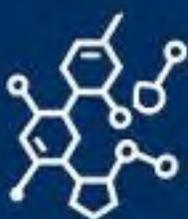


# Chemistry Reconnected

Empowering Scientists | Rebuilding  
Trust | Inspiring Change



## Central Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society

And

The Midland ACS Local Section Fall Scientific Meeting

16-17 October 2025

Central Michigan University Center  
Mount Pleasant, MI

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# Welcome

We are pleased to welcome you to the Central Regional Meeting (CERM), a dynamic gathering designed to foster collaboration, share insights, and strengthen connections among participants from across the region. This program will guide you through the activities and ensure you have the information needed for a successful experience.

The Central Regional Meeting (CERM) of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is an annual event that brings together chemists, educators, students, and industry professionals from across the central U.S. to share research, foster collaboration, and celebrate innovation in the chemical sciences. Each meeting features technical symposia, poster sessions, networking opportunities, and a unifying theme that reflects the evolving role of chemistry in society.

For 2025, the originally scheduled CERM could not proceed as planned. In response, the ACS Midland Local Section has proudly stepped in to host a special joint event by merging CERM with the long-standing Fall Scientific Meeting (FSM) of the Midland Local Section. Established in 1945, the FSM has grown from a company-based gathering into a vibrant, inclusive regional conference that showcases technical presentations, poster sessions, and community engagement across a wide range of chemical disciplines.

# Sponsors

## Main Meeting Sponsors



## Additional Sponsors



## Planning Committee and Volunteers

The meeting is made possible by the dedication of the planning committee and volunteers.

<b>Meeting Chairs</b>	Dale LeCaptain Hunter Woodward	
<b>EXPO Careers, Vendors and Universities</b>	Allison Abdilla Wendy Flory	
<b>ACS Board of Directors Relations</b>	Krishnaja Duvvuri	
<b>Workshops</b>	Jennifer Walton Michelle Rivard	
<b>AI Session (invited technical session)</b>	Mark Jones Prakash Shee	
<b>Chemistry Reconnected (invited technical session)</b>	Isabel Meza Judith Expinoza Perez Ana Ulloa Gomez Raghida Bou Zerdan Gina Malczewski	Sayli Bote Ashlin Sathyan Julia Sunderland Pranavi Aradhyula
<b>Member Education (invited technical session)</b>	Caroline Szczepanski Angela Chen Leahy Clare	
<b>Poster Session (submitted)</b>	Ben Swarts Anja Mueller Janice Tomasik John Etienne	
<b>Website &amp; Publicity</b>	Mark Jones Dale LeCaptain	
<b>Registration</b>	Michelle Rivard  Anton Jensen	
<b>Catering</b>	Dale LeCaptain Ashley Van Kampen	

<b>CERM Board Meeting (Friday afternoon)</b>	Jake Phillips
<b>Friday Evening (Hunters Ale House)</b>	Phoenix Knipe
<b>ACS Student Member Ambassador</b>	Jasmin Carney
<b>Invited Speaker Hospitality</b>	Morgan Mussehl
<b>Flyers &amp; Signs Construction and Distribution</b>	Erin Murphy
<b>Name Tags, Welcome Desk, &amp; Meeting Signage</b>	Anna Dedaj Ashley Brown Jonah Guerrero

## Meeting Program and Logistics

The meeting is held in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. Most of the activities will occur on the campus of Central Michigan University in the Bovee University Center. Free parking is provided in Lot 22 on the CMU campus on October 16 and 17. There are two social events occurring in the evening. Thursday night's event will be held at the Mount Pleasant Holiday Inn, 5278 East Pickard Street Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48858. Friday evening's event will be held at Hunter's Ale House, The Cask Room, 4855 E. Bluegrass Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI.

### Main Meeting Location

The meeting will be held in the CMU Bovee University Center (Google map [link](#))



### Parking

Parking is free in [Lot 22](#) on the Central Michigan University campus, Mt Pleasant, MI

Located at 43.5869806527889, -  
84.7780687454424

Entrances off of Preston and West Campus Drive. There are no entrances on Washington Street

#### Accessibility Needs

If you require accessible (handicap) parking or have other accommodation needs for the meeting, please contact [lecap1dj@cmich.edu](mailto:lecap1dj@cmich.edu). We're happy to assist!



## Thursday Evening Event and Location

The Holiday Inn is the location for the Thursday evening's dinner and edutainment.



The hotel is located approximately 3 minutes from the CMU campus at 5278 East Pickard Street Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48858 (Google map [link](#))

## Friday Evening Event and Location

Hunter's Ale House is the location for the Friday evening's dinner, Project SEED fundraiser, and edutainment.



Hunter's Ale House hotel is located approximately 3 minutes from the CMU campus at 4855 E Blue Grass Rd, Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48858 (Google map [link](#))

## Program

The meeting is organized into major thematic sessions, each offering opportunities for learning, networking, and engagement with pressing regional topics. Whether you're here for professional development, regional updates, or community building, CERM offers something for everyone.

## Schedule at a Glance

THURSDAY October 16, 2025	
12 to 1	Registration Open
	Welcome
1 to 4	Chemistry Reconnected   Artificial Intelligence   Member Education
4 to 6	Poster Session (Thursday posters 1-39)
6 to 9	 Speaking to the public about science (Dinner - ticketed event)

Friday October 17, 2025		
8am	Registration Open	
8:30 to 10:30	Career Expo	WORKSHOPS Laboratory Safety & Chemical Industry Careers
10:30 to 12:30	Contract Services Expo	Vendor Expo
12:30 to 1:30	ACS Governance from top to bottom or bottom to top (Free Box Lunch) (PANEL) Board of Directors; President; Regional Board; Local Section Chair	
1:30 to 3:30	Chemistry Reconnected	From Artificial Intelligence to Bourbon
3:30 to 5:30	Poster Session (Friday posters 1-41)	
5:30	break	
6:30 to 9		Pizza (ticketed event)
9 - ?	Project Seed Fundraiser (Bourbon Raffle)	
	The Socially Distant (Scientists by day ... Rock Band by night)	

## Detailed Schedule

Thursday

### Chemistry Reconnected

Thursday Oct. 16, 2025 123 Mackinaw Room – University Center		
1:25 - 1:30	Welcome	
1:30 to 2:10	<b>Andre Argenton</b> 	The risks and opportunities for scientists in a disconnected world
2:15 to 2:55	<b>Deboleena Chakraborty</b> 	Bridging the Gap: Empowering Scientific Collaboration in a Fragmented Global Landscape
3:00 - 3:10	Break	
3:15 to 3:55	<b>Ramani Narayan</b> 	Developing Biodegradable & Biobased Polymer Materials to address microplastics persistence and accumulation in the environment

#### The risks and opportunities for scientists in a disconnected world

Andre B. Argenton  
Chief Sustainability Officer and Vice President of EH&S  
Dow

#### Presentation Title: Bridging the Gap: Empowering Scientific Collaboration in a Fragmented Global Landscape

Deboleena (Leena) Chakraborty  
R&D Life Cycle Assessment Center of Expertise

Dow

This talk addresses the challenges of fragmented scientific efforts and the need for unified action on climate, materials, and inclusion. Dow envisions a future where inclusive innovation thrives at the intersection of sustainability and science, driven by key initiatives in climate protection, circular economy, safer materials, and community engagement. Join us as we explore Dow's strategic partnerships and collaborative efforts that aim to bridge the gap and pave the way for a more circular, sustainable future.

