

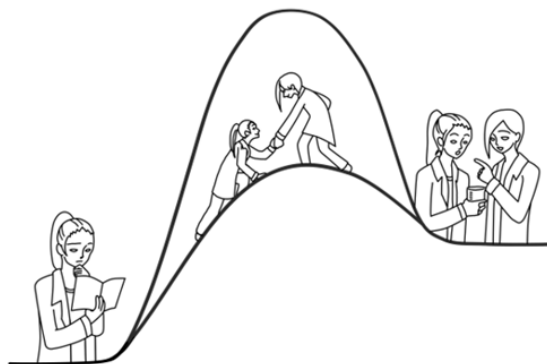


THE IOTAN

Iota Sigma Pi National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry

June 2021 No. 120

The Iota Sigma Pi 33rd Triennial Convention Goes Virtual



After much discussion between the National Council and the Ca Convention Committee, we have decided to move the 33rd Convention to a virtual format. The voting delegation of the Convention will consist of one member from each chapter (or 2 for chapters with > 70 members). The delegate can be any member in good standing of the chapter. Chapter officers should email National Vice President, Patty Wiley, at ispncvicepresident@gmail.com and let her know who will serve as the chapter delegate(s) to Convention. There will be five Members-At-Large delegates. If you are interested in serving as an MAL delegate, please email MAL Coordinator, Rose Kennedy, at mal.iotasigmapi@gmail.com. Registration will take place solely on the new website (www.iotasigmapi.org), beginning on June 1, 2021.

While moving to a virtual format is definitely disappointing, we are optimistic that we will not only complete the business of the Society, but will also be able to host some fun social media events that will foster forming meaningful connections between members. An added benefit of going virtual is that more members (not just ~25!) can participate in the Convention. This will allow a larger portion of our membership to learn about the operation of the Society and voice their ideas and concerns. If you are not designated as the delegate, but are interested in participating as a non-voting alternate delegate, please register for the Convention! By doing this you will have the option to participate in Committees and/or receive a Zoom link to participate in the seminars given by our Awardees.

We are looking forward to the opportunity to “meet up” with each of you during this Convention and are excited to try out a virtual format, hoping that in the end we will be able to connect with more members and use this platform for more regular interactions.

Megan and Anne

33rd Triennial Convention Program
“Breaking Barriers”
Hosted by the Calcium Chapter

Date	Time	Activity
Tuesday July 6	All day	Calcium Chapter Take-over of Iota Sigma Pi's Social Media Accounts
Wed., July 7	7:00 E/ 4:00 P	Panel discussion: “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives in Chemistry”
Thursday, July 8	7:00 E/ 4:00 P	Panel discussion with the Centennial (teaching) and Morgan (research) Awardees, “Trends in Chemistry Teaching and Research”
Friday July 9 ^t	7:00 E/ 4:00 P	Series of How-to interactions for Convention delegates (e.g., Iota Sigma Pi website, Zoom)
Saturday, July 10	11:00 E/ 8:00 P	National Council Meeting (3 sessions and 2 breaks)
Wed., July 14	7:00 E/ 4:00 P	Speakers: Triennial Awardees, Vickie Grassian and Debbie Crans
Thursday, July 15	7:00 E/ 4:00 P	Elevator Pitch Competition on your research (~2 minute time slot)
Friday, July 16	7:00 E /4:00 P	Speaker: Invited National Honorary Member, Nobel Laureate Frances Arnold
Saturday, July 17	11:00 E/ 8:00 P	Business meetings for delegates: Business session, followed by committee meetings after break
Sunday, July 18	11:00 E/ 8:00 P	Business meetings: committee reports and other business, 2-3 sessions with 2 breaks

E = Eastern time; P = Pacific time

SHOP AND SUPPORT Iota Sigma Pi!

