

Organic Education Resources

A cCWCS Community of Scholars

OrganicERs on Facebook



Most of the discussion among members is occurring on Facebook. New posts appear regularly. For those with concerns about recent news about Facebook, the leadership board is considering alternatives.

ALOC Symposium at the ACS 2019 Orlando

A wide selection of talks related to teaching organic chemistry classes was presented at the Active Learning in Organic Chemistry symposium at the Spring 2019 American Chemical Society meeting. The symposium was organized by two members of the leadership board, Alexey Leontyev (NDSU) and Jennifer Muzyka (Centre College). A list of talks and presenters are included in the table at the link. ([read more](#))

Member Spotlights:

Specification Grading in Class and Lab:



(Justin Houseknecht, Wittenberg University) I first heard about specification grading from Joshua Ring during the Fall 2016 ConfChem. I didn't really think about it, however, until after reading Maryellen Weimer's *Learner-Centered Teaching* and hearing Joshua talk again at the 2017 ALOC Workshop. *Learner-Centered Teaching* has been instrumental in developing the framework within which I understand effective instruction. ([read more](#))

Utilizing iSpartan/Spartan for an IR Spectroscopy Active-Learning Activity: Design and Implementation over Three Academic Institutions



(Amy Baliya, Radford University) Infrared (IR) Spectroscopy is a fundamental topic in the organic chemistry curriculum. Traditionally, instructors show functional group vibrations on a chart or provide demonstrations in the lecture or lab. Although students benefit from these approaches, an inquiry-based method would allow students to develop their own conclusions based upon investigating IR spectral data independently. Amy Baliya (Radford University, 2015 cCWCS ALOC workshop participant in Washington DC) and Layne Morsch (University of Illinois at Springfield, OrganicERs member) published their IR spectroscopy inquiry-based activity utilizing iSpartan and Spartan in the *Journal of Chemical Education*. ([read more](#))

Virtualizing Organic Chemistry Labs Project

Have good students had their laboratory course disrupted by military service, pregnancy, and other life events that prevented them from coming to lab? Maria Gallardo-Williams and the DELTA team at North Carolina State University may have the answer with their virtual organic chemistry lab experiences. Students may eventually be able to complete some lab experiments at remote locations without direct contact with compounds, equipment, and instrumentation.

<https://sciences.ncsu.edu/news/virtualizing-organic-chemistry-labs/>

Upcoming Events

[ACS National Meeting & Expo, August 25 - 29, San Diego, CA](#)

[Midwest Regional Meeting \(MWRM\), October 16 - 19, Wichita, KS](#)

[Southeastern Regional Meeting \(SERMACS\), October 20 – 23, Savannah, GA](#)

[Southwest & Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting \(SWRM/RMRM\), November 13 - 16, El Paso, TX](#)