Developing Biodegradable & Biobased Polymer Materials to address microplastics persistence and accumulation in the environment

Ramani Narayan

University Distinguished Professor, Chemical Engineering and Materials Sciences  
Michigan State University

He is an internationally acclaimed thought leader and expert in bioplastics, focusing on the manufacture of biobased and compostable plastics. His research encompasses design and manufacture of biofiber composites for auto and industrial applications. He is involved with measurements and reporting of biobased carbon and environmental footprint using LCA tools.

# Artificial Intelligence

Thursday Oct. 16, 2025 307/309 Lake St. Claire/Huron – University Center		
1:25 to 2:00	<b>Matthew J. DiTucci</b> 	Enterprise Applications of Large Language Models (LLMs) in Materials Science
2:00 to 2:35		
<b>Break</b>		
2:45 to 3:25	<b>Mikola Lysenko</b>  Socket	Fighting cybercrime with generative AI: A case study
3:25 to 4:00	<b>Wenyan Xu</b>  eurofins	Beyond the Bench: Navigating the Future of Chemistry in the Age of AI and Automation

## Enterprise Applications of Large Language Models (LLMs) in Materials Science

Matthew J. DiTucci, PhD

Data Science Research Associate, Digital Science & Technology

PPG

Transformer-based models are shaping a new paradigm in how researchers and technical professionals interact with data, enabling the conversion of unstructured content into structured formats that support downstream analysis and decision-making. By leveraging Large Language Models (LLMs), new capabilities emerge across summarization, information extraction, and classification tasks, each of which can be applied in scientific workflows to streamline routine processes and accelerate insight generation. In this presentation, we explore the application of LLMs for industrial research and development, with emphasis on materials and chemical research. Case studies include automated extraction of chemical variables from literature and product data sheets, summarization across large corpora of technical reports, and classification of patent literature to assess strategic relevance and innovation gap analysis. These examples illustrate how LLMs can

be incorporated within programmatic frameworks to support scalable processing of diverse and complex data sources. Additional topics include retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) for internal knowledge search, and the use of transformer-derived embeddings for molecular data representations. Collectively, these methods demonstrate how LLMs can be systematically integrated into scientific methodologies to enhance efficiency, scalability, and data-driven insight.

### Fighting cybercrime with generative AI: A case study

Mikola Lysenko

Principal Software Engineer

Socket

**Abstract:** This two-part talk for a general technical audience shows how we use LLMs at Socket to catch malware and fix software supply chain issues before they hurt anyone. Part I demystifies autoregressive language models, how they work, how they're built, and what that means for how you should use them. We'll cover pragmatic patterns for shipping real products with LLMs: when batch APIs are enough, when to use retrieval or agents, and how to think about evaluation, latency, and reliability. Part II dives into Socket's production pipelines: the patterns that worked, the ones that didn't, and why, covering schema design, chunking, guardrails, caching, and monitoring. I'll close with opinions on today's AI tooling, trade offs between local/open and closed models, cost and scale considerations, and fast prototyping tricks for small tasks.

## Beyond the Bench: Navigating the Future of Chemistry in the Age of AI and Automation

Wenyan Xu, PhD

Group Leader, Analytical Chemist

Eurofins Lancaster Laboratories, Professional Scientific Services

Artificial intelligence (AI) and laboratory automation are rapidly transforming the practice of chemistry, reshaping not only how experiments are designed and executed but also how scientists define their professional identities. My talk will reflect on the evolving role of the bench scientist in this changing landscape. After framing the discussion with a personal anecdote from the laboratory, I will trace the trajectory of automation in bioanalytical chemistry—from early instruments such as auto-titrators to today’s high-throughput robotic platforms and AI-powered tools like IBM’s RXN for Chemistry and DeepMind’s AlphaFold. While these technologies accelerate discovery, they also raise pressing challenges: skills displacement, diminished ownership of experimental work, and a sense of disconnection among scientists whose expertise risks being reduced to system operation. I will explore how the profession can adapt by embracing hybrid scientific identities that combine hands-on experimentation with data literacy, while highlighting what remains uniquely human—intuition, creativity, troubleshooting, and ethical judgment. Case studies of effective human–machine collaboration will illustrate opportunities for synergy. Finally, I will discuss how academic training can evolve to prepare the next generation, emphasizing critical thinking, experimental design, and interdisciplinary fluency. The session concludes with a call for dialogue among educators, students, and professionals to ensure that chemistry’s future remains both technologically advanced and deeply human.

### References

1. Schwaller, P.; Laino, T.; Gaudin, T.; Bolgar, P.; Hunter, C. A.; Bekas, C.; Lee, A. A. *ACS Cent. Sci.* **2019**, *5*, 1572–1583.
2. Jumper, J.; Evans, R.; Pritzel, A.; et al. *Nature* **2021**, *596*, 583–589.
3. McKinsey & Company. *Artificial Intelligence in Life Sciences: Transforming R&D Productivity*. Report, 2022.

# Member Education - Biochemistry

<p>Thursday Oct. 16, 2025 125 Lakeshore Room – University Center</p>		
1:25 - 1:30	Welcome – Caroline Szczepanski	
1:30 to 2:00	<p><b>Neil White</b></p> 	<p>Uncovering Elemental Ion Biology with Riboswitches</p>
2:00 to 2:30	<p><b>Issac Angera</b></p> 	<p>b-Arch Peptide Macrocycles as Structural and Functional Mimics of Pathological tau</p>
2:30 to 3:00	<p><b>Tami Sivy</b></p> 	<p>Using Molecular Methods in an Undergraduate Laboratory to Measure Microbial Contamination in Freshwater</p>
3:00 - 3:10	Break	
3:15 to 3:55	<p><b>Panel</b></p>	<p>Discussion: The Path to a Career <i>Speakers: Alyssa Fielitz (Dow), Neil White (CMU), Isaac Angera (ND), Tami Sivy (SVSU)</i></p>

## Uncovering Elemental Ion Biology with Riboswitches

Neil A. White

Assistant Professor Chemistry and Biochemistry  
Central Michigan University

Riboswitches are structured noncoding RNA devices (aptamers) that selectively bind a diverse set of ligands, such as metabolites or elemental ions, and regulate gene expression. They are typically found in the 5' UTRs of bacterial genes. We have recently validated the *nhaA-I*, *nhaA-II* and DUF1646 motif RNAs as riboswitch classes that

selectively bind Na<sup>+</sup> or Li<sup>+</sup>. The Na<sup>+</sup> riboswitch is only the second device, in all domains of life, known to bind Na<sup>+</sup> and regulate gene expression. The Li<sup>+</sup> riboswitch represents the first biological aptamer for Li<sup>+</sup>. Thus, RNA plays a major role in elemental ion biology which is just starting to be appreciated.

