

AIChE Chicago

December 2024 Newsletter

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Happy Holidays from AIChE Chicago Chapter!



AIChE Chicago December Social Lincoln Park Zoo Lights

Date: Monday, Dec 16, 2024 @ 6:30 PM (meet-up at 6:15 PM)

Location: Lincoln Park Zoo (West Gate Entrance)

Organized by:

**AIChE Early Career Community (ECC) / Young Professionals
Committee (YPC) Chicago**

Ring in 2025 on a good note! Pay your AIChE dues by 12/31/24

Chicago Local Section dues are only \$20

<https://www.aiche.org/membership>

SAVE THE DATE – Joint ACS / AIChE Chicago January 2025 Meeting

Professor Omar K. Farha – Thursday, January 16, 2025

Solving Big Problems with Small Things: Smart and Programmable Crystalline Sponges

Biography:

Omar K. Farha is the Charles E. and Emma H. Morrison Professor in Chemistry at Northwestern University, an Executive Editor for ACS Applied Materials Interfaces, and President of Numat Technologies. His current research spans diverse areas of chemistry and materials science ranging from energy to defense-related challenges. Specifically, his research focuses on the rational design of metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) for applications sensing, catalysis, storage, separations, and water purification.



His research accomplishments have been recognized by several awards and honors including the Herman Pines Award, Fellowship of the European Academy of Sciences, the Kuwait Prize, Japanese Society of Coordination Chemistry International Award for Creative Work, the Environment, Sustainability and Energy Division Early Career Award of the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Satinder Ahuja Award for Young Investigators in Separation Science of the American Chemical Society (ACS), and the Emerging Researcher Award of the ACS ENFL Division. In addition, a special award was established by the Department of Chemistry at Northwestern University in his honor: the Omar Farha Award for Research Leadership which is “awarded for stewardship, cooperation and leadership in the finest pursuit of research in chemistry” and given annually to an outstanding research scientist working in the department.

Prof. Farha has more than 670 peer-reviewed publications, holds 17 patents, has 108,000 citations, an h-index of 164 (Google Scholar), and has been named a “Highly Cited Researcher” from 2014 to 2024.

Abstract:

Eighty years ago, few people in the world had heard of polymers. But in the late 1930s, one polymer—nylon—became a household word in just a few months. While nylon took the stockings market by storm, the progression toward polymers becoming ubiquitous in clothing and beyond—in kitchenware, electronics, building materials, medicine, and more—took decades. We now know that polymers were one of the materials that characterized the 20th century.

Looking ahead, metal-organic frameworks (MOFs), or smart and programmable sponges, are poised to be a defining material of the 21st century. Though this class of multidimensional crystalline materials is still in its early stages, 50 years from now they will be an ever-present part of human life just as polymers are today. MOFs are a class of porous materials that we can think of as nano-sized Tinker Toy assemblies that repeat in periodic arrays. Researchers around the world have explored the relevance of MOFs for applications including, but not limited to, drug delivery, water harvesting, gas storage, separations, and destruction of nerve agents. Importantly, start-up companies have recently undertaken MOF commercialization within industrial sectors. This talk will focus on metal-organic frameworks as the enabling materials for environmental applications from Basic Science to Implementation and Commercialization.

AICHe Chicago Centennial Celebration

The Chicago Section was the first section in AIChE, and this 2024-2025 programming year will mark its 100-year anniversary! Please view [our website](#) to read more about our past.

The centennial will be recognized throughout the year with special monthly meeting arrangements and of course a big party to celebrate so stay tuned! The newsletter will also feature guest articles and other snippets of history which we hope you will enjoy.

Nominations Requested for the Ernest W. Thiele Award

The Ernest W. Thiele award is sponsored by bp and recognizes the outstanding contributions to our profession by a Midwest region chemical engineer. This award was established by the AIChE Chicago Section and is presented annually to a Midwest region AIChE member. This internationally recognized award consists of an engraved plaque and \$1,000 honorarium presented at a monthly section meeting.

Nomination forms and additional information can be obtained from the Thiele Committee Chair. Completed nominations are due to the committee chair no later than **April 01, 2025**.

One of the highest honors a distinguished chemical engineer can receive is our AIChE Chicago Section Thiele award. Please consider nominating a deserving engineer for this prestigious award.

