

NEWSLETTER

July 2026



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Letter from the President

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Beata Kilos-Réaume (Dow Inc.)

Eranda Nikolla (University of Michigan)

Umit S. Ozkan (The Ohio State University)

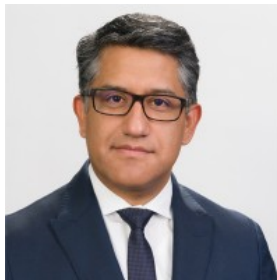
Ya-Huei (Cathy) Chin (University of Toronto)

Enrique Iglesia (Purdue University)

Randall Meyer (ExxonMobil Research & Engineering)

Past President

Jingguang Chen (Columbia University)



Dear Members of the North American Catalysis Society,

As summer is in full swing, I hope this message finds you enjoying a productive season, with opportunities to recharge and spend time with family, friends, and colleagues. On behalf of the North American Catalysis Society (NACS), I want to thank you for your continued support and engagement with our vibrant community. I want to invite you to read this newsletter, which is filled with relevant information from and for our community. The enthusiasm and dedication of our members continue to strengthen our Society and advance the field of catalysis across academia, industry, and national laboratories.

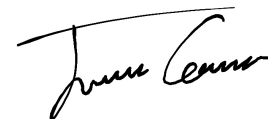
One of the highlights on our horizon is the upcoming 30th North American Meeting (NAM30), which will be held in Toronto, Canada on June 13-18, 2027. I encourage all members to consider submitting an abstract and sharing their latest research with our community. The North American Meeting remains the premier forum for showcasing scientific advances, fostering new collaborations, and connecting researchers across disciplines and career stages. Whether you are presenting your first conference contribu-

tion or sharing the latest developments from an established research program, your participation helps make NAM30 a dynamic and impactful event.

I would also like to encourage greater engagement from our local Catalysis Clubs. These organizations play a vital role in connecting researchers within their regions, supporting students and early-career scientists, and strengthening our catalysis community from the ground up. NACS is eager to work more closely with local clubs to promote activities, share news, and create new opportunities for collaboration across North America. If your local club has ideas for partnering with NACS or would like to highlight upcoming events, I encourage you to reach out. Together, we can build an even stronger and more connected community.

As we look forward to an exciting fall filled with scientific exchange and new opportunities, I hope you are able to enjoy the remainder of the summer. I encourage you to take time to recharge, while also continuing to engage with NACS through our Society initiatives. Thank you for being an important part of our community.

Wishing you a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Javier Guzman'.

Javier Guzman

President, North American Catalysis Society

Prof. Umit S. Ozkan Receives the 2027 NACS Award for Distinguished Service in the Advancement of Catalysis

Professor Umit S. Ozkan is awarded for her transformative service to the field of catalysis through her cutting-edge research, leadership, mentorship, and community-building.



Her sustained contributions to NACS and the broader catalysis community spanning over many decades have fostered cross-society collaboration, elevated standards for scholarship, and expanded participation across the field. Her impact includes mentoring 100+ researchers, serving in many leadership roles in professional organizations, extensive editorial service, and pioneering field-bridging contributions linking thermal catalysis and electrocatalysis. She is recognized by many awards, including NACS Burwell Award, ACS Olah and Storch Awards, AIChE Margaret Rousseau Life-time Achievement Award and by election to the National Academy of Engineering.

Congratulations, Prof. Ozkan!

Javier Guzman

President, North American Catalysis Society

Read More: <https://nacatsoc.org/>

2027 Eugene J. Houdry Award: Thanks for Your Nominations

Nominations for the 2027 Eugene J. Houdry Award in Applied Catalysis closed on July 17, 2026. We thank all who submitted nominations. The selection committee is now in the process of evaluating candidates; the recipient will be announced at nacatsoc.org/awards/houdry and in a future issue of this newsletter.

Seeking Nominations for the Paul H. Emmett Award in Fundamental Catalysis

The Paul H. Emmett Award in Fundamental Catalysis is sponsored by W.R. Grace & Co. It is administered by the North American Catalysis Society (NACS) and is presented at a meeting of the NACS, where each awardee will be asked to give a plenary lecture. The award consists of a plaque and a prize of \$5,000. An additional \$500 is available for otherwise unreimbursed travel expenses.

The purpose of the award is to recognize and encourage individual contributions in the field of catalysis with emphasis on discovery and understanding of catalytic phenomena, proposal of catalytic reaction mechanisms, and identification and description of catalytic sites and species. Any award winner must not have turned 46 years of age on April 1st of the year of a regularly scheduled NACS meeting; thus nominating documents should indicate the age and birth date of the nominee.

Nomination package (submitted as a single PDF file and not exceeding the indicated length):

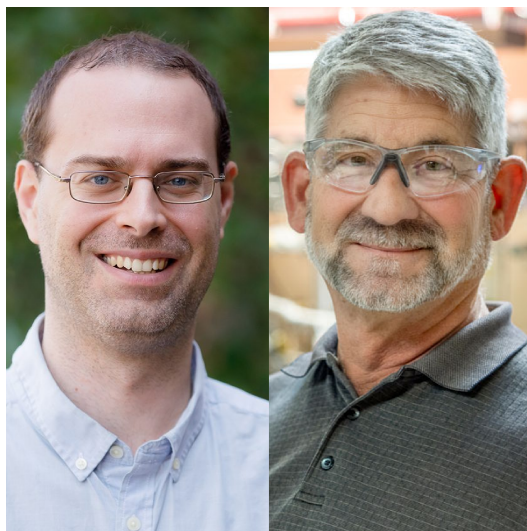
- A nominating letter (1,000 words)
- Two supporting letters (800 words each)
- A narrative biographical note (500 words)
- A list and critical assessment of up to five key contributions to catalysis (1,000 words or less)
- A curriculum vitae of the nominee, including relevant positions and recognitions and a list of publications and patents

Nominating packages for the award must be received by **18-September-2026**. All nominating packages for the Emmett Award should be sent electronically to Javier Guzman, President, North American Catalysis Society, at Javier.guzman@tec.mx.

Read More: <https://nacatsoc.org/>

2026 ACS CATL Division Awards Announcement

The Catalysis Science and Technology Division (CATL) of the American Chemical Society (ACS) proudly announces the winners of the 2026 Division Awards. These awards recognize individuals who have made exceptionally impactful contributions to the design, synthesis and/or chemical or mechanistic characterization of catalysts, which significantly advance the science and practice of catalysis. Congratulations to Prof. Tibor Szilvási, University of Alabama, recipient of the 2026 Early Career Award in Catalysis. This award recognizes and encourages accomplishments and innovation of unusual merit by an individual in early stages of their career, emphasizing independence and creativity.



