

# the Catalyst



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**Introducing Our New Chair  
Ivona Sasimovich**

## HIGHLIGHTS

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## ADVANCE NOTICE

### FEBRUARY MEETING

TBD

See the FEBRUARY issue of *the Catalyst* for details,  
call the Section Office at (267) 485-1792 or email [PhilaACS@gmail.com](mailto:PhilaACS@gmail.com).

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## INTRODUCING OUR NEW CHAIR —Ivona Sasimovich

Ivona Sasimovich has lived in the Philadelphia area ever since she moved to United States from Belarus. She graduated from Drexel University with a BS in chemistry. As part of the Drexel's co-op program, she started working at International Flavors and Fragrances (IFF) during her last year at the university. Ivona enjoyed the fast-paced and everchanging world of flavors during six months of a co-op cycle, which intrigued her enough to join IFF full time. Ten years later, Ivona is a Development Chemist at International Flavors and Fragrances where she works on scale up and development of flavor ingredients at a manufacturing facility in New Jersey.

Ivona works with R&D to facilitate process transfer of novel flavor ingredients from the lab into full-scale production. In addition, she spends time optimizing existing processes for cost savings and raw material substitutions. When Ivona started working for IFF she specialized in synthesis of molecules; however, the push of industry for natural and organic flavors shifted her focus towards enzyme work. After a couple of years of on-the-job learning and textbook reading on weekends, Ivona decided to fill the gaps in her knowledge by pursuing a master's degree in biological chemistry from University of Pennsylvania. She entered the program as a part-time student while continuing full-time work at IFF.

Ivona has been involved with ACS since her second year at Drexel University. She joined the ACS Drexel chapter as a regular member. After some time, she wanted to get more involved, and she held the position of treasurer for two consecutive years. In her position as treasurer, Ivona worked on fundraising to sponsor more events on campus. She wanted to increase awareness and maintain student engagement with the ACS. In addition, she pursued volunteering activities within the Philadelphia community to promote STEM careers for female students.

Since graduating Drexel University, Ivona has been an active member of the Younger Chemist Committee (YCC) of Philadelphia. For two years she assisted YCC in organizing local events with focus on the annual poster session in the spring. With increased business-related travel, Ivona took some time off from her active role in YCC, but she continued to attend most YCC events and kept volunteering as a judge for poster sessions.

Ivona started spending more time in Philadelphia after deciding to go back to school, at which point she agreed to run for a position of the Chair of the Philadelphia Local Section of ACS. During the onset of pandemic, she continued working in-person while familiarizing herself with history and traditions of the local section.

Ivona likes to travel, but in the past two years she has enjoyed more road trips exploring the hidden gems of United States. She is always active and prefers to spend time outdoors. Instead of meeting her friends for a bite, Ivona will take them out on a hike. With working full time and going to school part time, Ivona does not have a lot of free time. The time she does have, she enjoys spending with her family or a good book and a dog on her lap.

**Comments  
From  
the  
Chair**



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a chance to get a little rest and all of you are energized for the new year full of activities! I would like to begin this issue by thanking all the members of the Philadelphia Local Section for putting your trust in me and letting me serve as your 2022 Chair. I am both honored and excited for this position. This is my first time serving in this role and I will do my best to lead the members through the new year.

**Ivona Sasimovich**

As a Section, we experienced two challenging years back-to-back. We planned events that got postponed, other traditional events had to go fully virtual and therefore had to change. Some events we cancelled completely in order not to subject our members to more Zoom fatigue.

I plan to build upon the goals of the previous chair and make the transition as smooth as possible. One of my goals for 2022 will be to host some of the great events that were planned for 2021, but got cancelled, like the mini-leadership institute. I plan to proceed with caution on the journey back to in-person events. At this time, I plan to have the teaching awards ceremony be the first Section in-person event of 2022. I look forward to the ceremony in April and I will adjust my plan accordingly based on the outcomes of the event. Safety of the members is my priority, and I will make sure that the program for this year reflects that.

The Philadelphia Local Section is one of the larger local sections of ACS. Our location is most likely the main reason for that since the Greater Philadelphia area has many different universities along with industries that employ chemists. This year I would like to highlight some of the local schools and businesses that are founded on chemistry. I plan to incorporate that goal into both the event program and the contents of *the Catalyst*.

The final goal I have for 2022 is to host a Strategic Planning Retreat (SPR). The Section has experienced a lot of changes recently. At the beginning of pandemic, we thought that virtual meetings would be temporary, but almost two years later they became a new normal. In addition, there were changes introduced to ACS at the national level, like different membership packages. Taking into consideration all these events, I think next year is the perfect time to host SPR. This will be a weekend for the Local Section and all the governance groups to meet and, with the guidance of ACS facilitators, we will revisit our mission and develop goals for the future of the Section. Planning is something I enjoy doing and I would like to take this opportunity as the Chair to host SPR and be part of the team that creates an actionable strategic plan for the future of the Section.

