



## 2023 Highlights of ACS Achievements

An annual report from Albert Horvath  
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**GOAL 1 — Provide Information Solutions:** Deliver indispensable chemistry-related information solutions to address global challenges and other issues facing the world's scientific community.

### ACS acquires ChronosHub

In August, ACS acquired ChronosHub to develop and enhance the future author experience. ChronosHub is an open access management platform that streamlines publishing workflows and ensures effective collaboration between researchers, institutions, funders, and publishers to promote open science.

### ACS Campaign for a Sustainable Future

The ACS Campaign for a Sustainable Future continued to drive forward with several key activities. In partnership with the Center for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering at Yale and with Beyond Benign, the [Green Chemistry for Sustainability](#) platform was launched with the goal of connecting people and resources globally to accelerate research, innovation, and commercialization of sustainable chemical processes and products. Two new grant programs were established, awarding 12 grants totaling \$500,000. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ACS Sustainability Summit: Reimagining Chemistry Education, held as a hybrid event in collaboration with Beyond Benign, brought together more than 325 educators, industry leaders, and influencers to catalyze the propagation of green chemistry and sustainability concepts throughout curricula while expanding educational opportunities for both students and professionals.

### ACS journals

The portfolio of ACS peer-reviewed journals continued to represent the most trusted, most cited, most read scientific publications in their respective fields. During 2023, key editorial and quality metrics continued to show strong performance, with:

- More than 64,000 peer-reviewed articles published (up 7% from 2022) and more than 305 million full-text article downloads (approximately 17% growth.) Approximately 4.5 million total citations were reported in 2023.
- *ACS ES&T Air* and *ACS Sustainable Resource Management* were successfully launched with both journal homepages live at the end of November. In addition, *Chemical & Biomedical Imaging* was launched in partnership with Nanjing University to publish cutting-edge and innovative imaging research across all areas of chemistry, physics, biology, engineering, medicine, and life science.
- International research-active scientists were identified and appointed to key journal editorial posts.

- ACS Publications expanded its operations in Asia with the hiring of two content development editors in Japan and Korea, respectively, to enable increased high-quality content publications in ACS journals from top institutions and creating a loyal community of ACS editors, authors, and influential researchers in their respective countries.
- ACS Authoring Services and ACS Reviewer Lab were further developed to support researchers globally, with specific enhancements catering for researchers in China, Japan, and South Korea.

### **Open Access/Open Science**

ACS Publications continued its leading activities and engagement to enable Open Access/Open Science. Alignment occurred with the full portfolio of more than 65 hybrid journals, which offers both open access and subscription-only content, to be transformative journals, committed to support the transition to Open Access. ACS Publications led the industry by being the first publisher to launch a new option for authors to satisfy funder requirements for zero-embargo green open access, expanding the range of pathways through which authors can publish with ACS journals. Other activities included:

- Approximately 25% of the Division's total content was published open access.
- Authors continue to support the transparent peer review program launched at *ACS Central Science* and *JPC Letters* with an over 35% opt-in rate through 2023.
- The Division continues to support a wide variety of access models to best meet the needs of authors, institutions, and funders transitioning to full open access. Transformative 'Read + Publish' agreements now cover over 1,000 institutions in 39 countries.
- The successful launch of the [Data Availability Statement pilot](#) at *The Journal of Organic Chemistry*, *Organic Letters*, and *ACS Organic & Inorganic Au* is now a standard process and will serve as the template for introduction across the portfolio in 2024. To facilitate the expansion, an AI tool was developed to check for inclusion and compliance of these statements in submitted manuscripts.
- ChemRxiv™ continues to grow and meet the preprints needs for the community. This year ChemRxiv™ surpassed 21,000 posted preprints and 49 million views/downloads.

### **C&EN centennial**

C&EN celebrated its centennial with a [special issue](#) covering ten consequential events, discoveries, and developments of the past century as well as future challenges. C&EN also hosted centennial festivities at ACS Spring and Fall meetings, including a Jeopardy-style trivia game at the Open Board session at the Spring meeting, and C&EN Talented 12 events and a reception at the Fall meeting.

### **CAS solutions**

CAS continued to advance the sophistication of its solutions to accelerate scientific innovation workflows. The latest enhancements include improved visualization capabilities, ease of use functionality, patent analysis capabilities, and tailored personalization, among others. CAS also delivered 85 Custom Services projects, with 165 additional opportunities in development. In addition, tremendous progress was achieved toward building and launching the initial version of the CAS Life Sciences offering.