The broad distribution of natural-occurring Li<sup>+</sup> riboswitches makes clear that Li<sup>+</sup> must be more often encountered than previously thought. As such, Li<sup>+</sup> biology is understudied and underappreciated. We hypothesize that microorganisms are affected by Li<sup>+</sup> differently, regarding toxicity and metabolism, and we will outline the research plan to elucidate those mechanisms. We expect these studies will make significant discoveries in the fundamental biology of Li<sup>+</sup> in bacteria and have important implications for human mental health.

#### b-Arch peptide macrocycles as structural and functional mimics of pathological tau

Isaac J. Angera

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
University of Notre Dame

Tauopathies are a class of neurodegenerative disorders that include Alzheimer's disease, corticobasal degeneration, chronic traumatic encephalopathy, and many others. A predominant feature of these diseases is tau protein deposits in the brain. Tau is intrinsically disordered and involved in microtubule dynamics but can transition into pathological amyloid structure. Misfolded tau can template or "seed" the aggregation of naïve tau, leading to the prion-like transcellular spread of tau filaments. Tau protomers within filaments exhibit cross- $\beta$  amyloid structure, but distinct conformations often correlate with specific diseases. An understanding of how tau misfolded conformation impacts seeding activity remains elusive. Identification of the minimal epitopes required for transcellular propagation represents a key step toward more relevant models of disease progression. Here, we present a diversity-oriented peptide macrocyclization approach toward seed-competent miniature tau, or "mini-tau", proteomimetics derived from 4R tauopathogenic folds. Mini-tau macrocycles exhibit several amyloid characteristics including thioflavin T binding, formation of filamentous species observed by transmission electron microscopy, and canonical  $\beta$ -sheet rich circular dichroic spectra. Mini-tau macrocycles induce endogenous tau inclusions in engineered biosensor cells and primary hippocampal neurons. Structural elucidation of potent seed competent mini-tau filaments by cryo-electron microscopy reveals close conformational mimicry of pathological tau misfolds. These studies aid in delineating the structural epitopes necessary for prion-like tau seeding and pave the way for the development of tauopathy specific antibodies.

## Using Molecular Methods in an Undergraduate Laboratory to Measure Microbial Contamination in Freshwater

Tami Sivy  
Professor of Chemistry  
Saginaw Valley State University

The Saginaw Bay/River is on the USEPA's Area of Concern (AOC) list because of several Beneficial Use Impairments (BUI), one of which is beach closings. In a longstanding collaboration with the USEPA, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), and local health departments, our lab has been working on better and more timely methods to determine beach closings for Saginaw Bay beaches. The historic method required an 18-24 hour culture incubation, thereby delaying closing decisions. With the advent of nucleic acid analysis in past decades, we have implemented a quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (qPCR) method that measures the levels of a fecal indicator organism (*E. coli*) via DNA content and provides results within hours of sampling. In recent years, we have utilized digital droplet PCR (ddPCR) to undertake Microbial Source Tracking (MST), that targets DNA sequences from host microbes in a sensitive and specific manner. Using MST has allowed for steps to be taken to remediate fecal inputs to area beaches, with the hope of decreasing or eliminating beach closings. An overview of the evolution of the work of our lab, the methods, and the collaborative network that has grown from these efforts will be presented, along with some results of our studies.



**THURSDAY EVENING (6 – 9 pm):** Dinner presentation featuring Dr. Sam Gregson, particle physicist the University of Cambridge and CERN, AND award-winning science educator and entertainer.

**Location:**

Holiday Inn & Suites Mount Pleasant  
5278 E. Pickard Street  
Mount Pleasant, MI ([map](#))

**Description:**

- Buffet dinner featuring ondon broil with mashed potatoes and gravy, grilled salmon with rice pilaf, fresh garden greens with vine ripened tomatoes, cucumbers and vinaigrettes, vegetable medley, assorted rolls with Butter, and Assorted Cookies
- Cash bar
- Evening entertainment by Dr. Sam Gregson [The Bad Boy of Science](#)

**Cost:** \$40 for Regular ACS Members & \$25 for ACS Student Members (valid student id will be required at the venue)

[PDF flyer for the event](#)

Friday

Visit the Expo in the Bovee University Center Rotunda

## Expo Participants

### Event Sponsors in Red

#### Companies

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Saginaw Bay/River Area of Concern Public  
Advisory Council

**ACS**

Division of Analytical Chemistry (ANYL)

H2O Q

Midland Local Section

Mid-Michigan Technicians Group (MMTG)

Senior Chemists Committee (SCC)

Womens Chemist Committee (WCC)

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Thanks to the Expo sponsors



# WORKSHOPS

TIME	Workshop	Location
8:30 – 9:00	 <b>Fire Up for Safety: Hands-On Fire Extinguisher Training</b>	UC – Rotunda Main Stage
9:30 - 10:00	 <b>Fire Up for Safety: Hands-On Fire Extinguisher Training</b>	UC – Rotunda Main Stage
10:05 - 10:50	<b>SDS in Action: Applying Safety Data Sheets to Real Lab Scenarios</b>	UC 123 Mackinaw Room
10:55 - 11:35	<b>Chemical Technical Professional: The Career You Didn't Google (But Should Have)</b>	UC 125 Lakeshore Room
11:40 - 12:25	<b>Laboratory Safety Self-Inspection, do you see what I see?</b>	UC 123 Mackinaw Room

## SPONSORS



**ACS Chemical Health and Safety Division**



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MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**Office of Laboratory and Field Safety**



**ACS** Committee  
Chemical Technical Professionals

### **Fire Up for Safety: Hands-On Fire Extinguisher Training**

This hands-on fire safety workshop featuring a fire extinguisher simulator, led by Brad Doepker, Mount Pleasant Fire Lieutenant and Julian Latoski, Environmental Health and Safety Manager at Central Michigan University. They will share expert insights and guide participants through realistic fire suppression scenarios. Will also discuss context on regulatory compliance. This interactive session is ideal for anyone seeking practical fire safety skills, deeper understanding of emergency response protocols, and building controls.

#### Facilitators:

Brad Doepker, Fire Lieutenant and Marshal Mount Pleasant Fire Department  
Julian Latoski, Manager Risk Management / Environmental Health and Safety  
Central Michigan University

## **SDS in Action: Applying Safety Data Sheets to Real Lab Scenarios**

Led by Jennifer Walton, Director of the Office of Laboratory and Field Safety at Central Michigan University, this interactive workshop explores how to interpret and apply Safety Data Sheets (SDS) in laboratory spill response. Participants will examine the chemical and physical properties section of the SDS and learn how it informs decisions during air monitoring and hazard recognition. The session includes a short talk, group breakout exercise, and hands-on use of air monitoring equipment - including a 4-gas meter and photoionization detector - to connect SDS principles to real-world safety behavior.

