



CHEMISTRY NEWS

A publication of a division of the
Council on Undergraduate Research

Welcome from the Chemistry Division Chair

Welcome to the 2017–2018 school year! For 2017–2018, the emphasis of the Chemistry Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research is member engagement—specifically, what can be done to serve your needs and support your work with students. Tapping into your expertise and talents also is of primary interest.

So you may be asking, “how do I get more involved?” The following initiatives would benefit from your participation.

(1) **Get-a-mentor or become-a-mentor.**

CUR Chem maintains a network of mentors who are able to work with faculty at all stages on things such as career transitions (getting a tenure track position, applying for tenure, becoming a department chair), writing successful grant proposals, working through challenging research situations, etc. We are also looking to expand the mentor network with people who are willing to serve as mentors. If you are interested in either initiative, please contact me (kfreder1@skidmore.edu), and I can put you in touch with the right person.

(2) **Write something for the CURChem blog.** Of interest are words of wisdom about opportunities and experiences in

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About CUR's Chemistry Division

The Chemistry Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research—the oldest and largest division of CUR—provides networking opportunities, activities, and resources to assist chemistry administrators, faculty members, students, practitioners, and others in advancing undergraduate research.

• **Newsletter Editor and Secretary**

[Patricia Ann \(Pam\) Mabrouk](#),
Northeastern University

• **Division Chair**

[Kimberley Frederick](#), Skidmore College

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Council on Undergraduate Research

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undergraduate research. What have you done that was particularly successful? Tell us about it. If you want to contribute, please contact Joe Reczek (reczekj@denison.edu) or Keri Colabroy (kericolabroy@muhlenberg.edu).

- (3) **Become a CUR Chem institutional liaison** by telling your colleagues about what CUR Chem is up to and encouraging them to join.
- (4) **Come meet up with your fellow members at national meetings.** CUR Chem is organizing sessions and meet-ups at many of the national meetings this year. Look for blogposts about details as the meeting dates approach.
- (5) **Propose a session or present a poster at the CUR Biennial Conference** on July 1–3, 2018, in Arlington, VA. The call for proposals will go live within the next month.

Do you have suggestions for other initiatives that CUR Chem should undertake? Email them to me (kfreder1@skidmore.edu). CUR Chem wants to support you as you engage your students in the scientific enterprise.●

Is Your Department/Program Undergoing Review Soon?

Could your department benefit from the insight of a team of CUR external reviewers? One service provided by CUR is the opportunity to bring to campus a team of faculty and administrative professionals who share similar vision and goals, who are

knowledgeable and experienced in departmental program reviews and/or disciplinary accreditation processes, and who have thought deeply about high-quality undergraduate education at a reasonable price. If you would like further details on this unique program, you can contact Dr. William Polik (polik@hope.edu), CUR Chemistry's representative on the Review Committee, email programreview@cur.org, or visit the CUR website.

Did You Know that CUR Has a New Scholarly Journal? SPUR



This fall marks the debut of CUR's new peer-reviewed journal, *Scholarship and Practice of Undergraduate Research* (SPUR).

The journal is included in the price of most CUR

memberships. CUR Chemistry Division Councilor Rebecca Jones (George Mason University) is the divisional editor for chemistry. The Editorial Board is led by Editor-in-Chief James LaPlant (Valdosta State University). The table of contents for the inaugural issue is available [here](#).●

Have You Checked Out [CURChem](#), the Division's Blog, Recently?

- [Creative Approaches to Funding Undergraduate Research](#) (September 11)
- [Research Grants and Grantsmanship—The Whole Truth](#) (September 18)
- [Seeing Undergraduate Research for Students with Disabilities in a Whole New Light](#) (October 2)

Applications for 2018 Posters on the Hill Now Being Accepted

Do you have a talented undergraduate research student who would be an effective communicator about his/her undergraduate research and would benefit from the opportunity to present his/her research to Congress? Consider working with your student to help him/her assemble an application for this year's Posters on the Hill competition.

Information on what applicants will need prior to submitting their application can be found [here](#). A [webinar](#) is available to aid you and your student in the application process. Abstracts are due November 1. •

The CUR Mentor Network Wants YOU!

A unique benefit of CUR membership is the signature [CUR Mentor Program](#) that matches individuals seeking information about starting, sustaining, or reinitiating undergraduate research programs to experienced, tenured CUR faculty. If you feel you would benefit from a mentor or if you would like to share your knowledge and experience with a colleague, email [Kimberley Frederick](#) with your contact information, CUR member ID number, and a short description of your interests and goals. •

CUR Faculty in the News

Have you seen Mitchell Malachowski's opinion piece, "Saying Yes to Undergraduate Research," which appeared in the October 13 *Chronicle of Higher Education*? Mitchell's article is a great read for all faculty and students who value the undergraduate research experience. *Abstract*: The benefits are obvious, but the barriers can be daunting. Here's how to overcome them. •

Upcoming Chemistry-Related Funding Programs and Deadlines

[American Chemical Society](#)

(all 10/20/17)

[New Directions](#) (grants for faculty in PhD-granting departments)

[Doctoral New Investigator](#) (starter grants for new faculty in PhD-granting departments)

[Undergraduate New Investigator](#) (starter grants for new faculty at non-doctoral departments)

[Undergraduate Research](#) (grants for faculty at nondoctoral departments)

