



# Celebrate Today's Leaders, Empower Those of Tomorrow



Advancing Sustainable  
Innovation since 1954



  
**STEM Leadership**  
AWARDS

## 2026 Honorees



Lifetime Achievement

**Ann Ziff**  
New York Metropolitan Opera  
Chairman of the Board



Fundamental Research

**Omar Yaghi**  
UC Berkeley  
2025 Chemistry Nobel Laureate



## 2026 Bridging Arts & Science



**Ann Ziff**

New York Metropolitan Opera

Chairman of the Board

Ann Ziff stands at the forefront of cultural innovation, uniting the arts with education and science. Her passion for interdisciplinary collaboration has guided the Metropolitan Opera through transformative eras over more than a decade, achieving financial sustainability, groundbreaking programming, and expanded outreach that elevates opera's global role while championing the arts-STEM intersection to inspire tomorrow's discoveries.

A dedicated philanthropist in arts, education, environmental conservation, and music therapy, Ziff holds Master's degrees in Social Work from NYU and Music Therapy from Temple University, where she is a Visiting Professor at the Boyer College of Music and Dance. She serves as Vice Chairman of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and on boards including the World Science Festival, LACMA, Los Angeles Opera, Sing for Hope, and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Ziff co-founded and chaired Smile Train, founded the Caribbean Community Theater, and has lectured at Oxford's Saïd Business School.

Her initiatives, like the World Science Festival and music therapy programs, empower generations and bridge music with broader human endeavors. As noted by CME Event Co-Chair Seifi Ghasemi, her stewardship advances creativity and cross-disciplinary impact. Ziff has received honorary doctorates from Juilliard, Wittenberg University, and Manhattan School of Music, plus Lincoln Center's Philanthropy in the Arts Award.

## 2026 Propelling Science



Fundamental Research

**Omar Yaghi**  
UC Berkeley

2025 Chemistry Nobel Laureate

Omar Yaghi stands at the forefront of scientific innovation, uniting chemistry with sustainability to address global challenges. Born in Jordan amid adverse economic conditions, he overcame hardship through grit to pioneer reticular chemistry, transforming materials science via metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) and covalent organic frameworks (COFs) that deliver breakthroughs in carbon capture, clean energy storage, atmospheric water harvesting, and environmental remediation for humanity's urgent needs.

A committed researcher and mentor advancing fundamental knowledge for societal benefit, Yaghi earned his B.S. in Chemistry from SUNY Albany (1985) and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1990), with postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is the James and Neeltje Tretter Chair Professor of Chemistry at UC Berkeley, Founding Director of the Berkeley Global Science Institute, and Co-Director of the Kavli Energy NanoSciences Institute and Bakar Institute of Digital Materials for the Planet.

His work has generated thousands of novel materials enabling climate solutions, water access in arid regions, and beyond. As noted by peers and award committees, his stewardship of reticular chemistry drives discovery and cross-disciplinary impact for humanity. Yaghi received the 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry (shared), along with the Wolf Prize (2018), Albert Einstein World Award (2017), Tang Prize (2024), Balzan Prize (2024), and election to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.



  
**STEM Leadership**  
AWARDS

Where: NYC Metropolitan Club, Est. 1891



## 2025 Honorees



Fundamental Research

**David Spergel**  
 Simons Foundation  
 President



Lifetime Achievement

**Albert Bourla**  
 Pfizer  
 Chairman and CEO



Corporate Reinvention

**Anthony O'Donovan**  
 Arkema  
 President and CEO

Keynote

Event Co-Chairs



**James Green**  
 NASA  
 Former Chief Scientist



**Marilyn Simons**  
 Simons Foundation  
 Co-Founder and Chair



**Richard Salomon**  
 Vantage Point Consult.  
 CEO



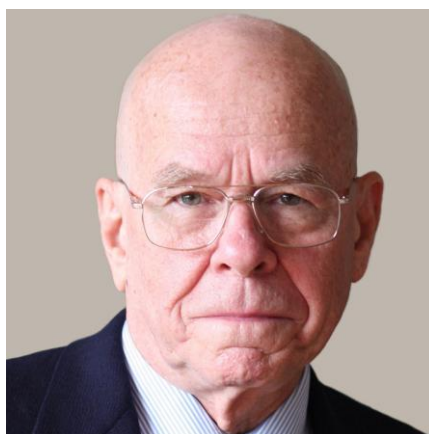
## Past Honorees – Science

Partial list of honorees at CME NASA Symposia



**Carolyn Bertozzi**  
Stanford University

2022 Nobel Prize in Chemistry  
2024 CME Advancing Talent



**Barry Sharpless**  
Scripps Research Institute

2001 & 2022 Nobel Prize Chem.  
2023 CME Science



**Frances Arnold**  
Caltech

2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry  
2019 CME Women in Science



