

# THE CAPITAL CHEMIST

*A Publication of the Chemical Society of Washington Section of the American Chemical Society*

## Welcome from Jennifer Tanir, CSW President



Happy New Year to CSW members in 2021!

It's the beginning of a new year. With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing for the near future, we've all had to adapt our lifestyles, work situations, and plans for 2020-2021. That said, I think there are some positives to the impossible life situations that many of us are experiencing.

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- New Chemistry Short Films and Lesson Plans Available
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Technology (for better or worse) has allowed us to continue connecting with CSW and ACS through virtual meetings, conferences, and other online events. When I ran for President-Elect of CSW in Fall 2019, using technology to expand participation across CSW members was one of my core initiatives, and the pandemic has accelerated our push to do just this. Check out our monthly virtual meetings and other opportunities at [www.capitalchemist.org](http://www.capitalchemist.org).

For CSW, which spans a large area across the DC metro area and beyond, technology is allowing us to connect more easily like never before. And it offers us opportunities to hold events at different times of the day that may be more convenient to professionals, retirees, working parents, and students.

Of course we hope to be able to meet in person again soon, but I envision more of a hybrid future (which I ironically proposed in Fall 2019), where we can in some cases meet in-person locally while at the same time connect with others virtually as it becomes the new norm, to reach more members of CSW.

A little about me—I'm a green chemist who has worked in industry, the nonprofit sector, and some consulting with a continued focus on safer chemicals and sustainability. I've been a CSW board member for about the last 10 years and thank those leaders who have come before me. I've also been a working mom who has also become a virtual homeschooler during the pandemic. Improving accessibility to more of our members was another of my 2019 President-Elect goals which still rings true. I also hope to have plenty of monthly speakers this year focused on issues related to green chemistry, sustainability, and climate change, which are critical issues today and for future generations.

Lastly, I welcome many new members to the CSW Board of Managers in 2021, which depends on its members and volunteers each year to run committees and other initiatives. The last of my initiatives is to mentor and empower younger CSW board members and other volunteers to lead the local section into the future. We are well poised to do just that during 2021. I welcome all CSW members to become more involved, through participating or leading committees, joining webinars and virtual meetings, outreach events, and other initiatives throughout 2021.

I would love to hear from you, about your ideas for new initiatives to reach more CSW members, your interest in getting more involved with a committee or one of our initiatives, improving accessibility to CSW in the future, and connecting with you through our virtual or in-person events during 2021. Please reach out to me ([jtanir@gmail.com](mailto:jtanir@gmail.com)) with your suggestions, ideas, and desire to volunteer!

Wishing you a happy and prosperous 2021!

## Next CSW Monthly Meeting on January 13th, 2021

Please join us for the next monthly CSW meeting on January 13, 2021, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. This meeting will be held via Zoom. There is no charge to participate, but you must register to receive the link.

This month's featured seminar will be, "*The Circular Economy of Plastics*" presented by Kathryn Beers, Leader of the Polymers and Complex Fluids Group in the Materials Science and Engineering Division of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

**Abstract:** There is increasing evidence of plastic debris invading all parts of the environment and there has been a recent global disruption of a decades old model for processing recyclable plastic. The plastics lifecycle is facing a major revision. This talk will summarize the current state of the discussion and present some examples of NIST efforts including training programs, measurements and new methods to support smarter design and processing of commodity polymers.

**Biography:** Kate is Leader of the Polymers and Complex Fluids Group in the Materials Science and Engineering Division of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The Group has projects spanning macromolecular characterization, polyelectrolyte solutions and gels, carbon nanotube separations and emulsions and suspensions. She is currently on assignment developing a Circular Economy program for NIST, where she is engaging the campus in activities related to plastics recycling, new materials design, and environmental impacts of plastic waste. She has been recognized with the President's Early Career Award in Science and Engineering (PECASE), the Arthur S. Flemming Award for public service, the CMU Alumni Achievement Award and as a Fellow of the American Chemical Society. She is a former Chair of the ACS Polymer Chemistry Division, serves on the Green Chemistry Institute's Advisory Board and spent a year in science policy as the Assistant Director for Physical Sciences and Engineering in the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) in the Executive Office of the President.



