Chair-Elect

Y. Jessie Zhang (University of Texas at Austin)

Y. Jessie Zhang is the L. Leon Campbell Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry in the Department of Molecular Biosciences at the University of Texas at Austin. She earned her B.S. in Chemistry from Tsinghua University, her M.S. from the University of Oregon under Brian Matthews, and her Ph.D. from The Scripps Research Institute with Ian Wilson, followed by postdoctoral training at the Salk Institute. Her laboratory integrates structural biology, chemical biology, and enzymology to study protein kinases, phosphatases, and RNA polymerase II C-terminal domain phosphorylation. She has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles, including recent works in *Nature Communications*, *Science Advances*, *PNAS*, *ACS Catalysis* and *Nature Catalysis*. Dr. Zhang has received numerous honors, including the Margaret C. Etter Early Career Award from the American Crystallographic Association, election as a Fellow of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and multiple teaching, service and mentorship awards at UT Austin.

Suitability for the position of Chair-Elect: *i*Dr. Zhang brings both scientific excellence and a deep commitment to mentorship and community service to the ACS Division of Biochemistry and Chemical Biology. Nationally, she has chaired and organized numerous high-impact scientific meetings, including American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology symposia, and Gordon Conference (Enzyme, Coenzyme and Metabolic Pathways), demonstrating her ability to build collaborative and inclusive communities. She serves on NIH (regular member), NSF and NASA study sections and more than a dozen foundation review boards, broadening her perspective on the needs and opportunities across the biological chemistry community. She is a dedicated mentor at all levels, serving in the UT Mentorship Academy, while also being invited to mentor junior faculty at institutions including Penn State, Baylor, and the Salk Institute. At UT Austin, she was voted *Professor of the Year* by the undergraduate student body, reflecting her ability to inspire and engage the next generation of scientists. Her record of leadership, mentorship, and advocacy makes her exceptionally well-suited to serve the Division's role in advancing science and supporting its members at every career stage.

Mark D. Distefano (University of Minnesota-Twin Cities)

Mark D. Distefano (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities) is a Distinguished McKnight Professor of Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry. He is also a member of the Biotechnology Institute and the Masonic Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota. He earned his B.A. in Chemistry and Biochemistry from University of California-Berkeley, and his Ph.D. under the direction of Christopher Walsh from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He carried out postdoctoral studies as a Damon Runyon-Walter Winchell Cancer Research Fellow with Peter Dervan in the Department of Chemistry at the California Institute of Technology. Since 1992, he has served as a faculty member at the University of Minnesota. Distefano's research interests are at the

interface of chemistry and biology and involve studies of protein lipid modification. His work employs an array of techniques ranging from organic synthesis and enzymology to proteomics and cellular imaging. The goal of these studies is to identify lipidated proteins, study their function, track their levels in disease and investigate them as possible therapeutic targets.

***Suitability for the position of Chair-Elect**:* Distefano has served in a wide variety of leadership positions in the field. He was PI for a T32 Chemistry-Biology Interface training grant at Minnesota for 10 years (2011-2022). He is the Editor-in-Chief of Bioorganic Chemistry (2013-present) and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for Bioconjugate Chemistry (2013-present). He co-chaired the Gordon Research Conference on Bioorganic Chemistry (2001), the FASEB Conference on Protein Lipidation (2019) and the American Peptide Symposium (2022). He served on the Science Policy Committee for FASEB (2017-2022) and is currently a member of the executive committee for the American Peptide Society (2023-present). In terms of ACS service, he was a member of the Executive Committee for the BIOL Division (2004-2007), an Alternate Councilor for the ORGN Division (2007-2009), a member and chair of the ACS MPPG Committee (thematic programing, 2007-2015), became an ACS Fellow (2014) and served as Program Chair for the BIOL Division (2020-2021). Distefano is particularly interested in forging new interactions with industry and making ACS membership more valuable for division members.

