



## **ACS-KC SECTION** **MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**

**WHEN:** *Wednesday, March 5, 2025; 6:00pm*

**WHERE:** *Arthur Mag Conference Center, 425 Volker Ave., KCMO*

**SPEAKER:** *Dr. Justin Randall, Assistant Professor, UMKC's School of Science and Engineering*

**TALK TITLE:** *"High-throughput Approaches for New Antimicrobial Peptide Discovery and Optimization"*

**MENU:** *Pizza and Beverages*

**COST:** \$5

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Please RSVP to Sarah Leibowitz:  
[sleibowitzacs@gmail.com](mailto:sleibowitzacs@gmail.com)  
by February 28, 2025.  
Thank you!



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Chemistry for Life

## **ACS-KC SECTION CELEBRATES ITS QUASQUICENTENNIAL**

This year, the KC Section is celebrating our Quasquicentennial, or our **125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!** That's right, the section was founded in 1900, and we are going to have a year-long celebration as a result. The section recently received a \$2,000 grant from the National ACS in support of our Quasquicentennial Celebration and we plan on organizing many interesting activities, including inviting some eminent speakers and having a membership meeting where we review the past 125 years of history of the section. If you have ideas for events or celebrations that you would like to see for our Quasquicentennial, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jwoodford@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:jwoodford@missouriwestern.edu). Thank you for joining the celebration!

- AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY 1876-2025
- 149 YEARS
- **\*Make sure to check out our website!!**
- [www.acs-kc.com](http://www.acs-kc.com)

**MANY THANKS to all the volunteers and participants who joined us as we celebrated SUPER SCIENCE SATURDAY!**

**The always fun, explorative, and interesting 25<sup>th</sup> Annual family event took place on Saturday, February 8, 2025, from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at Remington/Agenstein Hall at Missouri Western State University**

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## Monthly Membership Meeting Details; Wednesday, March 5, 2025:

### **Bio on our Speaker: Dr. Justin Randall, Assistant Professor, UMKC's School of Science and Engineering**

Justin grew up in Tucson, Arizona and received his B.S. in 2011 from the University of Arizona. He then moved to Ann Arbor where his PhD dissertation at the University of Michigan focused on the resolution of RNA: DNA hybrids in the Gram-positive bacterium *Bacillus subtilis*. During graduate school, Justin became interested in antibiotic resistance and antimicrobial discovery and joined Bryan Davies lab as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas at Austin to help develop a high-throughput antimicrobial peptide discovery technology called Surface Localized Antimicrobial Display (SLAY). He is now an Assistant Professor at UMKC's School of Science and Engineering where his lab focuses on developing high-throughput methods of synthetic antimicrobial peptide discovery and optimization.

### **Talk Title: "High-throughput Approaches for New Antimicrobial Peptide Discovery and Optimization"**

#### **Abstract:**

The continued development and spread of antibiotic resistance combined with a decade's long stagnation in new antibiotic discovery has left doctors with few options to treat multidrug resistant bacterial infections. Traditional methods of natural antibiotic discovery are no longer effective, necessitating the development and application of new strategies. Our lab leverages new high-throughput antimicrobial peptide functional screens to identify novel peptide sequences with antibiotic potential. By combining these strategies with machine learning, we have also helped better understand how to efficiently optimize known sequences to reduce their toxicity while maintaining potent bacterial killing.

## Upcoming Events:

### **ACS Spring 2025 Meeting & Expo**

Pushing Boundaries. Solving Global Challenges.

Get ready to learn and network with industry and academia. **San Diego CA & Virtual March 23-27, 2025.** For more info visit: <https://www.acs.org/meetings/acs-meetings/spring.html>

# ACS-KC Standing Committees & Chairs

**Please consider volunteering on one (or more) of our committees!  
We welcome your thoughts, ideas, and contribution!**

\*Please contact Gary Clapp ([geclapp424@yahoo.com](mailto:geclapp424@yahoo.com)) if you are interested in one of the committees. Thank you! We would appreciate it, and we welcome your input and assistance!



Check us out on **FACEBOOK**: ACS-KC and **LINKEDIN**: ACS-KC

## COMMITTEES and CHAIRS

|   |   |
|---|---|
| AWARDS.....                                       | Alcinda Ruuskanen, MWSU                 |
| EDUCATION.....                                    | Dr. Jeffrey Woodford, MWSU              |
| ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT.....                    | Dr. Shuo Han, UMKC                      |
| FINANCE.....                                      | Dr. Jeffrey Woodford, MWSU              |
| LONG RANGE PLANNING.....                          | <b>OPEN</b>                             |
| MEMBERSHIP.....                                   | Mr. Alex Marin, Honeywell               |
| MINORITY AFFAIRS.....                             | <b>OPEN</b>                             |
| NCW & GREEN CHEMISTRY COORDINATOR.....            | <b>OPEN</b>                             |
| NEWSLETTER EDITOR.....                            | Mary Jean Clapp, EDUStaff/emPowerU      |
| NOMINATIONS Local Section Executive Committee.... | <b>OPEN</b>                             |
| PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS.....                       | Dr. David Van Horn, UMKC                |
| PROGRAM.....                                      | Dr. William Gutheil, UMKC               |
| PUBLIC (Government) AFFAIRS.....                  | <b>OPEN</b>                             |
| PUBLIC RELATIONS.....                             | Dr. Gary Clapp, Retired, MWSU           |
| SAFETY.....                                       | Michele Sanders, Harcros Chemicals      |
| SENIOR CHEMIST.....                               | Mr. Mark Northrup, Retired              |
| SPENCER AWARD NOMINATIONS.....                    | Dr. Tom Hemling, TCH Animal Health, LLP |
| WEBMASTER.....                                    | Dr. Gary Clapp, Retired, MWSU           |
| WOMEN CHEMISTS.....                               | Michele Sanders, Harcros Chemicals      |

# ACS-KC Section 2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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**Visit our website!!**

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View online:

**[www.acs-kc.com](http://www.acs-kc.com)**

MARCH 2025  
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