### **Facilitator:**

Jennifer Walton, Ph.D., CIH, Director Office of Laboratory and Field Safety,  
Central Michigan University

## **Chemical Technical Professional: The Career You Didn't Google (But Should Have)**

Not sure what to do with your science degree? You're not alone. Whether you're studying biology, chemistry, environmental science, or physics, the options can feel overwhelming or invisible. This session introduces you to the world of Chemical Technical Professionals (CTPs): hands-on innovators, problem-solvers, and leaders who've built exciting careers from all kinds of science backgrounds and without a PhD. Hear real stories from successful CTPs, learn what the role involves, and explore how your degree can launch you into a career you didn't even know to search for.

### **Facilitator**

Michelle Rivard, Analytical Technologist, Dow Inc.

### **Panelist**

Marie Martin | R&D/TS&D Technician | Analytical Science | Dow Inc. |  
Midland, MI

Jake Remacle | R&D/TS&D Technologist | Dow Consumer Solutions Process  
Research and Development | Midland, MI

Hannah Baran | GCMA Analyst | Enthalpy Analytical | Mount Pleasant, MI

## **Laboratory Safety Self-Inspection, do you see what I see?**

This interactive safety workshop, led by Joe Wernet, Chemical Hygiene Officer and Research Safety Specialist at the University of Michigan, introduces U-M's lab self-inspection program and explores the key elements of effective safety reviews. The workshop includes a breakout exercise designed to help participants apply inspection principles in real-world scenarios. Whether you're refining your own process or just getting

started, this session offers practical tools to strengthen lab safety culture - and a chance to see your lab through a sharper, more informed lens.

**Facilitators:**

Joe Wernet, Research Safety Specialist, Research Health & Safety, University of Michigan

Kenny Morey, EH&S R&D Senior Delivery Tech, Dow Inc.

## **ACS Governance Panel Discussion**

(occurring over lunch – 12:30 to 1:30)

### **National – Regional - Local**

Join us for a moderated panel discussion.

**Panelists:**

- Carolyn Ribes (ACS Board of Directors),
- Angela Wilson (ACS President 2023),
- Edith Kippenhan (Central Region Treasurer/Secretary)
- Chris Bodurow(ACS President Elect, Indianapolis Local Section).
- Moderator: Hunter Woodward (Dow Inc.)

This session explores how ACS governance operates and connects across all levels—from national leadership to local engagement. Lunch is free, courtesy of the ACS Board of Directors—come for the food, stay for the conversation.

# Chemistry Reconnected

Friday Oct. 17, 2025 123 Mackinaw Room – University Center		
1:30 to 2:05	<b>Shawn Hunter</b> 	Decarbonizing the Built Environment: Why DuPont is Staying the Course?
2:10 to 2:45	<b>Itzel Marquez</b> 	Chemistry for clean water: ensuring water sustainability for all
2:50 to 3:30	<b>Julia Sunderland</b> 	Silicone Composites for Electromagnetic Interference Shielding

## Decarbonizing the Built Environment: Why DuPont is Staying the Course

Shawn Hunter

Global Sustainability Director, DuPont Shelter Solutions

DuPont

The construction and operation of buildings contribute roughly 34% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions globally. Despite advances in energy efficiency and decarbonization technologies, global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from buildings are continuing to rise. Recent US federal actions aimed at stalling climate progress have created new headwinds to decarbonizing the built environment. Nevertheless, many organizations recognize the scientific urgency of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to limit global warming to +1.5 °C, and leaders across the building and construction sector are stepping up to accelerate climate action.

Looking through the lens of the building and construction market, this presentation will demonstrate why continued climate action – and driving progress against a corporate Net Zero GHG goal – remains a strategic priority for DuPont.

### Chemistry for clean water: ensuring water sustainability for all

Itzel Marquez

Associate Professor School of Engineering and Technology  
Central Michigan University

To ensure availability and sustainable management of water for all is one of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), SDG 6. From advances in analytical techniques, that can detect contaminants at trace levels, to water treatment technologies, such as coagulation, advanced oxidation processes and membrane separations, chemistry plays a central role in achieving this goal by providing the scientific foundation for understanding, protecting, and restoring water quality.

In addition, chemistry drives innovation in sustainable materials and processes, such as low-energy desalination, biodegradable coagulants, and novel adsorbents. These solutions not only improve water quality but also address resource efficiency and environmental impacts. By integrating chemistry with engineering, policy, and community engagement, we can develop practical strategies to meet SDG 6 — ensuring clean water access without compromising the needs of future generations.

In this talk, we will discuss examples of the application of chemistry in the development of technologies for water treatment, advancing toward SDG6.

### Silicone Composites for Electromagnetic Interference Shielding

Julia Sunderland

R&D Scientist in the Silicones division  
Dow

Today, Julia will present why electromagnetic compatibility in electronic devices for a connected world is very important and why electromagnetic shielding material are highly needed in automotive, communication and consumer electronics applications.

# Artificial Intelligence and Bourbon

Friday Oct. 17, 2025 307/309 Lake St. Claire/Huron – University Center		
1:30 to 2:05	<b>Narayan Ramesh</b> 	Data Challenges and Impact of AI on Research Driven Organizations
2:10 to 2:45	<b>Beth Lorsbach</b> 	The Chemistry of Bourbon: From Distillation to Distinction
2:50 to 3:30	<b>Regan Silverstri</b>  Lorain County Community College	The Cleveland Whiskey Story: Technology not Heresy!

SPONSOR:



## Data Challenges and Impact of AI on Research Driven Organizations

Narayan Ramesh

Senior R&D Director, Global Analytical Sciences - Core R&D

This presentation explores how data and AI are reshaping research-driven organizations. We trace the journey from experiment to data, highlighting key challenges such as data fragmentation, legacy infrastructure, and annotation gaps. The talk showcases how AI enables acceleration of innovation and improves decision-making. Strategies for building agile, data-centric R&D ecosystems and enhancing collaboration between domain experts and AI systems experts will be discussed, along with opportunities to train the workforce and multiply impact across disciplines.

## **The Chemistry of Bourbon, Instrument to Taste Analysis**

"The Cleveland Whiskey Story: Technology not Heresy!"

Regan Silvestri, PhD

Professor of Chemistry, Lorain County Community College, Elyria, Ohio

### **Abstract:**

Cleveland Whiskey was founded as an entrepreneurial start-up on the basis of a revolutionary production technology termed “rapid pressure aging” which uses pressure to accelerate the maturing process of whiskey from a few years to a few days. With the development of this innovative technology, Cleveland Whiskey is not confined to aging in oak barrels and has proceeded to produce unprecedented bourbons finished with and flavored naturally with varied woods including black cherry, apple, hickory, sugar maple, and honey locust.

### **Speaker Biography:**

Dr. Regan Silvestri is a Professor of Chemistry at Lorain County Community College, where he directs an undergraduate student research group investigating the science of the flavor of whiskey and the health benefits of beer. Dr. Silvestri served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Kazakhstan, where he lived and worked for four years as a Visiting Professor. For fun, Professor Silvestri performs his science magic show “Magical Science!!” as a volunteer at local schools, and has inspired combined live audiences of 100,000+ enthusiastic young students with the wonders of science.

