

CINTACS



Newsletter of the Cincinnati Section of the American Chemical Society

February, 2017
Vol. 54 No. 5

Section Calendar

2017 Meeting Schedule

February 23	Travis Falconer Mt. St. Joseph
February 24-26	GO-Chem Joint Ohio ACS Meeting Sandusky, OH
March 30	Chemist and Researcher of the Year, Miami U
April 2-April 6	National ACS Meeting San Francisco
April 22	Chemists Celebrate Earth Day
April 26	Teacher and Student Awards, NKU
May	Party Night, TBD

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February Section Meeting

Tainted Goods: Tales of Adulterated Dietary Supplements

The February Section meeting will be held Thursday, February 23, at Mt. St Joseph University. The featured speaker for the evening is Travis M. Falconer, Ph.D. Dr. Falconer is an Analytical Chemist in the Forensic Chemistry Center (FCC) of the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA). One of his areas of focus at the FDA is on the regulation of dietary supplements through the investigation of unlabeled and potentially hazardous ingredients found in so-called "all natural" products.

Meeting Program

5:30-6:00pm

6:00 - 7:00pm

7:00 - 8:00pm

Executive Board Meeting (Rm TBD)

Registration and Social Hour (Theater Lobby)

Dinner (Theater Lobby)

\$25.00 Members/Guests or \$15.00 for Emeritus, K-12 Teachers, Students, Unemployed, New Members

Menu: Dinner Buffet

8:00 - 9:00pm **Speaker:** Travis M. Falconer, Ph.D

Register at <http://www.acscincinnati.org/meetings/>

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THE CINTACS NEWSLETTER**Vol. 54, No. 5 February 2017**

Editor.....Adam Bange

CINTACS is published eight times a year (September through May) by the Cincinnati Section of the American Chemical Society. The submission deadline will be approximately February 25 for the March 2017 issue. Electronic submission is strongly preferred. All materials should be sent to:

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Dear Colleagues,

This is indeed a special year for us as 2017 marks the **125th Anniversary of the Cincinnati Section!** Cincinnati established a Chemical Society on 12 February 1877 while the American Chemical Society was founded on 6 April 1876. The Chemical Society of Cincinnati eventually decided to merge with ACS and made application for a Charter on 22 December 1891; the Cincinnati Section of ACS was granted a Charter on 29 March 1892. Cincinnati thus became the 3rd Local Section to hold an ACS Charter. Going forward, I will be soliciting volunteers to help with events to recognize this special achievement.

Our next meeting is on 23 February at Mount St. Joseph University. **Dr. Travis Falconer** of the FDA Forensic Chemistry Center will speak about regulation of Dietary Supplements. This is a topic recently in the news and will be of wide interest. Please plan to attend.

Mike Weaver, our Awards Chair, has put out a call for **Chemist and Technician of the Year** nominations. Please consider deserving colleagues for this special award. This is an excellent opportunity to get wider recognition for those special chemists or engineers within your respective organizations. The Awards will be presented at our March 30 meeting.

Another upcoming program in February is the **Go-Chem** Event during the weekend of 24 – 26 February. This State-wide Local Section networking forum will be held at the Kalahari Resorts in Sandusky. For those interested, the registration website is: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/go-chem-1st-annual-family-retreat-tickets-29754443341>.

Looking into March, we have the **Southwest Ohio District Science & Engineering Expo** at the University of Cincinnati on March 11th. The Section gives three \$100 prizes to the best chemistry projects. This Science Fair

(Continued on page 3)

involves mainly students in Grades 7 to 9 with a few presentations from High School students. **I am looking for 4 volunteers** to review the abstracts, attend a breakfast meeting on the 11th, then judge the, usually, 6 to 12 chemistry projects and communicate the awards to the respective Expo Team Captains. The total time commitment is one Saturday morning as well as pre-reviewing the abstracts on-line. This is an excellent opportunity to get more involved in the Section. Please give this some consideration and let me know of your interest.

In addition, I want to comment now on **Earth Day** which will be on April 22nd this year. Because of all that is going on at the national level, interest is building nationwide to make this Earth Day a strong statement of our concern for the Environment and the planet we all share. Please keep this date in mind and let our Earth Day Chair, Donna Wiedemann, know of your interest in participating in this year's program.

Finally, I want to comment on the need for **Local Section Financial Support**. Benefactors have the opportunity to support the Local Section by becoming a Meeting Sponsor. In a direct way, the Sponsorship helps to defray the cost of meetings for Students and Retires as well as the venue costs. In an indirect way, Sponsorship helps to support the wide array of programs of the Section. The majority of these programs involve public outreach and education so this represents to opportunity to do something positive both for Science and for the Community. If your firm can help in this area, please contact our Meeting Sponsorship Chair, Ed Hunter (edhunter567@gmail.com)

Looking forward to seeing you at Mount St. Joseph University on the 23rd!