To nominate, please contact: **Jeffrey Zalc – bp Solutions, P&O**

Phone: 630.881.5478 Email: jeffrey.zalc@bp.com

More information about this award and the past winners:

<https://www.aiche.org/community/sites/chicago-local-section/ernest-w-thiele-award>

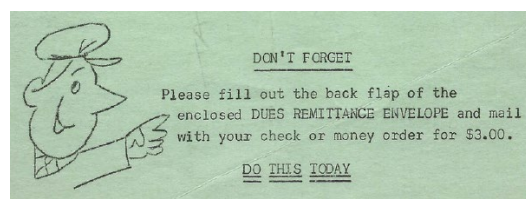
<https://www.aiche.org/community/sites/local-sections/chicago/thiele-award-past-winners>

Local Section Dues Notice

AIChE national send out their membership renewals at the end of each calendar year. Please help support us by including Chicago Local Section dues in that national membership payment – our local section dues are only \$20.

We really appreciate your financial support, especially during this Centennial Anniversary year. Without local section dues, we would not be able to hold monthly meetings, plan the Midwest Regional Conference, support local chemical engineering student chapters, or even send out this newsletter by email!

In honor of the Centennial of the AIChE Chicago Section, here is a dues reminder from an old newsletter. Thank you for your support!



Dues notice from Oct 1961

2025 AIChE Chicago Meeting Schedule and Speakers

Month	Date	Speaker	Affiliation	Topic
January	16th	Omar K. Farha	Northwestern University	Solving Big Problems with Small Things: Smart and Programmable Crystalline Sponges

Upcoming AIChE Conferences, Meetings, and Webinars

AIChE Conferences	
Jan 5-8, 2025	<u>13th International Conference on Biomolecular Engineering</u> , The Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria, Houston, TX, USA
Feb 16-18, 2025	<u>5th AfroBioTech Conference</u> , John Lewis Student Center at Georgia Tech, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
Feb 20-22, 2025	<u>International Congress on Sustainability Science & Engineering (ICOSSE '25)</u> , University of Auckland, Auckland, NZ
Apr 6-10, 2025	<u>2025 Spring Meeting and 21st Global Congress on Process Safety</u> , Hilton Anatole, Dallas, TX
April 9-11, 2025	<u>9th International Conference on Accelerating Biopharmaceutical Development (AccBio 2025)</u> Hilton Garden Inn Carlsbad Beach, Carlsbad, CA, USA
April 29, 2025	<u>17th AIChE Midwest Regional Conference</u> , University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL

Chicago ACS News and Upcoming Meeting

The Chicago sections of ACS and AIChE traditionally hold a joint meeting in January, but that does not mean the collaboration has to stop there! Please check out the latest Chicago ACS news and consider attending their next general meeting.

Chicago ACS bulletin: <https://chicagoacs.org/news.php>

Next Chicago ACS general meeting:

December 13 with Dr. Cary Supalo, Founder, Independent Scientist – “My Path as a Blind Chemist”



November Meeting Photos

Remember to check out our [Facebook page](#) for more photos and news!



Connect with members and participate in discussions on [Engage!](#)

Check out AICHE's member benefit, AICHE Engage. Use the robust directory search to find and connect with members. Participate in technical, career, and academic discussions about chemical engineering.



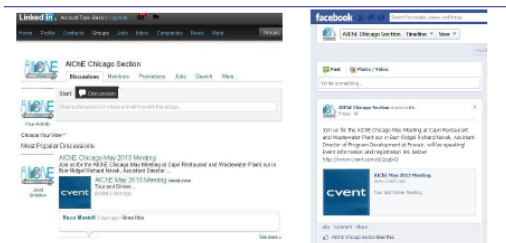
AIChE Chicago History – Social Media

By Janet Werner

Over the past 100 years, methods of communication have changed drastically. When the AIChE Chicago Section was founded, most communication between members of the section probably would have been through letters, telephone, or telegram. Today members communicate information primarily through email, social media, and websites. You were probably emailed a weblink to this newsletter through our mass email blast or found out about it through a social media post.

Our AIChE Chicago Section website was started in the late 1990s. In the early 2000s, members still received most of their communication through the newsletter, still printed and physically mailed. In 2005, the section began to phase out physical copies of the newsletter for cost cutting purposes and instead provided digital copies of the newsletter in member emails.

By the late 2000s, social media was growing – Facebook became available to the anyone with an email address over 13 years old in September 2006. A few members on the officer board, including myself, decided to make a push for AIChE Chicago to join social media. I set up the Facebook Page and LinkedIn Group in the 2012-2013 programming year and was the first committee member to maintain these pages. Prior to this, AIChE Chicago would post information on their website but did not have other official public online presence. See this snip from the May 2013 Newsletter about an initiative to drive more likes/joins to our social media.



AIChE Chicago Section is now on Facebook and LinkedIn!

Join/Like Us for a Chance to Win a Prize!

Join our group on LinkedIn or Like our page on Facebook and attend the May Meeting for a chance to win a \$25 giftcard!

Here's how to have a chance to win!

