

# The Chemical Consultant

Association of Consulting Chemists and Chemical Engineers, Inc.  
*Scientific, Engineering, Business & Management Consultants*

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

All members are  
invited to attend.

Council Zoom Meetings  
to be announced

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The Association of Consulting Chemists & Chemical Engineers (ACC&CE) is a network of senior-level consultants with a broad range of functional expertise and many years of experience in the chemical and allied industries.

The purposes of the organization are the following:

To offer prospective clients a “clearing house” which they can use to find the most qualified consultants, whatever their particular problem may be.

To furnish support to its members as they conduct their consulting practices.

This newsletter is intended to support those purposes as well as to educate prospective new members and prospective client organizations about ACC&CE, and how we can be most helpful to them.

The ACC&CE has an interactive website – [chemconsult.org](http://chemconsult.org) – that allows prospective clients to either input their problem to submit a Consultant Help Inquiry (CHI) or else to search our membership for those consultants most skilled in their area of concern. The LinkedIn page is also active now and accessible to all.

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## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER, Al Sagarese**

The theme for my term is to build membership. I feel the best tool is our excellent ZOOM presentations, which are chaired by John Fetzer. We have been using our LinkedIn list of ~500 names, which is chaired and managed by Marvin DeTar. In addition, we have piggy-backed on Greg Mehos' LinkedIn list of ~5,500 contacts. I have offered my list of 100+ names from my Constant Contact list of contacts. For the ZOOM meetings, I have asked members to forward the ZOOM announcements to those on their contact lists. This is a work in process since I do not know the success or usage patterns.

We need to improve the technical aspects of the ZOOM meetings since several have been plagued by start-up problems: for example, a presentation getting submitted to me late, attachments sent at the last minute, or MAC computers used by the speaker. The MAC "problem" is only an issue with our member's providing technical help since most systems used are PCs (DOS). I have used Forrestal's staff to set up ZOOM but often problems arise and sometimes my staff has other commitments.

John Fetzer continues to find excellent speakers and they will be presenting in the fall. The above observations remain a work in process. We hope all will be fixed by fall. We look forward to an active program.

Alfred A. Sagarese, PE, CMC, President

## **VP/PROGRAM CHAIR REPORT, John Fetzer**

Presentations update: Dr. Dennis O'Rear will be presenting in September on **Mercury in the Petroleum Industry**. He is a potential member with a keen interest in the association.

Feedback from the January presentation on building a global consultancy has prompted me to prepare two talks for either late this year or for next year. They are on being an expert witness and on consulting overseas.

John C. Fetzer, Ph.D., Vice President

## **EDITOR'S LETTER, Richard Goodman**

This is the second newsletter for 2023. In this letter, the Editor will highlight the activities for the first half of 2023 and look to the future activities for the duration of the ACC&CE fiscal year 2023 (ending 9/30/23).

In this issue President Sagarese highlighted his priorities for 2023. He also mentioned some issues as well. But overall the Association is in good shape with a strong fiscal position, a strong program scheduled for fall 2023, and lots of ideas about how to grow membership. For these subjects see the articles following this letter penned by VP/ Program Chair John Fetzer, Membership Chair Heather Wahab and LinkedIn Chair Marvin DeTar.

A subject of strong concern for ACC&CE is the relative age of our website. While it continues to generate leads and highlights our activities for both members and outside visitors, its format is perceived as dated and may soon be too old for the newest operating systems. Long-term Treasurer Steve Duerr has assumed Webmaster duties from Councilor Charlie Leonard. They are together working on finding means and personnel to update the system. See Steve's article below to see the state of the progress as of the dateline for this Newsletter.