F. Mark Laskovics

Chair, ACS Cincinnati Local Section / Chartered 22 March 1892

mark.laskovics@gmail.com.

The featured speaker for the evening is Travis M. Falconer, Ph.D. Travis received a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of North Dakota (UND). As an undergrad, he performed summer research at Los Alamos National Laboratory on the use of Membrane Inlet Mass Spectrometry for the near real-time detection of volatile organic compounds in air and water, which he then implemented in his advisor's lab at UND. Travis proceeded to earn a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), where he studied the formation of ultracold ion-neutral complexes using superfluid helium nanodroplets. He transitioned from fundamental physical chemistry to analytical instrumentation during a two-year postdoctoral appointment at UNC. During this time, Travis developed micron-scale cylindrical ion trap mass spectrometers that were capable of operating at pressures several orders of magnitude higher than commercial instruments, resulting in reduced pumping and power requirements, enabling portability for numerous applications and subsequent commercialization of the technology.

Upon completion of his postdoctoral term at UNC, Travis joined the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) as a Chemist at the Forensic Chemistry Center (FCC) in Cincinnati, OH. Since joining the FDA, he has applied his mass spectrometry experience to the forensic analysis of food and drug samples submitted as evidence in criminal investigations, with specialization in non-targeted analysis of dietary supplements for the presence of harmful and/or unlabeled substances. In addition to sample analysis, his responsibilities include method development and validation for use with challenging analyte/matrix combinations, as well as for rapid response as part of the Food Emergency Response Network; direction of research projects focused on improving analytical capabilities, identifying novel compound analogs appearing on the market, and measuring unintentional contamination from packaging materials; instructing federal and state scientists in the theory and use of mass spectrometry; and providing expert testimony regarding the analysis of food and drug samples. Outside of his official duties, Travis also serves as a member of the American Society for Mass Spectrometry Education Committee and has enjoyed volunteering at the Cincinnati Regional Science Olympiad competition. Scientists at the FCC analyze numerous samples purporting to be "all-natural" and have identified a variety of harmful and/or unlabeled compounds therein, resulting in successful regulatory actions and criminal prosecutions. At the upcoming CINTACS meeting, Travis will provide background on the regulation of dietary supplements by the FDA and discuss several examples of the work being done on dietary supplements at the FCC, emphasizing the challenges associated with supplement analysis and highlighting noteworthy outcomes.



Please join us for our first ever multi-section ACS retreat. We hope this will be an opportunity for professionals and students to socialize and network, and families to have some fun. The formal programming is on Saturday so that everyone will have the opportunity to enjoy the water park on Sunday!

February 24-26th, 2017
Kalahari Resorts
Sandusky, OH



Registration information can be found at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/go-chem-1st-annual-family-retreat-tickets-29754443341>

To reserve a hotel room (including your water park wrist bands) please contact Kalahari directly.

Please refer to GO-CHEM Family Event Block or Booking ID 28191

Front Desk Reservations: [419-433-7759](tel:419-433-7759) or Toll Free [877-525-2427](tel:877-525-2427)

- People wishing to present a poster should contact Jim Zubricky (James.Zubricky@utoledo.edu) no later than Feb. 17th.
- Student groups wishing to participate in the outreach activities should contact Lisa Ponton (lponton@bw.edu) no later than Feb. 17th.
- If you have any questions about the event please contact either Lisa Ponton or Jim Zubricky.

Weekend Agenda:

Friday Feb. 24

6-8 pm Welcome Gathering

Saturday Feb. 25

10-11 Resume workshop

11-1 Poster session with lunch (posters available for viewing through dinner)

2-5 Outreach activities for kiddos

6-8 Dinner with Keynote speaker and awards presentation

Sunday Feb. 26

9-11 am Farewell Gathering

This event was made possible by generous donations from the Toledo, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Cincinnati, Akron, Penn-Ohio Border, Northwest Central, and Upper Ohio Valley, local sections of the American Chemical Society, as well as a generous award from the ACS Local Section Committee's IPG Award Committee.



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<http://cincyip.org/cincybio-2015/>

 A photograph of a female scientist with red hair in a ponytail, wearing safety goggles and a white lab coat. She is focused on adjusting a piece of laboratory glassware, specifically a round-bottom flask containing a blue liquid, which is part of a larger apparatus. The background is a bright, clean laboratory setting.

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