Secretary

Gregory Caputo (Rowan University)

Greg Caputo is a Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ. He earned his undergraduate degree in Chemical Biology from the Stevens Institute of Technology, followed by a PhD at Stony Brook University. He went on to complete two postdoctoral fellowships at Texas A&M University and at the University of Pennsylvania. His research group is focused on the development of novel antimicrobials, including antimicrobial peptides, antimicrobial surfaces, and combinatorial applications of antibiotics and small molecules.

***Suitability for the position of Secretary**:* Caputo spent 10 years in University administration as a Department Head of Chemistry & Biochemistry and subsequently served as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs before returning to faculty in 2023. He has been a member of the ACS for ~20 years and has been actively serving at the local, regional, and national levels. He is currently serving his second term as program chair of the South Jersey local section where he also serves as alternate councilor and previously served as secretary and section chair. He is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Regional board and previously served from 2017 - 2024 as a member of the Committee on Professional Training (CPT) at the national level. On CPT, he served as vice chair for 1 year, as well as the chair of the subcommittee on international recognition. In 2019, he was elected as a Fellow of the ACS. Beyond the ACS, Greg is also an active member of

the Biophysical Society (BPS) where he serves as a member of the committee on public affairs. He spends his free time as an unpaid uber driver for his two teenage children.

Christian P. Whitman (University of Texas at Austin)

Chris Whitman (The University of Texas at Austin, UT Austin) is the Romeo T. Bachand, Jr. Regents Professor of Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry (CBMC). He earned his B.S in Chemistry from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, and his Ph.D. under the direction of George Kenyon at the University of California, San Francisco. Following an NIH Fellowship under the guidance of John Kozarich in Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Maryland, College Park, he obtained his first and only faculty position at The University of Texas at Austin. His research focuses on mechanistic, kinetic, and structural studies of enzymes involved in bacterial catabolism of aromatic and halogenated compounds. The goals are: (1) to understand the relationship between structure and function in enzyme-catalyzed reactions and to provide a molecular description of the factors that govern protein structure, substrate recognition, and reaction specificity; and, (2) to obtain insight into how new enzyme activities evolve.

Suitability for the position of Secretary*:* Whitman has held many leadership positions including Division Head of CBMC at UT Austin for 20 years, Co-Chair of the Gordon Conference on Enzymes, Coenzymes, and Metabolic Pathways, Chair of the 20 th Enzyme Mechanisms Conference, and Chair and Organizer of the Texas Enzyme Mechanisms Conference, every other year since 2006 (except 2022). In the ACS BIOL Division, he was Treasurer (2012-2017), Alternate Councilor (2002-2005), and most recently, Secretary (2022-2025). As Treasurer, he promoted new travel awards for graduate and post-doctoral students. He was a member of the NIH Biomedical Research and Training (BRT) (2001-2005) and the NIH Molecular Structure and Function E (MSFE) Study Sections (2008-2012) and Chair of MSFE (2010-2012). He was Editor of Bioorganic Chemistry and serves on the Editorial Boards for Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics and Biochemistry.

Program Committee Vice-Chair Elect

Bret Freudenthal (The University of Kansas Medical Center)

Bret D. Freudenthal, Ph.D., is a Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with a joint appointment in Cancer Biology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, where he serves as Co-Leader of the University of Kansas Cancer Center's Cancer Biology Program and Scientific Director of the Cryo-EM Facility. He earned his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Iowa under the direction of Dr. Todd Washington and completed his postdoctoral training at the NIEHS/NIH under the direction of Dr. Samuel Wilson. His research focuses on the structural and mechanistic basis of DNA damage and repair, with particular emphasis on base excision repair and telomere biology. His laboratory employs a broad range of approaches, including structural biology, single-molecule imaging, biochemistry, kinetics, and cellular assays. He has published over 70 peer-reviewed articles, received continuous NIH funding, and been

recognized with honors including the Mark Foundation Emerging Leader Award and the Samuel H. Wilson Award for Studies on DNA Repair.