One very important event going forward is the election of new Officers and Councilors for the 2024 fiscal year starting October 1, 2023. As has been the tradition the last several years, the existing Officers will be formally renominated for another one-year term. According to the Constitution, we can nominate new candidates for any of these officer positions. In fact, the position of Secretary is now vacant and we are seeking a volunteer to run for that office. Also, the Councilor terms of David Manuta and Marvin DeTar are expiring on Sept 30, 2023. Again, they can seek renomination and reelection but we would also seek any other members who would want to become councilors to contact me in my role as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Richard M. Goodman, Ph.D., Newsletter Editor

## **MEMBERSHIP CHAIR REPORT, Heather Wahab**

The Association of Consulting Chemists and Chemical Engineers has received some membership applications this year, but only one application was found to be qualified to become a new member. We would like to welcome Mr. Gail E. Braden, production engineer, to become our new member this year.

Consultant Help Inquiries (CHIs) can be sent directly to our members by potential clients through the Find a Consultant link. The Association of Consulting Chemists and Chemical Engineers has received a total of ten referral requests this year through the Referral Service tab, and requests are forwarded immediately to all our current members for their response. We are looking forward to more membership applications, and we are also looking forward to more referral requests being submitted to our association.

Heather A Wahab, Ph.D., D.Sc.

## **LINKEDIN UPDATE, Marvin DeTar**

People may think that they have joined the ACC&CE by LinkedIn's settings. I think it can only be useful for posting upcoming events by the ACC&CE. It gets "between 20 and 35 visitors" a month but double or quadruple counts my visits to the site. So how many different individuals actually have visited the site is really unknown. A fair appraisal is that the stats are garbage in my opinion.

Marvin DeTar, Ph.D., Councilor

## **CASE HISTORY from a WELL-KNOWN MEMBER**

### **a Past President of ACC&CE, David Manuta**

On January 10, 2023, The American Institute of Chemists (AIC) received an email from a law firm in New York City seeking interested colleagues to join an amicus brief (friend of the court) in support of Sanofi/Regeneron.

This was for the patent case, Amgen v. Sanofi, that The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) would hear (in March 2023) and decide (in May 2023).

The AIC Administrative Assistant promptly forwarded the email to me. The particulars of this case involved the application of innovative medical treatments to control low density lipoprotein (LDL) or “the bad cholesterol.” Amgen had obtained twenty six (26) patents on antibodies to mitigate LDL and Sanofi had obtained one (1) patent on an antibody to mitigate LDL. Amgen then sued Sanofi for patent infringement.

I contacted the law firm in New York City to express my interest in joining the amicus brief. The Principal Scientific Expert for Sanofi was the recent Nobel Prize Laureate in Chemistry, Dr. Gregory Winter. After an exchange of screening emails with the law firm in New York City, I learned that the Choate Law Firm in Boston, MA was representing Dr. Winter in supporting this patent infringement case. Choate then added me to their roster of amici.

The lead attorney with Choate was Ms. Sophie Wong. Ms. Wong set up a Zoom call in February 2023 and she gave me a detailed description of the legal and scientific issues. Her knowledge of biochemistry was impressive. She drafted the brief and she asked me to review it. There were very minor tweaks to this otherwise superb narrative. Ms. Wong, and her Team presented the case in support of Sanofi before the SCOTUS on March 27, 2023. I was confident that this skilled attorney would be successful in her presentation.

On May 18, 2023, the SCOTUS ruled unanimously (9 to 0) in favor of Sanofi. The lead attorney for Sanofi (Mr. John Conway) promptly notified me of this outcome. Ms. Wong shortly thereafter sent me a copy of Associate Justice Gorsuch's Opinion. In this masterfully written twenty-three (23) page document [link = 21-757 Amgen Inc. v. Sanofi (05/18/23) (<https://supremecourt.gov>)]. Justice Gorsuch actually quoted parts of three pages (6 through 8 of 23) from our brief in his Opinion for the Court.

The immediate result of this decision is that just because one company has more patents than another company (in an area being contested) does NOT enable control over ALL of the possible proposed solutions. In engineering and the physical sciences, the implications are more expansive. A smaller company working on innovative methodology/technology does NOT have to be perpetually looking over its shoulder at how a larger company may choose to react to their activity. The costs to defend such cases can now more appropriately be spent on advancing research. Truly a victory for “the little guy.”