Iota Sigma Pi is a participant in the Amazon Smile program. You can shop and support women in chemistry at the same time. To join Amazon Smile, go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/> and login using your regular Amazon password. Choose your charity as “Iota Sigma Pi National Council”. For current subscribers to Amazon Smile, use the direct link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-6093887> to change charity to Iota Sigma Pi. Then keep shopping, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to us at NO cost to you. **Try it out today!**

Fostering Community and Connections in a Virtual Format

Social media engagements

To foster a sense of community while we meet virtually, the Ca chapter is hard at work developing a line-up of pre-Convention social media activities that will take place July 5-9th. These events are not mandatory and any member may attend. These events are a fun way to get to know each other and to encourage participation; we will be giving away fun items (e.g., t-shirts, d-orbital pins, Cognitive Surplus items) for engaging and forging connections! Below is a list of planned activities. More details will be emailed to members and posted on our social media platforms.

Monday July 5th: Calcium Chapter Take-over of Iota Sigma Pi's Social Media Accounts

Tuesday July 6th: Diversity in Chemistry panel

Wednesday: July 7th: Elevator Pitch Competition on your research (~2 minute slot)

Thursday July 8th: Centennial and Agnes Fay Morgan Awardee Panel

Friday July 9th: Series of How-To interactions for Convention delegates (e.g., Iota Sigma Pi website, Zoom)

Tying us together via sharing a part of our life

Instead of being roommates at Convention, you will be mail-mates! We all love receiving items in the mail and thought that it would be fun to pair up delegates and then have you mail an item that represents your chapter, company/organization, or geographic location to your mail-mate (e.g., coffee mug, t-shirt, \$20 limit). Please take a picture of you with your item and email to meganbourg@gmail.com so that we can show off the cool connections formed via this activity on our website and at the meeting.

At registration, we will be asking a few questions to help your mail-mate know a little more about you (t-shirt size, coffee/tea drinker, food allergies, etc.) and the physical address you will be at during the time of Convention. National Council will reimburse you the cost of mailing your item to your mail-mate, so keep your receipt to mail to the National Treasurer, Anna Ratliff.

Fundraising and Swag Bags!

The Ca chapter is going to host an online design contest and the winning design will be printed on a variety of items (e.g., t-shirts, coffee mugs, etc) and available for purchase. The proceeds from this event will be given directly to Girls Inc. (organization in Orange County, CA) to purchase STEM activities for the girls in their program. I hope that this marks the beginning of the Society directly giving back to the community hosting the Convention!

The Ca chapter is also working on assembling swag bags for the Convention that will be mailed to each delegate. This is even better than getting free stuff at an in-person Convention, no need to worry if it will fit in your carry-on! If you have any items you would like to include in the swag bag, please email Alissa Matus at matusa@uci.edu.

Convention Committees

We have listened to your feedback from past Conventions and are implementing your suggestions on streamlining the Committees! Now, instead of 14 committees and each delegate serving on two, there are 7 committees with each delegate serving on one committee!

Below are descriptions of the newly revised committees:

1. **Audit/Finance & Budget:** Review the National Treasurer's Triennial financial report; Review the dues structure and set budget priorities
2. **Awards & Outreach:** Review the student and professional awards given by the Society. Develop avenues and make an action plan to expand the pool of qualified women/advertising of award; Discuss the Speakers' Bureau and other outreach activities pursued by members to enhance public knowledge of women in chemistry and science literacy
3. **Chapter Installations & Development:** Refine guidelines for the installation of new chapters. Discuss ideas to help chapters be "metropolitan." Determine benefits of membership other than being a member of an honor society. Review chapter vitality and national programs for chapters; Develop new ideas and strategies for recruitment & retention of members. Review of at-risk chapters and their impact on the future of the organization and devise ways to revitalize them.
4. **Visibility & Publicity:** Review how we communicate to individuals outside of our membership; Discuss recruiting strategies for members and develop an "elevator pitch" for the Society; Evaluate all types of communications with the membership, including The Iota, Mini-Iota, Website, Facebook page, LinkedIn group, listserves, emails, mailings to chapters, etc and determine their effectiveness. Form a committee to generate content for social media pages.
5. **Long Range Planning:** Review status of the organization in context of other STEM and women-focused groups and identify gaps in those groups that Iota Sigma Pi can fill. Articulate long-term goals with specific objectives/action items; Discuss fundraising/grant opportunities, Evaluate convention program.
6. **Members at Large (MAL):** Review operations; Discuss issues and develop ideas to increase MAL involvement/interaction; choose the outstanding chapter award recipient.
7. **Official Documents, Ceremonies, & Resolutions:** Review all documents to ensure they are current and make a list that shows all documents that need to be updated after new NC installation; Assemble list of acknowledgements for convention; Read resolutions at the assigned time during convention.