Suitability for the position of Program Committee Vice-Chair Elect: Dr. Freudenthal is actively involved in the scientific community. He has co-organized scientific meetings, including the 46th and 50th Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society meetings, the 7th US-EU Conference on Repair of Endogenous DNA Damage, and the upcoming 25th Annual Midwest DNA Repair Symposium. He also contributes broadly through NIH study sections, reviews for multiple journals, serves on the editorial board for DNA Repair, and professional society leadership. These experiences reflect his commitment to advancing scientific communication and collaboration. As Vice Chair-Elect of the ACS Program Committee, he will work to ensure innovative, rigorous, and inclusive programming that highlights emerging technologies, and strengthens collaborations across the chemical sciences.

Ali (Ying) Chen (X-Chem, inc.)

Ali Chou is a Senior Research Scientist at X-Chem and a part-time Ph.D. candidate in Chemistry at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. She earned her B.Sc. in Chemistry from McGill University and M.Sc. in Chemistry from the University of Alberta. Her research interests include leveraging small molecules and peptides to address biological questions, specializing in drug discovery through encoded library technologies and investigating biomolecular interactions via theoretical and computational methods.

Suitability for the position of Program Committee Vice-Chair Elect*:* As an active member of ACS, Ali brings a distinctive combination of industry expertise and academic perspective to program development. Her leadership experience includes program development while serving as Regional Director of Program Marketing for the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association and currently leading the planning and execution of East Coast TIDEtalks—an event series that bridges academic and industry scientific communities through dialogue and knowledge exchange. Ali has presented her research at prestigious national and international venues, including ACS national meetings, Gordon Research Conferences, and specialized industry conferences such as Drug Discovery Chemistry and Discovery on Target. Her proven track record in organizing interdisciplinary programming, combined with her demonstrated commitment to scientific community-building, positions her as an ideal candidate to support the strategic planning, coordination, and promotion of high-impact technical sessions for both the Program Committee and Communications Committee.

Nominations Committee

Elizabeth Neumann (University of California-Davis)

The **Neumann lab** joined the Chemistry Department at UC Davis in the summer of 2022 and focuses on understanding the molecular and cellular architecture behind neurological diseases. The research is highly interdisciplinary and involves developing analytical tools and multimodal imaging methods for understanding complex biological

phenomena. In sum, we use matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization mass spectrometry imaging (MALDI MSI) to measure hundreds to thousands of molecular features within a biological sample without disturbing their spatial content. We can then couple this chemically informative information to other powerful technologies, such as highly multiplexed immunofluorescence, spectroscopy, or transcriptomics, to get a more complete picture of complex biological systems. We are always looking for enthusiastic and passionate students to join as well as collaborators in any field for collaboration, as these approaches are applicable to most biological systems. Elizabeth Neumann was an NSF doctoral fellow at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign and an NIH postdoctoral fellow at Vanderbilt University.

Suitability for a position on the Nominations Committee: Elizabeth Neumann has served in several leadership positions for international organizations as well as organized several international conferences. She is deeply invested in the chemical community, engaging in outreach, and mentorship of junior scientists.

Alisha 'Jonesy' Jones (New York University)

Alisha 'Jonesy' Jones (New York University) is a James Weldon Johnson Assistant Professor of Chemistry. She earned her B.A. and B.S. in Chemistry and Zoology, respectively, from Miami University, and her Ph.D. in Chemistry under the supervision and mentoring of Gabriele Varani at the University of Washington. Her graduate work was funded through the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, focusing on the structural biology of RNA. Following graduate school, she was a postdoctoral researcher at Helmholtz Zentrum Muenchen, in Germany. Her research there focused on investigating the roles of RNA structure and dynamics in regulating biological processes. In 2023, she obtained a tenure-track faculty position at New York University. Her research focuses on investigating RNA structural function relationships through the integration of biochemical, biophysical, and computational approaches. The goals of her work include developing methods to generate experimentally-biased energy landscapes that describe how RNAs transition between various structured states, therapeutically targeting RNA structured states that are implicated in disease, and building synthetic RNAs to both better characterize endogenous transcripts, and to serve as therapeutic modalities. Professor Jones is committed to building a research environment that caters to the values, interests, and backgrounds of her lab members, and strives to enhance learning experiences in the courses she teaches.