As your Chair this year, I want to make sure all the members are benefiting from our events. If you have any suggestions about future events, don't hesitate to reach out! If you have free time and would like to volunteer, also reach out! We always have something going on and we love our volunteers for both in-person and virtual tasks!

I am looking forward to this year and this new role for me as part of ACS. Talk to you next month!

## NEWS ATOMS—*Alan Warren*

**Zahra Fakhraai**, associate professor of chemistry at Penn, will receive a Rising Star Award from the ACS Women Chemists Committee. The honor recognizes women approaching mid-level careers who have demonstrated outstanding promise in their respective fields. She has studied the effect of nano-confinement and interfacial interactions on the structure, dynamics, and other properties of nanostructured materials.

### DEATHS

**Mike Bennett**, zeolite crystallographer, August 18, 2021 at 82. He worked for Union Carbide studying the structures of aluminophosphate and silicoaluminophosphate molecular sieves. He later went with Mobil Oil and then the International Centre for Diffraction Data.

**Charles W. Pinkow**, chemical engineer, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 79. He was employed for 42 years by Rohm and Haas.

**Wanda L. McGlinchey**, retired chemist, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 85. She was employed by Hercules Powder and Burroughs Corporation before raising her children. She then worked for Wyeth Laboratories and General Electric, retiring in 1994.

**Franklin M. Shannahan**, retired chemical engineer, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 93. He worked for American Cyanamid, Allied Chemical, and then for 36 years with Pennwalt. He retired as general manager of engineering, safety, health and environmental activities.

**Marvin E. Levy**, retired research chemist, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 98. He served with the 716<sup>th</sup> Engineering Depot in Normandy during WWII and then worked for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), which was later dissolved, and the assets and personnel transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

**Thomas Stuart Straub**, chemistry professor, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 80. He joined the La Salle University faculty in 1972 and served as chair of the department of chemistry and biochemistry for 20 years. He received the Lindback award for outstanding teaching in 1989. He directed the Philadelphia Section's poster contest from 1989 to 2005.

Tom served on the education committee as a member and chairman, as a director and councilor of the Section, and chaired the teller's committee. He was coordinator for the Section in the National Chemistry Olympiad and was an organizer, moderator, and demonstrator for the Herb Bassow Memorial Lecture, "Chemistry Demonstrations for Children of all Ages." He served as Philadelphia Section Chair in 1997. He received the Section service award in 1997 and the Ullyot award in 1999. Tom was a 58-year member of ACS.

Lecture by:

***Dr. Mackenzie Hannum***

***Monell Chemical Senses  
Center***

**Virtual Lecture**



January 11 - 7 PM EST

***"Objective sensory testing methods reveal a higher prevalence of olfactory loss in COVID-19 positive patients compared to subjective methods: A systematic review and meta-analysis."***

To register scan code  
or  
go to section calendar at  
[phillyacs.org](http://phillyacs.org)



## SPEAKER'S ABSTRACT

Dr. Mackenzie E. Hannum



Postdoctoral Fellow, Monell Chemical Senses Center

### *Persistent Loss of Taste and Smell with COVID-19*

Over the past two years, millions of Americans woke up one morning with spontaneous loss of their smell and/or taste. Soon enough they discovered it was a symptom of COVID-19. As studies evolved, there was a wide range of reported smell loss prevalence, from 5% to 98%. Therefore, we conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis (N = 34 articles) to understand the true prevalence of COVID-19-related smell loss. When smell is measured directly using standardized testing methods, the prevalence of loss is greater in people currently ill with COVID-19. But what about taste loss? Less research is published as many chemosensory scientists have been skeptical that reports of COVID-19 taste loss are genuine, in part because, before COVID-19, taste loss was rare and often confused with smell loss. Therefore, we conducted another comprehensive review and meta-analysis (N = 241 articles) and discovered taste loss is a bona fide symptom of COVID-19, experienced in 4 out of every 10 COVID-19 patients. And for many, while they have recovered from COVID-19, taste and smell loss persists (38.5% of patients still reporting symptoms at a 6-month followup), and even might become distorted (e.g., coffee now has an unpleasant scent). As bleak as these data are, this situation creates opportunities in the marketplace to develop not only better, cheaper, and more accessible chemosensory tests, but to capitalize on public interest in this topic with entertainment and food and fragrance products designed to appeal to this new market segment.

### ACS CAREER CONSULTANTS

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**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS EXTENDED  
2022 ACS PHILADELPHIA SECTION  
AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN PRE-COLLEGE TEACHING**

Notice is hereby given that the ACS Philadelphia Section invites its members to nominate candidates for the 2022 ACS Philadelphia Section Awards for Excellence in Pre-College Teaching.

