

# Directors-at-Large Election

North American Catalysis Society – [WWW.NACATSOC.ORG](http://WWW.NACATSOC.ORG)



**National Officers** President: Jingguang Chen, Columbia University & Brookhaven National Laboratory; Vice-President: Christopher Jones , Georgia Institute of Technology; Secretary: Javier Guzman, ExxonMobil; Treasurer: Beata Kilos, The Dow Chemical Company; Communications Director: Edrick Morales, Retired; Lead Trustee: Thomas F. Degnan, Jr., University of Notre Dame; Officer Archivist: Uschi Graham.

**Directors-at-Large** Abhaya Datye , University of New Mexico; Ya-Huei (Cathy) Chin, University of Toronto; Anne M. Gaffney, Idaho National Laboratory; Eranda Nikolla, Wayne State University; Fabio H. Ribeiro, Purdue University; Stacey I. Zones, Chevron Energy and Technology; Canada (CCD): Ya-Huei (Cathy) Chin, University of Toronto.

**Club/Society Representatives**  
Chicago (CCC): Justin M. Notestein , Northwestern University; Philadelphia (CCP): Mike Smith, Villanova University; New York (CSNY): Marco Castaldi, City University of New York; Great Plains (GPCS): Steven Crossley, The University of Oklahoma; Mexico (MAC): Javier Rivera de la Rosa, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León; Michigan (MCS): Eranda Nikolla, University of Michigan; New England (NECS): Aaron Deskins , Worcester Polytechnic Institute; ORCS: Karl O. Albrecht, Archer Daniels Midland Company; Pacific Coast (PCCS): Alexander Katz, University of California-Berkeley; Pittsburgh-Cleveland (PCCS): Götz Vesper, University of Pittsburgh; Rocky Mountain (RMCS): Adam Holewinski, University of Colorado; Southeastern (SECS): Andreas Heyden, University of South Carolina; Southwest (SWCS): Michael Wong , Rice University; Tri-State (TSCS): Umit S. Ozkan, The Ohio State University.



On behalf of all the NACS Officers, I would encourage all the NACS members to vote for six Directors-at-Large, with four from academia and two from industry/national

laboratories. They will serve on the NACS Board and represent the broader community. In addition, we ask you to vote on proposed changes in the NACS bylaws regarding the selection process for NACS awards. These changes have been endorsed by the NACS Board and will require the approval of the NACS membership.

Your voices matter. Please vote!

Jingguang Chen  
NACS President



# SAVE THE DATE

**JUNE 8-13, 2025**

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## Nort American Catalysis Society

### Election for Directors-at-Large

The members of the National Catalysis Society will be electing six Directors-at-Large from a slate of twelve candidates this year. Directors-at-large serve a four-year term and are elected by the entire membership. Their new term will start during the Board of Directors meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Elected DALs represent the entire membership by attending annual NACS Board meetings. The election for Directors-at-Large is scheduled to start on March 3, 2025, at 12:00 am EST. The NACS will only allow online balloting to cast your vote. We have contracted with a firm that is experienced in on-line voting to ensure the accuracy and confidentiality of the process.

You will receive an email with the subject 'NACS ELECTIONS FOR DIRECTORS-at-LARGE' before the election begins. This email contains your username, unique password and a link to a restricted voting webpage. Please don't delete this email until you cast your vote. If you have a problem receiving this email, then you need to contact Edrick Morales at [edrickmorales@live.com](mailto:edrickmorales@live.com). The voting site's login page will have instructions on how to cast your electronic ballot. The voting webpage will be open to NACS members (including students) residing in North America for three weeks.

Background information for each candidate will be available in a link to a PDF file on the login page and in the ballot webpage, accessible via a hyperlink represented by a question mark next to each candidate's name. On the ballot website, you will vote for 6 Directors-at-Large, comprising 4 from Academia (with 8 candidates) and 2 from Industry/National Labs (with 4 candidates). Voters will need to log back in and complete their voting if they log out or close the browser window without confirming their ballots. Your password will be

deactivated after you record your vote. A PDF file containing biographies and a link to the voting webpage will be accessible from the NACS Home webpage (<https://nacatsoc.org>). The online balloting website will close on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 11:59 pm EST.

# Proposed Amendments to the By-laws

Below is an overview of the proposed amendments to Article XXII with the purpose of allowing the President to seek additional advice in selecting the award winners. The proposed amendments are highlighted in yellow. The options for voting on the by-law amendment are:

- Yes, I approve the proposed changes to the bylaws
- No, I do not approve the proposed changes to the bylaws.

## **Current Language of ARTICLE XXII — Professional Awards**

- *Section 1.* The NACS as established a series of professional awards for distinction in catalysis. The President is responsible for the selection of a jury for each award, which shall be made up of established technologists in catalysis without having any conflicts of interest in the nominations or award process. Each jury shall be made up of at least 3 persons appointed by the President. Their decisions shall be confidential and reported only to the President, who then tallies the voting, and notifies the winner.