Suitability for a position on the Nominations Committee: Jonesy has held several leadership positions since the start of her independent career, in accordance with her role as a tenure-track professor. For example, she developed and facilitates a high school research program called LiNC at NYU (2023-present), has led the Chemistry lecture series of the NYU Simons Foundation Exploration Series (2023-present), and has been successfully leading her research group towards success (as reflected through publications, obtaining grants, and graduating students). These leadership roles have positioned her to work with others and confidently support researchers at various stages in their careers.

Advisory Committee Member

Rong Huang (Purdue University)

Rong Huang (Purdue University) is the Evanson-McCoy Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology in the College of Pharmacy at Purdue University. She earned her Ph.D. under the guidance of Richard F. Borch at Purdue University and completed her postdoctoral training under the mentorship of Phil Cole at Johns Hopkins University. Her laboratory investigates the molecular mechanisms of methyltransferases and acetyltransferases, focusing on designing and synthesizing selective and potent inhibitors to illuminate epigenetic regulation. Prof. Huang is committed to promoting collaborative networks to expand participation and impact in chemical biology, empowering scientists through education, and advancing innovations to address global challenges.

Suitability for the position on the Advisory Committee*:* Prof. Huang's leadership is based on fostering innovation, recognizing scientific excellence, and building a community involved in chemical biology and drug discovery. She currently serves as Graduate Program Director in the Borch Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology (2022-present) and as an Editorial Board Member of the Journal of Biological Chemistry (2023-2028). Her national and international roles include: 1) Member of the ACS MEDI Long-range Planning Committee (2021-2024), contributing to scientific programs in medicinal chemistry; 2) Scientific Board Member for the International Society for Protein Termini (2024-present), promoting emerging scientific areas in protein termini; 3) Member of the Scientific Organizing Committee for the 38th National Medicinal Chemistry Symposium (2023-2024); 4) Organizer and co-organizer of scientific sessions on topics such as protein arginine methylation, autophagy, and datadriven drug discovery at FASEB, the XXVI EFMC International Symposium (2022), and ACS National Meetings (2022-2025). Prof. Huang's dedication to mentoring, organizing transformative symposiums, and guiding research that bridges basic science with translational applications makes her well-suited to contribute to the ACS Division of Biochemistry and Chemical Biology Advisory Committee.

Steve Canham (Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research)

Steve Canham is a Chemical Biology Group Leader at Novartis. He earned his B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Notre Dame and his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of California-Irvine, followed by postdoctoral training at the University of California-Berkeley. Throughout his career, he has earned numerous honors, including NIH Ruth L Kirschstein NSRA Postdoctoral Fellow (2012-2023), Best graduate thesis (Department of Chemistry, University of California-Irvine, 2012), Eli Lilly Graduate Fellowship (2010-2011), Dissertation Fellowship (University of California-Irvine, 2010), Teaching Award (University of California-Irvine, 2007), William Wicherath Outstanding Chemistry Major Award (2006); Pfizer Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (2005), and the Patrick Finegan Memorial Research Fellowship (2004-2005).

***Suitability for the position of Advisory Committee Member**:* Dr. Canham has been an active member of the ACS at the local and national level with the belief in the connection of diverse areas of research can help inspire and transpire innovation and new avenues of research. His service within ACS includes NESACS Treasurer (2021-2024), NESACS Chemical Biology Chair (2018-2023), Founder/Board member of the NESACS Chemical Biology in the Hub (2017- 2024), Chair of the NESACS Chemical Biology in the Hub (2018), organizing member of the NESACS Process Chemistry Symposium (2015-2017), Chair/host of the NESACS Process Chemistry Symposium (2016), ACS Corporate Associates (2014-2019), and subcommittee chair of the National Younger Chemist Committee (2008-2017). As an advisory committee member of the ACS Division of Biochemistry and Chemical Biology he hopes to bring my experience and network to help mentor and guide the division's activities and enable prospective planning for the future.