Kate earned a BS in chemistry with high honors from The College of William and Mary and MS and PhD degrees in polymer science and chemistry, respectively, from Carnegie Mellon University under Professor Krzysztof Matyjaszewski.

Kate is currently on assignment leading NIST's Circular Economy program, where she supports activities related to recycling, materials design, and environmental impacts of plastic waste. Her past research includes combinatorial and high throughput polymer synthesis, microfluidic flow reactors, sustainable polymers, precision polyolefins and densely grafted 'bottlebrush' polymers. She has received PECASE, Arthur S. Flemming, and CMU Alumni Achievement Awards and is an ACS Fellow. She also served as the Assistant Director for Physical Sciences and Engineering in OSTP.

### Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://american-chemical-society.zoom.com/meeting/register/tZYpc-2gpjkiH9DoUsjDSHTDg9wQWDYR8PMG>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## Chemistry Short Films & Lesson Plans

*Chemistry Shorts* is a new series of brief films that spotlight innovative ways that chemists and chemical engineers are working to solve important problems and create new opportunities. Each film is accompanied by a lesson plan that offers suggestions on how to integrate it into the classroom. The first three films and lesson plans (listed below) are available at <https://chemistryshorts.org>

- *Direct Air Capture & The Future of Climate Change*, with Christopher Jones (Georgia Tech)
- *Under the Skin*, with Zhenan Bao (Stanford)
- *Rewriting Life*, with David Liu (Harvard)

*Chemistry Shorts* is also on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/c/chemistryshorts>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/chemistryshorts>).

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## CSW Honors 50-, 60-, and 70-year members in ACS

CSW would like to recognize all its members who have celebrated a special anniversary with ACS in 2020. Unfortunately, we were unable to do this in person in 2020 at an annual luncheon. Certificates were mailed to all honorees and all 2020 honorees will be included in the recognition luncheon with our 2021 honorees celebrating special anniversaries.

The list of honorees is available on the CSW website (<https://capitalchemist.org/2020-honorees/>), including any biographies that have been received.

## Deadline to submit for the Student Travel Award to Attend the ACS Spring 2021 meeting is Midnight, January 19, 2021.

The Chemical Society of Washington is pleased to announce a student travel award to defray travel registration costs to the National ACS Spring meeting, which meeting will be held virtually April 5-16, 2021. Eligible expenses are limited to registration. Applicants should submit the following by Midnight, January 19<sup>th</sup> to CSW (email: [CSW@acs.org](mailto:CSW@acs.org)):

1. A cover letter stating how and why attending this ACS meeting will promote his/her career, including a valid email address and mailing address;
2. The applicant's CV;
3. A letter of recommendation from the student's mentor explaining why the student deserves the award and how this will help his/her professional development;
4. An accepted abstract with proof of acceptance.

The award is open to graduate and undergraduate students who belong to CSW listed as members. Please confirm that you are on the roster before applying for this travel award. The award is not intended for post-doctoral fellows. There will be a minimum of three awards available for each National meeting. Each award will be for up to \$1000 of eligible expenses based on the review of the above materials.

After attending the conference, awardees will be asked to draft a short summary of their experiences for posting to the Capital Chemist website and to present their posters, if applicable, at one of the upcoming CSW meetings.

## **The Capital Chemist**

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The **Chemical Society of Washington (CSW)** is the local ACS Chapter for the Washington, DC area and serves approximately 3,500 members.

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[www.facebook.com/ACSCSW](http://www.facebook.com/ACSCSW).

## **CSW Calendar of Events**

January 13: CSW Monthly Meeting (Virtual)

January 19: Student Travel Award Deadline

January 25: CSW Board Meeting