



2023

# Annual Report



ACS  
Chemistry for Life<sup>®</sup>

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## CEO's Message

### Connection and Collaboration

2023 was a terrific year for the [American Chemical Society](#) (ACS) as we took several bold steps to advance our [vision](#) of improving all people's lives through the transforming power of chemistry.

As those words suggest, we have big ambitions — ambitions that can only be achieved by collaborating with a broader group of like-minded people and organizations. ACS partners with other science-related societies as well as industry, academia and government to address the challenges the world faces. We also engage with these institutions and with chemists all over the world to help move the discipline forward and to ensure that chemistry continues to thrive into the future.

Our [financial performance](#) was strong in 2023. The true value of that result is in providing the means to push aggressively toward the elements of our strategic plan and our mission that we feel are really important. Those include four [strategic initiatives](#) that our Board approved in 2021.

Under one of those initiatives — the [Campaign for a Sustainable Future](#) — we partnered with two other organizations (the Center for Green Chemistry & Green Engineering at Yale, and Beyond Benign) to roll out a new [online platform](#) in 2023. The site is engaging with the chemistry enterprise to spread the use of sustainable practices. We also piloted new grant programs to support researchers who are exploring sustainable chemistry.

A [second strategic initiative](#) is focused on CAS. The division's products and services have historically centered on chemistry, but in 2023, CAS for the first time began to provide life sciences content through its existing SciFinder platform.

In another effort to better serve ACS customers, the Publications Division acquired [Chronos Hub](#). We are partnering with this Copenhagen-based company to develop more effective technology to support



**Albert G. Horvath, ACS CEO**

Credit: Hannah Gaber Media

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our authors. While the quality of our journals is really high, we recognize that the author experience has sometimes been checkered. We want to bring the whole publishing experience up to the same level of excellence as the journals themselves represent.

We celebrated the centennial of *Chemical & Engineering News* (C&EN) in 2023. We look forward to its continued success over the next 100 years as an editorially independent source of news and information about the global chemistry enterprise.

2023 also was the first year in which we fully returned to a normal operating pattern following the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. At ACS, as at many other organizations, we recognized that a new normal had been established. For instance, we were pleased to see ACS meeting performance return to pre-pandemic levels, but expectations in the marketplace had evolved in the meantime, so several strategies were developed to make in-person events more relevant and responsive for customers. We'll begin implementing those changes in 2024 and beyond.

Those strategies were devised by governance and staff working in partnership with our member volunteers. Throughout 2023 — my first year as CEO — I spent a fair bit of time engaging with our volunteer leadership and attending local section events. Those interactions reinforced my belief that ACS volunteers are crucial to the success of the Society's programs. Without this devoted network, we could not accomplish half of what we set out to do. I am grateful for their dedication.

I also want to acknowledge our extraordinary staff, who have leaned in through the tumult of the last few years and have continued to produce at an incredibly high level. It's through their efforts, in concert with our volunteers, that we're able to achieve the kinds of lofty ambitions we have set for ourselves.

My colleagues on the executive leadership team are another key factor in ACS' success. We regretfully said goodbye to several valued team members who retired in 2023 and the first few months of 2024, but we look forward to the insights their successors will provide.

One initiative that will particularly benefit from the team's varied viewpoints centers on diversity, equity, inclusion and respect (DEIR). This year, our DEIR efforts will expand to embrace accessibility to a greater extent than ever before. We want to ensure that everybody has an opportunity to take advantage of our products and services and to receive full benefit and value from them.

Through these and other actions, we will continue to strengthen our connection with and support for numerous communities as we work together to fulfill the ACS mission.

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# Achievements

## Highlights of ACS Achievements

The [American Chemical Society](#) (ACS) seeks to advance the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of Earth and all its people. In carrying out this [mission](#), the Society is guided by five goals, which shape the products, programs and services that ACS provides. Here are some of the highlights associated with each goal in 2023:

### Goal 1: Provide Information Solutions

ACS reinforced its position as a leading source of scientific information in 2023.

The Society acquired [ChronosHub](#) to improve the publishing experience for authors. This open-access management platform streamlines publishing workflows and ensures effective collaboration among researchers, institutions, funders and journal publishers.

The ACS Publications division published more than 64,000 peer-reviewed articles in 2023 (up 7% from the prior year) and readers downloaded more than 305 million full-text articles (an increase of 17%). Approximately one quarter of the division's total journal content was published open access. New journals launched in 2023 included [ACS ES&T Air](#), [ACS Sustainable Resource Management](#) and [Chemical & Biomedical Imaging](#) (a partnership with Nanjing University). Global representation was broadened through the appointment of international scientists to key journal posts and the introduction of new content development editors and expanded authoring and review services for researchers in Asia.