1. [Click here](#) to go to our LinkedIn group or [Click here](#) to go to our Facebook page! Join our LinkedIn group or like our Facebook page.
2. Attend the AIChE Chicago May 2013 Meeting.
3. At registration, ask to participate in the raffle.
4. During the section announcements after dinner, a winner(s) will be drawn! Must be present to enter and win. AIChE Chicago board members as [defined by the website](#) are not eligible to participate or win.



Our Facebook page and LinkedIn group have been maintained for the past few years by Sanaz Taghvaii, and she has been doing a great job posting photos, advertising meetings, and letting members know about AIChE and ChE topics! If you haven't joined our LinkedIn group or liked our Facebook page, it's not too late! Please help us by liking our posts and sharing them with your friends/network to spread the word about our events.

As our section continues into (hopefully!) our next 100 years, communication methods will continue to change, and the section will need to continue to adapt. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for new social media or communication methods. If you are interested in volunteering to help us with this, please let us know!



SAVE THE DATE

2025 AIChE Midwest Regional Conference

Chicago, IL – **April 29, 2025**

Hosted by University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)

Organized by Chicago Local Section of AIChE

If you are interested in:

- Presenting a poster or paper
- Being a session chair or co-chair
- Getting involved and volunteering

Please send an email to **Jarad Champion (conference chair):**

jaradchampion@aiचेchicago.org

December Social Information

Hey ChemEs!

Join us for a festive event on Monday, December 16th at 6:30 PM! The Aiche YP group will tour the Lincoln Park Zoo lights.

Details:

Lincoln Park Zoo

Monday, December 16th, 6:15 PM Meetup

Location: Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago Illinois (West Gate Entrance)

Please reach out to allisonnordvall@gmail.com to RSVP or if you have questions.

Join Our GroupMe and become a part of the Chicago Chemical Engineering Young Professional Community:
https://groupme.com/join_group/99685952/GrFycymv

Early Career Community (ECC) / Young Professionals Committee (YPC) Chicago Section

AIChE's Early Career Community (ECC) / Young Professionals Committee (YPC) Chicago Section was created to start and maintain young professionals' involvement in AIChE after graduation and to ensure that students retain their membership through their transition into the work force.

We enthusiastically welcome all people with a degree in Chemical Engineering, including those currently working in industry and academia, recent graduates, and those pursuing other paths. We also welcome current students, both undergraduate and graduate students to our events.

The Chicago YPC exists as a subset of the AIChE Chicago Section.

Our goal is to provide technical, career, and networking opportunities to young Chemical Engineering professionals in the Chicagoland area. To accomplish this, we seek to provide a variety of technical and social activities, provide outreach and volunteering opportunities, and to create programming that will appeal to ChemE's under 35.

General ECC Website: <https://www.aiche.org/community/sites/committees/early-career>

ECC/YPC Chicago Website:

<https://www.aiche.org/community/sites/local-sections/Chicago/young-professionals>

Email us at yp.aichechicago@gmail.com

Connect with us on Facebook! Search for 'YPC Chicago'

Join our mailing list! Find our Google group under 'ypcchicago'

Join Our GroupMe and become a part of the Chicago Chemical Engineering Young Professional Community:
https://groupme.com/join_group/99685952/GrFycymv

Volunteers needed for Chicago Local Section

How many opportunities can you find to learn project management, delegation, and leadership skills for free? Volunteering with the Chicago Section of AIChE is such an opportunity. While you're learning new skills, your professional network grows. Just about all of us are undergoing a career change, contemplating a career change, or are wondering if our career will be changed for us. Volunteering with AIChE is a way to add skills and accomplishments to your resume.

Volunteers are needed to help with:

- Programming – arrange speakers for monthly meetings and arrange catering/venues.
- Logistics – arrange catering and venues
- Newsletter Editor – prepare and publish ten monthly newsletters
- Newsletter Contributors – write meeting summaries, contribute photos, and more
- Engineering Outreach – coordinate three annual K-12 outreach events with high schools and colleges
- Professional Development and Sponsorship – arrange companies to sponsor pre-meeting talks to help fund student dinners
- Awards and Scholarship Committees – Review applications for local Section awards and scholarships
- Midwest Regional Conference – various roles with programming, logistics, website work, advertising, sponsorships, high school outreach, poster session, and more!
- Young Professionals – plan socials and programming for young professionals (under 35)

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact us at aichechicago@gmail.com

Begin your journey with [AIChE Explorer!](#)

The AIChE Explorer Membership type is designed for professionals who would like to try out AIChE Membership at a lower rate and reduced benefit levels.

Join more than 60,000 members in more than 110 countries! Joining AIChE gives you access to an amazing network of top professionals in chemical engineering in addition to providing a host of other valuable member benefits. Regardless of your career stage, AIChE membership is one of the best ways to meet accomplished chemical engineers and tap into our deep reserve of specialized information.