### **CAS content, technology, and customer operations**

CAS content was further enriched, enabling more impactful connections among otherwise disparate scientific information. Several technology improvements are facilitating this expansion and assuring the infrastructure needed to support our growing user base. Support for our customers also continued to achieve world-class net promoter scores, with customer support services expanded to include Singapore, Germany, and China in 2023.

### **PRF grants**

In 2023, the [ACS Petroleum Research Fund](#) awarded 190 research grants totaling approximately \$19.8 million for projects that advance fundamental research in the hydrocarbon field. Over 50% of ACS PRF funds supported proposals on sustainability-related topics, such as carbon capture, storage, sequestration, and geochemistry of microplastics.

### **Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference**

In June, ACS hosted the 2023 Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference in Long Beach, CA, on the theme, “Closing the Loop: Chemistry for a Sustainable Future.” Over 800 participants from 51 countries took part in the conference.

### **Biopolymers special colloquium**

Organized by ACS in partnership with the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, the 5<sup>th</sup> ACS-FDA colloquium “[The Bio of New Polymers: Biobased, Biodegradable, and Biosustainable](#)” was held virtually in October with 120 attendees. This colloquium focused on the development of biopolymers for various food and cosmetic applications, offering an international perspective of these polymers.

### **Unified ACS Events Hub**

In March 2023, ACS successfully launched the [ACS Events Hub](#), a platform that seamlessly integrates Society and Publications events. It offers an improved user experience and advanced filtering, enabling users to find tailored events easily.

### **Marketing automation migration**

C&EN sales and marketing campaigns were migrated from the Publications instance of Eloqua to the Society instance of Eloqua. This involved the migration of more than 5,000 assets (emails, landing pages, forms, etc.), more than 400 automated campaigns, and 375,000 contacts. To ensure compliance with global data and privacy regulations, this project also required the launch of a new Email Preference Center and an automated Email Compliance Program. In addition, the Society instance of Eloqua was integrated with several new tech platforms to enable existing and new automation campaigns, including the ON24 webinar platform and the Qualtrics survey application.

**GOAL 2 — Empower Members and Member Communities:** Provide access to opportunities, resources, skills training, and networks to empower our global members and diverse member communities to thrive.

### **ACS global membership community**

ACS ended 2023 with over 200,000 individuals in its global membership community extending across 177 countries. Growth was driven by a series of campaigns focused on member acquisitions and upgrades, along with increased global engagement.

### **Membership recruitment and engagement**

A new membership section was added to ACS.org to transform the traditional transactional approach to membership into a more immersive storytelling experience. It serves as a gateway to a richer, more engaging narrative within the chemistry community and aligns with the new membership acquisition campaign. In addition, easy to access and downloadable templates, marketing material, and information for recruiting and engaging with current and potential members are in the [Recruitment & Engagement Toolkit](#). To support member engagement outside the US, five editions of the New Member Orientation,

a personalized virtual onboarding for new ACS members outside of the US, were held and received 190 registrations from over 15 countries. These live virtual sessions had active and enthusiastic engagement from members and received overwhelmingly positive feedback.

### **You Belong campaign**

A membership acquisition campaign called You Belong kicked off, placing a strong emphasis on authenticity, diversity, and the personal growth of ACS members. The primary objective is to ensure that members feel acknowledged, respected, and valued within the Society, ultimately boosting member acquisition.

### **Schedule of changes to the membership application**

ACS implemented enhancements to the membership application in alignment with the 2024 Schedule of Membership changes as approved by the Committee on Membership Affairs and Council. The age restriction for becoming an emeritus member was removed, society affiliates now have the flexibility to opt for a standard package, and the criteria for obtaining a disability waiver was also loosened. These changes align with the commitment to accommodating diverse member needs and fostering a more inclusive and adaptable membership experience.

### **Member renewal enhancements**

To enhance membership, the launch of the Magento Join and Renew Stores went fully live in April 2023 following the soft launch in September 2022. Enhancements also occurred to the membership renewal process to align auto-renewal processes with legal mandates.

### **Chemistry outreach activities**

A new website for [Chemistry Outreach Activities](#) was launched. It offers a collection of hands-on and stage demo experiments that chemists can use for in-person or virtual community outreach. Each activity includes step-by-step instructions, explanations, and safety reviews, plus an explanatory video developed by ACS student chapters and graduate student organizations.