## **Proposed New Language of ARTICLE XXII — Professional Awards**

- *Section 1.* The NACS has established a series of professional awards for distinction in catalysis. The NACS President is responsible for the selection of a jury for each award, which shall be made up of established scientists, engineers, and technologists in catalysis who have no conflicts of interest in the nominations or award process. Each jury shall be made up of at least 3 persons appointed by the President. The President shall appoint the jury members in consultation with the NACS Vice President and, optionally, one additional NACS member selected by the President. The jury's votes shall similarly be discussed with the Vice President and the optional additional NACS member. The voting and composition of the jury shall be known only to the President, Vice President, and third NACS member (if appointed) involved in the award selection discussion. The President announces the decision of the jury and notifies the winner(s).



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## WHY ATTEND NAM29?

Hosted every two years since 1969, the **29th North American Meeting of the North American Catalysis Society (NAM29)** will bring together academic and industrial researchers from around the world to share the latest research on catalysis science and technology.

### CONFERENCE TOPICS INCLUDE:

- AI-Driven Catalysis
- Biomass and Waste Valorization Catalysis
- Catalysis in Liquid, Supercritical, and Multiphase Systems
- Catalysis for Pharmaceutical and Fine Chemical Synthesis
- Catalysis for Polymer Synthesis, Upcycling, and Recycling
- Catalysis for the Hydrogen Economy
- Catalysis of C<sub>1</sub> Chemistry
- Catalysis of C<sub>2+</sub> Chemistry
- Catalyst Synthesis and Manufacturing
- CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Upgrading
- Dynamic Catalysis
- Electrocatalysis and Photocatalysis
- Environmental and Automotive Catalysis
- Fundamentals of Catalysis and Surface Science
- Homogeneous, Molecular, and Supramolecular Catalysis
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- New and Advanced Methods in Catalyst Characterization
- New Methods in Computational Catalysis
- Nitrogen Chemistry
- Novel Energy Inputs for Catalysis
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### SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBIT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE!

**SPONSORSHIP:** Contact **Chris Jones** at [christopher.jones@chbe.gatech.edu](mailto:christopher.jones@chbe.gatech.edu)  
or **Haiying Chen** at [chenh@ornl.gov](mailto:chenh@ornl.gov)

**EXHIBIT:** Contact **Jeff Kenvin** at [jeff.kenvin@micromeritics.com](mailto:jeff.kenvin@micromeritics.com)

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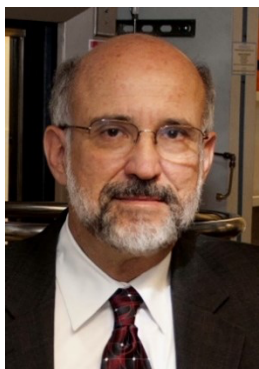
## Candidates for Director-at-Large, Academia



**Ya-Huei (Cathy) Chin** is Professor of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry and Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Advanced Catalysis for Sustainable Chemistry at the University of Toronto, located in Toronto, Canada. Her work focuses on understanding molecular events during catalysis, in particular, connectivity among the atomistic structures, thermochemical properties, and kinetic properties. Currently, she is the president of the Canadian Catalysis Society, secretary of the International Association of Catalysis Societies (IACS), and director-at-large of the North American Catalysis Society. She is also a co-chair of the 30<sup>th</sup> North American Catalysis Society Meeting (2027). She is an associated editor for the *Journal of Catalysis*. Her interest is to build a diverse, strong, and vibrant community in catalysis science.



**Bruce Gates** is enthusiastic about continuing to serve the catalysis community and NACS. My NACS experience includes time as an at-large Director, committee chair assignments (officer nominations; bylaws updating), NAM Kokes Chair (Philadelphia), NAM meeting co-chair (San Francisco), ICC vice chair (San Diego), acting U.S. representative to IACS (Lyon). Service on boards: DOE Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee, Gordon Research Conferences Council, synchrotron scientific advisory boards (SSRL, NSLS-II); editing of *Advances in Catalysis*.



**Enrique Iglesia** is the Michel Boudart Distinguished Professor at Purdue University. He has served as NACS President and Vice-President, IACS Vice-President, Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Catalysis*, and in leadership roles in ACS, AIChE, and NAE. He has been recognized for his service and mentorship with the NACS Distinguished Service Award and as an ACS and AIChE Fellow.



**Christopher W. Jones** is the John F. Brock III School Chair and Professor of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He has served as Vice-President and as a Director-at-Large of NACS. He was the founding Editor-in-Chief of *ACS Catalysis*, is currently the founding Editor-in-Chief of *JACS Au*, and is a Fellow of the ACS and AAAS. His research interests are in catalysis and adsorption and he teaches an annual elective course in Technical Leadership at Georgia Tech.



