THE KC CHEMIST

November 2026
Volume 78 Issue 4



ACS-KC SECTION NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WHEN: Tuesday, November 10, 2026; 5:30pm 6:00pm

WHERE: Arthur Mag Conference Center, 425 Volker, KCMO

MENU: We'll have a variety of pizzas from Minsky's, Veggies, Beer, Wine & Soft Drinks

COST: $5

RSVP: Please RSVP to Sarah Leibowitz: sleibowitzacs@gmail.com by November 6, 2026. Thank you!

****

*Please RSVP for the **Membership meeting** to Sarah Leibowitz sleibowitzacs@gmail.com by **November 6, 2026.**

ACS
Chemistry for Life

- AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY 1876-2026
- 150 YEARS!!
- ***Make sure to check out our website!!**
- **www.acs-kc.com**

It's voting time!!



Vote on or prior to Nov. 15, 2026. Our new Chair will be Dr. Bill Gutheil. Terms begin in January. We appreciate you taking the time to vote!

Voting Details: Electronic voting closes on November 15th. Members, please check your email! You will receive an email from Michele Sanders via SurveyMonkey. Cast your vote by clicking on the survey "ACS-Kansas City Election of Officers, 2027." ***PLEASE NOTE**: A paper ballot is included in this publication for those wishing to vote via snail mail. Choose a method and cast your vote!! If voting via snail mail, please remember you must sign your envelope as membership verification.

MAIL YOUR BALLOT TO: Bill Gutheil, UMKC School of Pharmacy, 2464 Charlotte St., Kansas City, MO 64108-2718. Your ballot must be postmarked by NOVEMBER 15, 2026!

*YOU MAY BRING YOUR BALLOT TO THE NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING IF YOU PREFER!! See the details of that meeting above.

Inside this issue:

Nov. Meeting	p1
Bio & Abstract	p2
Upcoming Events	p2
Ballot & Bios	p3
Exec. Board Members	p4

Our November Speaker's Biographical Sketch:

Grant N. Shivers, Ph.D.

Dr. Shivers is originally from Des Moines, Iowa. He completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Upon completing the Ph.D. program, he joined Cambrex's Chemical Development division where he works as a Senior Scientist. His work for Cambrex has focused on organic, synthetic, and process chemistry towards new and generic API manufacture.

ABSTRACT for Dr. Shiver's Presentation:

"The Development of a Leuckart-Wallavch Reaction with a Complex Amine"

Reductive alkylation is a ubiquitous amine functionalization strategy, with a robust understanding, and vast reaction toolkit. En route towards a commercial synthesis of a functionally dense API intermediate, traditional nucleophilic hydride sources posed compatibility and cost limitations. Confronted with functional group complexity, low substrate solubility, and commercial viability, the atypical Leuckart-Wallach reductive alkylation was pursued. Guided by screening and DoE work, this strategy circumvented the need for protecting groups or more costly reductive alkylation strategies.

UPCOMING EVENTS:



***Annual Holiday Networking Event:** *We are working on the plans for our gathering at Boulevard Brewing Company's Beer Hall, 2534 Madison Ave., KCMO in early December! Check our website and December's KCC for all the details! It's always a fun evening of good food (provided by the Section) and good fellowship; hope to see you there!*

*****

Secretary: Michele Sanders YES____ NO____

Michele Sanders BSMT, ASCP (NCA) currently serves as Alternate Councilor (2024 – 2026) for the Kansas City local ACS section to help bring our local section value to the overall American Chemical Society. She also serves as the Safety Committee and Women Chemists Chair. In the past, Michele served as Kansas City ACS Secretary (2016), Chair Elect (2017), Chair (2018), and Alternate Councilor (2021 – 2023). As Chair Elect, she organized the Spencer Award activities and committee. She still serves as editor for the yearly Spencer Award pamphlet and medallion and name plaque engraving.

Michele is a member of the ACS Analytical Chemistry, Industrial & Engineering, and Professional Relations Divisions. She serves on the national ACS Committee on Analytical Reagents (CAR) and its Organics and Validation subcommittees and University Taskforce. The committee members determine analytical testing and chemical specifications for chemicals to be labeled as ACS grade. They also develop monographs and validated methods for analytical testing.

