

Partnering for a robust chemistry enterprise

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The American Chemical Society and the Chemical Society of Japan share an essential partnership of nearly a century-and-a-half that serves to better the chemical enterprise all across the world.

In April, the American Chemical Society (ACS) celebrated the 148th anniversary of its founding. It is interesting to note that the Chemical Society of Japan (CSJ) was established just two years after ACS, at a time when chemists across the world began to see the benefit of gathering to discuss their important work and to shape their discipline for the future.

As I serve my second year as the Chief Executive Officer of ACS, that lesson of combining great people and ideas for success is as true today as it was in 1876. Chemistry is a global endeavor, with collaborations and partnerships playing key roles to greater scientific discovery and to a stronger network of practitioners.

Not only do CSJ and ACS share a similar longevity – nearly a sesquicentennial (150 years) – we also share a strong partnership. With a similar purpose of service and support to chemists, our alliance is one that has a long and established history that continues to be rewarding, mutually beneficial, and a catalyst for fostering a successful chemistry enterprise throughout the world.

I would like to highlight just a few of the collaborative programs between our two societies. Although this is not an exhaustive list of joint efforts that CSJ and ACS share, these examples give a look into how our strong relationships are a true benefit to our organizations, and more importantly, to chemical scientists around the world.

Global collaboration

ACS and CSJ are a part of a group of

sponsors – including the Canadian Society for Chemistry, the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, the Korean Chemical Society, the Chinese Chemical Society, and the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry – for the International Chemical Congress of Pacific Basin Societies, otherwise known as Pacifichem. The next gathering is in 2025, which will be the ninth in a series of scientific conferences that have brought together the chemical societies of the Pacific Basin since 1984.

This conference series, which meets every five years in Honolulu, Hawaii, has proven to be very successful and beneficial for all in attendance. It is an opportunity to form new relationships, share ideas, and address challenges that are both common and different for all societies within the chemical science ecosystem.

With this strong, partnering presence at Pacifichem from ACS and CSJ, I am confident that our upcoming meeting in December 2025 will provide another productive and insightful journey. It is perhaps very fitting that the Pacifichem 2025 Congress theme is “Building Communities to Address Global Challenges.”

This theme will look at the ways in which chemistry continues to expand its interfaces and the diversity of its researchers, in order to develop and implement solutions for complex societal problems. We will also look at how all of this applies to the areas of physics, biology, materials science, and engineering. I am looking forward to attending the conference next year, which will be hosted by the Canadian Society of Chemistry.

Another globally recognized program between CSJ and ACS is the Chemical Sciences Society collaboration, known as CS3. ACS and CSJ have long worked together on this successful meeting,

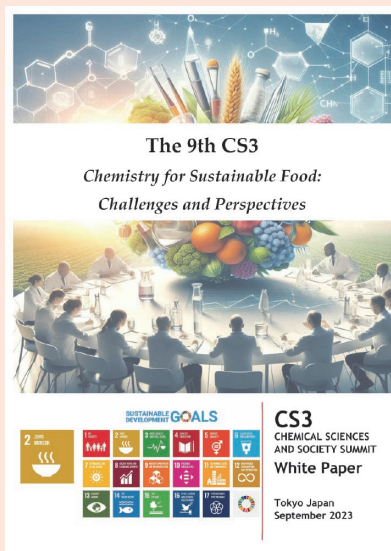


Pacifichem 2025 logo; courtesy of Pacifichem.

which brings together major international chemical societies. Through CS3, eminent researchers from the United States, Japan, Germany, China, and the United Kingdom have the opportunity to explore cutting edge chemistry research, develop new connections, and identify opportunities for multilateral research priorities.

CS3 gathers some of the foremost chemists from around the world and challenges them to propose meaningful approaches to address the most pressing issues facing society in the areas of health, food, energy, and the environment. A number of my colleagues at ACS were in attendance virtually for the 2023 CS3 meeting on “Chemistry for Sustainable Food: Challenges and Perspectives,” which focused on the issues surrounding global food instability.

CS3 meetings are also a way to broaden and deepen the ties between attending chemical societies and scientists, and to develop activities of mutual benefit, such as innovative ideas shared on sustainable resources and practices. On behalf of ACS, I would like to express my deep appreciation to CSJ and note that it is a great privilege to work with them on this collaboration. I am confident that our respective teams will con-



Cover image from the 9th CS3 report. Courtesy of CSJ.

continue to find productive and innovative ways to strengthen these interactions.

Learning and Outreach

Ensuring that university students are aware of all the opportunities that exist for them within the field of chemistry is an important endeavor that is central to developing a strong workforce for the future. I am very thankful to have CSJ's generous assistance to curate those opportunities to connect with future chemists in Japan through the ACS on Campus program. Many individuals within CSJ have played a crucial role in identifying ideal topics and proposed speakers for ACS on Campus events, and this is an important part of attracting the best possible attendance in terms of student engagement.

These events are open to all students interested in studying the sciences. Our ACS on Campus event in May 2024 at the University of Tokyo included a CSJ delegation in attendance to extend a welcome to attendees and provide further information about the benefits of joining CSJ. The in-person ACS on Campus events are free to students, interactive, and give insight into potential career paths and opportunities within the realm of chemistry and science.

With the continued assistance from CSJ, it was wonderful to also have ACS on Campus events at two of Japan's universities in 2023. Previous visits took place at the Tokyo University of Science in May 2023, and the other was at Kyushu University in October 2023.

To further support the chemistry en-



ACS supports the Sustainable Development Goals.

Chemistry plays a key role in addressing many of the United Nations Sustainability Goals.

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terprise, ACS and CSJ are part of the collective that sponsors and supports ChemRxiv (pronounced chem-archive.) This pre-print server is an online portal and tool that plays an important role in the publishing process, as it gives authors the chance to have their unpublished work vetted by fellow colleagues within the chemical sciences. Aspiring and published authors alike can receive feedback on their work, suggestions, edits, and ideas to consider before continuing with a formal submission for publishing.

The site offers clear and simple instructions on creating a free account and starting the content upload and peer review process. Many aspiring authors from all around the world likely find ChemRxiv useful in disseminating their work to a wide audience; boosting the visibility of research findings; making research work more accessible; documenting research results for grant reviewers in advance of publication; and receiving constructive feedback. I believe this plays a pivotal role in helping and establishing our members with publishing opportunities that are crucial to the quality, breadth, and depth of their careers.

In Conclusion

Chemistry is a global discipline, and great discoveries rely on strategic collaborations between scientists across the world. Our work within the societies that support these chemists should also reflect that reality.

Pacificchem, CS3, ACS on Campus,

and ChemRix are strong examples of that collaborative spirit and what the powerful relationship between CSJ and ACS can deliver.

We will also continue to look at additional opportunities for new and expanded partnerships to support members of both societies, and the broader chemistry enterprise. Some of which may include events focused on key global challenges, enhanced networking opportunities across borders, and opportunities to promote equity and diversity in the workforce.

Through programs such as these, combined with the history and alliance of the two societies, we can continue together to be a driving force for the important work undertaken throughout the chemistry enterprise.

The world has many challenges facing it as articulated by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Chemistry must be a powerful force to help solve many of our most complex problems, and collaborations between societies like the Chemical Society of Japan and the American Chemical Society are essential in leading the charge.

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