## Member Education

Friday Oct. 17, 2025 125 Lakeshore Room – University Center		
1:30 to 2:05	<p><b>Peter Psarras</b></p> 	From Models to Markets: How Boundary Effects Constrain and Inform Problem Solving
2:10 to 2:45	<p><b>Angela Wilson</b></p> 	Periodic beginnings and unexpected elements: A scientific journey
2:50 to 3:30	<p><b>Katharina Domnanich</b></p> 	An Overview of Isotope Harvesting Research at the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams

### From Models to Markets: How Boundary Effects Constrain and Inform Problem Solving

Peter Psarras, PhD

Senior Decarbonization Engineer

Carbon Direct

“All models are wrong, but some are useful”. This remains one of the most important lessons encountered on my academic journey. My earliest models were over-simplified and produced odd boundary effects. While those artifacts were frustrating at the time, they proved to be a valuable teacher. They showed me that boundaries don’t just constrain models; they also shape the way we think about problems.

That lesson has carried through every step of my career. Under the charge of making models less “wrong” and more “useful” I found myself exploring more than just physical boundaries. Many of the answers I sought lied within the interfacing disciplines, some so obscure and seemingly removed that I have often found myself looking back asking “How did I get here?” I started modeling molecules from first principles, and somehow

meandered into the world of techno-economics, carbon accounting, environmental justice and policy. “Am I still a chemist?”

That answer is “yes”, and I’d argue a much better one than when I started. Today, I work at the intersection of science, policy, and industry, helping large carbon management projects navigate the path from concept to final investment decision. My progression illustrates how chemistry does not end at the molecular scale – it evolves through engineering, economics, and policy to shape real-world outcomes. In doing so, chemistry becomes a discipline without hard boundaries, one that connects science to today’s most urgent challenges.

#### Periodic beginnings and unexpected elements: A scientific journey

Angela K. Wilson

*John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor*

Department of Chemistry

Michigan State University

With a career start focused on the development of quantum mechanical approaches in theoretical chemistry, I never would have expected that my research would expand to span the Periodic Table, and move into emerging areas like polaritonic chemistry, but also address topics including aging aircraft, drug discovery, and environmental science. Perhaps most surprising has been our partnerships with colleagues from Michigan State University’s Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, to study Great Lakes fish species, and with colleagues from the University of Maine to study dairy cattle.

#### An Overview of Isotope Harvesting Research at the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams

Katharina Domnanich

Professor Department of Chemistry and Facility for Rare Isotope Beams

Michigan State University

At the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB), exotic secondary beams are created by the fragmentation of a high-power primary beam. In this process, however, only a small fraction of the beam products are selected, and co-produced fragments are intercepted by accelerator components, while the unreacted primary beam will be stopped in a water-traversed beam dump. The accumulated radionuclides in all these components represent an invaluable resource and can be collected through targeted isotope harvesting 1.

In the first part of this talk, I will provide an overview of the isotope harvesting process, with a focus on the collection of  $^{62}\text{Zn}$  from a stopped  $^{78}\text{Kr}$  beam. The  $^{62}\text{Zn}$  decays to the short-lived  $^{62}\text{Cu}$  ( $t_{1/2} = 9.7$  min), and both find collective application in nuclear medicine for the  $^{62}\text{Zn}/^{62}\text{Cu}$  PET generator. The developed purification method facilitated the successful isolation of  $^{62}\text{Zn}$  2. Furthermore, we have started to develop the chemistry required to set up a  $^{62}\text{Zn}/^{62}\text{Cu}$  generator. I will present results from recent experiments, where we successfully isolated  $^{62}\text{Zn}$  from proton-irradiated stable copper foil, set up and optimized a  $^{62}\text{Zn}/^{62}\text{Cu}$  generator system, and demonstrated the high purity of the eluted  $^{62}\text{Cu}$  via

radiolabeling. We are also expanding our aqueous isotope harvesting research and have begun to focus on the collection and separation of Ni radioisotopes, which are of interest for both astrophysics and technical applications.

In addition, isotope collection from the solid phase is another possible isotope harvesting mode 3. Recently, we have begun exploring the radioisotopes  $^{189}\text{Pt}$  and  $^{197}\text{Pt}$ , which are relevant for nuclear medicine applications such as radio-cisplatin, as well as  $^{47}\text{Ca}$ , which serves as a precursor for the therapeutically valuable  $^{47}\text{Sc}$ . I will provide an overview of the initial developments in the solid harvesting approach, including the first completed irradiation experiments, subsequent radiochemical separations, and initial applications of the harvested isotopes.

Radiochemistry is a relatively specialized area within chemistry, yet radioisotopes play a broad role in everyday life—often without us even realizing it. Next to the scientific aspects, this talk will also highlight some educational aspects related to this niche field.

#### References

1. Abel, E. P. *et al.* Isotope harvesting at FRIB: additional opportunities for scientific discovery. *J. Phys. G Nucl. Part. Phys.* **46**, (2019).
2. Domnanich, K. A. *et al.* Harvesting  $^{62}\text{Zn}$  from an aqueous cocktail at the NSCL. *New J. Chem.* **44**, 20861–20870 (2020).
3. Bence, J. A. *et al.* Solid-phase isotope harvesting of  $^{88}\text{Zr}$  from a radioactive ion beam facility. *Appl. Radiat. Isot.* **189**, 110414 (2022).

## Central Regional Meeting Science Café and Project SEED Fundraiser

### Raise a Glass to Science at the Bourbon Pull!

Join us for one of the most spirited highlights of **CERM 2025**—the **Bourbon Pull at Hunter’s Ale House**, happening **Friday, October 17th** in Mt. Pleasant, MI. This lively evening event is more than just a tasting—it’s a fundraiser supporting the **Midland ACS Project SEED Program**, which provides research opportunities for economically diverse high school students.

🍷 **Admission:** \$55 pre-purchase / \$65 at the door

📍 **Location:** [Hunter’s Ale House](#), 4855 E. Blue Grass Rd. Mt Pleasant

🕒 **Doors Open:** 6:30 PM

🍕 Includes pizza, live music, and guaranteed entry into the Bourbon Raffle—**every ticket wins a bottle** of bourbon or whiskey!

Featured selections include bourbons from **Buffalo Trace, Garrison Brothers, Blue Run, Heaven Hill, Old Forester**, and whiskeys from **Cleveland Whiskey, 3 Bridges, EverNorth**, and more.

Earlier that afternoon, don’t miss the **Chemistry of Bourbon: Instrument to Taste Analysis** session at CERM, featuring talks by Regan Silvestri and Beth Lorsbach. Learn how analytical chemistry meets sensory science, then put theory into practice at the Bourbon Pull.

Proceeds go directly to Project SEED—so come for the bourbon, stay for the impact.

👉 Register now and help support future scientists!