### **Trust in Science initiative**

In 2023, the Trust in Science initiative, spearheaded by ACS President Judy Giordan, moved forward. Workshops to equip ACS members with tools to foster trust in science and scientists during potentially contentious discussions with nonscientists were held during the ACS Fall and Spring Meetings and several regional meetings, including NERM, NORM, SERMACS, CERM, MWRM/GLRM, and SWRM. Future plans include expanding content distribution through new digital channels and exploring collaboration with ACS committees and divisions interested in advancing this initiative.

### **CAS thought leadership expansion**

CAS Insights achieved significant growth this year, garnering over 10,000 subscribers due to scientific insights captured by the CAS Science Connect team. The CAS Future Leaders program also expanded its impact this year, increasing the number of in-person participants and adding a Top 100 program to engage and recognize more top-tier applicants.

### **Successful execution of ACS events**

ACS convened the chemical sciences community throughout 2023, supporting the sharing of science, enhancing networking opportunities, fostering inclusion and well-being, and improving sustainability. ACS Spring 2023 had more than 12,600 registrants from 72 countries and ACS Fall 2023 had more than

15,200 registrants from 74 countries. Twenty-five other events, including eight ACS Regional Meetings, that collectively attracted approximately 9,500 attendees, were also supported. In addition, ACS Publications organized and supported over 150 in-person, online, or hybrid events and activities such as 36 ACS on Campus events globally – attended by 4,800 participants, with over 3,300 opting in to receive more outreach from the Society; and a four-part *Environmental Science & Technology (ES&T)* Workshop – held at various institutions in India to discuss challenges in energy, climate change, sustainability, and how our *ES&T* portfolio covers such topics.

### **ACS International Chemical Sciences Chapters**

In 2023, ACS International Chemical Sciences Chapters began receiving annual allotments to better support ACS global communities and promote diversity and inclusion among ACS international membership.

### **Providing resources in times of need**

The [Proactive Membership Assistance Program](#) consolidates existing assets in a central place to generate greater visibility and awareness of member benefits available during times of need. These benefits include assistance in paying membership dues, seeking out additional means for funding, and services for job loss/unemployment. This initiative serves as an initial iteration of an offering that will enable ACS to be more proactive and comprehensive in responding to life altering events its members may face.

**GOAL 3 — Support Excellence in Education:** Foster the development of innovative, relevant, and effective chemistry and chemistry-related education.

### **Fostering a Skilled Technical Workforce**

The ACS strategic initiative Fostering a Skilled Technical Workforce continued to advance. A new [Chemical Technical Professionals](#) website, a central hub providing information for educators and students about careers in the skilled technical workforce, went live in 2023. In October, the [ACS PrepareCTP Seed Grant Program](#) kicked off as a pilot program to provide seed funding for community college chemistry faculty involved in technical education/training. A [Chemical Technical Professionals collection](#), added to the resource library of the American Association of Chemistry Teachers, provides teachers with resources to share with students about careers in the skilled technical workforce. A [video](#) designed to broaden awareness of career opportunities within the chemical enterprise for technical professionals was released.

### **2023 ACS Leadership Institute**

In January, the 2023 ACS Leadership Institute was held in Atlanta, GA, providing leadership development training for more than 300 ACS volunteer leaders. The Graduate School and Professional Development Bootcamp, co-sponsored by the Genentech Foundation, was held in conjunction with the Leadership Institute, facilitating connections among the participants.

### **2023 ACS Presidential Laboratory Safety Teams Summit**

The first [ACS Laboratory Safety Teams \(LST\) Summit](#), designated as a Presidential Event by ACS President Judy Giordan, was held in October. This summit was initiated and planned by a team of graduate students who lead LSTs at their home institutions. It brought together about 40 participants, including graduate students, university professors, representatives from national laboratories and industry, ACS staff members, and representatives from the Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS), the Division of Chemical Health and Safety (CHAS), and the Division of Chemical Education (CHED) Chemical Safety

Committee. The Summit focused on four main goals: define what an LST is and the benefit of having one; identify what LSTs need to start and thrive; define the partnerships LSTs can have, and why they benefit both partners; and enable LSTs to prepare scientists for industrial safety standards.

### **Faculty Leadership Summit**

ACS and the Indian National Science Academy jointly launched the Faculty Leadership Summit, a program designed for early career faculty members to foster their academic leadership, project management, science communication, and fund-raising capabilities. Nearly 40 assistant professors from leading Indian academic institutes participated in the program, which was held November 3-5.

