FSM-CERM 2025! Visit <u>2025 FSM-CERM</u> for more details on poster submissions, registration, and the full schedule.

Warm regards, Krishnaja Duvvuri Chair, Midland Section ACS

Call for Nominations for 2026 Midland Section ACS Officer and Director Candidates Raghida Bou Zerdan, Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee, Midland Section ACS

The strength and success of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) depend on the active participation of its members. One of the most impactful ways to contribute is by serving in an elected leadership role. Whether you're looking to shape the future of our local scientific community, broaden your professional network, or develop leadership skills, we encourage you to consider running for an officer or director position in the upcoming 2026 elections.

Open Positions for 2026:

- Chair-elect (1-year term)*
- Secretary (1-year term)
- Treasurer (1-year term)
- Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee (1-year term)
- Directors (3 open positions, 3-year terms)

*Note: The Chair-elect position is a three-year commitment, progressing from Chair-elect (2026) to Chair (2027) and then to Past Chair (2028). The Chair and Past Chair roles are not subject to annual elections unless a vacancy occurs.

Why Run?

- Influence the direction of local ACS programs and initiatives
- Represent the voice of your peers in the scientific community
- Gain valuable leadership and organizational experience
- Collaborate with a passionate and diverse team of professionals

Position Descriptions:

Chair-elect

The Chair-elect shall serve as Acting Chair of the Section in the absence of the Chair. Additionally, the Chair-elect will succeed to the Chair of the Section in the following January (2027). They serve on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

Secretary

The Secretary records the proceedings of the Section and its Executive Committee, maintains a list of members and associates, sends to members and associates such notices as the business of the Section may require, and carries out all other duties outlined in the Society and Section bylaws.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall assist in the preparation of an annual budget in cooperation with the Chair and Finance Committee. They shall also pay the bills, handle receipts, keep financial records, and report to the Board Directors. Lastly, the Treasurer will prepare an annual report with the content and format required by the National ACS and file the IRS returns.

Chair, Nominations & Elections Committee

The Nominations and Elections Committee is charged with identifying qualified candidates for leadership positions in the Section, and setting up and certifying the elections.

Directors

Directors are expected to attend Board meetings and to participate in the Board's deliberations. Directors should maintain an interest in local and national ACS affairs so that they can give informed consideration to the Section's issues. They should be alert to the needs and opinions of the Section membership. Three Directors must be elected to the Executive Committee, which may require attendance at additional meetings.

How to Nominate or Learn More:

If you are interested in running or would like to nominate a colleague, please contact Raghida Bou Zerdan at rbouzerdan@dow.com or reach out to any current officer. Additional information about the Midland Section ACS is available at www.midlandacs.org.

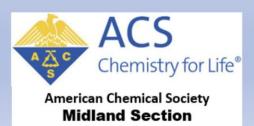
Midland Area River Days Festival, August 2

Gina Malczewski, Outreach Committee, Midland Section ACS

JOIN Midland ACS Outreach OUTSIDE, in Downtown Midland....at the Kids Zone by the Old Farmers Market

Saturday, Aug 2, 2025 12-4 pm

FREE hands-on STEM activities!





Annual Trivia Night in the Park

Kim Dinh, Diversity & Inclusion Committee Chair, Midland Section ACS

The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee co-hosted, alongside the Midland ACS Diversity and Inclusion Committee and Dow RISE, their 5th Annual Trivia Night in the Park at Emerson Park on July 25. Over 70 people attended to network, socialize, eat tacos, and participate in trivia with an emphasis on diversity and inclusion! Team "Past Our Bedtime" took home the trophy. Thank you to everyone who helped with organizing and attended!









ACS Fall 2025 National Meeting & Exposition, August 17-21 Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information contained in this article is reprinted, in part, from a National ACS email communication to all ACS members, dated January 8, 2025.



This in-person and digital meeting will be held in Washington, DC, and globally from August 17-21, 2025. Please see ACS Fall 2025.

This is your chance to share your research with the chemistry community. ACS Fall 2025 brings together chemistry professionals, educators, and students worldwide to discover and share research, network, and advance careers. These meetings are an excellent opportunity for professionals and students to showcase their work and connect with colleagues in all areas of chemistry. Visit the website to learn more about the symposia programs.

