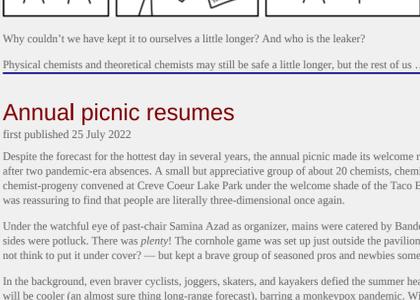


We are doomed!

first published 22 July 2022

The word is out. The source of our power, our very job security, is threatened by this newly publicized alchemical secret sauce.



Why couldn't we have kept it to ourselves a little longer? And who is the leaker?

Physical chemists and theoretical chemists may still be safe a little longer, but the rest of us ... time to break out the gardening gloves.

Annual picnic resumes

first published 25 July 2022

Despite the forecast for the hottest day in several years, the annual picnic made its welcome reappearance after two pandemic-era absences. A small but appreciative group of about 20 chemists, chemist-adjacents, and chemist-proveny convened at Creve Coeur Lake Park under the welcome shade of the Taco Bell pavilion. It was reassuring to find that people are literally three-dimensional once again.

Under the watchful eye of past-chair Samina Azad as organizer, mains were catered by Bandera's BBQ, and sides were pulled. There was plenty! The cornhole game was set up just outside the pavilion — why did we not think to put it under cover? — but kept a brave group of seasoned pros and newbies somewhat active.

In the background, even braver cyclists, joggers, skaters, and kayakers defied the summer heat. Next year, it will be cooler (an almost sure thing long-range forecast), barring a monkeypox pandemic. Will we see you there?

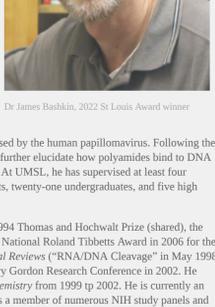


James Bashkin is the 2022 Saint Louis Section ACS Award winner

first published 26 July 2022

Samina Azad, past chair of the St. Louis Section–ACS and chair of the award jury, has announced the winner of the 2022 St. Louis Section ACS Award: Dr. James Bashkin, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

James K. Bashkin received a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from UC–Irvine at age 18 in 1977 and a D.Phil in organometallic chemistry with Malcolm L. H. Green from the University of Oxford in 1982. As a NIH postdoctoral fellow at Harvard, he worked with Richard H. Holm in bioinorganic chemistry. In 1985, Dr. Bashkin joined Monsanto Corporate Research as Senior Research Chemist and rose to Research Specialist working on a wide diversity of projects, including a green chemistry manufacturing process, metal-ion catalysis of RNA hydrolysis, and solid-state reference electrodes. In 1991, he joined the faculty of Washington University in St. Louis as an Assistant Professor of Inorganic Chemistry to develop synthetic ribozyme mimics. While there, he contributed significantly to understanding the mechanism of metal-catalyzed RNA hydrolysis and the development of sequence-targeted RNA cleaving agents. He mentored eight PhD candidates, three of whom are now at Director level or higher in major pharmaceutical companies, one is a Professor at Texas Tech College of Pharmacy, and another is a senior bioconjugate scientist at Pfizer. During his time at Washington University, he was awarded two NSF grants, PRF AC grants, and a Pharmaceutical Manufacturer's Association grant.