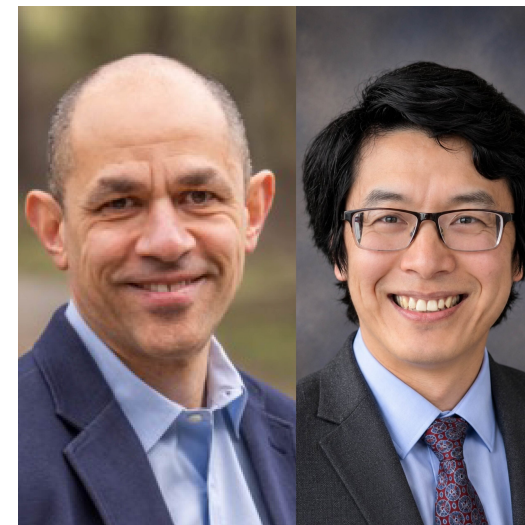
Congratulations to Prof. John (JR) Regalbuto, University of South Carolina, recipient of the 2026 award for Exceptional Achievement in Catalysis. This award acknowledges excellence and scientific leadership in catalysis science and technology by an individual, emphasizing the impact of a researcher's body of work over the last decade in the broad field of catalytic chemistry and catalytic materials or molecules.

Profs. Szilvási's and Regalbuto's accomplishments will be celebrated during awards symposia to be held as part of the Fall 2026 American Chemical Society National Meeting, Chicago, August 23-27.

Read More: <https://www.acs.org/>

ACS Catalysis Lectureship 2026 for the Advancement of Catalytic Science in Heterogeneous Catalysis

The ACS Catalysis Lectureship for the Advancement of Catalytic Science in Heterogeneous Catalysis recognizes researchers having a recent, significant publication in ACS Catalysis. This year's winning paper, entitled CO Oxidation on Ir₁/TiO₂: Resolving Ligand Dynamics and Elementary Reaction Steps ([ACS Catal. 2023, 13, 12, 7802–7811](#)) was co-led by Professors Ayman M. Karim (University of Virginia) and Hongliang Xin (Virginia Tech) which reveals the complexity of CO oxidation mechanism on TiO₂-supported Ir single atoms.



In their work, kinetic measurements, operando spectroscopy, and quantum-chemical calculations showed that the reaction mechanism has two kinetically relevant steps, an O₂ dissociation step and an Eley-Rideal-type step where a gas phase CO reacts with an Ir complex having an unreactive CO bound ligand. Their work showed the ability to identify rate-controlling steps, isolate specific reaction intermediates and identify which ligands participate in the reaction while others are spectators, details which have been traditionally limited to homogeneous catalysts. Additional information about this work and the awardees can be found at ACS Catalysis 2026 Lectureship and Award Winners.

Profs. Karim's and Xin's Lectureship will be celebrated during a symposium to be held as part of the Fall 2026 American Chemical Society National Meeting, Chicago, August 23-27.

Read More: <https://www.acs.org/>

Awards Presented by the North American Catalysis Society

The North American Catalysis Society (NACS) sponsors six prestigious awards and lectureships to recognize the accomplishments of catalysis scientists, technologists, and engineers and to promote the advancement of catalysis science and technology in North America and worldwide. See below for specific information about each award.

Three of these awards include plenary lectures at NACS biennial meetings (Eugene J. Houdry Award in Applied Catalysis, Paul H. Emmett Award in Fundamental Catalysis, and Michel Boudart Award for the Advancement of Catalysis, the latter jointly presented with the European Federation of Catalysis Societies and NACS). The F. G. Ciapetta and Robert Burwell Lectureships in Catalysis involve lectures at local club/society meetings and the presentation of the awards at the NACS meeting banquet. The NACS Award for Distinguished Service in the Advancement of Catalysis is the most recent recognition instituted by the Society. Each of these awards is presented at a NACS meeting. Nomination deadlines are listed on the NACS website; each award has a separate deadline.

Canvassing and Nomination Processes

NACS encourages all nominations for these awards. Nominators and nominees need not be NACS members. The President of NACS instructs the Vice President of NACS to form a canvassing committee for each cycle of each award to ensure a full slate of outstanding candidates. This committee for each award consists of recognized experts within the catalysis community at-large, and the committee mem-

bership is varied to ensure representation of a broad spectrum of the community and to include people from underrepresented groups. The committee identifies worthy candidates, and, together with the Vice President, seeks nominators for each candidate but provides no specific guidance about the preparation of nomination packages beyond that provided on the NACS website. The Vice President also instructs the Secretary of NACS to be in contact with representatives of each of the local NACS clubs/societies to request that they canvass for nominations within their local sections. All nomination cycles and deadlines for nominations are announced in the quarterly NACS newsletter and posted on the NACS website. The deadlines are strictly followed.

Award Recipient Nomination Process

The jury that selects each NACS award recipient consists of scientists, engineers, and technologists recognized as experts and representing industry, academia, and national laboratories. The selection jury is appointed by the NACS President, who seeks guidance in selecting its members from the Vice President and from senior members of the catalysis community. The identities of the jury members are kept in the strictest confidence and known only to the President. The members of each jury must have no affiliation with any of the nominees, and all jurors are specifically asked to disclose any conflicts of interest and to disqualify themselves without prejudice when a conflict exists. The members of the jury are not known to each other. Their communications with regard to nominations are with the NACS President only and are required to be kept

strictly confidential.

The NACS President provides the jury with the nomination packages for all candidates within two weeks of the nomination deadline; in the intervening time, potential jury members are asked about their willingness to serve. The NACS President provides guidance to jury members about how to present their rankings of nominees. The members of the jury rank the candidates and provide specific details for their selections for their top three candidates. In some cases, jury members may be asked to again rank the top two candidates side-by-side, after considering their respective nomination packages once again.

The recipient of each NACS Award and the nominator of the award recipient will be informed by the President of NACS of the decision of the jury, followed by the President’s notification of jury members and of nominators of each of the other candidates.

A formal announcement, composed by the President of NACS in consultation with the recipient and the nominator of the recipient, is published on the NACS website and in the NACS newsletter and may be submitted to other venues for announcement. Each award is presented at the biennial NACS meeting, where the respective citations are read and each award winner receives a plaque.

Procedures for evaluation of nominations for the Boudart Award are broadly consistent with the procedures stated above for NACS awards, but the procedures are determined jointly by NACS and the European Federation of Catalysis Societies.