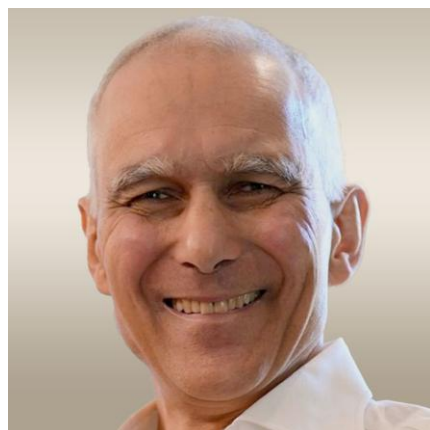
**Robert Langer**  
MIT Koch Institute

Professor, Most Cited Engineer  
2018 CME Science



**Craig Venter**  
Human Genome Project

Celera Genomics Founder & CEO  
2017 CME Science



**Moungi Bawendi**  
MIT

2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry  
2025 CME Science

  
**STEM Leadership**  
 AWARDS

## CME STEM Leadership Awards™ Gallery



2015 Lifetime Achievement  
Dr. Roy Vagelos and wife Diana



2015 Brian Greene, Alan Alda and  
Tracy Day



2014 Lifetime Achievement  
Andrew Liveris



2013 Lifetime Achievement  
Honoree Jon Huntsman, Kate  
Huffman and Paul Huntsman



2012 Global Growth Honoree  
Mexichem Chairman Juan Pablo del  
Valle e family



Warm, Festive, Stimulating. The Leadership Awards™ celebrates the  
leaders of today and enables those of tomorrow





## Uniting Society to Advance Humanity



**Industry**

**Councils & Companies**

American Chemistry Council

SCI, Business Council, ECNY



**Academia**

**ACS & Universities**

National Academies

200+ ACS Sections & Chapters



**Government**

**NASA and DOE Labs**

International Space Station

ISS USNL, NREL, LLNL, ANL

Accelerating STEM through AI and Quantum Computing



**Energy**

**Fusion, Hydrogen, Solar**

Efficiency and Low-Emissions

Earth & Space Sustainability



**Materials**

**Advanced Chemistries**

Additive Manufacturing

Self-healing & Pluripotency



**Life Sciences**

**Personalized Medicine**

Tissue Regeneration

Biological Repair & Renewal





## A Heritage of STEM Leadership

11

**High-Impact Awards**  
For CME Pioneering Events

A record in its class

72

**Years Driving STEM**  
For Sustainable Innovation

Bringing Industry, Academia  
and Government together

820

**CME STEM Talks**  
Meeting Leaders of Society

Networking with Students

Accelerating STEM Talent

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5,800

**CME STEM NASA**  
Symposium Attendees

Since 2017

62,000

**K-12 STEM Festivals**  
Attendees

Free to the Public

200,000

**Students & Professionals**  
Reached by Ad Campaigns

Scientific Publications





# Award-winning AI & Space Age STEM Programs



Advancing STEM Talent and Environmental Stewardship

CME STEM Leadership Awards

**CME STEM Symposiums with NASA**

CME STEM Talks and STEM Festivals



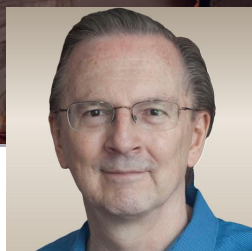


CME  
NASA STEM  
SYMPOSIUM

# Fall 2026 Chemistry in the Space Age



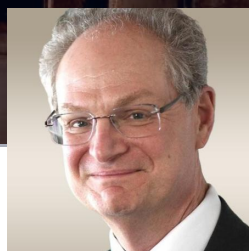
Speakers



Jack Szostak  
Nobel Laureate



Harriet Kung  
DOE Science



Paul Alivisatos  
UChicago



Chad Mirkin  
Northwestern

2026.08.24-25 · Chicago McCormick Place · Info: [www.CME-STEM.org](http://www.CME-STEM.org)



