

# FACS participation in ACS Spring 2024

By: *Mustafa Culha and Reuben Hwu*  
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Chemistry, the cornerstone of modern science, drives innovations that touch every aspect of our lives. From the medicines we take to the materials we use, chemistry underpins progress and fosters development. In the diverse landscape of scientific endeavors, collaboration and coordination are essential. This is where organizations like the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies (FACS) play a crucial role. Founded in 1979, FACS emerged from a collective vision among Asian chemical societies to promote cooperation and exchange of knowledge in the field of chemistry. With a membership that spans across Asia, FACS serves as a platform for scientists, researchers, and professionals to connect and share ideas, as well as to address common challenges facing the chemical community. At the core of FACS's mission are several key objectives including promoting collaboration, advancing education, supporting research, and bolstering public engagement. FACS fosters not only collaboration among its member societies, facilitating joint research projects, academic exchanges, and scientific conferences but also other societies and institutions such as American Chemical Society (ACS) and Royal Society of Chemistry (RCS). By sharing expertise and resources, it aims to address complex scientific challenges more effectively worldwide. FACS is also committed to enhancing the quality of chemical education across Asia. Through workshops, seminars, and educational resources, FACS helps to promote excellence in teaching and learning, ensuring a strong foundation for the next generation of chemists. It also promotes scientific research and innovation by providing grants, awards, and fellowships to researchers in the region. These initiatives encourage excellence in research and help to stimulate scientific discovery and technological advancement. FACS is dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of chemistry and its applications in everyday life. Through public lectures, outreach programs, and media campaigns, FACS is actively bridging the gap between the scientific community and the public, endeavoring to engage the public and inspire interest in chemical sciences.

In promoting collaborations, current FACS president, Prof. Mustafa Culha, and the

Immediate Past President, Prof. Reuben Jih-Ru Hwu, gave invited presentations in a presidential symposium during the American Chemical Society 2024 Spring Meeting held in New Orleans, USA. "Collaborating Across Boundaries," which highlighted how connections among people, initiatives, and organizations benefit the chemistry enterprise, was organized by the ACS president, Prof. Mary Carroll, and her colleagues. In the March 18, 2024 symposium, Culha presented the talk titled "Federation of Asian Chemical Societies: Linking Chemists in the Asia-Pacific Region." The talk title of Prof. Hwu was "Towards Sustainability by Green Organic Syntheses through Novel Domino Processes." Other speakers included representatives from the European Chemical Society (EuChemS).

FACS representatives' participation resulted from the Memorandum of Understanding signed between FACS and ACS in Istanbul during the biannual meeting of FACS in July 2023. Representatives of both sides agreed to strengthen the collaboration, focusing on goal topics related

to chemistry education and sustainability and supporting professional development in safety, ethics, innovation, and leadership.

Over the years, FACS has significantly contributed to the advancement of chemistry in Asia and beyond. By fostering collaboration and exchange among member societies, FACS has facilitated groundbreaking research, promoted excellence in education, and raised the profile of the chemical sciences in the region. Through its various initiatives and programs, FACS has helped to nurture the next generation of chemists, providing opportunities for young researchers to showcase their talents and pursue their scientific passions. Moreover, FACS has been playing a vital role in promoting international cooperation and dialogue, strengthening ties between the chemical communities of Asia and the rest of the world. Looking ahead, FACS remains committed to boosting excellence in the chemical sciences and fostering collaboration among Asian chemical societies. As the pace of scientific discovery accelerates and new challenges emerge, FACS will continue to adapt and evolve, striving to meet the needs of its members and the broader scientific community. Through continued cooperation and mutual support, FACS aims to enhance chemistry's impact on society further, drive innovation, and address global challenges in healthcare, energy, and the environment. By working together, Asian chemical societies can harness the power of chemistry to create a brighter and more sustainable future for all.



**Invited speakers from FACS and EuChemS to the ACS 2024 Presidential Symposium "Collaborating Across Boundaries." From left: Mustafa Culha (FACS President), Reuben Hwu (FACS Immediate Past President), Mary Carroll (ACS President), Floris Rutjes (EuChemS Vice President), Nineta Hrastelj (EuChemS Secretary General).** Photo by Lana Nitti (ACS).