



In this Newsletter

Welcome from Dr. Gunda Georg, MEDI Chair 2024

Congratulations to MEDI Award Winners

ACS National Meeting Spring Programming

Call for Nominations - MEDI Awards

Abstract Deadline for ACS Fall 2024 Meeting is April 1st

38th ACS National Medicinal Chemistry Symposium

RESMED24

MEDI Travel Grant Awardees

YMCC-YSN Travel Grant Awardees

Welcome from Dr. Gunda Georg, MEDI Chair 2024

As the 2024 Chair for the MEDI Division, I want to thank MEDI 2023 chair Maria-Jesus Blanco, Program Chair Amjad Ali, Secretary and Public Relations Chair Paul

Trippier, Membership and International Relationships Chair Daniel Harki, and the other members of the MEDI Executive Committee, including the members of the Young Medicinal Chemists Committee for their outstanding service. We thank Paul Ornstein for his exceptional service as MEDI Treasurer from 2021 to 2023 and Joanne Bronson for her outstanding Editorship of the Annual Reports in Medicinal Chemistry from 2017-2023, which has now passed to co-Editors Joachim Rudolph and William Watkins. The MEDI volunteers have provided our medicinal chemistry community with excellent programming at ACS meetings, the National Medicinal Chemistry Symposia (NMCS), the Frontiers meetings, reviews of recent developments in the field, the administration of MEDI awards, the Hall of Fame, newsletters, and networking and mentoring opportunities. Because of an enthusiastic MEDI leadership group sustained over many years, we have a vibrant organization serving our members in multiple ways.

I look forward to working with the MEDI Executive Committee members, our partners from the ACS journals, other ACS Divisions, international medicinal chemistry societies, and our MEDI members on continuous improvement and expansion of MEDI activities.

- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Respect (DEIR)**

MEDI is committed to ensuring diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect in all MEDI activities to strengthen our research community. Please read our editorial for March 8, International Women's Day, in the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry and ACS Medicinal Chemistry Letters [here](#).

Empowering Voices: Inspiring Women in Medicinal Chemistry.

Abstract of the editorial: "As we celebrate International Women's Day 2024 with the theme "Inspire Inclusion," the women of the ACS Medicinal Chemistry Division (MEDI) want to foster a sense of belonging, relevance, and empowerment by sharing uplifting stories of what inspired them to become medicinal chemists. In this editorial, we are featuring female medicinal chemistry scientists to provide role models, encouragement, and inspiration to others. We asked women medicinal chemists to contribute a brief paragraph about what inspired them to become medicinal chemists or what inspires them today to be medicinal chemists. The

responses and contributions highlight their passions and motivations, such as their love of the sciences and their drive to improve human health by contributing to basic research and creating lifesaving drugs.”

LGBTQ+ Visibility and Excellence in Medicinal Chemistry: Representation Matters.

Please attend the symposium and the networking event. This symposium aims to highlight LGBTQ+ chemists and their ongoing research in industrial and academic settings.

02:00 pm - 05:45 pm USA / Canada - Central - March 19, 2024 | Location: Room 355 (Ernest N. Morial Convention Center)

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. LGBTQ + Excellence in Medicinal Chemistry Reception and Networking (this will immediately follow the LGBTQ Excellence in Med Chem Technical Session). Location Ernest N. Morial Convention Center: Room 352

Women's Health: Disorders that Disproportionately Affect Women and How to Treat Them.

This symposium will highlight recent advances in target identification and novel therapies relating to diseases that disproportionately affect or are unique to individuals with internal reproductive organs, as well as other opportunities and challenges pertaining to women’s health.

02:00 pm - 05:25 pm USA / Canada - Central - March 18, 2024 | Location: Room 355 (Ernest N. Morial Convention Center)

- **MEDI, in conjunction with the ACS, will design a new 5-year Strategic Plan in the Fall of 2024**

We invite you, our MEDI members, to contribute ideas on improving and expanding MEDI's activities to serve our community better. Please send your ideas to me (georg@umn.edu) or engage through our social media channels and direct message us on X (@ACSMEDI) and LinkedIn.

- **National Meeting Programming. MEDI Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC)** <<https://www.acsmedchem.org/long-range-planning-committee-ac-division-medicinal-chemistry>>

We invite you, our MEDI members, to contribute to program planning. Please submit symposia proposals to the LRPC Chair (Nicole Goodwin for 2024) and Program Chair (Amjad Ali). Here is the [link](#) on how to submit a proposal.