Award Deadlines

Service	15 May 2026
Houdry	17 Jul. 2026
Emmett	18 Sept. 2026
Boudart	6 Nov. 2026
Ciapetta	7 Nov. 2027
Burwell	25 Jan. 2027

See more details: <https://nacatsoc.org/awards/>

Previous Winners of the North American Catalysis Society Awards

Michel Boudart Award for the Advancement of Catalysis

- 2007 Alexis T. Bell
- 2009 Avelino Corma Canos
- 2011 James A. Dumesic
- 2013 Jens Nørskov
- 2015 Hajo Freund
- 2017 Bruce Gates
- 2019 Enrique Iglesia
- 2021 Graham Hutchings
- 2023 Johannes Lercher
- 2025 Bert Weckhuysen

Robert Burwell Lectureship in Catalysis

- 1983 Robert L. Burwell
- 1985 Wolfgang M. H. Sachtler
- 1987 John B. Peri
- 1989 Jack H. Lunsford
- 1991 Kamil Klier
- 1993 Werner O. Haag
- 1997 Wayne Goodman
- 1999 Harold Kung
- 2001 Tobin Marks
- 2003 Alexis T. Bell
- 2005 Enrique Iglesia
- 2007 James Dumesic
- 2009 Bruce Gates
- 2011 Johannes A. Lercher
- 2013 Charles Campbell
- 2015 Matt Neurock
- 2017 Jingguang Chen
- 2019 Abhaya Datye
- 2021 Manos Mavrikakis
- 2023 Umit Ozkan
- 2025 Yong Wang

F. G. Ciapetta Lectureship in Catalysis

- 1967 Jan H. deBoer
- 1968 John Sinfelt
- 1969 Stanlislas Teichner
- 1972 George C.A. Schuit
- 1973 Jose J. Fripiat
- 1974 Dennis A. Dowden
- 1975 Pierre C. Gravelle
- 1976 Gerhard Ertl
- 1977 John R. Anderson
- 1986 Michel Boudart
- 1988 James D. Idol
- 1990 W. Keith Hall
- 1992 R. van Santen
- 1994 John J. Rooney
- 1996 George Kokotailo
- 1998 Avelino Corma
- 2000 Gary McVicker
- 2002 John Monnier
- 2004 Douglas Stephan
- 2006 Stuart Soled
- 2008 Robert Farrauto
- 2010 Jeffrey T. Miller
- 2012 Thomas Degnan
- 2014 Paul Barger
- 2016 Ahmad Moini
- 2018 Teh Ho
- 2020 Cong-Yan Chen
- 2022 Sourav Sengupta
- 2024 Aleksey Yezerets
- 2026 David West

Paul H. Emmett Award in Fundamental Catalysis

- 1971 Richard J. Kokes
- 1973 John H. Sinfelt
- 1975 Jack H. Lunsford
- 1977 Gabor A. Somorjai
- 1979 Gerhard Ertl
- 1981 Peter A. Jacobs
- 1983 Robert J. Madix
- 1985 Alexis T. Bell
- 1987 M. Albert Vannice
- 1989 James A. Dumesic
- 1991 Harold Kung
- 1993 Mark Barteau
- 1995 Mark Davis
- 1997 Enrique Iglesia
- 1999 Raymond Gorte
- 2001 Donna Blackmond
- 2003 Francisco Zaera
- 2005 Matthew Neurock
- 2007 Robert J. Davis
- 2009 Manos Mavrikakis
- 2011 Bert Weckhuysen
- 2013 Christopher W. Jones
- 2015 Christophe COPÉRET
- 2017 Suljo Linic
- 2019 Javier Pérez-Ramírez
- 2021 Thomas Jaramillo
- 2022 Beatriz Roldan Cuenya
- 2023–2024 Aditya Bhan
- 2023–2024 Yuriy Román-Leshkov
- 2025–2026 Phillip Christopher
- 2025–2026 David Flaherty

Eugene J. Houdry Award in Applied Catalysis

- 1971 Herman S. Bloch
- 1973 Charles J. Plank
- 1975 Heinz Heinemann
- 1977 Vladimir Haensel
- 1979 Adalbert Farkas
- 1981 Herman Pines
- 1983 Milton Orchin
- 1985 John W. Ward
- 1987 Ralph J. Bertolacini
- 1989 Jule A. Rabo
- 1991 James Roth
- 1993 Wolfgang M. H. Sachtler
- 1995 Madan Bhasin
- 1997 John Armor
- 1999 Clarence Chang
- 2001 Leo Manzer
- 2003 Avelino Corma
- 2005 Henrik Topsøe
- 2007 Stacey Zones
- 2009 Jeffrey Beck
- 2011 James C. Stevens
- 2013 Giuseppe Bellussi
- 2015 Anne Gaffney
- 2017 Jeffery Bricker
- 2019 Hai-Ying Chen
- 2021 Deng-Yang (DY) Jan
- 2023 Stephen R. Schmidt
- 2025 José G. Santiesteban

NACS Award for Distinguished Service in the Advancement of Catalysis

- 2010 W. Nicholas Delgass
- 2012 John Armor
- 2014 Burtron H. Davis
- 2016 Gary L. Haller
- 2018 Alexis T. Bell
- 2021 Enrique Iglesia
- 2023 Stuart Soled
- 2025 Bruce Gates
- 2027 Umit Ozkan

SECS held its 24th Annual Symposium at Virginia Tech

The Southeastern Catalysis Society (SECS) held its 24th Annual Symposium at Virginia Tech in the Data and Decision Sciences Building in Blacksburg, VA, on March 9th and 10th, 2026. The meeting began on Monday morning with an invited lecture from Dr. Gina Noh (Penn State), entitled “Structure-function relationships toward stable catalysts for atom-efficient reactions”. The keynote was followed by 9 oral presentations by students and faculty from the region. After lunch on Monday, we had a keynote lecture given by Dr. Yong Wang (Washington State University) who was the recipient of the 2025 Robert Burwell Lectureship in Catalysis administered by the North American Catalysis Society. Dr. Wang’s lecture was titled “Catalysis: Advancing Efficient and Affordable Energy Conversion”. This talk was followed by 6 more student oral presentations. The day was concluded with a poster session featuring 47 contributed posters, followed by a dinner with lively discussions. On Tuesday, March 10th, the Symposium started with an invited presentation from Dr. Guoxiang (Emma) Hu (Georgia Tech), entitled “AI-Accelerated Catalyst Design: From Data-Driven Discovery to Autonomous Design”. Nine oral presentations were given by students and faculty on Tuesday morning.