Dr. James Bashkin, 2022 St. Louis Award winner

In 1999, Dr. Bashkin returned to Monsanto as a Research Director and immediately won an NIH R01 grant to establish a "gene chemistry" group devoted to, among other areas, studies of pyrrole-imidazole polyamides and their applications to agriculture and medicine. His team filed seven patent applications and published a critical breakthrough paper on facilitating the uptake of polyamides into cell nuclei. He also co-authored a highly-cited Science paper on gene chemistry. As the company transitioned to Pharmacia and Pfizer, Bashkin also worked on preclinical and clinical drug development of polymer-modified biological drugs, helping answer key FDA questions that allowed progression to Phase III trials for a fragment antibody drug. In 2003, Dr. Bashkin left Pfizer and co-founded a company, NanoVir LLC, with virologist Chris Fisher to develop polyamides to prevent cervical cancer caused by the human papillomavirus. Following the success of their first NIH application, Dr. Bashkin began working as Research Associate Professor at UM–St. Louis to further elucidate how polyamides bind to DNA and, most recently, RNA. After five NIH grants, he is currently Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry in 2011. At UMSL, he has supervised at least four successful PhD students, two current PhD candidates, eleven MS research students, four postdocs, eight staff scientists, twenty-one undergraduates, and five high school research students. Jim has published over 79 papers and received 16 PhD patents.

Dr. Bashkin has received several awards and honors in recognition of his work and expertise, including Monsanto's 1994 Thomas and Hochwalt Prize (shared), the Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award in 1998 with his former industrial team at Flexsys/Monsanto, and the National Roland Tibbets Award in 2006 for the company Nanovir that he co-founded. He was an invited guest editor for two thematic issues of ACS Journal *Chemical Reviews* ("RNA/DNA Cleavage" in May 1998 and "Glycobiology and Carbohydrate Chemistry" in December 2000). He was elected co-chair of the Green Chemistry Gordon Research Conference in 2002. He served as an editorial board member of *ACS Chemical Reviews* from 1991 to 2014 and Associate Editor of *Green Chemistry* from 1999 to 2002. He is currently an editor for the *International Journal of Molecular Science* and the *Asian Journal of Green Chemistry*. He has served as a member of numerous NIH study panels and as chair on a number of national ACS committees.

Jim is grateful to his wife, Shelley Shray, and his sons, Jacob and Sam, for their constant support and patience. He thanks all his students, coworkers, and collaborators for their outstanding contributions. He also thanks his colleagues and mentors in industry and academia for their belief in him and their shared expertise. Jim enjoys swimming, running, fly fishing, playing guitar, and singing, but is not skilled at these endeavors.

The Saint Louis Section ACS Award, originally sponsored by the Monsanto Company (now Baker) and administered by the Saint Louis Section–ACS, is presented to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the profession of chemistry and demonstrated potential to further the advancement of the chemical profession. The award, consisting of a \$1,500 honorarium and a plaque, will be presented at the Saint Louis Award Banquet, which usually follows the Award Symposium in October. Details will follow.

Join Fellow Chemists for Cocktails this September!

first published 26 August 2022

Join us for Cocktails with Chemists!

Please join us for a networking Happy Hour at Urban Chestnut Brewing Company — from 4:30 – 6:30 PM on Tuesday, September 13th. Drinks and appetizers will be provided. Please bring business cards and be ready to catch up with STL ACS members. Chemistry students and chemists new to the area are also welcome to come learn about the local ACS section.



RSVP on Meetup

Urban Chestnut Brewing Company
4465 Manchester Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110
Tuesday, September 13th
4:30 – 6:30 PM

Councilor Talking Points, August 2022 (highlights)

first published 28 August 2022

Councilor **Donna Friedman** has kindly forwarded the Councilor Talking Points doc for the most recent ACS Council meeting, a hybrid meatspace/virtual format in conjunction with the national meeting in Chicago, August 21–25, 2022.



Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay

A few of the highlights (but for all light levels, please see the [full file](#)):

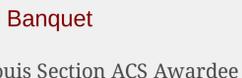
- Council approved the Northeast Tennessee Section's request to be renamed as the Tennessee–Virginia Highlands Local Section, possibly because four counties in Virginia have always been part of this section's territory. Makes one think: do we want to change our own name, to something like the Saint Louis and Bi-state Environs Local Section of the American Chemical Society, or SLABELSAC? It has a nice ring to it, and it's much more pronounceable than STLACS.
- Corporation associates of the ACS will now have their membership fees set using a sales revenue model. Unlike the smaller corporation associates will see their fees fall, so the rationale seems pretty clear here.
- ACS President Angela Wilson introduced and led a special discussion on "ACS for the Future." She sought Councilor input on positive initiatives, programs or events that would greatly benefit ACS members or the Society at large. Three specific questions were posed. Councilors provided input. Expect to hear more eventually.
 - What can be accomplished to enhance the ACS experience?
 - Why (or how) do you think it would make a difference?
 - Who would be tasked with leading this effort (e.g. a section, committee, division, or other)?
- The Fall 2022 meeting in Chicago was again a hybrid in-person/virtual event. As of August 24, there were 11,619 registrations (9,355 in-person and 2,264 virtual).
- Last May, ACS CEO Thomas Connelly announced his resignation, after serving in that position for eight years. A search is under way for a replacement.

