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Information, insights, and advice for ACS industry members

October 17, 2019

We have two pieces of exciting news to share. First, starting with this issue, ACS Industry Matters is moving from a bi-weekly to a weekly publication. We hope you will enjoy hearing from us every Thursday, as we strive to deliver original content that you find interesting, relevant and practical.

Secondly, in order to move to a weekly, we needed to add some new content. Starting with this issue, we are happy to report that Frankie Wood-Black and Ken Fivizzani – two experts in this area - have agreed to contribute their thoughts on important industry-related safety matters. We know that safety is top-of-mind in industry, and it also happens to be an ACS core value.

Feedback is always welcome. Please send to industry@acs.org.

John C. Katz
Executive Editor

[INTRODUCING "ON THE SAFE SIDE"](#)

Commentaries on workplace safety culture.

Imagine you have gotten to work, and you see before you flashing lights. Something has happened. What is going on? Someone is being rushed from the building into a waiting ambulance. Your next thought is

OH-NO! Who is it? What happened? It is moments like these that we fear, and we hope can be prevented. We begin to appreciate the importance of safety. And, we want to make sure that there won't be a next time. To do this it is important to learn from past experience, and shared experiences. So welcome to "On the Safe Side," where we hope to be able to provide information to help you make sure that this type of scenario doesn't happen at your workplace.



Frankie Wood-Black, Ph.D, M.B.A., R.E.M.,
Division Chair, Engineering, Physical Science
and Process Technology at Northern
Oklahoma College, and Principal of Sophic
Pursuits, Inc.

Safety - What is it?

A core value of the American Chemical Society is to promote professionalism, safety and ethics. These are words that we all think we understand until you get a group into a room and start a discussion about what they mean to each individual. Let's focus for a moment on safety and what it means, particularly to those in the chemical profession. The dictionary definition indicates that it is the condition of being protected from or unlikely to cause danger, risk or injury. But, as practitioners in an enterprise where there is potential to cause danger, risk, harm or injury, it is important to understand what we can do to ensure safety in our workplaces, our industries, our products and our communities. [Read More.](#)

WHAT I LEARNED

Observations and reflections from chemists with decades of experience working in industry.

John Finley, Adjunct Professor, School of
Nutrition and Food Sciences, Agricultural
Center at Louisiana State University



Does it make sense to you for consumers to pay significant premiums to purchase organic fruits and vegetables? What are people getting with organically produced produce that justifies the additional expense? Do you buy organic fruits or vegetables?

I do not believe it make sense to pay the premium price for organic fruits and vegetables. Organic products are mostly devoid of low levels of herbicides and pesticides, however in conventional products the residue levels are very low. Many organic products have slightly higher levels of antioxidant phenolic compounds, but the levels are likely not enough higher to render measurable health benefits. [Read More.](#)

[CAREER CORNER](#)

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

Lots of people say, "find your strengths." Okay, how do I do that?



Moji Bonakdar, Senior Director, Chemical Medicines

Ask trusted people about your strengths and weaknesses. Leverage your strengths by offering to help others to develop their strengths. [Read More.](#)



Greglynn Gibbs, ACS Career Consultant

Is it finding your strengths, or is it realizing what you're good at? Either way it takes a bit of self-evaluation and external feedback on what it is that you do well. Self-evaluation can be as simple as making a list of tasks you do or don't do well; making a list of successes and failures; or making a list of things you like or dislike. External feedback can include asking colleagues where they feel you are strongest or weakest, or tracking what you have done at work that has resulted in praise or recognition. [Read More.](#)



Lori Spangler, ACS Career Consultant

I would reflect on the times at work when you become totally engaged in what you are doing, when time flies by. You may have been utilizing your strengths at that time. Other questions for reflection include: When are you having fun at work? What kinds of things do people ask you to help them with? What are you praised for, by managers and teammates? Finally, there are books/quizzes (for example, Strengthsfinder) that can help you identify your strengths. [Read More.](#)



Chris Bannochie, ACS Career Consultant

There are many survey tools to help one phase out their strengths and weaknesses, communication styles, etc. Focus on improving your strengths and not your weaknesses, unless the weakness is a critical flaw that diminishes your productivity. [Read More.](#)

[QUOTABLE](#)

"Lithium-ion batteries are a great example of how chemistry can transform people's lives," said Bonnie Charpentier, president of the American Chemical Society. "It's wonderful to see this work recognized by the Nobel Prize."

Quoted in the New York Times, on the awarding of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry to John B. Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino.



[LINKEDIN LEARNING COURSE](#)

What you most need to know from an industry-connected LinkedIn Learning Course. Today's course: Managing a Multigenerational Workforce

Today's workforce employs members of five different generations, often in one office. While this presents some challenges, it will also produce great benefits with the help of an exceptional manager. Roberta Matuson advises managers on some challenges they'll face and how to overcome them as managers of a multigenerational workforce. [Read More.](#)

[MORE FROM ACS](#)

ACS Exclusive Report: AI and the Future of Drug Discovery

Artificial intelligence promises to revolutionize drug discovery and development. But what is it really capable of? And how can chemists help it succeed? Enjoy this special publication courtesy of C&EN and ACS. [Get the report.](#)

ACS Heroes of Chemistry Spotlight: Paratek Pharmaceuticals

The 2019 Heroes of Chemistry at Paratek Pharmaceuticals launched two commercially successful drugs based on new tetracycline derivative chemistry. Watch their story and get ready for 2020 nominations, opening Nov. 1! [More at *acs.org/heroes*](#)

Nominate a Noteworthy Chemist for an ACS National Award

Recognize an employee for an appropriate technical award. If your organization has a group that identifies individuals who should be nominated for awards, please share this information. We encourage you to nominate individuals from groups not commonly named as recipients of ACS awards such as women, minorities, chemists from industry and the national laboratories. The deadline date for all nominating material is November 1, 2019. [Submit your nominations today.](#) You can also [visit ACS's National Awards Page](#) or email awards@acs.org for more information on how to submit a nomination for an ACS National Award.

Join ACS's New LinkedIn Group

Are you an entrepreneur or interested in entrepreneurship in the chemical industry? Join ACS's new Innovation Hub LinkedIn group to make important connections, get advice, and learn about the latest trends driving chemical industry innovation. [Learn More.](#)

ACS Featured Short Course: Polymer Science and Technology

Gain a better understanding of the polymer field from their synthesis to characterization, properties and applications. All major synthetic methods are considered: step (condensation) polymerization, chain (addition) polymerization with ionic and radical variations, copolymerization, stereospecific polymerization, ring-opening polymerization and synthetic reactions on formed polymers. [Register for the course.](#)

ACS Industry Matters Goes Weekly

By popular demand, the ACS Industry Matters newsletter is moving to a weekly format. You can now expect the same great, member-only content, plus several exciting new columns, including features on innovation, safety, industry job postings and more, weekly every Thursday starting today.

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

Visit us at www.acs.org/industry.

American Chemical Society

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