Rahul Kohli (University of Pennsylvania)

Rahul Kohli is the Francis C. Wood Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. A physician-scientist with appointments in the Departments of Medicine and Biochemistry & Biophysics, he leads a research program at the interface of mechanistic enzymology, chemical biology, and genome regulation. His group investigates enzymes that purposefully mutate or modify DNA bases, with implications for epigenetics, immunity, and antimicrobial resistance. The Kohli lab also leverages insights into these enzymes to engineer new genome engineering and sequencing biotechnological tools with broad applications.

Kohli earned his B.S. at the University of Michigan (1998), conducting undergraduate research with Vincent Massey, followed by an M.D. and Ph.D from Harvard Medical School (2004), studying under Christopher T. Walsh. He then completed his clinical training in infectious diseases and as a postdoctoral fellow, working with James T. Stivers at Johns Hopkins before joining the Penn faculty (2010). His work has been recognized with numerous honors, including election to the American Society for Clinical Investigation (2018), the Outstanding Investigator Award from the American Federation for Medical Research (2023), and the ACS Division of Biological Chemistry's Pfizer Award in Enzyme Chemistry (2020).

***Suitability for the position of Advisory Committee Member**:* Kohli brings a translational perspective rooted in a dual background in biochemistry and medicine. He is deeply engaged in mentoring and scientific community-building as Associate Director of Penn's MD/PhD program, the largest such program in the country, and through leadership roles across academia and industry. He has also helped develop new initiatives such as the Scholars in Molecular Medicine program, which leverages philanthropic partnerships to support scientific training. His interdisciplinary focus, focus on both basic science and biotechnologies, and longstanding involvement in ACS DBC activities position him well to support the Division's mission and its efforts in strategic planning.

Jordan Meier (National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health)

Jordan L. Meier (National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health) is a Senior Investigator and Head of the Epigenetics & Metabolism Section in the Chemical Biology Laboratory. He earned his B.S. in Chemistry from Creighton University and his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of California-San Diego, followed by postdoctoral training at the California Institute of Technology. Dr. Meier's research program focuses on developing and applying chemical biology tools to understand how metabolism and epigenetic modifications intersect in cancer biology. His group has pioneered chemoproteomic approaches to study histone acetyltransferases as well as first-in-class methods to study RNA modifications, highlighted by discoveries centering on RNA cytidine acetylation. His work has been recognized with awards including the ACS Biological Division Eli Lilly Award in Biological Chemistry (2021) and the RNA Society Moderna Award for Biomedical Innovation in RNA (2025). Dr. Meier has mentored over 30 postbaccalaureate and postdoctoral trainees while simultaneously managing five children at home, a feat that has prepared him for virtually any committee challenge.

Suitability for the position of Advisory Committee Member*:* Dr. Meier brings extensive leadership experience in the chemical biology community, having served as academic organizer of several meetings including the Bioorganic Chemistry Gordon Research Conference (2025), Councilor for the ACS Division of Biological Chemistry (2020-2022), and as a Guest Editor for ACS Chemical Biology. He is a standing member of NIH study section and has achieved the rare distinction of having his memes about overdone BRD4 degrader experiments shared at international conferences. His commitment to advancing the field through service, combined with his understanding of the intersection between chemistry and biology, makes him well-positioned to contribute to the strategic direction of the Division.

Councilor

Kirk Hevener (University of Tennessee Health Science Center)

Dr. Kirk E. Hevener is an accomplished pharmaceutical scientist and educator whose career bridges medicinal chemistry, chemical biology, biochemistry, and drug discovery. Currently a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Tennessee, College of Pharmacy, Dr. Hevener has devoted his academic career to advancing the frontiers of antimicrobial research and mentoring a new generation of scientists. Dr. Hevener holds a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Science and a Pharm.D. with honors from the University of Tennessee, and a B.S. in Chemistry (Summa cum Laude) from Tennessee State University. He furthered his scientific training through postdoctoral research at the University of Illinois at Chicago and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, gaining expertise in structural biology, protein biochemistry, and enzymology. With over two decades of scientific contributions—including over 50 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and several invited talks—Dr. Hevener has established a record of impactful research recognized with awards such as the ITHS 'Rising Star' Award, New Investigator Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, and multiple Outstanding Educator awards. He leads NIH- and DoD-funded research projects as Principal

Investigator, focusing on the rational design of narrow-spectrum antimicrobial agents that safeguard the human microbiome.