David M. Manuta, PhD, FAIC - President, Manuta Chemical Consulting, Inc. (Better Business Bureau A+ Accredited)

## **STATUS of ACC&CE WEBSITE, Steve Duerr**

Emails from [accce@chemconsult.org](mailto:accce@chemconsult.org) are generally from the Webmaster (Steve Duerr), and the inbox is checked frequently. Response should be timely. The Membership Chair (Heather Wahab) also checks the inbox and handles all membership applications as well as CHI referral requests. Her emails from [accce@chemconsult.org](mailto:accce@chemconsult.org) have to do with membership and CHIs (Consultant Help Inquires).

The Webmaster sends emails from [accce@chemconsult.org](mailto:accce@chemconsult.org) relating to ACC&CE meetings and presentations. He updates the website with new information on meetings, newsletters, and member information. He assists the Editor (Richard Goodman) in preparation of the Newsletter.

The website [chemconsult.org](http://chemconsult.org) has a series of tabs across the top of the home page: Find a Consultant, Referral Service, Membership, Activities, and Newsletters. Under Find a Consultant, one can search by terms that lead to a known member as well as by keywords that lead to a member with relevant experience. The member Scope Sheet (searchable on the Internet as well) provides all profile, contact, and background information. The Referral Service tab provides a form to submit a Consultant Help Inquiry (CHI) for ACC&CE to use in identifying and referring an appropriate consultant. The Membership tab has requirements and benefits of ACC&CE membership as well as a Membership Application form. The Activities and Newsletters tabs have information on past and future meetings as well as updates on the association and its members.

Charlie Leonard and I have contacted a website consultant who is familiar with WordPress, website maintenance, and the related programming. She will update our WordPress website on a regular basis, find required plug-in replacements, and provide needed programming in order to keep our website up to date and fully functional. The exact contractual arrangement (requirements, duties, and associated costs) is in discussion and is expected to be suitable for a small group like ours.

Charlie and I also have discussed some website details and plans (do any thoughts come to mind to increase Internet visibility or to add website functionality?): The ACC&CE website is based on WordPress with various plug-ins that provide the specific functionality that we desire. Plug-ins are typically programmed in PHP and maintained by individuals or small companies. Some are free and increasingly some have pricing. Ternstyle (Members List Pro Plug-in for WordPress) is an example with pricing.

- WordPress is a blogging platform that has evolved to a general website platform by using plug-ins.
- Themes provide the layout and color scheme.
- Plug-ins enable enhanced functionality, such as contact forms, basic data for consultants, and the listing of consultants (these last two are combined to create Scope Sheets). Plug-ins are typically written in PHP and maintained by individuals or small companies, some are free and increasingly some have pricing.
- Webmail is provided by the hosting service.

The ACC&CE website [chemconsult.org](http://chemconsult.org) was written in ~2014 and updated 2019-2021 to fix obsolete/outdated plug-ins. It is current with one Plug-in (WP-Client) that still works but is no longer supported (meaning that it eventually will not work). It does need to be replaced.

J. Stephen Duerr, Ph.D., P.E., CPC, Webmaster

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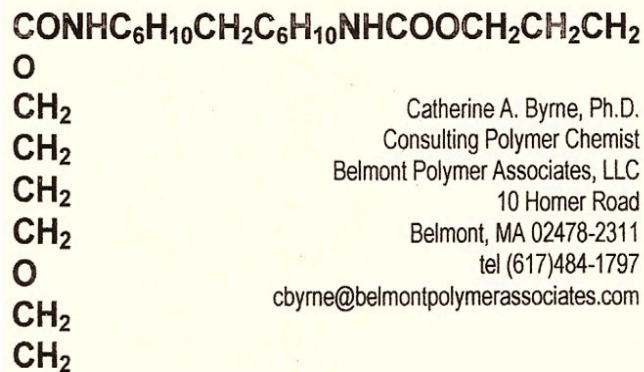
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This newsletter issues three times and for special situations, four times a year, and advertising is sold on an annual basis, with ads appearing in each issue. Advertising is open to all members, and nonmember ads will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The price list for advertising is as follows:

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