[Camille & Henry Dreyfus Foundation](#)

[Camille Dreyfus Teacher Scholar Award](#) (2/8/18) (new faculty appointed after 2012 in PhD-granting department)

[Henry Dreyfus Teacher Scholar Award](#) (5/17/18) (new faculty in non-PhD-granting department)

[National Science Foundation](#)

grant deadlines before 1/1/18

[Improving Undergraduate STEM Education \(IUSE\) Exploration and Design](#) – no deadline after 10/1/17; applications may be submitted at any time until 5/1/18

[Graduate Research Fellowship Program](#) (for doctoral students) 10/23–27 (date depends on division)

[Chemical Measurement and Imaging \(CMI\)](#) 10/31/17

[Chemistry of Life Processes \(CLP\)](#) 10/31/17

[Environmental Chemical Sciences \(ECS\)](#) 10/31/17

[Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation \(LSAMP\)](#) 11/3/17 (Bridge to Doctorate) 11/17/17 (New and Renewal Bridge to Baccalaureate)

[Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences](#) – Investigator-Initiated Research Projects 11/20/17
[Historically Black Colleges and Universities – Undergraduate Program Broadening Participation Research Centers](#) 11/22/17

[Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science \(NSF INCLUDES\)](#) 11/27/17

[Tribal Colleges and Universities Program](#) 12/4/17

[Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate \(AGEP\)](#) 12/8/17

[National Institutes of Health](#)

due dates for funding programs [here](#)
R21 10/25/17

Upcoming CUR Programs and Deadlines

Fall 2017

October 22–23, 2017, Alexandria, VA. **Research Experiences for Undergraduates Symposium.** This conference will feature presentations by students from REU programs in all disciplines.

Winter/Spring 2018

January 19–21, 2018, University of Central Florida. **Initiating and Sustaining Undergraduate Research Programs Institute.**

February 15–17, 2018, Arlington, VA. **CUR Dialogues 2018.**

April 2018, Washington, DC. **Posters on the Hill.** Abstracts are due November 1, 2017.

April 4–7, 2018, University of Central Oklahoma. **National Conference on Undergraduate Research.** Abstracts are due December 5, 2017.

ACS Meetings Are a Great Place to Connect with CUR Friends

The CUR Chemistry Councilors attending the Spring ACS National Meeting in New Orleans on March 18–22, 2018, are planning two events. One will be a breakfast gathering at Café Du Monde. The other will be an evening social gathering at one of the numerous amazing restaurants in the French Quarter. To learn about when and where these events are scheduled, keep an eye out for the information at CURChem and on the [CUR Community website](#).

The following is a presentation opportunity focused on undergraduate research for the Spring ACS National Meeting (abstract deadline: October 23, 2017). Submit [here](#).

Symposium title—

Advancing Undergraduate Research in Chemistry: Best Practices and New Innovations (oral; Bridget Gourley and Rebecca Jones, co-organizers)

Abstract: Through research experiences, undergraduates join the chemical science professions. Undergraduates are well positioned to help innovate with regard to challenging questions, because they are often unfettered by disciplinary boundaries and welcome working in diverse groups. With the support of CUR, we invite submissions that describe advances related to research experiences for undergraduates, both small and large. Presentations regarding individual or group projects in lecture or laboratory; redesigned courses

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that focus on a specific research topic or the research process; and the approaches to the broader undergraduate research experience are welcome. Faculty who have incorporated research activities into specific classes or developed advantageous structures in support of undergraduates in their laboratory are invited to share their experiences. Department representatives who have creatively integrated research into their curriculum and directors of undergraduate research programs are invited to share broader programmatic stories. Evidence of the impact on the number and diversity of student researchers is particularly welcome. Expanding participation in research, while ambitious and rewarding, also poses difficulties and challenges that differ from those accompanying traditional instruction. Come share your best practices and new innovations that maximize rewards and overcome challenges. •

If you know a postdoctoral student, an advanced graduate student, or a new colleague in your department who is thinking about attending the Spring ACS National Meeting and they are getting started or considering a career at a predominately undergraduate institution, please let them know about this invaluable half-day symposium (likely taking place Sunday afternoon):

Symposium title—
Starting a Successful Research Program at a Predominantly Undergraduate Institution (Mel Druelinger, organizer)

Abstract: Starting a research program as a young faculty member can be challenging, and if you are doing this at a predominantly

undergraduate institution (PUI), it can be especially so. In this session, we will introduce some of the unique programs and services that CUR has to help you get off to a great start. Young and more established faculty will share some strategies and models you can use to establish and manage a great research program with undergraduates on your campus. Pre-tenured faculty as well as graduate students and postdoctoral associates interested in obtaining a faculty position at a PUI are especially welcome. •

Call for Undergraduate Research Highlights (Spring 2018 SPUR)

Faculty members, administrators, and students can submit Undergraduate Research Highlights for the spring 2018 SPUR. Undergraduate Research Highlights briefly describe peer-reviewed research or scholarly work that has appeared in academic journals, books and book chapters, Web-based publications, and juried performances within the last six months. These publications must be in print and must include one or more undergraduate coauthors. The next deadline is November 3, 2017. For further details, visit the [Undergraduate Research Highlights webpage](#). •

Next issue of CUR Chemistry News: January 2018. Please submit items and suggestions for content to Pam Mabrouk.