Michele received her Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology from Avila University in Kansas City, Missouri. She is an Analytical - Product Development Chemist and Chemical Hygiene Officer at Harcros Chemicals Inc. in Kansas City, Kansas. Throughout her career, she has been involved in the laboratory profession in medical, pharmaceutical, specialty chemicals, research and development, and regulatory compliance.

Councilor: (Please vote for just one)

Sarah Leibowitz YES____ NO____

Dr. Leibowitz currently serves as Councilor for the Kansas City Section, representing our local interests to the national American Chemical Society. She is a member of the national Membership Affairs Committee (MAC) that helped reduce ACS dues for all members. Sarah is running for Councilor to facilitate opportunities for more of our members to engage with the ACS both locally and nationally. Dr. Leibowitz is a Senior Scientist working to improve animal health and nutrition at Argenta. Previously she developed Animal Hygiene products in her role as a Senior Research Scientist at DeLaval Manufacturing. Sarah also worked at Bayer CropScience in the Formulation Development, Research, and Manufacturing areas. Sarah has been an active chemical professional throughout her career. She started as a student affiliate in the Canadian Chemical Society at McGill University in Montreal where she earned her BSc in Chemistry; and continued as a student ACS member at Texas A&M University where she earned a PhD in Physical chemistry. Dr. Leibowitz served as the Kanas City ACS Chair in 1998 and 2020. Since 2000, Sarah has been responsible for the financial investments used to fund the Spencer Award for Excellence in Agriculture and Food Chemistry. Sarah shares her enthusiasm about chemistry by taking hands-on experiments to classrooms, so students learn science the way STEM professionals do.

Michele Sanders YES____ NO____

(Please See Michele Sanders' biography under Secretary above.)

Quamar Salih YES____ NO____

Dr. Quamar Salih is an organic chemist working for Bayer Crop Science as a process analyzer specialist. Quamar has been in the agrochemical industry since 2016 when he first joined the Global Technology group at Bayer. A brief detour to BASF led him back to process development. At BASF, he was the scientist on the launch of a new molecule in 2022. With many ties to Kansas City and Bayer, Quamar returned to a role in the process analysis and optimization area of agrochemical manufacturing, as a subject matter expert. He began his academic journey at Truman State university with a bachelor's in chemistry. Afterwards, he moved to Oregon State University to get his PhD in chemistry. There, he synthesized natural products that possessed chirality without having stereocenters and determined which of the ones isolated were chiral. Further, he developed the first enantioselective C-O bond-forming Ullmann reaction to synthesize the natural products that were chiral as a single enantiomer. Finally, Quamar spent a year as a postdoc at The Scripps Research Institute working in a chemical biology lab looking at small molecule RNA interactions. Quamar has been part of ACS for over 15 years and enjoys the intersection of academia and industry especially here in ACS-KC Section. During his time at BASF, he served as alternate council at the Mark Twain ACS chapter. He is also a member of the Division of Organic Chemistry (DOC) with the ACS.

Our thanks also to Dr. Gary Clapp who is the current Chair of the ACS-KC Section!

ACS-KC Section 2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Chair:	**Dr. Gary Clapp (CIA Labs)**	**(816) 341-3230**
Chair-Elect:	**Dr. Bill Gutheil (UMKC)**	**(816) 235-2424**
Treasurer:	**Dr. Jeff Woodford (MWSU)**	**jwoodford@missouriwestern.edu**
Secretary:	**Michele Sanders (Harcros Chemicals)**	**(913) 621-7883**
Councilor:	**Dr. Sarah Leibowitz (Argenta)**	**sleibowitzacs@gmail.com**
Alt. Council.:	**Michele Sanders (Harcros Chemicals)**	**(913) 621-7883**
Newsletter Editor:	**Mary Jean Clapp (SJSD)**	**Clappmj@aol.com**
Website Director:	**Gary Clapp (CIA Labs)**	**geclapp424@gmail.com**
Immediate Past Chair:	**Dr. Bill Gutheil (UMKC)**	**(816) 235-2424**

Visit our website!!
American Chemical Society
Kansas City Section
View online:
www.acs-kc.com

NOVEMBER 2026
American Chemical Society
Kansas City Chemist
2903 Wiltshire Court
St. Joseph MO 64506