[CAS](#) further enhanced its solutions for accelerating scientific innovation. Examples included improved visualization, patent analysis and personalization capabilities. The division also continued rollout of its new [life sciences content](#), which began in late 2022 as one of the Society's four [strategic initiatives](#).

Another of these initiatives, the [ACS Campaign for a Sustainable Future](#), had several notable successes. In partnership with Beyond Benign and the Center for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering at Yale, it launched the [Green Chemistry for Sustainability](#) platform. The site is intended to connect people and resources globally to accelerate research, innovation and commercialization of sustainable chemical processes and products.

ACS hosted the 2023 Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference in Long Beach, California, on the theme, "Closing the Loop: Chemistry for a Sustainable Future." The [2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ACS Sustainability Summit: Reimagining Chemistry Education](#) was held as a hybrid event in collaboration with Beyond Benign. And two new sustainability-related grant programs were established, awarding 12 grants totaling \$500,000.

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# Achievements

The [ACS Petroleum Research Fund](#) awarded 190 research grants totaling nearly \$20 million for projects that advance fundamental research in the hydrocarbon field. More than half of the program's funds supported proposals related to sustainability.

[Chemical & Engineering News](#) (C&EN) celebrated its centennial with a [special issue](#) covering 10 consequential events, discoveries and developments of the past century, as well as future challenges. C&EN also hosted centennial festivities at the ACS spring and fall meetings.

### Goal 2: Empower Members and Member Communities

ACS supported its members by introducing greater flexibility and inclusivity in its programs, and by hosting multiple scientific events and broadening the tools available for community outreach.

Thanks to these initiatives, the Society ended 2023 with more than 200,000 individuals in our global membership community in 177 countries. Growth was driven by a series of campaigns focused on member acquisitions and upgrades, along with increased global engagement. The Society also modified membership rules to foster a more inclusive and adaptable experience. One example was the removal of the age restriction for emeritus status.

[ACS International Chemical Sciences Chapters](#) began receiving annual allotments in 2023. These funds are intended to better support ACS global communities and to promote diversity and inclusion through international membership. In addition, a petition to add international representation on the ACS Board of Directors was ratified in 2023. An international district director will join the board in 2025, providing a global perspective and allowing the board to better reflect ACS membership.

ACS and its members hosted numerous events that drew the chemical sciences community together in 2023. They included [ACS on Campus](#) events, regional meetings and the [spring and fall ACS meetings](#). The Society began implementing plans to make the spring and fall meetings more engaging by incorporating hot or late-breaking topics, including distinguished speakers and optimizing the meeting footprint, among other improvements. Initial investments were made in technology and infrastructure to support this initiative.

Members were aided in their public outreach efforts through programs such as [National Chemistry Week](#) and the launch of a new website for [Chemistry Outreach Activities](#). The site offers a collection of hands-on and stage demonstration experiments that chemists can use for in-person or virtual community outreach. In addition, several workshops were held to equip ACS members with tools to nurture trust in science and scientists during discussions with nonscientists.

### Goal 3: Support Excellence in Education

The Society invested in several resources that support education and training for students, teachers, faculty and technical professionals.

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# Achievements

ACS continued to advance its strategic initiative on [Fostering a Skilled Technical Workforce](#) via multiple channels. For instance, a new [Chemical Technical Professionals](#) website — which provides information for educators and students about careers in the skilled technical workforce — went live in 2023. The [ACS PrepareCTP Seed Grant Program](#) kicked off as a pilot program to provide seed funding for community college chemistry faculty involved in technical education and training. And a [Chemical Technical Professionals collection](#) was added to the resource library of the [American Association of Chemistry Teachers](#); it provides teachers with resources to share with students about careers in the skilled technical workforce.

To support post-secondary education, two updated sets of guidelines were released. The [ACS Guidelines for Bachelor's Degree Programs](#) recast expectations and introduce formal requirements around diversity, equity, inclusion and respect (DEIR). The [ACS Guidelines for Chemistry in Two-Year College Programs](#) also include a separate section for DEIR and are structured to reflect essential components, successful practices and aspirational goals.

Education and several other priorities benefited from the Society's fundraising in 2023, with \$5 million raised — far exceeding the \$4 million goal. Major gift commitments for the year included \$500,000 for [Project SEED](#) college scholarships and \$476,000 to establish and endow the [David A. Evans Award](#). In addition, planned giving commitments reached a 10-year high, with over \$1 million in new commitments.

## Goal 4: Communicate Chemistry's Value

ACS shared information about chemistry through advocacy as well as press releases, podcasts, videos and other outreach efforts.