***Suitability for the position of Councilor**:* Dr. Hevener's suitability for the position of Division Councilor is underscored by his longstanding engagement with the American Chemical Society, where he has been an active member since 2002, engaged in the BIOL, MEDI, and COMP technical divisions. His service includes national leadership roles in professional organizations, such as Chair of the Chemistry Section of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, and service on editorial and grant review boards. As an educator, he has developed and directed graduate and PharmD courses in computer-aided drug design, scientific communication, structural biology, and advanced medicinal chemistry, demonstrating his commitment to multidisciplinary training. In addition to his research and teaching, Dr. Hevener has mentored undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior researchers. His collaborative spirit, professional engagement, and commitment to advancing biochemistry and chemical biology research make him an ideal candidate for Division Councilor. Through this position, Dr. Hevener aims to support the professional development of division members, promote innovative research, and advocate for the interests of the biochemistry and chemical biology community within the ACS.

Mary Jo Ondrechenn (Northeastern University)

Mary Jo Ondrechen, Ph.D. is Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology on the Boston campus of Northeastern University. Her research deals with understanding enzyme catalysis, inventing methods to predict the biochemical function of proteins from their 3D structure, developing design principles for novel enzymes, improving enzymatic RNA synthesis, predicting the effects of missense mutations on protein function, and the molecular modeling aspects of structure-based drug discovery. She and her students have learned much from our experiences with the BIOL Division and she would like to serve as a representative and advocate for BIOL.

***Suitability for the position of Councilor**:* Mary Jo now serves on the ACS Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs (CCPA) and has Mary Jo now serves on the ACS Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs (CCPA) and has previously served on the Committee on Minority Affairs (CMA). She advocates that the ACS take strong stands on the importance of science research and education to future economic growth and prosperity, on the need to invest in the BioEconomy, and on the necessity of outreach to build the highly trained high-tech workforce that is so vital to US competiveness in the global economy. She received an ACS-certified Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Reed College in Portland, OR and the PhD degree in Physical Chemistry / Chemical Physics from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. A member of Mohawk Nation and an advocate for broadening participation in STEM, she was the 2011-2013 Chair of the Board of Directors of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). She conceived, as serves as co-PI for, the AISES project "Lighting the Pathway to Faculty Careers for Natives in STEM," a program to provide mentoring and career-building

information to undergraduates, graduate students, and postdocs who want to become STEM faculty members. To date 30 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawai'ian "Pathways" Scholars have become faculty members at colleges and universities across the country; some members of the early cohorts are now tenured. She was a Fulbright Faculty Research Fellow in Budapest, Hungary in 2021. She is the 2024 recipient of the Technical Excellence Award of AISES. She is indebted to her past and present research group members; her group currently includes eight PhD students, three Masters students, three undergraduates, and a Visiting Faculty Member.

Tyler Weaver (University of Virginia School of Medicine)

Dr. Tyler M. Weaver, PhD is currently an Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, where he established his independent laboratory in 2025. He obtained a B.S. in Biology from Florida State University, a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Iowa, and trained as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Throughout his career, he has worked at the interface of biology and chemistry, seeking to understand how enzymes function within the chromatin environment leveraging a combination of biochemical, biophysical, and structural biology approaches. Beyond his research, he has mentored numerous high school, undergraduate, and graduate students, a commitment to training the next generation of scientists that he will continue to prioritize in his independent laboratory.