[Registration link](#)

[download flyer](#)



**Join the Bourbon Pull!**  
**Scan to Register!**



**FRIDAY EVENING (5 – 9 pm):** Brewery gathering with pizza and live music by Socially Distant, performing rock and blues from Alanis to Zeppelin, scientist by day, musicians by night.

**Location:**

Hunter's Ale House Brewery ([website](#))

4855 E. Bluegrass Road

Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 ([map](#))

**Description:**

- Pizza buffet in the Cask Room and includes 1 drink ticket
- Music by Socially Distant in the main bar  
[The Socially Distant | Facebook](#)

**Cost:** \$12 for all attendees



# Posters CERM-FSM2025

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Bovee University Center  
Rotunda

### General Posters 1: Thursday Posters 1-41

B. Swarts, A. Mueller, J. Tomasik, J. Etienne *Organizers*

**4:00 - 6:00**

- 01.** Determining activation energy of a reaction: Aspartame hydrolysis. **K. Holt**
- 02.** Biocatalytic Aza-Michael addition of aromatic amines to enone using  $\alpha$ -amylase in water. **S. DUTT**
- 03.** Multi-ion species and non-Innocent counterions emerging in anion recognition. **A. Morgan, A.H. Flood**
- 04.** Cross carbonyl-olefin metathesis (XCOM) of unactivated olefins. **J. Wu, M. Vargas-Penalver, T.H. Lambert**
- 05.** Ag(I)/K<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub>-mediated selective oxidation of ynamide-yne via structural reshuffling and consecutive N-desulfonylation. **M. Mutra, C. T.L, T. Wang, J. Wang**
- 07.** Evaluating *ortho* and *para*-ethylaniline as reactants in the synthesis of imines for a course-based undergraduate research experience. **D. Baker**
- 08.** Optimizing the synthesis of an imine as a course-based undergraduate research experience (CURE). **D. Baker, m. Haswell**
- 09.** Development of dry, thermally stable, proton exchange membranes for high temperature hydrogen fuel cell. M. Curry, **P. Knipe, G. Mehl, S. Samaranayake**
- 10.** Influence of  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interaction on adsorption of caffeine in aqueous solution using novel porous copolymer resin. **A. Balogun, M. Itzel, A. Mueller, B.D. Fahlman, E. Anang**
- 12.**  $\beta$ -lactones as an emerging Antimicrobial Scaffold: *para*-Substituents Modulate Activity. **M.V. Coote, E. Yantz**

13. Developing and optimizing bioluminescent neurotransmitter sensors and neurotransmitter dependent neuromodulators. **K. Taylor**, H. Galvin, E. Petersen
14. Computational Modeling of 1-Carbon (1-C) Metabolism to Analyze Mitochondrial 1-C Flux. **X. Luarasi**
15. G4 70/30 PAMAM Dendrimer-Mediated Co-Delivery of KIF23 and KIF18A siRNAs for Glioblastoma Treatment. **N. Allahyarzadeh Khiabani**, O. Dubey, A. Poudel, M. Singh, R. Petersen, D. Swanson, G. Dunbar, J. Rossignol
17. Low temperature molecular spin decoherence dynamics using Lindblad master equation method. **K.E. Coffin**, T.J. Krogmeier, A.W. Schlimgen, K. Head-Marsden
18. Development and Characterization of Metal-Chitosan Composites as Sustainable Alternative Materials. **A. Manamperi**, K. Garrison, L. Wang, A. Zand, D. Kirtek, S. Zhang
19. Removal of gemfibrozil from wastewater using new polymer resins. **T. Pema**, A. Mueller, M. Itzel, B.D. Fahlman
20. Structure-Based Identification of High-Affinity scFv Antibody Targeting YKL-40 as a Biomarker for Early Alzheimer's Disease Detection. **D. Rajan**, **G. Sharma**
21. Photodegradation contaminants of emerging concern in aquatic environments, using carbon-based materials. **P. Anamanya**
22. Identifying unique structures in metal polysulfide clusters: A workflow for degeneracy and redundancy analysis. **B. Traver**, V. Barone
23. Synthesis of 5-Methyl-3-phenylbenzo[e][1,2,4]triazine and Its o-Nitrophenyl Benzohydrazide Precursor: Positional Control of Crystal Packing in Blatter Radical Precursors. **J. Yi**, H. Dakdouk, A. Mukherji, S. Marincean, C.P. Constantinides
24. Energy landscape of Li-, Na-, and K-polysulfides: A DFT-based study. B. Traver, **Z. Hinojosa**, M. Singh, V. Barone
25. Structure-property relationship of alkyne-bridged D-A-D Thienothiadiazole-based dyes with tunable donor substituents. **Q. Ain**, D.L. Watkins
26. ElectronJump: A free online game game for learning electronic structure and quantum principles. **C.J. Hover**
27. SYNTHESIS OF POLYMER NANOPARTICLES BY INVERSE EMULSION POLYMERIZATION WITH g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>. **E. Coffie**, A. Mueller, B.D. Fahlman, M. Itzel, G. Johnson
28. Wastewater Treatment and Polymer Degradation: Role of Catalyst in Advanced Oxidation Processes. **S. Aduwa**

- 29.** Exploring Polymer Dynamics for Hydrogen Fuel Cells Using Molecular Simulations. **S. Ganta, T. Alim**, L. Rakesh, A. Mueller, A. Mellinger
- 30.** Synthesis and characterization of zwitterionic polymers for conductivity studies using RAFT polymerization. **A. Puthiyarakkal**, D.L. Watkins
- 32.** Characterization of a new cholesterol-dependent pore-forming toxin from a plant species. **L. Sheppard**, O. Hohman, L. Gasco, R. Patial, P. Bandyopadhyay, T.K. Dam
- 33.** Discovery of a new plant protein that interacts with the glycan epitopes of fungal and viral antigens. **O. Hohman**, R. Patial, L. Sheppard, P. Bandyopadhyay, T.K. Dam
- 34.** Design and Evaluation of 3D-Printed HPMC-Based Lattice Structures for Controlled Ibuprofen Release. **K. Desai, M. Lee, R. Wang**
- 35.** Rheological Insights into Ultrasound Gels. **B. Wilcox**, T. Nguyen
- 36.** Rheology Reveals the Power of Silver-Infused Aloe Gel in Modern Skincare. **T. Nguyen**
- 38.** Catalytic Glucose Oxidation for Bacterial Growth Inhibition. **F. Farhana**
- 39.** Single-molecule CISS-controlled electrochemical catalysis. **A. Adeyemi**, B. Pokhrel, H. Shen
- 40.** Do Bees Trade Pollen Secrets? Analysis of Bee Pollen by Light Microscopy. **S. Fan**, K. Simons
- 41.** Experimental Measurements on Magnetic Fe Atoms Embedded in Carbon Nitride. **C. Chavez**, J. Pandey, V. Petkov, V. Barone, B. Fahlman

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Bovee University Center  
Rotunda