Student oral and poster presentation competition winners were presented cash awards sponsored by Eastman. Presentation Awards: (in no particular order) Geoffrey Hopping of Georgia Tech with the presentation “Alkyl Chain Solvation Impacts Energy Scaling Relationships of Primary n-Alcohol Oxidation to Aldehydes on Au Anodes.” Geoffrey is advised by Prof. David Flaherty; Tristan Maxson of The University of Alabama with the presentation “Resolving the CO Puzzle on Surfaces and Nanoparticles with DFT+U.” Tristan is advised by Prof. Tibor Szilvasi; Aaron Frye of NC State with the presentation “Sustainable Alkenyl Benzene Monomer Production through Chemical Looping Oxidative Dehydrogenation.” Aaron is advised by Prof. Fanxing Li. Poster Awards: (in no particular order) Ankit Bansal of Georgia Tech with the poster “Choosing the Right Computational Model for Electrochemical Catalysis: Insights from Hydrogen Evolution on MoS₂.” Ankit is advised by Prof. Emma Hu. Maria Victoria Zuniga of the University of Virginia with the poster “Identifying Stable Chlorine-Promoted Silver Surfaces Using Machine-Learning-Accelerated Simulations.” Maria is advised by Prof. Chris Paolucci. Mohammad Ghadiri of Georgia Tech with the poster “Elucidation of the reaction mechanism for C-C bond formation in the electrochemical reduction of carbonyl Compounds.” Mohammad is advised by Prof. David Flaherty.

The 24th Annual SECS Symposium exhibited a record attendance. A total of 110 scientists and engineers, with attendees from 13 Universities, one national laboratory, and three commercial vendors. Exhibitors at the symposium were Anton Paar and Micromeritics.

The SECS gratefully acknowledges the long-term generous support of the Symposium from Malvern Panalytical, and the NACS. The SECS gratefully acknowledges the financial sponsorship for this year’s symposium: Virginia Tech Department of Chemical Engineering (Platinum-level), UVA Chemical Engineering and Virginia Tech Research and Innovation (Gold-level), Anton Paar and Johnson Matthey (Silver-level). Poster awards were sponsored by the Chemical Engineering Journal (Elsevier).

Read More: <https://nacatsoc.org/>

Spring 2026 Meeting of the New England Catalysis Society

The New England Catalysis Society (NECS) held its Spring 2026 meeting at the University of Maine in Orono, ME on Friday, May 29th. During this meeting, attendees heard fantastic talks highlighting the diverse perspectives on catalysis in New England from Profs. Rory Waterman of the University of Vermont, Friederike Jentoft of the University of Massachusetts—Amherst, Andy Peterson of Brown University, Julia Valla of the University of Connecticut, and Fanglin Che of Worcester Polytechnic Institute. We additionally welcomed Prof. Aditya Bhan from the University of Minnesota to share a keynote address on the roles of surface crowding in hydrogenation and oxidation catalysis.



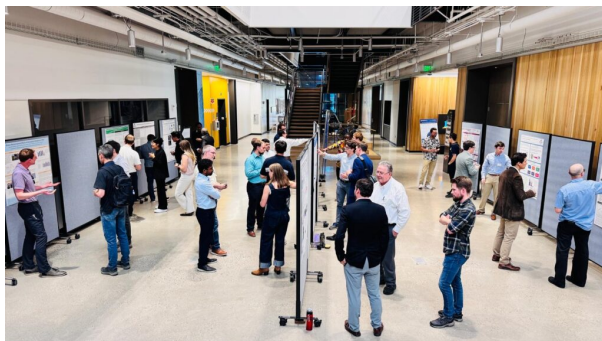
We would further like to congratulate the 15 students who presented posters in our competition with three particularly excellent contributions from Joel Gravesande (1st place, U Maine, advisor: Tom Schwartz), Seth Drahusz (2nd place, UNH, advisor: Nan Yi), and Kirk Badger (3rd place, Brown, advisor: Franklin Goldsmith). NECS would like to thank Profs. Tom Schwartz, Brian Frederick, and Heather LeClerc for their organization of this meeting, as well as the Maine Local Section of the American Chemical Society, Malvern Panalytical, and Cell Press for their support.



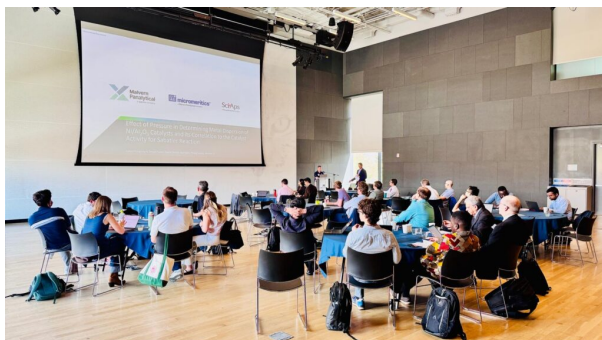
Read More: <https://nacatsoc.org/>

Rocky Mountain Catalysis Society (RMCS) 40th Annual Symposium

The Rocky Mountain Catalysis Society (RMCS) held its 40th Annual Symposium at Montana State University in Bozeman, MT on May 29, 2026. The symposium brought together 37 researchers from academia, national laboratories, and industry to discuss recent advances in catalysis, reaction engineering, and sustainable chemical processes. Attendees enjoyed a keynote lecture from Prof. Yong Wang of Washington State University and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory who presented the Burwell Lectureship. Prof. Carsten Sievers of Georgia Institute of Technology presented the Anton Paar Keynote Lecture, and Mr. David West of SABIC (retired), presented the Ciapetta Lectureship Lecture.



The technical program also featured invited and contributed presentations from researchers representing New Mexico State University, Montana State University, University of Colorado Boulder, Arizona State University, the University of Idaho, SSRL, the National Laboratory of the Rockies, Malvern Panalytical, and VACOM. Topics ranged from plastic upcycling, biomass upgrading, and photocatalytic MOFs to operando spectroscopy, zeolite defect engineering, carbon capture, and catalyst characterization under reaction conditions.

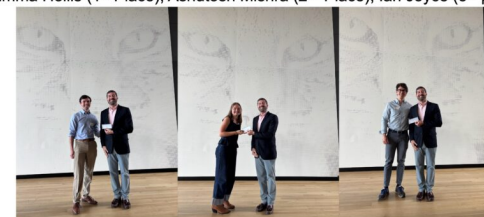


In addition, the symposium showcased a vibrant poster session highlighting emerging research from students and early-career researchers across the Rocky Mountain region. Poster presentations covered areas including Fischer–Tropsch synthesis, reactive carbon capture, MOF photocatalysis, plastic upcycling, catalyst design, biomass conversion, and single-atom catalysis. Student oral and poster presentations were recognized through RMCS Presentation Awards announced at the conclusion of the meeting. Oral presentation awards were presented to Emma Hollis (University of Colorado Boulder, 1st place), Ashutosh Mishra (University of Colorado Boulder, 2nd place), and Ian Joyce (Montana State University, 3rd place). Poster presentation awards were presented to Thomson McCarthy (Montana State University, 1st place), Mara Fischer (University of Colorado Boulder, 2nd place), and Marc Manyé Ibáñez (University of Colorado Boulder, 3rd place).