**Eranda Nikolla** is a Professor of Chemical Engineering at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She has served the community through active participation and leadership. She is currently a Director-at-Large of the North American Catalysis Society (NACS), Chair of the ACS Catalysis Science and Technology (CATL) Division, Chair of the 2026 Gordon Conference on Catalysis, and an Editor for the *Journal of Catalysis*. She has also served as the secretary/treasurer, vice-president, president, and director of the Michigan Catalysis Society and as the chair of AIChE's Catalysis and Reaction Engineering division. As a member of the NACS board, she was involved with securing funding from federal agencies for students and postdoctoral scholars to attend the 2020 and 2024 International Congress on Catalysis.



**Umit Ozkan** is a Distinguished University Professor at the Ohio State University. She has served NACS as its Secretary (2001-2009) and as a member of the Board of Directors (2009-present). She organized the 23<sup>rd</sup> NAM in 2013 in Louisville and was a co-chair for the 17<sup>th</sup> ICC in 2020. She is a member of NAE and a fellow of AIChE, ACS and AAAS. Her recent recognitions include AIChE Margaret Rousseau Pioneer Life-time Achievement Award (2024), ACS George Olah Award (2024), NACS Burwell Lectureship Award (2023), and ACS Henry H. Storch Award (2017).



**Fabio H. Ribeiro** is the W. Nicholas and Elizabeth H. Delgass Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering at the Charles D. Davidson School of Chemical Engineering Purdue University, where he directs the NSF Engineering Research Center on Innovative and Strategic Transformation of Alkane Resources (CISTAR) and co-directs the Purdue Engineering Initiative on Leading Energy-Transition Advances and Pathways to Sustainability (LEAPS). A member of the Catalysis Club of Chicago, he served as President of the New England Catalysis Society (1997–1999), hosted its semiannual meetings (1996–2002), chaired AIChE's Catalysis and Reaction Engineering Division (2010), co-chaired the Kokes Award Committee for the 22<sup>nd</sup> NAM of the Catalysis Society, and contributed to the 27<sup>th</sup> NAM Fundraising Committee. Since 2013, he has been a Director-at-Large for the North American Catalysis Society (NACS). Over his 38-year career in industry and academia, he has organized 15 symposia for NACS, ACS, and AIChE, chaired the 2018 Gordon Research Conference on Catalysis and the 2019 Natural Gas Conversion Symposium, and served as Editor for *Journal of Catalysis* (2010–2018). His expertise lies in chemical reaction kinetics and the development of in situ and operando characterization tools. With deep familiarity across the global catalysis community, he believes catalysis will remain vital for sustainable technologies. If elected, he will continue promoting the field, growing NACS membership, and supporting the next generation of catalysis professionals.





**Yong Wang** is a Regents Professor in Chemical Engineering at Washington State University (WSU) and the Acting Director of the Institute for Integrated Catalysis (IIC) at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). He previously served as Chair of the ACS Energy & Fuel Division and Director of the AIChE Catalysis & Reaction Engineering Division. Currently, he is the Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Applied Catalysis B* and the Executive Editor of the *Chemical Engineering Journal*.

He has greatly benefited from the support of the NACS and is eager to give back as a Director-at-Large candidate. He aims to enhance NACS services and foster a supportive environment for all members, especially emerging researchers, by strengthening collaborations among academia, national labs, and industry.

## Candidates for Director-at-Large, Industry/National Labs



**Beata Kilos** is a technical leader and a Senior Research Scientist in Chemical Science, Core R&D, at Dow. Beata began her career at Dow Core R&D in 2008 in Midland, MI. Throughout her career, Beata has defined, led, and contributed to diverse R&D projects spanning multiple Dow businesses with a focus on heterogeneous catalysis and materials science.

In recognition of her scientific achievements, Beata was recognized with the 2024 Herman Pines Catalysis Award, the 2023 AIChE CRE Practice Award for contributions to the discovery of novel catalysts and pathways for sustainable synthesis of classic and specialty chemicals, the 2023 Guiseppe Parravano Award for Excellence in Catalysis Research and Development, 2018 ACS Early Career Fellow of the Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Division, and 2017 ACS Rising Star award recipient. Before joining Dow, Beata graduated from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland, with a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Chemistry. As one of a handful of scholars selected from across Europe for the prestigious Marie Curie Fellowship, Beata completed work toward her Ph.D. at the Institut de Recherches sur la Catalyse et l'Environnement de Lyon in Villeurbanne, France. Beata followed this with a joint appointment at the University of California Berkeley's Chemical Engineering Department and at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Beata has 30 patents/patent applications and over 80 external publications and presentations. She is actively involved in mentoring, diversity, and inclusion in the chemical and engineering community, founding initiatives within Dow and externally. Beata serves as treasurer of the North American Catalysis Society (2017-2025), AIChE CRE division director and its diversity and inclusion task force chair, sits on the advisory boards of the Reaction Chemistry & Engineering Journal and the Journal of Catalysis, and is associate editor for the ACS Catalysis

Journal. She has also served as the secretary/treasurer, vice-president, president, and director of the Michigan Catalysis Society.