Proposal forms must be completed and submitted to the [LRPC](#) Chair at least two weeks before the ACS Fall or Spring meeting, during which they will be discussed. (Note programming is decided one year in advance; for example, programming for the Fall 2024 meeting was decided in the Fall of 2023.)

- **Future of ACS Spring/Fall National Meetings**

The ACS is working on reimagining national meetings to enhance their benefits to members. The focus will be joint programming between related ACS Divisions, creating more networking engagement opportunities, growing global participation via digital programming, offering more poster sessions, increasing participation and diversity across all demographics and speakers, and providing major sessions with prominent experts. MEDI is committed to participating in these efforts to increase value and relevance to our members.

I am looking forward to a productive year 2024.

Gunda I. Georg, MEDI 2024 Chair

Regents Professor, Department of Medicinal Chemistry

University of Minnesota

Congratulations to MEDI Award Winners

Congratulations to our MEDI Award winners!

Dr. Erin DiMauro, Merck & Co. Inc. *Robert M. Scarbrough Award* (Award presentation ACS Spring 2024 in New Orleans)

Dr. Kevan Shokat, UCSF. *Edward Smissman Award* (Award presentation ACS Spring 2024 in New Orleans)

Dr. Christa Mueller, University of Bonn. Inaugural *Gertrude Elion Medicinal Chemistry Award* (Award presentation ACS Fall 2024 in Denver)

Dr. Michael Bollong, Scripps Research Institute. *David W. Robertson Award for Excellence in Medicinal Chemistry* (Award presentation ACS Fall 2024 in Denver)

Dr. Maria-Jesus Blanco, Atavistik Bio. *The Division of Medicinal Chemistry Award* (Award presentation National Medicinal Chemistry Meeting, Seattle, June 2024)

ACS National Meeting Spring Programming

The following sessions will be held at the ACS Spring National Meeting in New Orleans (March 2024)

Awards Session

Chemoproteomics-Enabled Drug Discovery, Can We Mine Proteome Druggability with Chemical Probes? Chemoproteomics Meets Fragment-Based Drug Discovery

Exploring the Dynamic World of TPD From Design to Therapeutic Applications

Medicinal Chemist's Toolbox: Sub-stoichiometric Modulation of Proteins & Target Vulnerability

Women's Health: Disorders that Disproportionately Affect Women and How to Treat Them

Small Molecule Approaches for Tissue-Targeted Therapies

Monomeric and Heterobifunctional Degraders: State of the Art and Emerging Design Principles

The Quest for Painstakingly Perfect Painkillers

Targeting Protein Homeostasis Networks and Recent Developments Towards Targeting the Proteasome with Small Molecules

LGBTQ+ Visibility and Excellence in Medicinal Chemistry: Representation Matters

First Time Disclosures

Medicinal Chemistry in the Era of Genomics: Think Genomically, Act Chemically

General Orals

General Posters

Call for Nominations - MEDI Awards

The ACS Medicinal Chemistry Division offers several awards for all career stages.

Please consider making a nomination at the Division [website](#)

The Edward E. Smissman Award (opens 05/01/2024)

The David W. Roberston Award (opens 08/01/2024)

Student and Postdoc Travel Award

The Gertrude Elion Award (opens 05/01/2024)

The Patrick Wooster Award for Service to the Division (Currently Open)

Abstract Deadline for ACS Fall 2024 Meeting is April 1st

Abstracts for the Fall ACS meeting in Denver in August 2024 can be submitted [here](#) and are due April 1st.

38th ACS National Medicinal Chemistry Symposium

The 38th ACS National Medicinal Chemistry Symposium will be held in Seattle, WA on June 23-26.

For more information and to register click [here](#)

Drew University's 37th Annual ResMed: Residential School on Medicinal Chemistry and Biology in Drug Discovery

June 10-14, 2024

Hanover Marriott, Whippany, NJ

ResMed is a week-long graduate level course organized to provide an accelerated program for medicinal chemists, biologists and other



DREW UNIVERSITY
2024
ResMed

TOPICS INCLUDE

- Principles of Med Chem
- Drug-like Properties
- Hit-to-Lead in Drug Discovery
- Lead Optimization
- Cheminformatics

industrial and academic scientists who wish to broaden their knowledge of drug discovery and development. The School's aim is to concentrate on the fundamentals that are useful in drug discovery spanning initial target validation through development.