RMCS would like to thank symposium chair Prof. James Crawford and the symposium sponsors, including Malvern Panalytical, Anton Paar, Applied Catalysis A, B, and O, VACOM, and Montana State University Energy Research Institute for their contributions to a successful and engaging meeting.



Oral Presentation Awardees (Left to Right):
Emma Hollis (1st Place), Ashutosh Mishra (2nd Place), Ian Joyce (3rd place)



Poster Presentation Awardees (Left to Right):
Thomson McCarthy (1st Place), Mara Fischer (2nd Place), Marc Manyé Ibáñez (3rd place)

Catalysis Society of Metropolitan New York Spring Symposium

The Catalysis Society of Metropolitan New York recently hosted its 2026 Spring Symposium at NYU. The symposium featured several wonderful talks from industry and academia, led by a keynote from Prof. Umit Ozkan (Ohio State University). Speakers included



Prof. Gina Noh (Pennsylvania State University)
 Prof. Siddarth Krishna (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
 Prof. George Tsilomelekis (Rutgers University)
 Prof. Madelyn Ball (Michigan State University)
 Prof. Anatoly Frenkel (Stony Brook University)
 Dr. Amanda Baxter (Turnover Labs)
 Dr. Patrick Sarver (Sora Fuel)
 Dr. Karin Calvinho (RenewCO2)

We'd also like to congratulate our poster competition winners:

First Place: James Trettin (PI: Michele Sarazen, Princeton University)

Second Place: Hannah Snider (PI: Marcella Lusardi, Princeton University)

Third Place: Marcus Yu (PI: Jingguang Chen, Columbia University)

Postdoc Winner: Dr. Yiteng Zheng (PI: Bruce E. Koel, Princeton University)

Honorable Mention: Kelby Anderson (PI: Lea Winter, Yale University)

The CSNY officers and members are grateful to our sponsors NYU, Malvern Panalytical, Airco, Exxon, and NACS for supporting a great day connecting with our catalysis community!

Read More: <https://nacatsoc.org/>

2026 GPCS Symposium

The Great Plains Catalysis Society is excited to host its 2026 Fall Symposium on August 9–10 at Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS. Please mark your calendars! This year’s symposium will feature:

- Plenary lectures from Prof. David Flaherty (Georgia Institute of Technology, Emmett Award), Prof. Gang Wu (Washington University), and Dr. Ron Abbott (LyondellBasell, GPCS Award Winner)
- Keynote speakers: Dr. Cong Liu (Argonne National Lab), Prof. Socrates Munoz (Kansas State University), Dr. Partha Nandi (ExxonMobil), Prof. Vitaly Alexandrov (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), and Dr. Long Qi (Ames National Lab)
- Student oral and poster presentations and awards
- A Sunday afternoon workshop (Aug. 9) on catalytic biomanufacturing and lab tours

The Call for Abstracts is open until June 29. Abstract submission instructions are available at our website: <https://www.greatplainscatalysis.org/symposium/2026-symposium/overview>

Read More: <https://nacatsoc.org/>

2026 GPCS Awardee Announcement

The GPCS is pleased to announce that Dr. Ron Abbott (LyondellBasell) has been selected to receive the 2026 GPCS Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to catalysis in the refining and petrochemical industries over several decades, spanning inventorship, organizational leadership, and technology commercialization. Dr. Abbott’s more than 25 patents, technical contributions to the HF alkylation process, and leadership in the commercialization of CPChem’s 1-hexene technology and Marlex® Anew™ circular polyethylene demonstrate the breadth and lasting impact of his work, which continues today through efforts to advance a circular economy for plastics. He has also been a strong supporter of academic institutions through engagement with GPCS, industry–academia collaborations, and mentorship of the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Dr. Abbott will present a plenary lecture at the GPCS 2026 Fall Symposium on August 10 in Manhattan,

Kansas. We encourage you to join us in celebrating his achievements.

Read More: <https://nacatsoc.org/>

2026 Annual Meeting of the Pacific Coast Catalysis Society

The 2026 Annual Meeting of the Pacific Coast Catalysis Society will be held on September 12–13, 2026, at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon. Co-organized by Assistant Professor Lucas Ellis and Associate Professor Konstantinos Goulas of OSU’s School of Chemical, Biological, and Environmental Engineering, this annual regional meeting brings together catalysis researchers from across the Pacific Coast for two days of talks, posters, and networking.

The program will feature invited presentations from leaders in the field alongside a poster session highlighting work from graduate students, postdocs, and early-career researchers across academia, national labs, and industry. Research will span heterogeneous, homogeneous, electro-, and photocatalysis, with applications ranging from energy and sustainability to chemical manufacturing and plastics circularity.

Day 1 (Saturday, September 12): A full day of oral presentations by emerging, mid-career, and established researchers in the field, followed by a student and postdoc poster session with networking reception.

Day 2 (Sunday, September 13): Vendor workshops showcasing the latest catalysis instrumentation and capabilities.

We encourage students, postdocs, and researchers working in catalysis to submit abstracts and join us in Corvallis. Sponsorship opportunities are also available for organizations interested in supporting catalysis research and training the next generation of scientists.

For full details, including registration, abstract submission, invited speakers, sponsorship, and travel information, please visit www.pccs2026.org.

Flyer / Announcement:

Read More: <https://nacatsoc.org/>

Club Directory

Canada Catalysis Division (CCD)
Website: <https://catalysisdivision.ca>

Chair: *Cathy Chin*
University of Toronto

Vice-Chair: *Jan Kopyscinski*
McGill University

Past-Chair: *Hui Wang*
University of Saskatchewan

Secretary/Treasurer: *Nicolas Abatzoglou*
Université de Sherbrooke
nicolas.abatzoglou@usherbrooke.ca

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30th North American Catalysis Society Meeting (NAM30)



Dates: 13–18 June 2027
Location: Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Host: Canadian Catalysis Foundation
Website: <https://www.nam30.org/>

The North American Catalysis Society (NACS) Meeting is the largest and most comprehensive catalysis conference in North America, held on a biennial basis and serving as a central forum for the exchange of ideas across the full breadth of catalytic science and engineering. NAM meetings bring together thousands of researchers from academia, industry, and national laboratories, spanning heterogeneous, homogeneous, and biocatalysis, as well as emerging areas at the interface of catalysis with data science, sustainability, and advanced manufacturing.