### **Postdoc to Faculty Workshop**

During the two-day 2023 [Postdoc to Faculty Workshop](#), 41 postdoctoral scholars from 35 institutions nation-wide gathered with 15 faculty facilitators and ACS staff in July in Chicago to learn and prepare for the faculty application cycle through panels, talks, application package reviews, and mock interviews. A virtual two-part Mentor Training component was offered for the first time to workshop participants in August.

### **ACS Bridge Career Kickstarter Workshop**

In partnership with the Genentech Foundation, ACS offered a [Career Kick-Starter Workshop](#) in San Francisco in November. The workshop provided ACS Bridge Fellows, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers underrepresented in the chemical sciences with the tools to conduct a successful career search and built a sense of community among the 50 attendees selected to participate.

### **DuPont-ACS PhD workshop for industrial careers**

In June, ACS partnered with the DuPont GOLD program to provide a [PhD workshop for Industrial Careers](#). During this half-day workshop, DuPont employees offered insights into effective communication techniques both in professional settings and in interviews, and how to develop sustainable and professional relationships through mentorship and collaboration.

### **Science outreach summits**

Hosted in Washington, DC (October) and Delhi (November), the [ACS Outreach Summits](#) offered opportunities for chemists who do science outreach to interact with other volunteers in their region through in-person programming, and beyond through virtual networking sessions.

### **Heroes of Chemistry Awards**

In October, 170 guests gathered to honor teams of scientists and the products they successfully brought to market. The [2023 Heroes of Chemistry Award winners](#) contributed to advancements in improving health and the environment and included teams from AbbVie and Enanta Pharmaceuticals, Honeywell, Incyte, Merck & Co., Vertex Pharmaceuticals, and ViiV Healthcare.

### **EPA Green Chemistry Challenge Awards**

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [2023 Green Chemistry Challenge Awards](#), sponsored in partnership with ACS, were presented in October. Five companies and one university were recognized for their innovative products and research that will lead us to a safer and more sustainable future.

### **ACS Guidelines for post-secondary education**

To support post-secondary education, two updated sets of guidelines were released. The [ACS Guidelines for Bachelor's Degree Programs](#) recast expectations and introduce formal requirements around

diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect. (DEIR)The [ACS Guidelines for Chemistry in Two-Year College Programs](#) also include a separate section for DEIR and are structured to reflect essential components, successful practices, and aspirational goals.

### **Middleschoolchemistry.com**

ACS launched a new [middleschoolchemistry.com website](#) incorporating responsive design and new content. This highly visited website provides an important gateway for students and educators to ACS resources such as lesson plans and videos.

**GOAL 4— Communicate Chemistry’s Value: Communicate** — to the public and to policymakers — the vital role of chemical professionals and chemistry in addressing the world’s challenges.

### **ACS policy positions**

ACS advocated on several policy positions to the Biden Administration via formal requests for information (RFI). Areas of focus included The STEM Federal Strategic Plan, an EPA proposed ban on methylene chloride, federal agencies’ open access plans, and the federal sustainable chemistry strategic plan. In addition, ACS partnered with STEMM Opportunity Alliance (SOA), an initiative launched by the Biden Administration to coordinate activities across the US government; businesses; and civic, academic, nonprofit, community-based, and philanthropic organizations to drive change in the nation's STEMM ecosystem by expanding access and opportunities.

### **8th Annual CTO Summit**

ACS hosted the CTO Summit in October. The eighth annual event brought together nearly 20 industry chief technology officers (CTOs) to discuss issues at the intersection of science, business, and government and covered topics such as sustainability, carbon disclosure, and artificial intelligence.

### **Pharma Leaders Conference**

The 2023 Pharma Leaders conference was held in October at Eli Lilly and Company in Indianapolis, IN. The event included research leaders from 20 major pharmaceutical companies. Topics on the agenda this year included Chemistry as a Foundation for New Modalities, Emerging Trends in Discovery Chemistry and Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion in Pharma.

### **Multimedia outreach**

ACS saw increased engagement with its efforts to promote the value of chemistry through multimedia, growing its reach with reaching diverse, younger audiences. The *Reactions* video series reached 9.5 million views, driven mainly by the successful “Shorts” program, and sparked increased viewer interaction with over four times as many comments as the previous year. The *Tiny Matters* podcast doubled its downloads in 2023 by attracting a younger and more diverse audience. The ACS Webinars team increased engagement with more attendees from various countries generating valuable leads for membership and greater viewership of webinar recordings.