And that, as they say, is that.

Chair a symposium at MW-GL Regional Meeting '23?

first published 29 August 2022

The Saint Louis Section is the co-host (with the East Central Illinois Section) of the next year's Midwest–Great Lakes Joint Regional ACS Meeting, October 18–21, 2023.



The Program Co-chairs are seeking organizers of half-day Special Symposia. We have already identified a number of Special Symposium Chairs, but a few spots are still available. If you have ideas for a special symposium, please contact any of the Program Co-chairs listed below to discuss. Topic, title, and list of potential speakers must be submitted by September 30, 2022.

A Special Symposium often aligns with ACS Division interests, but is more focused and distinct from the general topical sessions (e.g., Analytical, Biochemistry, Educational, Inorganic, Physical, Organic). We are expecting all Special Symposia to have a diverse group of speakers, the majority of whom are from the ACS Midwest or Great Lakes Region. A half-day session can handle 7–8 speakers for either a morning (8:30 am – 12:20 pm) or afternoon (2:00 – 5:50 pm) session, with 20-minute intermissions. Symposium speakers can be by invitation or can be combined with a few regular submissions. Special Symposium Organizers are expected to work with the Program Co-chairs to solicit funding from ACS Divisions and other suitable sources.

Please submit your topics, title, and list of potential speakers to any of the Program Co-Chairs by September 30, 2022.

Sincerely,

Program Co-chairs for St. Louis Local Section:

- Leah O'Brien, lobrien@slue.edu
- Marvin Meyers, Marvin.j.meyers@slu.edu
- Jim O'Brien, obrienja@umsl.edu

Program Co-chair for East Central Illinois Local Section

- Alex Mironenko, alexmir@illinois.edu

Reserve Your Space at the 2022 St. Louis Award Banquet

first published 31 August 2022

Celebrating James K. (Jim) Bashkin as the 2022 St. Louis Section ACS Awardee

When: Friday, October 14, 2022 following the Saint Louis Award Symposium at the University of Missouri–St. Louis

Where: Glen Echo Country Club*, 3401 Lucas & Hunt Road, Saint Louis, MO 63121

6:00 pm Open Bar	(6–8 pm) Candied Bacon, Caprese, and Chicken Skewers
7:00 pm Banquet Dinner	First Course: Mixed Green Salad with Tomato, Cucumber, Mozzarella, Sunflower Seeds, and Ranch or Italian Entrée: Japanese Cut Striploin and Asian Glazed Salmon, Seasoned Sesame Rice, and Stir Fry Vegetables Dessert: Tiramisu
8:00 pm Program	
Dr. Tabbatha Bohac	Chair Elect, St. Louis Section ACS <i>Opening Remarks and Award Presentation</i>
Dr. George Gokel	Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Chemistry & Biochemistry, University of Missouri–St. Louis <i>Introduction of the Awardee</i>
Dr. James K. Bashkin	Awardee, Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry, University of Missouri–St. Louis I'll Go to St. Louis for a Few Years and See How Things Work Out (1984, J. K. Bashkin, Cambridge, MA)

Please send reservations, including check or PayPal, by October 10th to:

Jeffrey Cornelius
Department of Chemistry
1 Maybeck Place
Principia College
Elshah, IL 62028
phone: 618.374.5296; fax: 618.374.5122
email: jeff.cornelius@principia.edu

Reservations:

Because of concerns with COVID, we ask that all attendees be fully vaccinated, and asymptomatic when they attend the banquet. Make checks payable to "Saint Louis Section–ACS" and include the information requested below. Alternatively, pay directly to PayPal and include the information requested below in the note window. For both methods of payment, it would be best to send an email confirmation of the information to Dr. Cornelius.