The Society advocated on several [policy positions](#) with the Biden administration in 2023. Areas of focus included the federal STEM strategic plan, an EPA proposed ban on methylene chloride, federal agencies' open access plans, and the federal sustainable chemistry strategic plan. In addition, ACS partnered with the STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Medicine) Opportunity Alliance. Launched by the Biden administration, this alliance coordinates activities across U.S. government, business and organizations to drive change in the nation's STEMM ecosystem by expanding access and opportunities.

Through contact with the media, ACS achieved a 7% increase in coverage in 2023, with nearly 80,000 news stories highlighting the Society's activities and research published in its journals or presented at its meetings. Much of this coverage stemmed from [press releases](#) and [Headline Science](#) videos.

ACS saw increased engagement with its efforts to promote the value of chemistry through other multimedia products, growing its reach with diverse, younger audiences. The [Reactions](#) video series drew 9.5 million views, driven mainly by the successful "Shorts" program. The [Tiny Matters](#) podcast doubled its downloads in 2023. And the [ACS Webinars](#) team increased engagement with more attendees and greater viewership of its recordings.

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# Achievements

As part of its efforts to enhance public appreciation for the contributions of chemistry to modern life, the Society also dedicated four new [National Historic Chemical Landmarks](#).

## Goal 5: Embrace and Advance Inclusion in Chemistry

ACS moved ahead with several programs to promote DEIR.

The 2023 Diversity Leaders Summit brought together more than 40 participants from industry, academia, government and societies. Attendees discussed ways to support DEIR in the chemical enterprise and identified top priorities. A LinkedIn group was created after the conference to address these priorities and encourage continued engagement.

ACS hosted the inaugural [ACS Bridge Career Conference](#) in New Orleans, in partnership with Genentech Foundation and Xavier University of Louisiana. The conference drew together 150 ACS Bridge fellows, graduate students and postdoctoral scholars underrepresented in the chemical sciences to provide career planning tools and strategies and to offer opportunities for community building.

In 2023, 27 [ACS Science Talks](#) were held. The virtual lecture series featured speakers from 15 countries and attracted approximately 20,000 registrants worldwide.

ACS' Office of DEIR presented three webinars to promote inclusion. "[No More Hidden Figures: Being Seen, Heard, and Influencing Chemistry as Black Women](#)" focused on ACS Board members Teri Quinn Gray, Malika Jefferies-EL and Kimberly Agnew-Heard. "[An Insider Outsider Journey: Life Reflections](#)" featured Nobel Laureate Carolyn Bertozzi. And ACS member Armando Rivera-Figueroa appeared in [Transforming Challenges into Opportunities: Mentors, Imposter Syndrome, and Diversity](#).

Several resources were released during 2023 to support DEIR efforts. They included a tip sheet to assist ACS staff and members in creating meaningful partnerships with underserved communities, as well as the [DEIR Snapshot](#) self-evaluation tool for undergraduate chemistry programs. It combines a short survey that chairs can distribute to administrators, faculty, staff and students, along with a follow-up summary of survey responses aggregated into a simple-to-read graphic showing high and low points of the DEIR climate.

Further details about these and other accomplishments can be found online in the "[2023 Highlights of ACS Achievements](#)."

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# Financials

## Financial Highlights

The American Chemical Society (ACS) ended 2023 with solid [financial results](#). The Society generated a change in net assets without donor restrictions from operations of \$63.8 million on revenues of \$791.3 million and expenses of \$727.5 million. This performance was achieved due to a continuation of growth from the information services divisions and lower than expected net expenses across Society programs and administration.

The Society's overall financial position improved strongly, with net assets without donor restrictions increasing by \$146.1 million from Dec. 31, 2022, to \$775.0 million as of Dec. 31, 2023. The year-end balance includes the aforementioned \$63.8 million net from operations, along with net investment gains of \$66.8 million. The Society ended the year in compliance with all the ACS Board-established financial guidelines.

The audited financial statements and additional finance-related resources can be accessed on the Society's [financial information](#) website.

ACS is grateful for the generous support provided by all donors and sponsors for its programs and awards.



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## Board of Directors

# 2023 ACS Board of Directors & Officers



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**Back row (from left)**

Will E. Lynch  
 Malika Jeffries-EL  
 Albert G. Horvath  
 Mary K. Carroll  
 Lee H. Latimer  
 Wayne E. Jones Jr.

**Second row (from left)**

Flint H. Lewis  
 Lisa Houston  
 Carolyn Ribes  
 Lisa M. Balbes  
 Angela K. Wilson

**Front row (from left)**

Teri Quinn Gray  
 Kimberly Agnew-Heard  
 Natalie A. LaFranzo  
 Judith C. Giordan  
 Paul W. Jagodzinski  
 Katherine L. Lee  
 Emily B. Kunchala

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Network  
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*Director, District IV*  
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Washington, DC

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Washington, DC