### **Media coverage**

ACS achieved an increase in media coverage, with nearly 80,000 news stories highlighting ACS activities and research published in its journals, marking a 7% increase from the previous year. Communications resulted in more news coverage with fewer press releases, reflecting the effectiveness of outreach efforts. The year also witnessed a milestone with the most popular [ACS PressPac item](#) in recent history, an item in JACS about the chemical composition of DaVinci’s Mona Lisa generating nearly 1,700 news

stories. For ACS Spring and Fall 2023 meetings, 12 science releases were issued for each meeting, generating more than 1,100 news stories in the first week for the spring and more than 1,500 news stories in the first week for the fall. Of that coverage, some 60% of stories published internationally. In addition, ACS released six Headline Science videos featuring research presented at the spring and fall meetings that collectively received more than 63,000 views this year.

### **Nobel Prize in Chemistry activities**

On Oct. 4, ACS supported a series of media outreach activities related to the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, including issuing a press release, holding a series of media interviews with ACS President Judy Giordan, and producing a Headline Science video short. As a result of these efforts, a total of 447 news stories appeared from news outlets that included AP, *The Economist*, the international wire service AFP, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*. Of the 2023 Laureates, Mounji G. Bawendi and Louis E. Brus are long-time ACS members, ACS award winners, and authors of many ACS publications. They also have ties to the ACS PRF Grant program, with Dr. Bawendi receiving a PRF grant in 1991 and Dr. Brus serving as a member of the Committee on the PRF in 2002.

**GOAL 5—Embrace and Advance Inclusion in Chemistry:** Promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect; identify and dismantle barriers to success; and create a welcoming and supportive environment so that all ACS members, employees, and volunteers can thrive.

### **2022 ACS Member Demographics Report**

ACS published the 2022 ACS Membership Demographics Report. The report is posted on [the Office of DEIR webpage](#) and is available to the public. This report is a product of combined efforts across ACS.

### **ACS Publications report and series**

The third ACS Publications [Diversity Data Report](#) was published with 2023 demographics of ACS publications contributors and updates on active DEIR initiatives. In addition, C&EN published the [ACS Inclusivity Style Guide tip sheets](#) – a six-part series designed to help writers make their content welcoming to all audiences.

### **2023 Diversity Leaders Summit**

The 2023 Diversity Leaders Summit brought together more than 40 participants from industry, academia, government, and societies. Attendees discussed ways to support DEIR in the chemical enterprise and identified top priorities. A LinkedIn Group was created post conference to address these priorities and encourage continued engagement.

### **ACS Bridge Career Conference**

In September, ACS hosted the inaugural [ACS Bridge Career Conference](#) in New Orleans, in partnership with Genentech Foundation and Xavier University of Louisiana. The conference convened 150 ACS Bridge fellows, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars underrepresented in the chemical sciences to provide career planning tools/strategies and opportunities for community building. This successful event involved collaboration with National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE).

### **Peer societies conferences**

In 2023, ACS sponsored and attended peer-society conferences for the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE), which celebrated its



50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Conference, where ACS received AISES' 2023 Advocacy Partner Award; and the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Conference, which celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### ACS Science Talks

In 2023, 27 ACS Science Talks were held. The virtual lecture series featured 27 speakers representing 15 different countries and attracted approximately 20,000 registrants from over 148 countries.

### DEIR Webinars

The Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect (DEIR) hosted three webinars to promote DEIR throughout the year.

- In February, the “[No More Hidden Figures: Being Seen, Heard, and Influencing Chemistry as Black Women](#)” featured ACS Board of Directors members Teri Quinn Gray, Malika Jefferies-El, and Kimberly Agnew-Heard and had more than 300 registrants.
- In June, “[An Insider Outsider Journey: Life Reflections](#)” featured Nobel Laureate Carolyn Bertozzi's January 2023 keynote address at the ACS Conference of Editors. The talk was aired during the webinar, followed by a live Q&A with Bertozzi and more than 1,400 attendees.
- In September, the webinar [Transforming Challenges into Opportunities: Mentors, Imposter Syndrome, and Diversity](#) featured ACS member Armando Rivera-Figueroa and had more than 250 attendees.

### AAPI Heritage Month Celebration

A month-long social media campaign ran during May to celebrate the contributions of Asian and Pacific American scientists to chemistry for AAPI Heritage Month.