Name(s) _____
Special dietary limitations, if any _____
Vaccinated (yes or no) _____
Number attending _____ × (\$30 each, Premium or Standard ACS members and their spouses, \$15 each Graduate and Undergraduate Premium ACS members, \$60 each, non-members) × amount reserved \$ _____

For information on obtaining ACS Membership see <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/membership.html>

*Glen Echo Country Club is in Normandy, in the southwest sector of the intersection of Natural Bridge Road and Lucas & Hunt Road. A link to a map with directions is available [here](#). Use either entrance:
(1) Main entrance drive: turn west off Lucas & Hunt Road; Edison Avenue will be on the opposite side of the road almost adjacent to the entrance drive. Continue on the winding drive, and the parking lot will be on your right adjacent to the clubhouse.
(2) Back entrance: turn south off Natural Bridge Road onto St Mary's Lane, just east of the post office. Continue through the gate, veer right, and park in front of the clubhouse.

2022 Saint Louis Section ACS Award Symposium

first published 31 August 2022

2022 Saint Louis Section ACS Award Symposium

Honoring

James K. Bashkin

Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
University of Missouri–St. Louis

Nucleic Acid Function, Probes, and Therapeutics

Friday, Oct 14, 2022
Benton Hall 102*
University of Missouri–St. Louis

1:00	Dr. Tabbatha Bohac – Chair Elect of the St. Louis Section, American Chemical Society <i>Welcome and General Introduction</i>
1:05	Dr. George Gokel – Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Chemistry & Biochemistry, University of Missouri–St. Louis, Symposium Chair <i>Introduction and Salute to Dr. Bashkin</i>
1:10	Dr. James K. Bashkin – Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry, University of Missouri–St. Louis, Awardee <i>Pyrrole-Imidazole Polyamides as Drug Candidates- Revising the Canon</i>
2:00	Dr. Gregory M. K. Poon – Professor of Chemistry, Georgia State University <i>Understanding and Harnessing Transcription Factors in Health and Disease</i>
2:50	Coffee Break
3:05	Dr. Jennifer Heemstra – Charles Allen Thomas Professor and Chair of Chemistry, Washington University in St. Louis <i>A Chemical Biology Toolbox for Probing A-to-I RNA Editing</i>
3:55	Dr. Tomasz Heyduk – Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, St. Louis University School of Medicine <i>Nucleic Acids: Templates for Transcription and Building Blocks for Biosensors</i>
4:45	Reception – immediately following in the Science Learning Building
6:00	St. Louis Award Banquet – Glen Echo Country Club, 3401 Lucas and Hunt Rd, Normandy, MO. Reservations required (See link for more information)

The 2022 Saint Louis Award Symposium is sponsored by the St. Louis Section of the American Chemical Society and hosted by the University of Missouri – St. Louis.
*See [link to map](#) for location and parking.
If you wish to attend the symposium virtually, please use the following [Zoom link](#).

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: Sept 8th (via Zoom)

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

Business meeting begins at 6:30 pm

Future meetings: The next meetings are October 13th and November 10th.

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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- **Liquid Chromatography–Mass Spectrometry**
ThermoFisher Scientific TSQ Altis Triple Quad Mass Spectrometer equipped with Vanquish Binary Pump and Triplus autosampler

About the Chemical Bond

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Editor	Jeramia Dry	314.446.8169 editor@stlacs.org
Associate Editor	Eric Ressler	314.962.6415 editor@stlacs.org
Assistant Editor & Advertising Manager	Keith Stine	314.516.5346 advmgr@stlacs.org
Business Manager	Donna Friedman	314.513.4388 bizmgr@stlacs.org