Whiskey Pull Project Seed Fundraiser – Call for Donations Hunter Woodward, Director, Midland Section ACS

The Midland Section ACS is organizing its first ever "whiskey pull" in which each purchased ticket will earn the holder a random bottle of whiskey from a selection of bottles. About half the bottles are rare bottles collected by our team over time, and about half of them will be donations from friends of the Midland Section ACS. We hope to use the funds from this event to support our 2025 Project SEED efforts. Please contact Michelle Rivard at project-seed@midlandacs.org to donate a bottle. Bottles can be big or small and of any monetary value, so long as they are unopened. All donations are appreciated, so please consider purchasing a bottle or looking in the back of your cabinets!

ACS Project SEED is a long-running initiative by the American Chemical Society that provides economically disadvantaged high school students with hands-on summer research experiences in chemistry-related fields. Students work in academic, industrial, or government labs under the mentorship of professional scientists, gaining exposure to real-world research and career pathways. The program also offers scholarships, virtual camps, and professional development, aiming to broaden access to STEM education and careers. The Midland Section ACS's local Project SEED efforts have been recognized nationally for its positive influence, sponsoring about a dozen students each summer.



DONATE BOURBON, SUPPORT STEM



Donations will provide paid summer research experiences for economically-diverse high school students



Bourbon bottle donations
Everyday favorites to rare finds to be raffled and auctioned.



Monetary donations Support internship stipends, lab supplies, and safety equipment. Fundraiser Dates: Details coming soon!

Fundraiser Locations: EverNorth, 3 Bridges, and more... Details coming soon!

Let's raise a glass to opportunity, equity, and the future of science.

Thank you for your support!

CONTACT
MICHELLE RIVARD
PROJECT-SEED@MIDLANDACS.ORG

Science Café & Bourbon Pull



Limited Seats! EVERNORTH SPIRITS CO.

Join us for an engaging evening at EverNorth Distillery as we explore the fascinating **science** and rich history behind bourbon making. EverNorth's team will guide you through the **chemistry**, craftsmanship, and cultural heritage that shape every bottle of bourbon.



Wednesday, August 27th, 2025

EverNorth Spirits Co.

1100 Rockwell Dr, Freeland, MI

Doors open: 5:00 PM

Admission: \$55 pre-purchase or \$65 at the door

Your ticket includes:

- Entry into the Bourbon Raffle (EVERY TICKET WINS!!)
 You are guaranteed to win a bottle of bourbon or whiskey
- Pizza
- · Access to the science talk and Q&A with EverNorth experts
- · Opportunity to purchase a curated bourbon flight during the event
- · Exclusive access to buy EverNorth bottles to take home

Whether you're a bourbon enthusiast or just curious about the distilling process, this is a spirited event you won't want to miss!

For more information on this event visit www.midlandacs.org



Join the Bourbon Pull! Scan to Register!



Volunteers Needed – Be A Mentor at Day in the Life of an Industrial Scientist, September 27 *Kim Dinh, Diversity & Inclusion Committee Chair, Midland Section ACS*





Volunteers Needed!

Be a mentor at Day in the Life of an Industrial Scientist

Saturday, September 27, 2025, 9 AM - 1 PM, UM-Flint

Network, collaborate on a problem-solving challenge, and share your career path with college students! Light breakfast and lunch provided.

Sign Up or Questions: Kim Dinh (kdinh@dow.com) or Isabel Meza (mmeza1@dow.com)







ACS Spring 2026 Abstracts are NOW OPEN! – Abstract Submission Deadline September 29 *Vickie Langer, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist*

Editor's note: The information contained in this article is reprinted, in part, from a National ACS email communication to all ACS members, dated August 11, 2025.



This in-person and digital meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, and globally from March 22-26, 2026.

Deadline to Submit Abstracts: Monday, September 29, 2025

Interested in Presenting in Atlanta at ACS Spring 2026?

Presenting at <u>ACS Spring 2026</u> during oral and poster presentations connects you to ACS's 30+ program divisions. ACS Divisions offer a unique opportunity to network and collaborate with chemists in your area of specialization. Submit your abstract today to advance your career goals and position yourself as a leader in the chemistry community.

<u>ACS Spring 2026</u> is your chance to connect with your peers in your division and to share your research with the chemistry community. Visit the website to learn more about the symposia open and to submit your abstract today.