NAM30 will convene the global catalysis community in Toronto, a major international hub for science, technology, and innovation. The meeting will feature a rich technical program including plenary and keynote lectures, parallel technical sessions, poster presentations, and focused symposia organized by the NACS technical divisions. With strong participation from industrial practitioners and early-career researchers alike, NAM30 will provide a uniquely inclusive platform to highlight scientific breakthroughs, foster cross-sector collaboration, and define research priorities that will shape the future of catalysis in energy, chemicals, and environmental technologies.

Fall 2026 ACS National Meeting



Dates: 23–27 August 2026
Location: Chicago, Illinois (in person + digital)
Abstract deadline: 30 March 2026
Registration/housing: opened May 2026
Website: <https://www.acs.org/meetings.html>

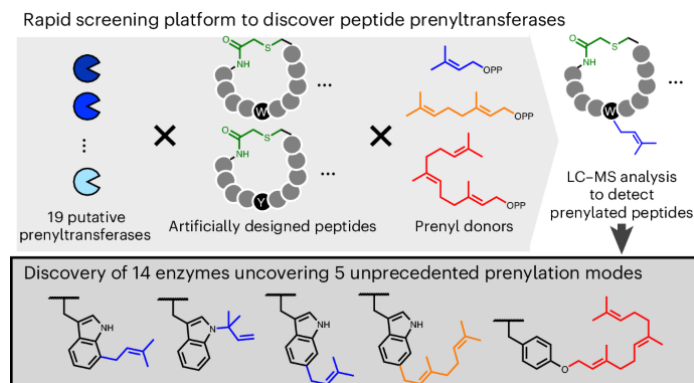
Two 2026 honors of interest to NACS members will be celebrated at award symposia during this meeting: the ACS Catalysis Lectureship for the Advancement of Catalytic Science in Heterogeneous Catalysis (Ayman M. Karim, University of Virginia; Hongliang Xin, Virginia Tech), and the ACS Catalysis Science and Technology Division awards - the Early Career Award in Catalysis (Tibor Szilvasi, University of Alabama) and the Exceptional Achievement in Catalysis award (John (JR) Regalbuto, University of South Carolina). See NACS News in this issue for the full announcements.

Research Highlights

Rapid screening platform for peptide prenyltransferases to diversify pseudo-natural prenylated peptides

Inoue, S.; Matsushita, S.; Ito, S. *et al.* *Nat. Catal.* **2026** (Univ. of Tokyo; Kyoto Univ.; Yokohama City Univ.).

DOI: [10.1038/s41929-026-01560-5](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41929-026-01560-5)



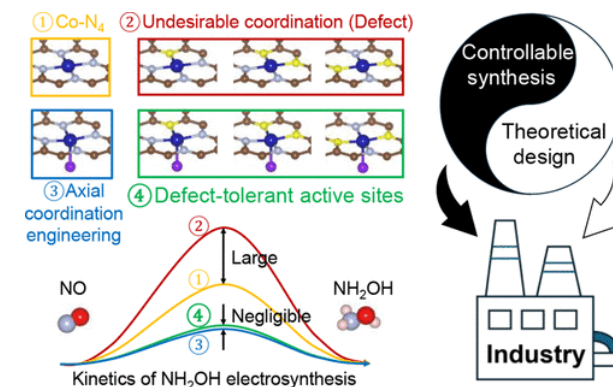
Peptide lipidation, the attachment of lipid groups such as prenyl chains, can markedly improve the metabolic stability and membrane permeability of peptide drugs, yet enzymes able to install these modifications late in a synthesis, at a chosen site and in a chosen mode have been scarce. The authors built a streamlined activity-profiling platform that uses a set of artificial substrates to rapidly assess the prenylating activity of candidate enzymes. Screening 19 recombinant, putative cyanobactin prenyltransferases, they identified 14 active enzymes with diverse catalytic behaviors, including five previously unreported modes of prenylation, bifunctional activity toward both tryptophan and tyrosine, and the use of larger donors such as farnesyl. Co-crystal structures of seven of the enzymes reveal how small changes in the active site enable dual substrate recognition and accommodate bulkier donors.

Why It Matters: The work delivers a structurally rationalized, broadly useful set of prenyltransferases for late-stage, site- and mode-selective lipidation, enlarging the biocatalytic toolbox for building pseudo-natural, more drug-like peptides.

Defect-Tolerant Axial Ligand Modification Enables Robust NH_2OH Electrosynthesis over Co Single-Atom Catalysts

Yu, Z.; Tao, J.; Li, L. *et al.* *ACS Catal.* **2026** (University of Macau).

DOI: [10.1021/acscatal.6c02033](https://doi.org/10.1021/acscatal.6c02033)



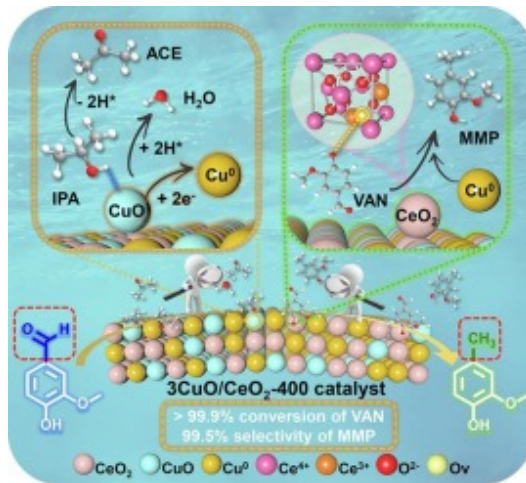
Electrosynthesis of hydroxylamine (NH_2OH) from nitrogen oxides is an emerging goal in electrocatalysis, but cobalt Co-N_4 single-atom catalysts are held back by the sluggish kinetics of the $^*\text{NO}$ -to- $^*\text{NHO}$ step. The authors demonstrate that changing the planar ligand environment (N to C or O) impedes this step, whereas modifying the axial ligand ($\text{Co-N}_4\text{-X}$, with $\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{F}, \text{OH}, \text{or O}$) accelerates it. Among these, the $\text{Co-N}_4\text{-O}$ configuration shows the lowest kinetic barrier and delivers high activity and selectivity toward NH_2OH . The axial-ligand strategy also preserves fast kinetics under non-ideal planar coordination environments, making the improvement tolerant to coordination defects.

Why It Matters: The study establishes a clear axial-coordination design rule for building selective, durable single-atom electrocatalysts that make hydroxylamine from nitrogen-oxide feedstocks under mild conditions.

Synergy of in-situ generated Cu^0 and oxygen vacancies for efficient and selective hydrodeoxygenation of vanillin to 4-methylguaiacol

Wang, T.; Hu, J.; Zhou, S. *et al. J. Catal.* **2026**, 117022 (Dalian Polytechnic Univ.; POSTECH).

