

Call for Nominations for the 2021 ACS Midwest Award

first published 29 January 2021

Your assistance in identifying candidates for the 2021 American Chemical Society (ACS) Midwest Award is solicited. In 1944, the St. Louis Section of the ACS established, and since then sponsors and funds the ACS Midwest Award to recognize “those who have made meritorious contributions to the advancement of pure or applied chemistry, or chemical education” in the Midwest Region. The award has been conferred annually on a scientist who has made such meritorious contributions in the profession of chemistry. The contributions must have been made during a period of residence in the geographic area defined by the territories of the Local Sections that participate in the Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM) of the ACS. These 17 Sections have been listed in programs for Midwest Regional Meetings (or you can call me to confirm eligibility). Nominees need not be members of the ACS and can work in industry, academia, government, or in private practice. Those ineligible for the Midwest Award include prior recipients of either the Midwest Award or any national award administered by the ACS. Also, ineligible are members of the Midwest Award Jury and for the St. Louis Section of the ACS, the Past Chair, the Chair, the Chair-Elect, the Secretary and members of the Awards Committee. More details concerning the main features of the Midwest Award are available in [Bylaw XII](#).

The 2021 ACS Midwest Award will be presented at the joint 55-56th Midwest Regional Meeting of the ACS (the one for 2020 was postponed) to be held at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield Missouri over a period likely late in October 2021, which is yet to be determined; the meeting is to be hosted by the Ozarks Section. Ceremonies feature a Midwest Award Symposium, a Midwest Award Lecture and the Midwest Awards Banquet likely scheduled on Thursday of the meeting. The Award consists of a medallion and a cash honorarium; it is presented by the St. Louis Section Chair at the Midwest Awards Banquet. A condition of acceptance of this Award is that the recipient gives the Midwest Award Lecture at the time of presentation of the Award, which has been at the Midwest Awards Banquet. Our hope is that the Midwest Award Banquet will be held, and the award winner is expected to attend.

Nominations should consist of:

- o a nominating letter for the nominee and two or more seconding letters
- o a CV for the nominee
- o a brief biography for the nominee
- o documented and objective information regarding the outstanding achievements of the nominee.
- o If the nominee is an academic, a list of people who received advanced degrees under her or his direction should be provided.
- o Activities by the nominee that support the ACS in the Midwest Region constitute additional criteria of merit.

Please submit nominations electronically via a single pdf file to the e-mail address given below. They must be received on or before the deadline of Wednesday March 31, 2021 (11:59 pm CST). The review panel is made up of chemistry professionals, resident in the Midwest Region. Nominations are retained and reconsidered (if unsuccessful) over a period of 3 consecutive years.

If you have questions, please contact Jim O'Brien at obrienjja@umsl.edu or call (314) 757-5717 (cell).

Nominations should be directed to:

Dr. Jim O'Brien,
obrienjja@umsl.edu
 2021 ACS Midwest Award Coordinator,
 Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
 University of Missouri-St. Louis
 One University Blvd.
 St. Louis, MO 63121

Breaking: salary survey

first published 11 February 2021

Everyone's most anticipated annual article has appeared in the February 1 *Chemical & Engineering News*. The 2020 salary survey, formally titled, “What US chemists made before the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the 2020 ACS salary survey,” features pretty good pre-pandemic chemical employment news.

The nicest tidbit: unemployment among those responding to the survey dropped to 1.5% (margin of error $\pm 1.45\%$). **Eric Bruton**, Chair of the ACS Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) and one of our Local Section Councilors, noted growth in several chemical-related industries during late 2019 and early 2020: “Overall, it's a nice positive.”

This good news reflects surveys returned on March 1st of last year, when the full brunt of the pandemic economy had not yet affected many chemists. ACS expects member unemployment to increase in 2021, and Bruton encourages unemployed ACS members to use services such as career counseling, webinars, and dues waivers for people experiencing hardship.

[Here](#) is where you can see all the details, broken down, as always, by region, degree level, and economic sector. If you have used your quota of free articles for February, you'll need a member login to view the full text.



Call for Nominations: Saint Louis Award 2021

first published 27 February 2021

Nominations are solicited for the St Louis Award, which has been sponsored by the Monsanto Company (now Bayer) and administered by the St Louis Section-ACS. Nominees should be individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the profession of chemistry and demonstrated potential to further the advancement of the chemical profession. The awardee is selected by a review committee constituted by the St Louis Section-ACS. The award, consisting of a \$1,500 honorarium and a plaque, is presented at the St Louis Award Banquet, which is typically held in October during National Chemical Week.

At the time of the nomination, nominees must not have previously received the Midwest Award or any national ACS-sponsored award. Nominees must be members or affiliates of the St Louis Section of the ACS. Nomination packets received by April 30 are considered for award presentation in October.

Nomination packages (vide infra) should be prepared as a single Portable Document Format (PDF) file and sent by email to John-Stephen Taylor .

Nomination letters, required as an integral component of the nomination PDF-file-package, can be formally addressed to:

John-Stephen Taylor, Ph.D.
 ACS Saint Louis Award Coordinator
 Department of Chemistry
 Campus Box 1134
 Washington University
 1 Brookings Drive
 Saint Louis, Missouri 63130.

Nomination packages (single PDF-file) should include, in this order:

- o a face page with the award name, the nominees name, and the date of the nomination;
- o a nominating letter, which includes note of any significant activities with the Local Section;
- o two additional seconding letters (not more) from individuals who have had a close professional affiliation with the nominee;
- o a brief biography of the nominee (one page or less);
- o a concise description of the nominee's chief accomplishments in the field (one page or less); and
- o a list of publications and patents.

Additional details can be found at [information page](#).

Meeting & Seminars

Board of Directors

St Louis Section-ACS Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of each month over Zoom for the foreseeable future

Date: January 14 ([via Zoom](#))

Join internet meeting at 6:00 pm for social/chit-chat

Business meeting begins at 6:30 pm

Future meetings: March 11, April 8

Maryville University

Seminars are approximately once a month on Thursdays, 4-5 pm. Details are available on the university's [seminar page](#). All seminars are free and open to the public. Contact [Jason Telford](#) for more information.

Saint Louis University

Seminars are generally on Fridays at 12 noon in Carlo Auditorium, Tegeler Hall, unless noted otherwise. Refreshments follow. For the most up-to-date information, refer to the department's [home page](#) and follow the link to the Seminar Schedule.

University of Health Sciences & Pharmacy in St. Louis

The Center for Clinical Pharmacology hosts a monthly seminar series in ARB 212 unless otherwise noted. For the most up to date information refer to the center's [seminar page](#) or contact [Jodi Maslin](#).

University of Missouri-St Louis

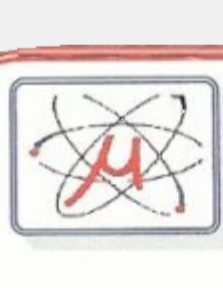
Mondays at 4 pm in 451 Benton Hall, unless otherwise specified. Refreshments 15 minutes prior to seminar time. For timely information on visiting seminar speakers, contact the Chemistry Department, 314.516.5311, or visit the [seminar schedule](#). The department has additional seminar series which are also accessible from this page.

Washington University

Seminars are in McMillen 311 at 4 pm unless otherwise noted. For information, consult the departmental [events page](#). Related seminars, including endowed seminar series and the WU med school biochemistry series, are linked here as well.

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