REGISTER NOW! In-person and virtual options available



WWW.DREW.EDU/RESMED



RESMED@DREW.EDU



973.408.4861



DREW
UNIVERSITY

Drew University
36 Madison Ave
Hall of Sciences 319
Madison, NJ 07940

Molecular Modeling & Structure-Based Drug Design
Kinases
Drug Metabolism
Designing Around Problematic Functionalities
Biososteres
Covalent Inhibitors
Pharmacokinetics & Protein Binding
Enzymology, Receptors & Ion Channels
Proximity-induced Drug Design
Proteolysis-targeting Chimeras
Phenotypic Screening
Protein-protein interactions
Antibody-drug Conjugates
Preclinical Toxicology
In Silico Tools
Impact of AI
Case Study Presentations

RESMED24

Register for the MEDI co-sponsored 37th Annual Residential School in Medicinal Chemistry [here](#)

MEDI Travel Grant Awardees

Congratulations to the MEDI Division Travel Grant Awardees **Emma Kelly** and **Rui Shi** who received funds to attend the Spring ACS National Meeting in New Orleans.

The Division of Medicinal Chemistry makes available a limited number of grants of 00 annually to aid young chemists in presenting papers at the ACS National Meetings. Applicants must be ACS MEDI Division regular or student members (click [here](#) to join), and not have previously received a travel award.

Their awards will be presented at the MEDI Division business/networking meeting on Sunday night 3/17 from 5:00-7:00 pm. Hilton New Orleans Riverside: Grand Salon A Sec 3/6. Pop by and offer your congratulations!

Emma Kelley is a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Loyola University, Chicago, and a member of Professor Daniel

Becker's research group. Her research is focused on discovering inhibitors of the bacterial enzyme N-succinyl-L,L-2,6-diaminopimelic acid desuccinylase, the bacterial enzyme DapE, and the related di-zinc metalloenzyme ArgE, the topic of her presentation.

Emma will present: 'Enzyme Characterization of Bacterial Enzyme ArgE and Inhibitors as Potential Antibiotics with a New Mechanism of Action' Paper ID: 3990188.

Rui Shi, University of Minnesota

Rui Shi is a 5th year Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Minnesota and a member of Professor Georg's research group. His research is focused on the discovery of selective retinoic acid receptor (RAR) antagonists for non-hormonal male contraception. He will report the results of characterizing selective RARa and RARg antagonists and dual RARa/RARg antagonists in vitro and in vivo.

Rui will present: 'Targeting Retinoic Acid Receptors for Male Contraception' Paper ID: 3986283

YMCC-YSN Travel Grant Awardees

The Division of Medicinal Chemistry Young Medicinal Chemists' Committee (YMCC) and the European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology (EFMC) Young Scientists Network (YSN) are pleased to announce that **Franco Fernando Faucher** and **Sean Chin Chan** are the recipients of the 2024 YMCC-YSN Travel Grants to attend the EFMC | ACS MEDI Medicinal Chemistry Frontiers meeting. This award is open to Ph.D. students in medicinal chemistry or chemical biology to support participation of early career researchers to attend the transatlantic conference and offer them the opportunity to broaden their network. This reciprocal grant between YMCC and YSN is allocated to U.S.-based trainees when the conference takes place in Europe and to European trainees when the conference

takes place in the U.S. Franco and Sean will travel the Medicinal Chemistry Frontiers meeting in Utrecht, the Netherlands in April 2024.

Franco Fernando Faucher is a graduate student in Chemical Biology in the lab of Dr. Matthew Bogyo at Stanford University. The focus of his graduate studies has been the development of peptide therapeutics and diagnostics for cancer therapy and imaging. Franco has also explored the development of new strategies to discover macrocyclic peptides with high specificity and potency. After earning his Ph.D., Franco is interested in joining the biopharmaceutical industry and becoming an expert in peptide-based therapeutics. He is open to all kinds of opportunities in peptide chemistry, medicinal chemistry, chemical biology, macrocycles, and covalent inhibitors. Franco will present an oral communication on ‘Selective Substrate Identification Using Chemically Modified Phase Display’ at the meeting.

Sean Chin Chan is a graduate student in Cancer Chemical Biology in the lab of Asst. Prof. Andrii Monastyrskyi at Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Florida. The focus of his graduate studies has been the rational design and synthesis of novel 7-azaindole UNC-51-like Kinase 1/2 (ULK1/2) inhibitors and degraders (PROTACs) that induce antiproliferative activity through autophagy pathway abrogation in RAS-driven cancers. After earning his Ph.D., Sean is interested in pursuing a career in the pharmaceutical industry, particularly in discovery chemistry. He is also open to postdoctoral opportunities in laboratories or projects focused on medicinal chemistry, chemical biology, or methodology as an initial step in his career. Sean will present a poster on ‘Development of 7-azaindole ULK1/2 kinase antagonist as a potential therapeutic strategy to address KRAS^{G12C}-driven NSCLC’ at the meeting.