At registration, each delegate will select three committees and rank them according to their interest. Then, NC will review all of the delegates' preferences and generate the committee members. Prior to Convention you will be notified what Committee you will be serving on and the minutes from that committee from the prior Convention. A new goal of the committee meeting for this Convention is to establish ways in which the serving delegate and/or members of their chapter can become actively involved in the Society on a national level. This is a fantastic way for each member/chapter to share their talents and to forge networks. The committees will meet in Zoom Breakout Rooms.

Presenting Chapter Reports

We want the chapter reports presented at the 2017-2020 Triennial Convention to be engaging, interactive, and reflective. At prior Conventions, the delegate would read the details of the submitted Triennial Chapter Report, which is not ideal for a virtual format. For this Convention, we are providing the option for chapters to use their creativity in presenting their chapter activities (installation, induction ceremony, social/outreach/professional development events, member accomplishments) to the membership. These activities should be ones that occurred during the 2017-2020 triennium, a highlight of your chapter. A few suggestions include PowerPoint presentations with recorded audio, slideshows of pictures with music/voice-overs, or videos (2-10 minutes suggested). All report presentations as well as questions and requests for guidance or help making the presentations should be sent to Julia Wiester (webmaster), at ispncwebmaster@gmail.com. Either the files or links to shared files can be emailed. These report presentations will be placed either on the new Iota Sigma Pi website (www.iotasigmapi.org) behind the login page or on a newly created Iota Sigma Pi YouTube channel (will be set to private), making them viewable by members at their convenience. Our hope is that you will view the presentations and reach out to chapters to seek advice on implementing particular programming, facilitating formation of meaningful networks. FY2017-2020 triennial reports should still be sent to Patty Wiley at ispncviceprwsident@gmail.com.

2021- 2022 Annual Dues

Don't forget that Iota Sigma Pi Dues for 2021-2022 need to be paid by June 15th if you are not a Lifetime member. We recommend paying dues via our webpage at <https://www.iotasigmapi.org/> and use a credit card to pay your dues and/or make a donation. This is a secure transaction through PayPal. Once on the website, hover over "Membership" and click on "Update Info/Pay Dues". You will be required to update your current contact information before being able to pay your dues. This helps us keep up to date with your current personal information. If you don't have a sign-in for the new website, you will have to establish one first. Alternatively, you can send a check made out to Iota Sigma PI. Please print out the attached membership dues form and fill in your personal information (name, address, etc).

Send the form, along with a check, to:

Iota Sigma Pi
Anna Ratliff
PO Box 75
Brentwood, MD 20722

Please consider a donation to support our 2021 Virtual Triennial Convention, and thank you for your continuing generosity. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, Anna Ratliff, at: ispnctreasurer@gmail.com

National Awardees

We are so excited to announce that the agenda is full of presentations and discussions with our National Awardees! The speaker presentations will be on three different evenings (7:00 Eastern/4:00 Pacific) as described on page 2. We are especially excited that Nobel Laureate, Prof. Frances H. Arnold, will be one of our speakers.

Winners of IΣΠ Awards to Speak at Virtual Convention

Every three years the women who receive Iota Sigma Pi awards speak at our Triennial Convention. This time all members will be able to enjoy the presentations by our 2018-2020 awardees. All of the presentations will be on Zoom and start at 7:00 Eastern/4:00 Pacific. You will receive the links before the date.

July 8 - Annual Awardees Panel on Trends in Chemistry Teaching and Research

Two awards are given every year, the Centennial award for Teaching and the Morgan Award for Research. Five awardees will participate in the panel, three Centennial Awardees and two Morgan Awardees. Each will speak about her experiences in teaching and/or research, and then there will be time for questions.

The Centennial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching honors excellence in teaching chemistry, biochemistry, or a chemistry-related field at an undergraduate institution that does not offer a graduate program in that field or who spends >75% of her time teaching undergraduates if there is a graduate program.



Dr. Amandeep Sra (2018) of University of Texas at Dallas: Dr. Sra has taught over 3000 students in lectures and thousands of students in laboratory, and still many consider her as a mentor and return to consult with her. Dr. Sra spends many extra hours with her non-traditional students, veterans, and others who may need a jump start in their knowledge of chemistry and has implemented changes which help them.



