



Please RSVP to Sarah Leibowitz:
sleibowitzacs@gmail.com
by March 27th. Thank you!



ACS
Chemistry for Life

ACS-KC SECTION MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WHEN: Tuesday, March 31st; 5:30pm

WHERE: Shimadzu Scientific, 14115 W 95th St., Lenexa KS

SPEAKER: Dr. Steven A. Soper, KU Comprehensive Cancer Center

TALK TITLE: "Designing the Perfect Molecular Diagnostic Test for Cancer"

DINNER: Dinner will be catered by Zarda Bar-B-Q

COST: Shimadzu is graciously hosting this event at no cost

RSVP: Please RSVP by Friday, March 27, 2026 (See sidebar)

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER:

Since 2016 Prof. Soper is a Foundation distinguished Professor in Chemistry, Mechanical Engineering, and Bioengineering at the University of Kansas. At KUMC, Prof. Soper holds an adjunct appointment in the Cancer Biology Department and is a member of the KU NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center. He also holds an appointment at Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology in Ulsan, South Korea, where he is a World Class University Professor. As a result of his efforts, Prof. Soper has secured extramural funding totaling >\$145M, has published over 245 peer-reviewed manuscripts; 32 book chapters and 75 peer-reviewed conference proceeding papers, and is the author of 20 patents. He is also the founder of a startup company, BioFluidica, which is marketing devices for the isolation and enumeration of circulating markers.

Soper recently founded a second company, Sunflower Genomics, which is seeking to market a new DNA/RNA single-molecule sequencing platform. His list of awards includes National Academy of Inventors, Ralph N. Adams Award in Bioanalytical Chemistry, Higuchi Applied Sciences Award (KU), Chemical Instrumentation by the American Chemical Society, the Benedetti-Pichler Award for Microchemistry, Fellow of the AAAS, Fellow of Applied Spectroscopy, Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, Fellow of the American Institute of Outstanding Scientist/Engineer in the state of Louisiana. Prof. Soper has granted 61 PhDs and 7 MS degrees to students under his mentorship. He currently heads a group of 20 researchers.

His major discoveries include: (1) Use of nanoscale electrophoresis for biology and medicine; (2) High-scale production of plastic nanostructures using injection molding; (2) Technology for the detection of circulating markers to manage a variety of cancer diseases using a simple blood test; (2) New hardware and assay for the point-of-care diagnosis of acute ischemic stroke; (3) Single-molecule DNA/RNA sequencing; and (4) Handheld instrument for the detection of viral infections.

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

Inside this issue:

Member Meet.	p1
Speaker Bio	p1
Abstract/Events	p2
Spencer Award	p3
Comm. & Chairs	p3
Exec. Board Members	p4



“DESIGNING THE PERFECT MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTIC TEST FOR CANCER”

There are >100 different cancer diseases, and each has its unique biology indicating that vastly different molecular markers can guide clinical management decisions to maximize the best outcomes for a particular patient. In addition, the aggressiveness of the cancer is markedly different between cancers with different organs of origin as well as the probability of detecting the disease at an early stage to dramatically increase survival. No matter what the type of cancer, there are different tests required for disease management, including screening (early detection), diagnostic (does the person actually have the disease), prognostic (how to treat the disease), monitoring response to therapy (is the therapy working), and recurrence. In this presentation, I will discuss both the discovery (what are the biomarkers that can be used for managing a cancer disease) and translational phase of developing molecular tests for cancer (i.e., in vitro diagnostics, IVD). I will use two case examples: (i) the early detection of ovarian cancer; and (ii) monitoring response to therapy and looking for recurrence from residual disease in childhood leukemia. In both cases, the diseases are managed using a liquid biopsy sample, which allows for securing relevant biomarkers from a simple blood draw. I will present the analytical methodologies used for discovering the necessary biomarkers for each disease and discuss the use of those biomarkers and the relevant technologies for analyzing them in a clinical setting. The technology platform I will discuss uses microfluidics, which consists of credit-card sized chips that can process samples in a fully automated fashion.

Upcoming Events:

ACS Spring Meeting: Atlanta, Georgia & Digital, March 22-26, 2026

Collaborate. Innovate. Transform. Access breakthrough science, career-boosting events, and a community that's shaping the future of chemistry. For more information and to register, visit: <https://www.acs.org/events/spring.html>

USNCO 2026: The United States National Chemistry Olympiad is a multi-tiered competition designed to stimulate and promote achievement in high school chemistry. It is sponsored by the American Chemical Society. Local Chemistry Olympiad competitions are open to all high school students in the U.S. **The Local Exam period is February 27-March 16. The National Exam is April 10-19.**

Chemists Celebrate Earth Week: CCEW is a community-based program of the American Chemical Society (ACS). This annual program unites ACS local sections, student communities, ACS divisions, businesses, schools, and individuals in communicating the positive role that chemistry plays in the world. **Earth Day is observed on April 22 and CCEW is celebrated the week of Earth Day, this year April 19-25.** Earth Day Theme: “Planet vs. Plastics.” Earth Week Topic: “Trees and Forests.” Theme: “Into the Woods with Chemistry.”

*2026 Kenneth A Spencer Award Winner Announced!

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Appell, USDA-ARS National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research. Our ACS-KC Section is already working on the Award Presentation and Banquet which will take place in the fall. Much more information to come in the Kansas City Chemist publications.

The Kenneth A Spencer Award for Outstanding Achievement in Agricultural and Food Chemistry was founded in 1955. It is recognized as one of the most prestigious awards presented to chemists working in many agricultural and food science areas. The award endorses meritorious contributions by scientists in academia and industry. For more than 60 years, the outstanding achievements of the Awardees have continued to establish the great reputation of the Spencer Award within the United States of America.

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@gmail.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.....	OPEN
MEMBERSHIP.....	Mr. Alex Marin, Honeywell
MINORITY AFFAIRS.....	OPEN
NCW & GREEN CHEMISTRY COORDINATOR.....	OPEN
NEWSLETTER EDITOR.....	Mary Jean Clapp, EDUStaff/emPowerU
NOMINATIONS Local Section Executive Committee....	OPEN
PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS.....	Dr. David Van Horn, UMKC
PROGRAM.....	Dr. William Gutheil, UMKC
PUBLIC (Government) AFFAIRS.....	Dr. Gary List, University of IL, Urbana-Champaign
PUBLIC RELATIONS.....	Dr. Gary Clapp, CIA Labs
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, CIA Labs
WOMEN CHEMISTS.....	Michele Sanders, Harcros Chemicals

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) (816) 271-4100
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

MARCH 2026
American Chemical Society
Kansas City Chemist
2903 W. 15th Street
St. Joseph, MO 64506