### General Posters 2: Friday Posters 1-41

3:30 - 5:30

01. Robust synthetic platform to hexocannabintriol and biological relevant analogs. **M. Gilmore, H. LeGrande, K. Kostoff, R. Legant**, E. Dzurka Camelio
02. Evaluation of waterless condensers for reflux reactions in the undergraduate teaching laboratory. C. Asbury, K. Fields, E. Grabowski, M. Maier, **J.L. Tischler**, N.B. Kingsley
03. Extraction of Ascorbic Acid from Dietary Supplements. **E. Propp**
04. Removal of gemfibrozil from water using molecularly imprinted polymers. **C. Stevens**, T. Pema
05. Effects of Rainfall on E.coli Levels. **S. Yu**
06. Rapid Method for Evaluating Textile Odor Control. **L. Gorney**, D. Proctor
07. Applying RFID to transfusion medicine. **R. Regenfuss**
08. Synthesis and evaluation of triazole-linked trehalose mycolate analogues as inhibitors of glycolipid metabolism in mycobacteria. **C. Kabutey**, B.M. Swarts
09. Synthesis of 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde-based antioxidant dendrons. **N. LI**
10. Solid Harvesting production of Ca-47 for theranostic Sc-47 generation at the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams. **E. Majka**, V. Zakusilova, D. Davuluri, K. Domnanich
11. Extraction and Separation of Nd(III) and Tm(III) from Aqueous Solutions Using Deep Eutectic Solvents – Toward Radiolanthanide Harvesting at the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams. **V. Zakusilova**, N.E. Esker, K. Domnanich
12. A Series of Pyrrole-Heterocycle Catalysts for Olefin Polymerization. **J.B. Etienne**, B. Bailey, M. Bokota, J. Reddel, N. Turner, J. Cabrera
13. Adding essential oil groups to a commercial  $\beta$ -lactam molecule to combat antibiotic resistance. **M.S. Stevens, H.C. Stearns**, S.A. Brouet
14. Engineering Bioluminescent Sensors for Real-Time Monitoring and Control of Neuroinflammation. **O. Dubey**, M. Chatterton, J. Rossignol, J. Bakke, E. Petersen

**15. PEROXISOME PROLIFERATED-ACTIVATED RECEPTOR (PPAR) DELTA AGONIST AS PROMISING TREATMENT FOR NON-ALCOHOLIC FATTY LIVER DISEASE.. X. Luarasi**

**16. Determination of the efficacy of magnetized biochar in the removal of antibiotics from aqueous solution. Z.M. Adelberg**

**17. Studies toward a novel organocatalyst featuring a bicyclic hydrazide moiety. Z.J. Green, I.E. Upthegrove, S.A. Brouet**

**19. Design, synthesis and structural evaluation of model expander molecules for advanced lead-acid battery storage applications. M. Chennapuram, M.S. Teferra, C. Lind-Kovacs**

**20. Microbial Source Tracking Studies of Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe (MI) Freshwater Sample Sites. A. Seman, T. Sivy**

**21. Fluorescence-quenched mycoloyl-arabinofuranoside analogues: fluorogenic probes for mycobacterial outer membrane-degrading enzymes. A. Zigli**

**22. From Structure to Functional Implications: Investigation of the Melon-Like Framework of Graphitic Carbon Nitride for Li-S Batteries. J. Pandey, A. Yazdani, I. Boakye, V. Petkov, V. Barone, B.D. Fahlman**

**23. Model expander molecules: From synthesis to applications in lead Acid batteries. S. Nazeer, S. Singhal, C. Lind-Kovacs**

**24. Synthesis and evaluation of antioxidant dendrimers derived from D-mannitol and syringaldehyde. B. Agbemade**

**25. Synthesis of a potent amphiphilic antioxidant dendrimer via dendron approach. f. haruna**

**26. Synthesis of labeled phosphatidylinositolmannoside (PIM) fragments to probe glycolipid synthesis and transport processes in mycobacteria. C. Mensah, B.M. Swarts**

**27. Unusual Photophysical Properties of N-Confused Tetraphenylporphyrin in Alcoholic Solvents. J. Joseph, E.A. Alem&acute;n, D.A. Modarelli**

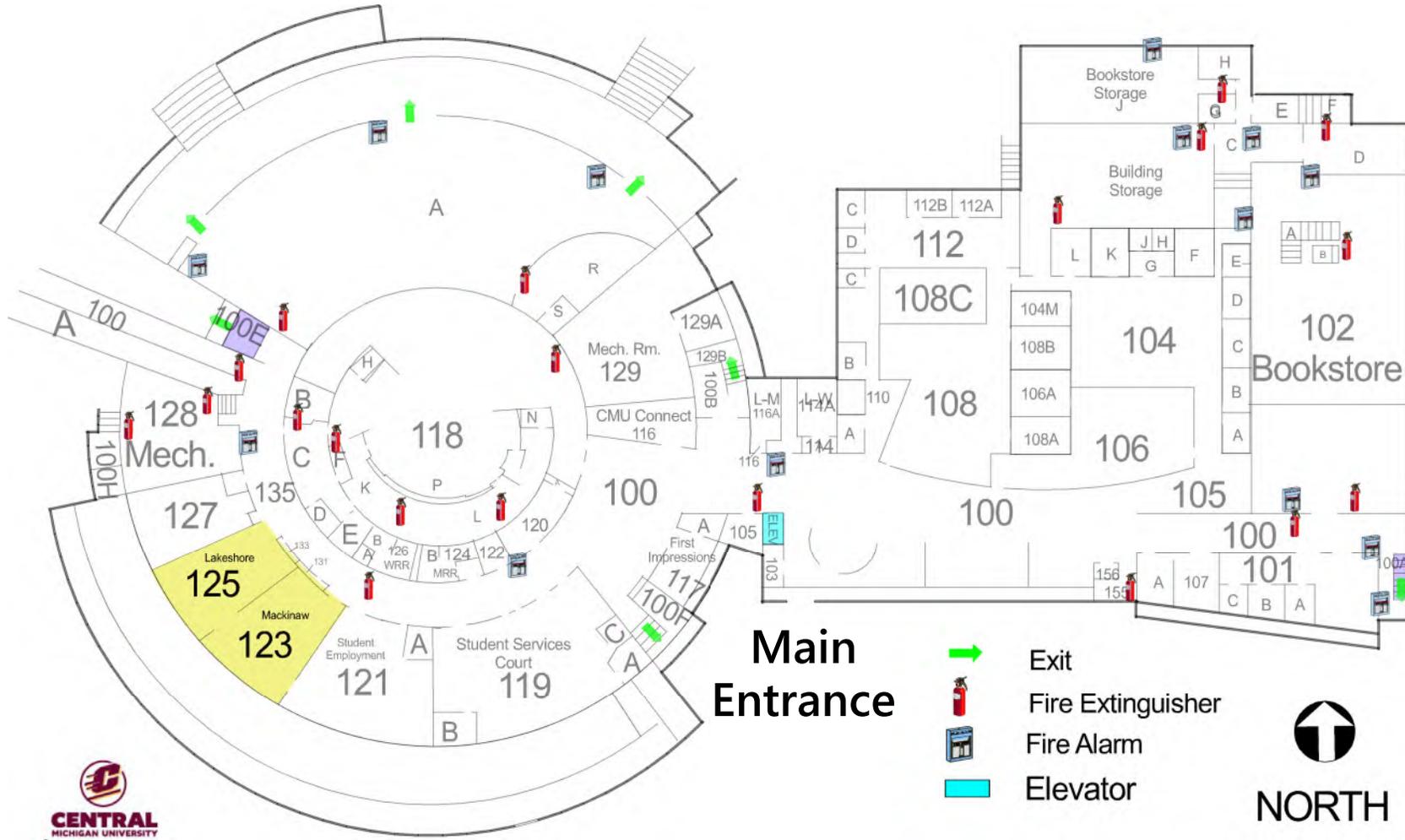
**28. Trehalose-Biotin Conjugates for Mycobacteria Detection. M.Z. Nizami, C. Mensah, E.R. Maskill, B.M. Swarts**