Interested in Presenting Digitally?

The ACS Spring 2026 Digital Meeting was designed to give you access to a global stage. Present your research to a diverse audience that will be tuning in from around the world, specifically to hear about your discoveries and research in chemistry. Submit your abstract for a chance to advance your career and position yourself as a leader in chemistry under one of these digital meeting programs: Global Virtual Symposium, Division Technical Session, Graduate Student Asia-Pacific Symposium.

Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM 2025), October 12-14 Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information contained in this article is reprinted, in part, from a National ACS email communication to all ACS members, dated July 3, 2025.



Midwest Regional Meeting

October 12 - 14, 2025 | Columbia, Missouri

The University of Missouri Local Section will host MWRM 2025 from Sunday, October 12 to Tuesday, October 14. Don't miss this opportunity to present your research, connect with leading minds, and contribute to the vibrant exchange of ideas that defines MWRM. This meeting presents a unique opportunity to share your research and innovations with peers in the field of chemistry.

By submitting your abstract now, you can secure your spot in a high-visibility program, get early feedback on your work, network with peers and potential collaborators, and be part of shaping the future of regional science. The Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM 2025) is fast approaching. **The deadline to submit abstracts for consideration was Monday, July 14.**

The city of Columbia is akin to a cool neighborhood in a big city, with a young vibe, an active buzz, and an engaged community. We are a friendly and welcoming community, with a thriving downtown and an abundance of cultural opportunities. Columbia offers picturesque parks, clever cuisine, amazing art, and superb shopping, in addition to several local coffee roasters and breweries. Several popular neighborhoods are adjacent to campus, including The District, The North Village Arts District, and The Arcade District.

Joint CERM 2025 and Midland Section ACS 2025 Fall Scientific Meeting, October 16-17 Dale LeCaptain, Councilor, Midland Section ACS

Meeting Theme – Chemistry Reconnected: Empowering Scientists in a Disconnected World

Location - Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI

Date and Time – Thursday, October 16, 1:00 PM to ?? through Friday, October 17, morning, afternoon, and evening (tentative)

For More Information – Dale LeCaptain, General Meeting Chair, Central Michigan University, lecap1dj@cmich.edu. See also https://cerm.midlandfsm.org/.

The 2025 Central Regional Meeting (CERM) of the American Chemical Society will be held in Mount Pleasant, MI, on the campus of Central Michigan University on Thursday and Friday, October 16-17. This year's meeting theme, *Chemistry Reconnected: Empowering Scientists in a Disconnected World*, highlights the power of collaboration, innovation, and community in the chemical sciences. Join us for dynamic technical sessions, engaging poster presentations, and opportunities to connect with fellow chemists across academia, industry, and education.

Central Regional Meeting
Midland Fall Scientific Meeting

Chemistry
Reconnected

Empowering Scientists | Rebuilding
Trust | Inspiring Change

October 16 and 17
Central Michigan University
Mount Pleasant, MI
2025 CERM- Home

In a time marked by social fragmentation, misinformation, and growing challenges to scientific integrity, *Chemistry Reconnected* serves as both a call to action and a source of empowerment. This year's joint Central Regional Meeting (CERM 2025) and the Midland Section ACS 2025 Fall Scientific Meeting (FSM) invites scientists across disciplines – chemists, engineers, educators, and students – to come together in restoring trust, strengthening community, and championing the role of science in society.

Chemistry is more than molecules – it's a force for connection, truth, and change. Let's reconnect science with society – and empower scientists to lead that transformation.

Possible program topics – Artificial Intelligence and Chemistry, Member Education, and Chemistry Reconnected: A Call to Action. Poster sessions will also be part of the joint meeting's programming.

Abstracts for posters are currently being accepted through the American Chemical Society portal. Accepted papers will be abstracted and published by the ACS.

Volunteer Session Leaders are needed. Please contact Dale LeCaptain at lecap1dj@cmich.edu. Thank you.

Joint Southeastern and Southwestern Regional Meeting (SERMACS/SWRM 2025), October 26-29 Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information contained in this article is reprinted, in part, from a National ACS email communication to all ACS members, dated July 1, 2025.



