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Information, insights, and advice for ACS industry members

June 20, 2019

Welcome to the 6.20.19 issue of ACS Industry Matters. Mike Morello (retired from PepsiCo) explains how academia can do a better job preparing students for jobs in industry in "*What I Learned.*" Vikram Gopal talks about the non-technical skills he most highly prizes in his role as Senior VP Technology with Ascend Performance Materials ("*Boss Talk.*") And Danusia Wnek, an early-career chemist working at Good Housekeeping's Institute, shares why menthol is her favorite molecule. There's more, of course.

Please expect your next issue of Industry Matters on Wednesday, July 3rd, so you can unplug and enjoy the July 4th holiday. We'll resume regular Thursday sends the week of July 15th.

John C. Katz
Executive Editor

[BOSS TALK](#)

Insights and advice from a senior executive in the chemical industry

Vikram Gopal, Sr. Vice President,
Technology, Ascend Performance Materials



What are the non-technical skills you most highly value in scientists at Ascend Performance Materials? And why?

At Ascend, we believe collaboration and open feedback drive innovation. We expect everyone, not just our scientists, to work within and across teams to understand the full scope of problems and develop... [Read More](#).

QUOTABLE

"All presentations are intended to illuminate and influence an audience. There is no need for a speaker if the visuals alone are completely sufficient. Humans are both visual and auditory learners. Both hearing and seeing crystalize understanding and recall. My experience is that spoken words are most powerful, leading to the conclusion that presentations succeed more because of what you say than what you show."

Mark E. Jones, Ph.D., Executive External Strategy and Communications Fellow, The Dow Chemical Company

CAREER CORNER

ACS Career Consultants and other experts answer questions about advancing your career in industry

Question: As a mid-career chemist looking for a job change, how can I show employers that I'm valuable when competing with younger chemists entering the workforce?

Rampur Viswanath, ACS Career Consultant



It's important to understand the direction that the company is going and/or growing way before leadership talks about it. [Read More](#).



Marciano Bagnoli, ShinEtsu Silicones of America

Skilled chemists are familiar with all of the technology that goes into making chemistry generate value for the customer. As the technology becomes more specialized... [Read More](#).



Joe Martino, ACS Career Consultant

The secret to this is relevancy. Chemistry is an enterprise where one needs to be constantly up-to-date in the latest... [Read More](#).



Natalie LaFranzo, ACS Career Consultant

Hiring managers do not want to spend their time teaching basic professional skills... [Read More](#).

[WHAT I LEARNED](#)

Observations and reflections from chemists with decades of experience

working in industry.



Michael Morello, Retired R&D Director
Analytical Sciences: Volatile Flavor
Analysis/Global R&D Fellow, PepsiCo

[Did academia adequately prepare the chemists who joined your team at PepsiCo? Any glaring gaps that you and PepsiCo had to address to make the team more successful?](#)

There were two general areas that that would have helped prepare chemists entering PepsiCo. First is project management. That is, how to develop, communicate, and manage project plans. Getting project plans documented is... [Read More](#).

[SPOTLIGHT ON EARLY CAREER CHEMIST](#)

Get to know an early career chemist working in industry.



Danusia Wnek, Chemist, Health, Beauty &
Environmental Sciences Lab, Good
Housekeeping Institute

[Cosmetic chemist takes on the beauty aisle](#)

When Danusia Wnek was young, she loved bath time, especially watching bubbles form when soap met running water. As she got older, she played with beauty products and created her own masks to fight acne. "I knew I wanted to be in cosmetics practically since I was born," she says. Wnek grew up in Brooklyn, New York, the child of Polish immigrants. School didn't come easily to her as a kid, but... [Read More](#).

[MORE NEWS FROM ACS](#)

[San Diego STEM Workshop](#)

If you're in the first decade of your STEM industry career, ACS Industry Member Programs is bringing you a panel of four industry all-stars to share their insights and tips to sharpen the 4 high-demand professional communication and management skills you need to get ahead. Join us on August 27th in San Diego. [Learn more and register.](#)

Check out additional industry events and resources on the newly redesigned [ACS Industry website.](#)

Send thoughts, tips, and questions to industry@acs.org.

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