**29. Liquid phase deposition of nanoscale perovskite oxides with tunable architectures. C.M. Riddle, G. Caruntu**

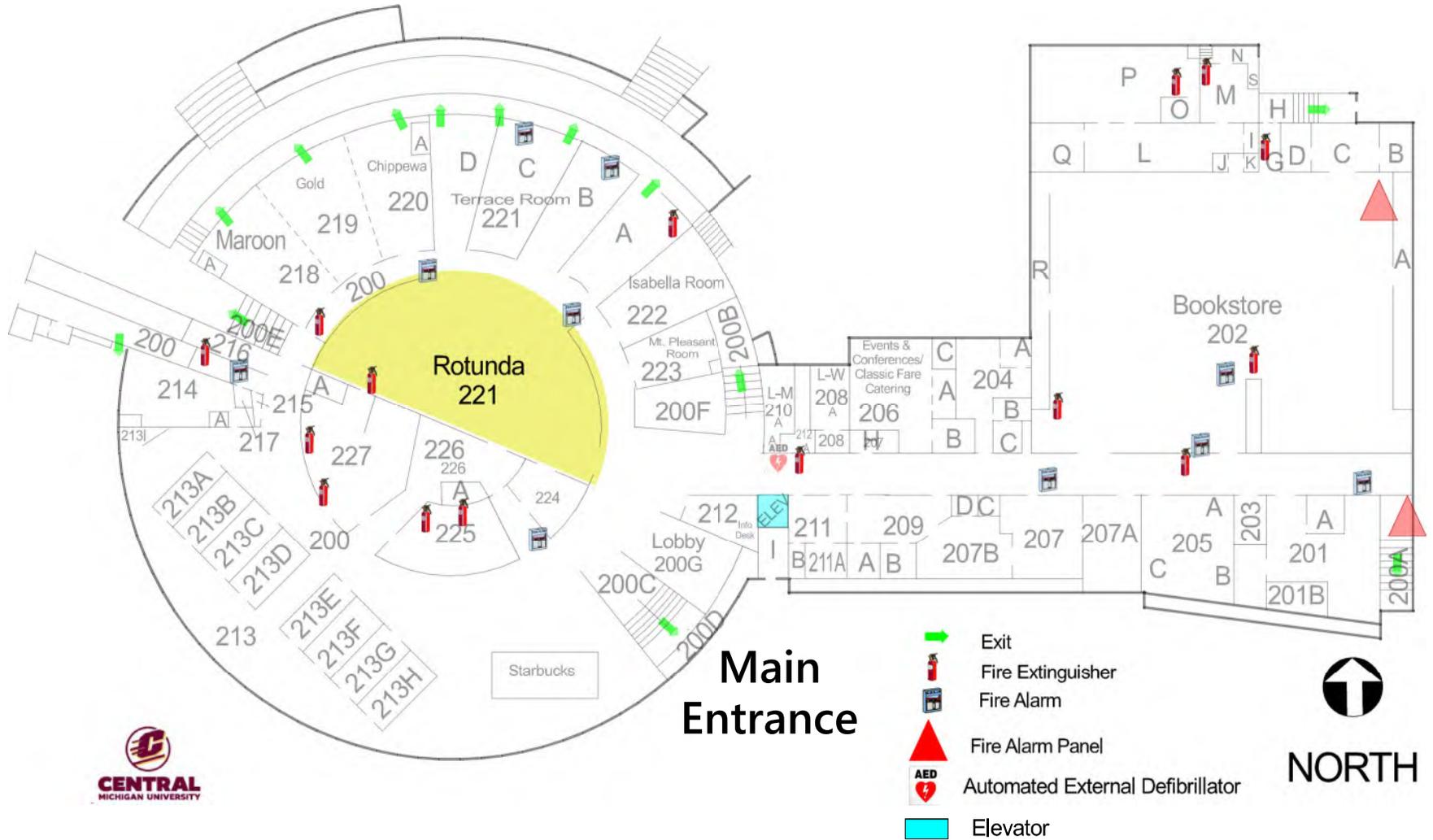
**30. Sustainable alternative to the standard undergraduate organic chemistry caffeine extraction. M. Kruzyk, C. Gasiorowski, S.A. Brouet, J. Chaytor, M.V. Coote**

31. Cubosomes covalently tethered to graphene oxide nanosheets: Synthesis, Characterization, and Applications. **M.M. Hossain**, M. Bayachou
32. Preliminary assessment of water quality and microbial activity in selected natural springs of McKean County, Pennsylvania. **M. Ellini**
33. Chemoenzymatic synthesis of inositol analogues as tools to study mycobacterial glycolipids. **C. Bush**, U.G. Johnson, B.M. Swarts
34. Chemoenzymatic synthesis of 2,2-difluorotrehalose, a novel trehalose analogue and possible inhibitor of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. **V. To**, C. Kabutey, U.G. Johnson, B.M. Swarts
35. Spin State Switching in  $\text{Fe}(\text{Htrz})_2(\text{trz})$  Nanoparticles Obtained by a Solution-Based Route. **J. Ellis**, G. Caruntu
36. Synthesis of dual functional probe of psychosine for understanding psychosine -induced neuroinflammation and demyelination. **Y. Omori**, Y. Takeda
37. Cr-MiL-101 as a pH dependant absorbent for uranyl capture in seawater. **A. Anderson**, D. Kissel
38. Investigation of an Optimized Zn-62/Cu-62 Generator for PET Imaging. **F. Bissen**, K. Domnanich
39. Aqueous Isotope Harvesting of Ni radioisotopes from the FRIB Beam Blocker. **R. Goike**, K. Domnanich
40. Increasing the scale and scope of the chemoenzymatic synthesis of trehalose using mCherry-tagged trehalose synthase variants. **M. Hall**
41. 3D-Printed Substrates for Hydroponic Plant Growth in Microgravity. **M. Shivakumar**, **S. Park**, **K. Daoud**

# University Center - First Floor



# University Center - Second Floor





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