Dr. Maria Craig (2019) of Mary Baldwin University has been teaching there since 2008 and is currently Chemistry Department Chair. She has taught most of the chemistry courses, but primarily organic chemistry and biochemistry, and also is a research mentor to undergraduate students. A number of former students wrote letters describing how she made chemistry understandable and accessible to them.



Dr. Sheila R. Smith (2020) of the University of Michigan–Dearborn will receive the award given for excellence in teaching chemistry, biochemistry, or a chemistry-related field at an undergraduate institution that does not offer a graduate program in that field. Dr. Smith teaches both beginning and advanced courses, and her students are enthusiastic about her talents. In addition, she is also known as a national leader in faculty development. She leads faculty development workshops and uses classroom technology to improve teaching chemistry and biochemistry.

Agnes Fay Morgan Research Award is given for research achievement by a woman chemist or biochemist not over forty years of age.



Prof. Leslie Hicks (2019) of University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill and her research group have developed a new method that allows one to screen and identify bioactive peptides that have antimicrobial or anti-cancer activity. The results of her research will have a wide-ranging impact on fighting antibiotic resistance and developing new chemotherapeutic agents to target cancerous cells. She is also involved in biofuels research.



Dr. Jillian Dempsey of University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill and her research group work on the inorganic chemistry underlying solar energy use. The conversion of solar energy to chemical energy through artificial photosynthesis will help address evolving global energy needs without detrimental environmental consequences

July 14 – Presentations by Triennial Awardees

Two Iota Sigma Pi awards are given every three years. The ***National Honorary Member Award*** honors exceptional and significant achievement in chemistry or an allied field of such nature to merit international recognition. The ***Violet Diller Award for Professional Excellence*** is given for outstanding contributions to chemistry and allied fields by a woman. Nominees are judged on the significance of their accomplishments in academic, governmental, industrial chemistry, education, administration, or a combination of these areas. This is a great chance to see and hear two prominent women chemists.



National Honorary Member: *Dr. Vicki H. Grassian* of the University of California-San Diego is known for laboratory studies of the reactivity and physicochemical properties of mineral dust and sea spray aerosols. Her research has transformed several areas including atmospheric chemistry and climate impacts of particulate matter and the environmental and health impacts of nanoparticles.



Violet Diller Award for Professional Excellence: *Dr. Debbie C. Crans* of Colorado State University does research which focuses on compounds containing the element vanadium. Some of these compounds have been used to treat cancer and other diseases. Dr. Crans' career is unique in combining three scientific disciplines. She is a leader in the area of vanadium chemistry (organic vanadium compounds) and biochemistry, in addition to inorganic chemistry.

July 16 – Presentation by Noble Laureate Frances H. Arnold



Invited National Honorary Member: This special award is the highest honor that Iota Sigma Pi awards to an outstanding female chemist and has previously been awarded to Marie Curie (1921), Gerti T. Cori (1949), and Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin (1966), all Nobel Laureates.

Professor Frances H. Arnold is the fifth woman, and the first American woman, to win the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in the 118 years that the prize has been awarded. Prof. Arnold pioneered the field of directed evolution of enzymes. The evolved enzymes have catalyzed important reactions in the fields of medicine (diabetes drug Januvia®), neurobiology (MRI agents), chemical synthesis (plant sugars to jet fuel), and alternative energy (anaerobic biofuel synthesis).

Chapter Reports Due on June 30, 2021

It is that time again! Please submit your chapter report for the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 year to Patty Wiley (ispncvicepresident@gmail.com) no later than June 30, 2021. As some of you recall, the format of the report has been changed to facilitate the quantification of our activities and make it easier to share ideas with each other. Chapter officers should have received the report template. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need clarification on the template. We want to make sure we have the representation of every single chapter! *Note, these are NOT the triennial reports (2017-2020) that are to be presented at the convention.