***Suitability for the position of Councilor**:* Weaver is a biochemist and structural biologist whose research examines the molecular principles that govern the activity of chromatin-modifying enzymes during DNA damage repair. He has an extensive background in leadership positions for national societies such as the Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society, where he currently serves as Chair of the Education, Student, and New Investigator Affairs Subcommittee and Co-chair of the Mentorship Subcommittee. These prior experiences and his passion for the chemical sciences will significantly aid in his role as a Councilor for the Division of Biochemistry and Chemical Biology.

Wei-Chen Chang (North Carolina State University)

Wei-chen Chang (North Carolina State University) is a professor in the Department of Chemistry at North Carolina State University. He is a University Faculty Scholar, the Thomas Lord/LORD Corporation Distinguished Scholar and Goodnight Early Career Innovator. He received his B.S. from the National Taiwan University and his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin under the direction of Hung-wen (Ben) Liu. Following his postdoctoral appointment at the Pennsylvania State University with J. Marty Bollinger and Carsten Krebs, he began his independent career as an Assistant Professor at the North Carolina State University in 2016. Prof. Chang's research interests fall under a common umbrella of understanding biological transformations using chemical, biochemical and biophysical tools with a focus on studying non-heme iron containing enzymes. The goals of his research program are: (1) to understand the (bio)chemical principles of reactions catalyzed by metalloenzymes in natural product biosynthesis;

(2) to provide a molecular description of the factors that govern reaction selectivity and substrate recognition; (3) to utilize mechanistic insights in the preparation of useful small molecules; and (4) to apply the enzymological principles elucidated in his lab to the development of new biocatalysts.

***Suitability for the position of Councilor**:* Prof. Chang has been on several nominating, faculty search and review committees at NC State at the college and department levels, including search and review committees for the associate dean, various faculty, the Burroughs Wellcome fellowship, and the Glaxo fellowship. He also serves in professional organizations including the Conference Series Subcommittee for the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, section chair and a mentor at the Society for Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology annual meeting and the Bioinorganic Workshop at PSU. He has served as a reviewer for grants (NIH and NSF) and journals including ACS Catalysis, ACS Chemical Biology, ACS infectious Disease, ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering, Angewandte Chemie, Biochemistry, Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry, Cell Reports, Chemistry-A European Journal, ChemBioChem, Current Opinion in Chemical Biology, Journal of the American Chemical Society, Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, Nature Chemical Biology, Nature Catalysis, Nature Communications, Natural Product Reports, Organic Letters, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA, Plant Physiology, and Science.

Alternate Councilor

Esther Brasselmann (Georgetown University)

Esther Braselmann is a biochemist whose work includes biophysical and chemical biological approaches to develop tools for visualization of RNA molecules in living systems. To elicit fluorescence readouts, she has established a platform that is based on a short RNA sequence and an RNA-tag binding moiety with fluorescence quenching properties, linked to a synthetic fluorophore. The RNA ligand is derived from a bacterial riboswitch sequence and binds the probe ligand tightly and specifically. All elements of the imaging platform (the RNA-tag sequence, the fluorophore, and the chemical linker connecting the fluorophore to the RNA-binding element), are modular and affect fluorescence readouts. Current efforts explore fluorescence lifetime imaging microscopy towards multiplexed RNA visualization, guided by characterizing RNA / small molecule binding properties and photophysical features of different RNA / ligand complexes. Multiplexed RNA visualization in combination with detecting RNAs and proteins simultaneously allows deciphering RNA/protein assemblies in space and time, a long-term goal.

She joined Georgetown University in 2021 as an Assistant Professor in Biochemistry in the Chemistry Department. She holds a Diplom Degree from the University of Bielefeld in Germany, a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Notre Dame, and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Throughout her training, Braselmann had many productive collaborations in the U.S. and abroad, where she has interfaced with researchers from diverse fields to develop new methods to assess biochemical processes in complex systems, from protein folding in bacterial cells to

RNA sensor designs in live mammalian cells. Since establishing her independent career in 2021, she has mentored 3 graduate students (one completed her Ph.D. in spring 2025) and 15 undergraduate students (more that three-quarter are women). She strives to provide effective mentorship for every student. As a result, her mentees are excelling in their research endeavors: One student was awarded the Goldwater Scholarship, and more than half of the undergraduate mentees received competitive scholarships for summer research. Almost all research publications include undergraduate students as co-authors, pointing to their integral role in the research enterprise in the Braselmann lab.