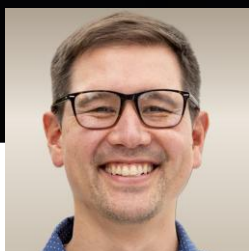
# CME NASA Earth Sustainability

## Speakers

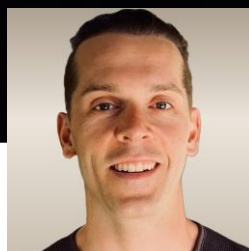
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Junhong Chen  
Argonne



Eric Jankowski  
Boise State



Nils Averagesch  
U Florida



Karen McDonald  
UC Davis





CME

NASA STEM  
SUSTAINABILITY

# CME NASA Space Sustainability

## Speakers



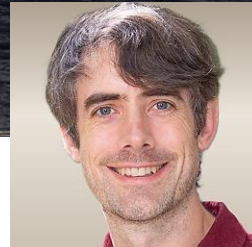
Allison Christy  
NASA Glenn



Stephanie Vivod  
NASA Glenn



Aaron Berliner  
Cornell



R. Wordsworth  
Harvard



N. Kandadai  
Oregon State

2026.08.25 · Chicago McCormick Place · Info: [www.CME-STEM.org](http://www.CME-STEM.org)







## CME Lectures and STEM Talks

For the Annals of Civilization



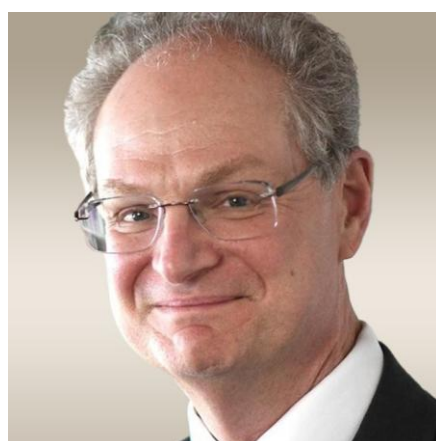
**Harriet Kung**  
DOE Office of Science

Acting Director



**Jack Szostak**  
University of Chicago

2009 Nobel Prize in Medicine



**Paul Alivisatos**  
University of Chicago

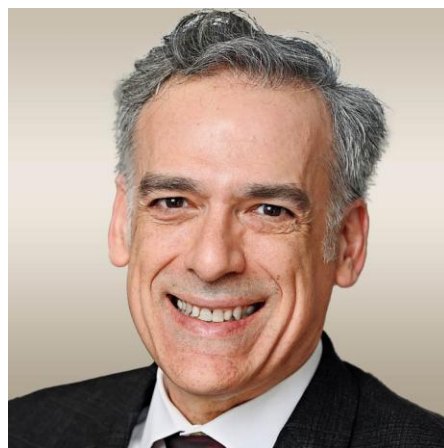
President

Recommended by



**Dorothy Phillips**  
American Chemical Society

2025 President



**Rigoberto Hernandez**  
American Chemical Society

2026 President



**Christina Bodurow**  
American Chemical Society

2026 President-Elect



Chemical Marketing & Economics, Inc.





## 2025 CME PMSE Student & Mentor Awards

ACS Global Outstanding Student & in Polymer Science & Engineering



**Maggie Horst**  
Stanford University

USA Graduate Student



**Hyun-Suk Wang**  
ETH Zurich

International Graduate Student

Celebrating the fundamental human innovation unit



**Yan Xia**  
Stanford University

USA Mentor



**Athina Anastasaki**  
ETH Zurich.

International Mentor

  
**STEM Festivals &**  
**LUNCHEONS**

CME Exciting Programs Power Innovation & STEM Talent Development



Since 2014 over 62,000 schoolchildren have experienced the magic of CME chemistry festivals



Since 2011 CME has helped over 5,800 STEM students develop leadership, business and networking skills.





# Thank You for Supporting AI & Space-Age STEM Programs



Leadership in STEM Innovation and  
Mentorship since 1954