DOI: [10.1016/j.jcat.2026.117022](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcat.2026.117022)



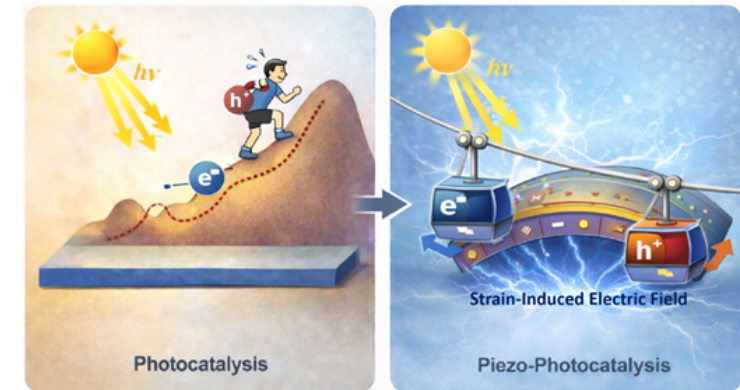
Hydrodeoxygenation, the catalytic removal of oxygen from oxygen-rich feedstocks, is central to upgrading bio-derived molecules into fuels and chemicals. This heterogeneous-catalysis study reports that metallic copper (Cu^0) generated in situ on the catalyst works synergistically with neighboring oxygen vacancies on the support to drive efficient and selective hydrodeoxygenation. The authors examine how the coupled formation of these two cooperating active sites, the reduced metallic copper and the vacancy-bearing oxide, governs both activity and product selectivity, providing a picture of how metal-support cooperation controls the reaction.

Why It Matters: Pairing metallic sites with support oxygen vacancies offers a practical design handle for selective hydrodeoxygenation catalysts used to convert biomass-derived oxygenates into fuels and value-added chemicals.

Strain engineering of piezo-photocatalysis for water splitting

Zhang, W.; Li, X.; Cen, H. *et al. Catal. Sci. Technol.* **2026** (Dongguan Univ. of Technology; Ji Hua Laboratory).

DOI: [10.1039/d5cy01423a](https://doi.org/10.1039/d5cy01423a)



Efficient photocatalytic water splitting is limited by the rapid recombination of photogenerated charge carriers before they can drive the hydrogen- and oxygen-evolution half-reactions. The authors apply strain engineering to piezo-photocatalysts, coupling mechanical strain, and the piezoelectric polarization it induces, with photocatalysis. The strain-induced internal electric field reduces charge-carrier recombination and thereby enhances the kinetics of photocatalytic water splitting, improving the separation and transport of photoexcited electrons and holes to the catalyst surface where water is split.

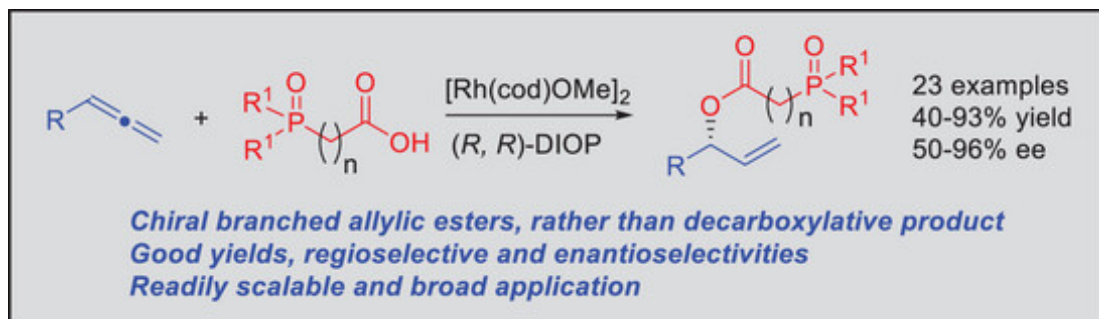
Why It Matters: Strain-driven charge separation is a general lever for improving photocatalytic water-splitting efficiency, supporting the direct conversion of sunlight and water into clean hydrogen fuel.

Research Highlights

Rh-Catalyzed Enantioselective and Regioselective Addition of Phosphinoylacetic Acid to Allenes

Jiang, Y.; Lu, Z.; Yuan, X. *et al.* *ChemCatChem* **2026**, cctc.70870 (Hong Kong Baptist University).

DOI: [10.1002/cctc.70870](https://doi.org/10.1002/cctc.70870)



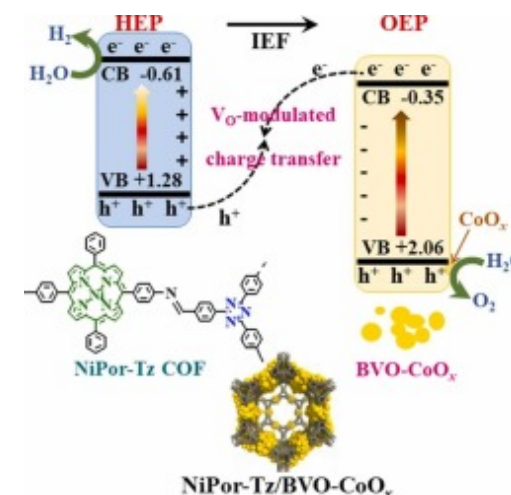
This homogeneous-catalysis study reports a rhodium-catalyzed addition of phosphinoylacetic acid to allenes that is both enantioselective and regioselective. Working with a chiral rhodium complex, the reaction forms new carbon-carbon bonds to the allene substrate while controlling which position of the allene reacts (regioselectivity) and the three-dimensional handedness of the product (enantioselectivity). The result is efficient, catalyst-controlled access to enantioenriched, phosphorus-containing building blocks from simple allene precursors.

Why It Matters: Enantio- and regioselective additions to allenes expand the homogeneous, asymmetric toolkit for assembling chiral, phosphorus-bearing molecules of interest to organic synthesis and medicinal chemistry.

Photocatalytic overall water splitting over nickel porphyrin-triazine covalent organic framework/BiVO₄ heterojunction modulated by oxygen vacancy

Liu, H.; Wang, Y.; Xi, F. *et al.* *Appl. Catal. B: Environ. Energy* **2026**, 127226 (Wuhan University).