***Suitability for the position of Alternate Councilor**:* Braselmann is passionate about integrating teaching and research. She is teaching Biochemistry lecture courses at the undergraduate and graduate level, and a Biophysics lab course. She has designed the course such that the students (seniors) perform a semester-long research project. Here, small groups consisting of 3-4 students learn how integral collaborative work is in research. The course ends with a poster session as the final exam, where every student is expected to talk about the research process during the semester. Beyond Georgetown, she is participating in outreach efforts from the Chemistry Department with the local Boys and Girls Club, and encourages students in her lab to participate and dedicate time for this as well

Katie Eichhorn (University of Nebraska at Lincoln)

Catherine Eichhorn is an Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL). She earned her B.A. in Chemistry from Bryn Mawr College and Ph.D. in Chemical Biology from the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, where she worked with Hashim M. Al-Hashimi on riboswitch folding and dynamics using NMR spectroscopy. As an American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellow with Juli Feigon at UCLA, she worked on the structural biology and thermodynamics of RNA-protein interactions. She started her independent career as an Assistant Professor at UNL in 2019. Eichhorn's research interests lie in the integration of structural and chemical biology tools to provide quantitative insights into ribonucleoprotein assembly and function.

***Suitability for the position of Alternate Councilor**:* Eichhorn is currently an Alternate Councilor for the BIOL division (2023-2025) and serves as Secretary of the organizational committee of the Chicago Area NMR Discussion Group. Within the Chemistry department at UNL she serves as Co-Chair of the Safety committee and has contributed to the chemistry curriculum through design and implementation of a discovery-based Chemical Biology laboratory course.

Yongchao Su (Merck & Co.)

Yongchao Su is a Senior Principal Scientist at Merck & Co., Inc. and holds academic appointments as Adjunct Professor at Purdue University, Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Texas at Austin, and Professor of Practice at the University of Connecticut. He earned his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Iowa State University in 2011 and completed postdoctoral training at MIT Chemistry before joining Merck in 2014. Dr.

Su's research focuses on elucidating the molecular mechanisms underlying drug delivery and stability for biologic drug products. He has authored over 140 peer-reviewed publications (H-index = 43). He serves on the Editorial Advisory Boards of Molecular Pharmaceutics (ACS), Pharmaceutical Research, and Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and is Editor-in-Chief of AAPS Open (Springer Nature), the flagship open-access journal of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS). Dr. Su was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC) in 2022 and Fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (FAAPS) in 2025. Dr. Su is also a dedicated mentor and educator, teaching graduate courses in pharmaceutical biophysics and drug product development, and leading career development efforts as Chair of the 2023 AAPS Career Development Committee and frequent panelist for professional seminars, including with the American Chemical Society Women Chemists Committee.

*S**uitability for the position of Alternate Councilor**:* Yongchao combines a decade of academic research in biochemistry and biophysics on protein ion channels and amyloid fibrils with another decade in industry developing peptide, protein, and mRNA therapeutics. His 140+ publications, including first or corresponding author papers in Biochemistry, Journal of Molecular Biology, Nature Structural & Molecular Biology, Annual Review of Biochemistry, JACS, and Molecular Pharmaceutics, align well with the scope of the ACS Division of Biochemistry & Chemical Biology. He is a strong advocate for bridging academia and industry, particularly between structural biophysics and pharmaceutical sciences. Yongchao serves on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS), the largest pharmaceutical science community, as Vice Chair of the Gordon Research Conference on Preformulation and Formulation, and as Chair of 2026 Scientific Programs for the Eastern Analytical Symposium - conference organizing experience, together with his outstanding research accomplishments and dual appointments in both academia and industry, well positions him to serve as Alternate Councilor.