AIChE Explorer

Get started with AIChE Explorer! Try out the benefits of a membership without committing to the full rate.

Join as an Explorer

AIChE Explorer membership includes:

- ✓ Partial Access to CEP (1 article per mo.)
- ✓ Academy Online Courses (Grants 1 free code to an online course for member rates)
- ✓ Credits for Academy Webinars (Live & On-Demand) - 3 credits
- ✓ Partial Access to AIChE Engage

Compare Memberships

Why renew your AIChE Membership?

Renew your membership now to keep learning and growing.

Stay connected to 40,000+ international members who take advantage of:

- Subscription to AIChE's flagship publication: CEP
- Education – Access to e-learning courses and instructor led training which can offer Continuing Education Units and PDHs.
- Access to CareerEngineer – a comprehensive job site tailored to chemical engineers
- Access to the AIChE eLibrary – a wealth of information from Knovel Life Sciences and the McGraw-Hill AccessEngineering Library collections

[View more benefits here!](#)

AIChE Volunteer and Meeting Attendee Conduct Guidelines

AIChE's volunteers are the core of the Institute and make all of its programs, conferences and educational efforts possible. These offerings provide excellent opportunities for AIChE members and meeting attendees to gain greater technical expertise, grow their networks, and enhance their careers. AIChE events provide engineers, scientists, and students a platform to present, discuss, publish and exhibit their discoveries and technical advances. At all times, volunteers and meeting attendees should act in accordance with AIChE's Code of Ethics, upholding and advancing the integrity, honor and dignity of the chemical engineering profession. AIChE's Board of Directors has developed these guidelines to foster a positive environment of trust, respect, open communications, and ethical behavior. These guidelines apply to meetings, conferences, workshops, courses and other events organized by AIChE or any of its entities and also to volunteers who conduct other business and affairs on behalf of AIChE.

Specifically

1. Volunteers and meeting attendees should understand and support AIChE's Code of Ethics.
2. Volunteers and meeting attendees should contribute to a collegial, inclusive, positive and respectful environment for fellow volunteers and attendees, and other stakeholders, including AIChE staff.
3. Volunteers and meeting attendees should avoid making inappropriate statements or taking inappropriate action based on race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, political affiliation, presence of disabilities, or educational background. We should show consistent respect for colleagues, regardless of discipline, employment status, and organizations for which they work, whether industry, academia, or government.
4. Disruptive, harassing or other inappropriate statements or behavior toward other volunteers, members, and other stakeholders, including AIChE staff, is unacceptable.
5. Volunteers and meeting attendees should obey all applicable laws and regulations of the relevant governmental authorities while volunteering or attending meetings. Volunteers and meeting attendees taking part in any AIChE event, including the ChemECar Competition™, should also comply with all applicable safety guidelines. Violations of this conduct policy should be reported promptly to the AIChE President or Executive Director.

AIChE Chicago Section

AIChE Chicago Section
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Springfield, IL 62704
aidhechicago@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/AIChEChicagoSection>

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4538581>

<https://www.aidhe.org/community/sites/local-sections/chicago>

Chair	Matt Walters
Chair Elect	Lance Baird
Past Chair	McKay Rytting
Programming	Aida Amini Rankouhi
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Secretary	Kashif Uddin
Directors at Large	Janet Werner
	Reza Mostofi
	Ha Dinh
Logistics Committee	Elizabeth Ibarra
Publicity Committee	Sanaz Taghvaii Arabi
Early Career / Young Professionals Committee	Allison Nordvall
Awards Committee	Azita Ahmadzadeh
Event Manager	Rishabh Jain
Newsletter Editors	Ethan Caesar
	Robert Tsai

Submitting Articles to AIChE Columns

We welcome email submissions for our monthly newsletter. Commercial announcements are subject to a fee. News stories, editorials, technical, or career related non-commercial contributions are always welcome for no charge. We consider job postings, announcements of for-free training courses, expositions, and conferences as commercial. Categorization of announcements is at the sole discretion of the Chicago AIChE Board of Directors. The AIChE Chicago Section may publicize activities of interest to our members by cooperating professional societies and other non-profits without charge.

Please submit your material to aidhechicago@gmail.com with 'Newsletter Article' as a subject line.



We want you for AIChE Chicago!

AIChE is committed to promoting a fair, just, and equitable profession and society. AIChE believes that all who wish to be a part of the chemical engineering community should have equal opportunity to pursue and achieve success. We work toward a better future for all through our technical expertise; through how we inspire, engage, retain, and advance future talent; and through how we treat each other within and beyond the profession.

[AIChE Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement](#)