DOI: [10.1016/j.apcatb.2026.127226](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apcatb.2026.127226)



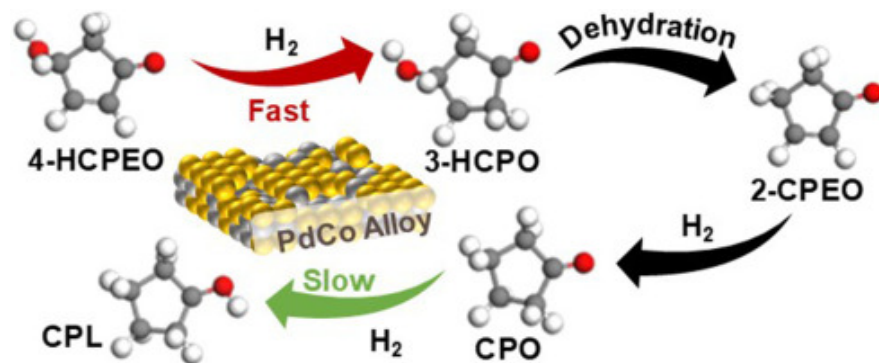
Overall water splitting, the simultaneous production of hydrogen and oxygen from water under illumination, is a demanding target because a single photocatalyst must drive both half-reactions. The authors report overall water splitting over a covalent organic framework (COF) built from nickel-porphyrin and triazine units. The ordered, porous framework integrates the light-harvesting nickel-porphyrin centers with the triazine backbone to promote charge separation and to catalyze both the hydrogen- and oxygen-evolution steps within one crystalline, all-organic material.

Why It Matters: Metal-porphyrin covalent organic frameworks that achieve overall water splitting point toward tunable, molecularly designed photocatalysts for the direct solar production of hydrogen fuel.

Constructing PdCo alloy on USY zeolite toward hydrogenation-arrangement of furfuryl alcohol into cyclopentanone

Yang, Q.; Zhao, X.; Wang, J. *et al. Mol. Catal.* **2026**, 116198 (East China Normal University).

DOI: [10.1016/j.mcat.2026.116198](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mcat.2026.116198)



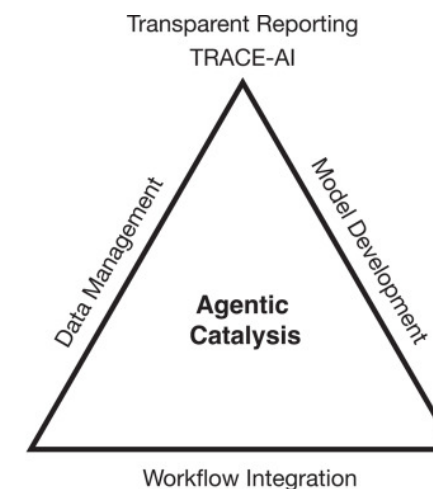
Furfuryl alcohol is a versatile platform molecule obtained from lignocellulosic biomass, and converting it selectively into higher-value products is an important goal for renewable chemical manufacturing. This heterogeneous-catalysis study constructs a bimetallic palladium-cobalt (PdCo) alloy supported on ultrastable Y (USY) zeolite and uses it to transform furfuryl alcohol through a combined hydrogenation and skeletal-rearrangement pathway. The metallic PdCo sites and the acidic zeolite support act cooperatively, with the metal promoting hydrogenation and the acid sites enabling rearrangement toward the target products.

Why It Matters: Coupling a bimetallic alloy with an acidic zeolite illustrates how metal-acid cooperation can steer the upgrading of biomass-derived furfuryl alcohol into more valuable chemicals.

Transparent reporting for agentic catalysis enabled by artificial intelligence: Community guidelines and a publication checklist

Xin, H.; Kitchin, J. R.; López, N. *et al. Chem Catal.* **2026**, 101755 (Virginia Tech; Carnegie Mellon; ICIQ; Northwestern; etc.).

DOI: [10.1016/j.checat.2026.101755](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.checat.2026.101755)



As artificial-intelligence agents and autonomous, “self-driving” laboratories take on a growing role in catalysis research, transparent and reproducible reporting of these workflows becomes essential. This community effort, co-authored by dozens of researchers across academia and national laboratories, proposes community guidelines and a publication checklist for transparent, reproducible reporting of AI-enabled and agentic catalysis. The guidelines aim to standardize how AI- and automation-driven catalysis studies are documented and shared, so that data, models, and autonomous decisions can be understood, compared, and reused across the field.

Why It Matters: Shared reporting standards help keep AI- and automation-driven catalysis results transparent, comparable, and reproducible as the field increasingly adopts autonomous experimentation.

In Memoriam



Farrel Wayne Lytle (1934–2026)

Farrel Wayne Lytle passed away March 25, 2026, at the Grover C. Dils Medical Center in Caliente, Nevada at the age of 91. He was born on November 10, 1934 in Cedar City, Utah to Freeland Wayne and Justine Jones Lytle. Farrel grew up in Rose Valley, Nevada and graduated from Lincoln County High School in 1952. He graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1958 with an MS in Chemistry. Farrel married his high school sweetheart, Manetta Bleak in the St George Utah Temple on September 8, 1954. They had four sons: Nelson Wayne, William Reed, Charles Melling, and Drew Bleak.

After his service in the army at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Farrel and his family moved to Seattle Washington where he pursued a career in physics and chemistry at The Boeing Company.

During this career, he discovered and created the theory behind a unique branch of physics: Extended X-ray Absorption Fine Structure Spectroscopy (EXAFS). He performed the first experiments demonstrating the utility of this approach in elucidating the structure of chemical compounds. As the leader in this field, he published over 200 peer reviewed scientific papers demonstrating applications in catalysis, biology, and chemistry. Many of these papers demonstrated the utility of EXAFS in cat-

alyst characterization, and as such laid the foundation for the application of EXAFS as a foundational methodology for understanding the atomic level structure of catalysts.

He created his own company, EXAFS, Inc., providing research tools to scientists conducting experiments in X-ray science and remained active as a scientist over his career of 60 years. Today, the science that Farrel inspired is conducted in over 50 advanced research facilities located in Europe, North America, East Asia, South America, and the Middle East.

Upon his retirement from Boeing, Farrel felt the pull of the Nevada hills and the smell of sagebrush. He and Manetta moved “back home” to build a house in Eagle Valley. There he and Manetta could be close to their families and enjoy their association. And since he was close to so many wonderful ancient and historic settlements and civilizations, he pursued his hobby — archaeology.

Farrel was always a builder. He loved nature and sharing it with family and friends. He built summer homes at Cooper Lake in Washington state and Stockham Island near Tofino, British Columbia, Canada. He loved outdoor sports: salmon fishing,

deer hunting, hiking, boating ... anything to be outdoors. He loved to be out in the hills looking for a new Anasazi site or reading petroglyphs.

Farrel was a gardener. His garden in Eagle Valley was legendary. In later years he invited family and friends to plant their gardens in space he prepared so all could grow their own vegetables.

Farrel was preceded in death by his wife Manetta, parents Freeland Wayne and Justine Lytle, his brothers Eldon G Lytle (Rula), and Noel J Lytle (Anita).

Read More: <https://nacatsoc.org/>