Southeastern and Southwest Regional Meeting October 26–29, 2025 | Orlando, FL

Abstracts submissions are open for the Southeastern and Southwest Regional Meeting 2025 (SERMACS/SWRM 2025). SERMACS/SWRM 2025 will be held from Sunday to Wednesday, October 26-29, 2025, and will be hosted by the American Chemical Society Orlando Local Section.

SERMACS/SWRM 2025 will be the first time the conference has returned to Florida in nearly 30 years. The Orlando Local Section of ACS is organizing this meeting and is excited to showcase the robust and exciting southeastern scientific community and the unique contributions Florida makes to the chemical enterprise!

Additionally, SERMACS/SWRM 2025 will be a joint meeting, held concurrently with the Southwest Regional Meeting of the ACS. This meeting will feature scientists from across the southern United States, from California to Florida! SERMACS/SWRM 2025 will be larger than the average regional meeting as a result, providing even more opportunity for valuable engagement between sponsors and attendees. The 76th Southeastern and 81st Southwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida.

<u>Visit the website</u> to find a list of the programming divisions and planned symposia open for submissions. This meeting presents a unique opportunity to share your research and innovations with peers in the field of chemistry. **Note: the deadline to submit an abstract was July 28.**

Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates

- August 2 (12:00 4:00 PM) Midland Area River Days Festival, downtown Midland at the former Farmers
 Market location. Midland Section ACS Outreach Committee volunteers will host a booth offering free,
 hands-on, STEM activities. For more information, please see the event flyer on page 5. For any questions,
 contact Gina Malczewski at reginamalczewski@gmail.com.
- August 4 (7:00 8:30 PM) Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at <u>August 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link</u>, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.
- August 17-21, 2025 (Save the Date) ACS Fall 2025 National Meeting & Exposition, Washington, DC. This
 meeting will be a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. For more information, please see
 https://www.acs.org/events/fall.html.
- August 27 (5:00 PM to ??) Science Café & Bourbon Pull event, a Midland Section ACS Project SEED fundraising event, EverNorth Spirits Company, 1100 Rockwell Drive, Freeland. Admission: \$55 prepurchase or \$65 at the door. Pre-registration is encouraged as seating will be limited. For more information, please see the event flyer on page 9 or visit the Midland Section ACS website at www.midlandacs.org. For any questions, contact Michelle Rivard at michelle.rivard@dow.com.
- September 8 (7:00 8:30 PM) Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at <u>September 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link</u>, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7. Please note: This Board meeting is being held on the second Monday of September, not the usual first Monday of most months, due to the Labor Day holiday.
- September 27 (9:00 AM 1:00 PM) Be A Mentor at *Day in the Life of an Industrial Scientist*. University of Michigan Flint. Sign up or questions, contact Kim Dinh (kdinh@dow.com) or Isabel Meza (mmeza1@dow.com). See flyer on page 10 for more information.
- September 29 Deadline for submission of abstracts for ACS Spring 2026. For more information, please see
 ACS Spring 2026.
- October 6 (7:00 8:30 PM) Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at <u>October 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link</u>, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.
- October 12-14, 2025 (Save the Date) Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM 2025), hosted by the University
 of Missouri Local Section ACS, Columbia, MO. Note, the abstract submission deadline was July 14. For more
 information, please see the article on page 12.
- October 16-17, 2025 (Save the Date) Joint CERM 2025 and Midland Section ACS 2025 Fall Scientific Meeting, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant. Meeting theme: Chemistry Reconnected: Empowering Scientists in a Disconnected World. See the article on page 13 for more details. For more information or any questions, please contact Dale LeCaptain, General Meeting Chair, at lecap1dj@cmich.edu.
- October 26-29, 2025 (Save the Date) Southeastern and Southwest Regional Meeting (SERMACS/SWRM 2025). This meeting is being hosted by the Orlando Local Section of the ACS. The abstract submission deadline was July 28. The meeting location is DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld, Orlando, FL. For more information, please see the article on page 14 or visit the meeting website at SERMACS/SWRM 2025.

- November 3 (7:00 8:30 PM) Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at November 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.
- December 1 (7:00 8:30 PM) Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at <u>December</u> 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.
- March 22-26, 2026 (Save the Date) ACS Spring 2026 National Meeting & Exposition, Atlanta, GA. This
 meeting will be a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. For more information, please see <u>ACS Spring 2026</u>.

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