### DEIR resources

A series of resources were released during 2023 to support DEIR efforts. Those include:

- A refreshed ACS DEIR Educational Resources Guide was released in July with an added section dedicated to LGBTQ+ inclusion.
- The [DEIR Snapshot](#) tool, a self-evaluation tool for undergraduate chemistry programs, was developed. It combines a short survey that chairs can distribute to administrators, students, faculty, and staff with a follow-up summary of survey responses aggregated into a simple-to-read graphic showing a gradation of colors ranging from red through blue, to indicate high and low points in the DEIR climate.
- A tip sheet to assist ACS staff and members on how to create meaningful partnerships with underserved communities was created. This is particularly helpful for Local Section and Division officers and subcommittees that aim to broaden participation in their activities.
- Detailed versions of the previous guides for hosting Inclusive “In-person Events” and “Facilitating Inclusion Moments” were published.

### Leadership course

“[Developing Communications Strategies](#)” has been revised to incorporate DEIR principles and inclusive strategies. This cross-divisional collaboration involved Education and the Office of DEIR. The course offered an opportunity to provide training on an essential skill for ACS volunteers who interact with members.

## ALL STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS—Support for ACS Governance and Operations

### ACS Strategic Plan

The [ACS Strategic Plan](#) was amended and approved by the ACS Board of Directors at its December 2023 meeting. The amended plan, which took effect January 1, 2024, provides the basis for all the Society's work in support of the Vision, Mission, and Core Values. The strategic plan is the result of broad engagement with governance and staff members, consolidated by the Strategic Planning Committee, and approved by the Board of Directors.

### ACS financial performance

The 2023 year-end net from operations (unaudited) was \$66 million, or 42% above the approved budget and 6% higher than forecast. This overperformance resulted from a continuation of growth within the Information Services divisions, along with lower net expenses across other Society activities, and a larger average investment balance in 2023.

### 2023 fundraising

The 2023 fundraising goal of \$4 million has been exceeded, with \$5.06 million raised. Major gift commitments for the year include: \$500,000 for Project SEED college scholarships; \$476,000 to establish and endow the David A. Evans Award; \$459,000 to endow the Marks-Ipatieff Award; \$400,000 to endow the Debye Award; and \$175,000 to establish the Global Mobility Grant program for international postdocs. In addition, planned giving commitments reached a 10-year high, with over \$1.125 million in new commitments.

### ACS Spring/Fall Meetings

Collaborations across ACS are focused on creating an overall more engaging and elevated meeting experience for all attendees at ACS Spring and Fall Meetings. Key stakeholders created and began implementing plans to increase programming among divisions and committees, present hot or late-breaking topics, include distinguished speakers, expand virtual symposia, create extra networking opportunities, and optimize the meeting footprint. Initial investments were made in the technology and infrastructure space to support this initiative.

### ACS.org AEM cloud migration

ACS successfully migrated the AEM content management system for [ACS.org](#) from on-premise ACS servers to the Adobe cloud. AEM in the cloud enhances the technical infrastructure powering [ACS.org](#), ensuring the ACS web applications are delivered in a dynamic architecture without downtime, leveraging the latest AEM product offerings and security enhancements. As part of the cloud initiative and a cost-saving measure, two on premises data centers were consolidated into one. In August, all applications from the Vienna, VA, data center were successfully moved to Ashburn, VA, and the Vienna data center was disabled. The AEM cloud migration project included teams from across the organization.

### Councilor/non-councilor reimbursement

In Fall of 2023, the Council Policy Committee voted to discontinue the Councilor Travel Expense Program effective December 31, 2023, and replace it with the Councilor Attendance Incentive Allotment Program effective January 1, 2024. The new allotment program allows Local Sections and Divisions to opt in to receive an allotment of \$2,000 per councilor per meeting, as long as the councilor attends the Council meeting in-person or remotely. Establishment of this program provides a simplified and streamlined allotment process over the current multi-step, time-intensive reimbursement process.

**Local Section officer webinar series**

As part of the local section toolkit, the Local Section Officer Webinar Series was created. The [webinar series](#) kicked-off with “Advancing Inclusion to the Next Level with your Local Section” in October. The webinar included a presentation from the Office of DEIR, information about the LSAC DEIR grant program, and interactive small group breakout sessions.

**Nominations portal**

A custom system was enabled to allow the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) to create voting slates in a secure online environment. The new system automates tasks previously done manually, reducing effort and errors, protecting confidential and sensitive information in a secure online environment, reducing time spent by staff coordinating and supporting the process, and allowing ACS to have better insight into data trends over time. These insights will allow for the identification of more diverse, qualified candidates.

**International representation on the Board of Directors**

In October, the ratification of the Petition to Add International Representation on the Board of Directors resulted in the establishment of an International District Director, beginning in 2025. This International District Director will provide a global perspective allowing the Board to better reflect ACS membership.