**Personal statement:** I have benefited greatly, personally and professionally, for having grown and lived, and learned and worked, amidst diverse individuals in many geographical locations and to have been touched by many talented and caring mentors and colleagues. I have grown to believe in the importance of diversity of experiences, viewpoints, and cultures in promoting creativity and breakthrough innovations in catalysis through seamless and strong cross-functional collaborations. As Director-at-large, I will continue to bring my passion for science, diversity, and mentorship to promote networking and development both within our industrial and academic scientific catalysis communities and with the broader community, and in doing so try to become an example and inspiration for others.



**Randall Meyer** is a Senior Research Associate at ExxonMobil Technology and Engineering. He has served as President of the Chicago Catalysis Club, as the Chair of the CRE division of AIChE, and as an editor for ACS Catalysis. He has also been involved in efforts for Rigor and Reproducibility in Heterogeneous Catalysis.



**Michael A. Reynolds** is the *Senior Principal Scientist* for Shell Catalysts and Technologies in Houston, Texas where he leads programs for catalyst discovery and development in conventional refining and the energy transition. His research focus includes commercial catalyst development for renewable SAF and diesel; developing catalyst fundamentals for ortho-to-para hydrogen conversion relevant to hydrogen storage; and applying crystal engineering fundamentals for new materials in water treatment and upstream applications.

Since 2012, Mike has served as an Adjunct Professor at Rice University's Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering where he participates in student doctoral committees and teaches lectures on special topics. Mike is a strong practitioner and believer in collaboration with academic partners and national laboratories to solve societal challenges. He has led multidisciplinary R&D projects with partner universities including Rice, the University of Houston, UC Santa Barbara, MIT, and the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana with one project resulting in an *ACS Partnership for Progress and Prosperity* award (2022). He has dedicated time to mentoring staff and students such as those of the MIT Practice School where Shell is a participant. He is an author of over 32 patents, 27 peer reviewed publications, and has been an invited speaker at 40+ universities and conferences since

joining Shell. Mike is a *2018 ACS Fellow* and has served in elected positions in the North American Catalysis Society, the Southwest Catalysis Society, and the American Chemical Society ENFL division throughout his career. Mike is a graduate of Michigan State University (B.S. Chemistry), Iowa State University (Ph.D.), and was a post-doctoral associate at the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign. He enjoys tennis, traveling internationally, and spending time on his farm in Illinois or the Great Lakes with family for vacations.

**Personal Statement:** I believe in the value of a diverse and inclusive work environment where colleagues are free to express their views, to be themselves, and to grow in their development. These values should also hold true in our Professional Societies where we continue to develop our current and future staff. I plan to work with the NAM leadership to strengthen this initiative. I am also a believer in collaboration between academia and industry to deliver better products and fit-for-purpose solutions to our processes while using those opportunities to train students for the industry. I truly enjoy mentoring and coaching students in becoming ready for their professional futures.



**Zili Wu** is currently the Leader of Surface Chemistry and Catalysis Group at Chemical Sciences Division and a Distinguished Research & Development Staff member joint at the Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), the Deputy Director of the recently funded DOE Energy EarthShot Research Center (EERC) - Non-equilibrium Energy Transfer for Efficient Reactions (NEETER), and a Thrust Leader in the UNCAGE-ME Center, one of DOE's Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRCs). He obtained his PhD in physical chemistry at Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics in 2001 and spent over 3 years at Northwestern University as a postdoctoral associate before joining the staff of ORNL in 2006. He has extensive experiences in heterogeneous catalysis, applied spectroscopy and nanomaterial synthesis. He is well recognized for expertise in using in situ and operando characterization methods including optical, X-ray and neutron scattering to reveal structure-catalysis relationships in catalytic solids as a function of time and space. He is an active ACS member, NACS member and several local catalysis clubs attendant, and has organized more than 20 symposia/workshop in the area of fundamental catalysis and energy materials. He is the recipient of several recent awards including 2023 ORNL Outstanding Research Output Team Award, 2020 ORNL-CNMS Outstanding S&T Accomplishment Award, and 2019 Excellence in Catalysis Award from the Catalysis Society of Metropolitan New York.

If elected as a Director-at-large of NACS, he plans to advocate the wide utilization of DOE national lab unique facilities by the society, the experience and training of graduate students and postdocs at national labs, and to promote strong collaboration among academia, industry and national labs.