The Awards honor two outstanding science teachers. One Award will be given to a full-time educator involved in teaching science in grades K-8. The second Award will be given to a full-time educator at the secondary level (grades 9-12) who teaches chemistry. Nominees must teach in the geographic territory of the ACS Philadelphia Section (Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties in Pennsylvania, and Burlington and Camden counties in New Jersey).

**PLEASE NOTE! Nominations for 2022 will be accepted until March 1, 2022.**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS**

- 1) A **Nominator Recommendation** of not more than 750 words submitted by the nominator according to the guidelines outlined on the Recommendation Form.
- 2) A **current curriculum vitae or resume** that includes a list of the nominee's honors, professional activities, and additional evidence of service to the profession. This must be limited to no more than two pages and the activities listed must have occurred within the past five years.
- 3) A **statement by the nominees** of not more than 500 words that describes the nominee's teaching philosophy or commitment to the profession.
- 4) **At least one, but not more than three, letters of support.** One letter, of no more than 400 words must be from the teacher's current principal or supervisor. Additional letters of support, of no more than 400 words, may be sent by colleagues, members of the ACS who are familiar with the nominee's achievements, or former students and parents of former students.
- 5) **The total nomination package should not exceed 30 pages.**

The nomination package may be e-mailed or sent to:

ACS Philadelphia Section  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6323  
(267) 485-1792; e-mail [PhilaACS@gmail.com](mailto:PhilaACS@gmail.com)

**The Award Recipient will be honored at our April 2022 Section meeting with a plaque and an honorarium.**



**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS EXTENDED  
2022 ACS PHILADELPHIA SECTION  
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING  
IN THE CHEMICAL SCIENCES**

Notice is hereby given that the ACS Philadelphia Section invites its members to nominate candidates for the 2022 ACS Philadelphia Section Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in the Chemical Sciences.

This award will honor an outstanding, full-time educator involved in teaching an undergraduate course in the chemical sciences (i.e.: chemistry, biochemistry). Nominees must teach in an institution that is within the geographical territory of the ACS Philadelphia Section (Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties in Pennsylvania, and Burlington and Camden counties in New Jersey).

**PLEASE NOTE! Nominations for 2022 will now be accepted until March 1, 2022.**

**Nominations should consist of the following:**

- 1) A **letter of nomination.**
- 2) The nominee's **resume.**
- 3) **Two letters of recommendation.**
- 4) **The total nomination package should not exceed 30 pages.**

The nomination package may be e-mailed or sent to the Chair of the Awards Committee at:

ACS Philadelphia Section  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6323  
(267) 485-1792; e-mail [PhilaACS@gmail.com](mailto:PhilaACS@gmail.com)

**The Award Recipient will be honored our April 2022 Section meeting with a plaque and an honorarium.**

## Chemical Consultants Network ZOOM MEETING

JANUARY 12, 2022

### **PLANETARY CLIMATE CHANGE AND EXTREME WEATHER**

**Dr. Jeffrey S. Kargel – Planetary Science Institute**

**DATE & TIME:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 6:30 PM

[Click here to register](#)

**Location:** Online via Zoom! (registration required, see below)

**Abstract:** Human-caused atmospheric change is on a pace similar to changes caused by large asteroid impacts. Its magnitude is approaching that caused by slow or rare large events in Earth history. Humans are on track to impose a climate change influence in just 200 years comparable to what comes naturally about once per geologic epoch or period. Already, anthropogenic climate change has a magnitude typical of Ice Age climatic oscillations. The present global climate is warmer than ever in the history of civilization and going back 100,000 years. Somewhat controlled CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would make early 22<sup>nd</sup> century conditions like those last experienced by protohuman Lucy. “Business as Usual” (exponentially growing) combustion would produce a “Hothouse” climate like in the Eocene, 40-50 Ma.

In this presentation, I will provide evidence of climate changes on other planets and moons, drill into geological deep time here on Earth, delve into anthropogenic climate change and extreme weather, and then project what’s coming next. The situation we face is tough, but not hopeless.

**Biography:** Jeffrey Kargel is a geologist (BS, MS) and planetary scientist (PhD) and currently works on Earth’s glaciers and hydrogeological hazards and on the geology, geochemistry, and climates of Venus, Mars, Titan, and Pluto. He is the former Director of a 35-nation glacier remote sensing consortium, GLIMS (Global Land Ice Measurements from Space), worked at the University of Arizona and the US Geological Survey, and currently he is a Senior Scientist at the Planetary Science Institute. For information please see: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=ge-YXJwAAAAJ&hl=en>.

[Click here to register to attend the event.](#) This session is **FREE**.

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All committees are looking for new members and several are looking for "take charge" chairs. Some, like the Teller's Committee, involve minimal work—one night per year and pizza provided. Others, like positions on Communications or Social Committees, involve one or two hours per month.

Committee details can be found at:

[www.membership.acs.org/p/philadelphia](http://www.membership.acs.org/p/philadelphia)

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