**Patty Wiley
National Vice President**

Iota Sigma Pi – 33rd National ΙΣΠ Triennial Convention
Virtual Event July 6 – 18, 2021
Registration Deadline June 20, 2021
Mail to: Iota Sigma Pi, c/o Preeta Pratakshya
1011 West Peltason Drive #C
Irvine, CA 92617

This registration is for delegates, alternate delegates, National Council, and past-presidents. We prefer you register online at <https://www.iotasigmapi.org/triennial-convention>, however if that is not possible, please send in this form.

Full Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Email _____ Phone Number _____
 Affiliation: Chapter _____ Member-at-large (MAL) _____ Other _____

Role at Convention (Circle One):

National Council Delegate Alternate Delegate Past-President

Instead of being roommates at Convention, you will be **mail-mates!** We all love receiving items in the mail and thought that it would be fun to pair up delegates and then have you mail an item that represents your chapter, company/organization, or geographic location to your mail-mate (e.g., coffee mug, t-shirt, \$20 limit).

Let's help your mail-mate know a little more about you (t-shirt size, coffee/tea drinker, food allergies, etc.) and the physical address you will be at during the time of Convention (if different from the address above). National Council will reimburse you the cost of mailing your item to your mail-mate, so keep your receipt to mail to the National Treasurer, Anna Ratliff.

Mail-Mate Info:

Committee Preferences (Please rank your top 3 choices):

- Audit/Finance & Budget _____
- Awards & Outreach _____
- Chapter Installations & Development _____
- Visibility & Publicity _____
- Long-range Planning _____
- Members-at-Large _____
- Official documents, Ceremonies, and Resolutions _____

Chapter Report Presentation:

Please indicate if you will be submitting a video/PowerPoint of your triennial chapter report on behalf of your chapter.

- _____ Yes I will be submitting.
- _____ Another member will be submitting from my chapter.
- _____ Unsure if our chapter is submitting a video/PowerPoint of our chapter report.

Elevator Pitch Competition:

Please indicate if you are planning to participate in the Elevator Pitch Competition. For this activity, participants will have about 2 minutes to present their research or other work. The competition will be limited to 20 participants and the top three winners will receive prizes. The competition will be judged by a panel assembled by the Calcium Chapter. Individuals selected for this competition will be notified by email by July 7th*

- _____ Yes
- _____ No
- _____ Unsure

If you plan to participate in the Elevator Pitch Competition, please write the title of your pitch here. If not, please enter n/a.

Enter title here:

Please contact nationalcouncil@iotasigmapi.org with any questions regarding registration.

By registering and attending the convention, you are releasing any photographs taken during the event to be used by Iota Sigma Pi.

Iota Sigma Pi – 33rd National ΙΣΠ Triennial Convention
Virtual Event July 6 – 18, 2021
Registration Deadline June 20, 2021
Mail to: Iota Sigma Pi, c/o Preeta Pratakshya
1011 West Peltason Drive #C
Irvine, CA 92617

Guest Registration

This registration is for Iotans and non-members who are **not** delegates, alternate delegates, National Council, and past-presidents but want to hear our amazing award winners speak, listen to other convention panels, and other activities.. We prefer you register online at <https://www.iotasigmapi.org/triennial-convention> , however if that is not possible, please send in this form.

Full Name _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Email _____ Phone Number _____

EVENTS!

Select each event for which you would like to register. All times listed E=Eastern, P=Pacific

_____ **Calcium Chapter takes over Iota Sigma Pi Social Media Accounts**

Tuesday July 6, 2021

No registration required

Twitter: @IotaSigmaPi

_____ **Panel Discussion: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives in Chemistry**

Wednesday July 7, 2021 at 7 pm E/4 pm P

_____ **Panel Discussion: Centennial (Teaching) and Morgan (Research) Awardees**

Thursday July 8, 2021 at 7 pm E/4 pm P

_____ **Triennial Awardee Speakers, Professor Vicki Grassian and Professor Debbie Crans**

Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 7 pm E/4 pm P

_____ **Elevator Pitch Competition**

Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 7 pm E/4 pm P

For this activity, participants will have about 2 minutes to present their research or other work. The competition will be limited to 20 participants and the top three winners will receive prizes. The competition will be judged by a panel assembled by the Calcium Chapter. Individuals selected for this competition will be notified by email by July 7th.

_____ **Speaker: National Honorary Member, Nobel Laureate, Frances Arnold**

Friday, July 16, 2021 at 7 pm E/4 pm P

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