



The Western Palmetto Informer

American Institute of Chemical Engineers

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Contact Information

Visit our website:
www.aiche.org/wsc

E-Mail us at:
sec@wscaiche.org
chair@wscaiche.org

Message from the Chair:

Welcome to the New Year! We had a nice turn out and good discussion at our first December social. It is my hope that you came through the season with good spirits and still in good health!

Going back to our November meeting, let me, once again, thank Dr. Seema Nandi for her presentation on the developments in artificial blood platelet technology. It was informative and timely given the blood supply shortages we are experiencing across the country. We wish her and all her counterparts working in this area expedience and prudence as they press forward with trials to make this technological advance a life-saving reality.

Then, as we move forward, we are pleased to report that, despite the recent COVID setbacks, we have a full spring speaker schedule. For our January event, the Clemson Engineering Student Chapter has stepped up to host a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting at Earle Hall next week, Tuesday, January 18, 2022. The speaker, new to Clemson, will be speaking on cutting edge technology in catalysis. We will offer dinner to all attendees that RSVP through the website. A ZOOM meeting room will be open for virtual attendees and a recording will be available on the website at a later date.

Then, in February, we will be awarding TWO scholarships to students in the engineering program at Clemson University. The application is available on the section website. The February meeting will be held at the Innovate Building, 3rd Floor, in Greenville, SC, and our speaker will be Ruth Albright speaking on PFAS (Polyflourinated Alkinades). RSVP links and information are most easily accessed through our website www.aiche.org/WSC.

I look forward to seeing you virtually or in person at one of our upcoming meetings.

Conny Walker, Chair, WSC LS AIChE

January 2022

“Catalysts Can Be Good at Multitasking: Two Practical Examples”

Dr. Ana C. Alba-Rubio

Dr. Ana C. Alba-Rubio is an associate professor in the Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering at Clemson University. She received her B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Malaga, Spain, received her doctoral degree from the Institute of Catalysis and Petrochemistry (CSIC) in Madrid, Spain and had post-doctoral position at University of Wisconsin, Madison and University of Toledo before joining Clemson staff in 2020, She has received numerous awards and was recently recognized as one of the 2021 Nanoscale Emerging Investigators. She currently serves as a director of the AIChE Catalysis and Reaction Engineering Division (CRE). Full bio is on our website.

January Meeting Information

TITLE:	Catalysts Can Be Good at Multitasking: Two Practical Examples
SPEAKER:	Dr. Ana Alba-Rubio
DATE:	Tuesday, January 18, 2022
EVENT TIMING:	6:00 PM Social 6:30 PM Dinner/ZOOM Room opens 6:45 PM Section Business Meeting 7:00 PM Presentation (in-person or virtual)
LOCATION (in-person event):	Clemson University, Earle Hall -In-person attendance is limited; RSVP for dinner and a show! -Masks required inside campus buildings -Parking passes will be distributed upon arrival; easy parking in lot E-04 at the corner of Williamson Dr & S Palmetto Blvd -those interested in carpooling, please contact Jacob Lindler at vchair@wscaiche.org
LOCATION (virtual event):	ZOOM Connect via link on the WSC AIChE website (registration in advance is recommended)
COST:	No charge for members or guests for this meeting.
RSVP Required for in-person dinner	by 5:00 PM Friday, January 14, 2021 click here for RSVP form

Contact Secretary (sec@wscaiche.org) if you have trouble with the RSVP form.

New Committees - Finance and Outreach

The WSC AIChE Section is looking for members to join two new committees to better serve our membership and our community.

The **Finance Committee** oversees the section's investment and banking accounts. The committee also prepares an annual budget and makes recommendations for scholarship amounts, speaker expenses/honorariums, and the like. Austin Crooks, Anastase (Tasso) Ghionis and Anil Wagle are current members. Email treasurer@wscaiche.org for more information or to volunteer your time.

The **Outreach Committee** will explore opportunities to support local schools and to make ourselves known in the broader community. Please contact Tasso Ghionis at sec@wscaiche.org if you have suggestions on what we might become involved with or if you would be willing to serve on this committee.

Seeking Volunteers for these Positions

Treasurer - We congratulate Austin Crooks on his recent promotion to Project Manager at Synterra Corporation. We reluctantly accept his resignation as his capable leadership will be sorely missed in this position. Anil Wagle has taken on the role as interim treasurer, and we are seeking a candidate with on-line banking skills and a strong sense of business to keep us on-track financially and stay current with federal banking and non-profit regulation changes as they impact our organization.

Webmaster - If you have an interest in enhancing communications and even modest computer/technology skills, the Executive Committee is looking for assistance with our website. The website is hosted by AIChE, and recent modifications leave the door open for reprogramming and web-based design. We are looking for someone willing to work on this with our national representatives while sustaining the basic functionality of posting meeting information, uploading pictures and files in support of our local chapter activities.

Historian - As the technology has changed, so has this role of historian – whereas the past historian only had photographs to document activities, this new age has the ZOOM meeting platform and a myriad of other ways to stay on top of our meetings and activities. This role requires a creative forward-thinking individual with sufficient on-line skills to create a finished package summary of each meeting. We will need recommendations how to disseminate and store records of each meeting.

All of these positions offer personal development opportunities that can have lasting impact not only on our organization, but your personal career. As members of the executive committee you will also become part of the process of selecting training and materials in support of our chapter. These positions will be what you make of them.

2021-2022 Officers and Executive Committee

POSITION	NAME	COMPANY	E-MAIL
Chair	Conny Walker	GCSD	chair@wscaiche.org
Vice-Chair	Jacob Lindler	aeSolutions	jllindler@yahoo.com vchair@wscaiche.com
Secretary	Tasso Ghionis	Omega Chemicals	sec@wscaiche.org
Treasurer	(open)		
Former Chair	Anil Wagle	Retired	Anilwagle123@gmail.com
Newsletter	Bonnie McCourtie	Jacobs	Bonnie.mccourtie@jacobs.com
Webmaster	(open)		
Historian	(open)		
Executive Committee	Karl McCaleb	Mitsubishi	kmccaleb2@bellsouth.net
	Donald P Gurney, Jr., ScD, P.E.	Consultant	degurney@charter.net
	Bill Thompson	Ortec	bthompson@ortecinc.com
	Devon Clymer	Jacobs	Devon.clymer@jacobs.com

2021-2022 Calendar of Events

DATE	LOCATION	TOPIC
January 18, 2022	Earle Hall, Clemson	Catalysis Dr. Ana Alba-Rubio
February 15, 2022	Innovate Bldg Greenville, SC	PFAS Ruth Albright
March 2022	TBD	TBD
April 2022	TBD	Plant Tour
May 2022	TBD	WSC LS AIChE May Social

Links to Other Organizations

Clemson Section of AIChE-- [Clemson AIChE](#)

Stay in touch with the chemists (ACS) in the area.

<https://westerncarolinas.net>