



Winter 2025 | Issue No.: 4

We have lots of updates to share this quarter and are excited about the momentum heading into the new year. As we look ahead to 2026, we're grateful for the continued engagement of our community and look forward to another year of collaboration, progress, and shared discovery.

Presidents Column Winter 2025

As we wrap up a milestone year for the American Crystallographic Association, this Winter 2025 President's Column reflects on the people, progress, and partnerships that shaped our 75th Anniversary year. ACA President Gerald I Audette shares highlights from his term, leadership transitions, and a look ahead to the IUCr Congress coming to North America in 2026.

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Thank You, Virginia: Celebrating a Legacy of History & Service



The ACA community is saying a heartfelt thank you to **Virginia Pett** as she steps into retirement after years of service as our Historian. Virginia's commitment to preserving ACA's story—and to thoughtfully stewarding the History Portal—has helped connect generations of crystallographers to the rich legacy of our field. Learn more about her contributions and how the History Portal will continue to evolve in the months ahead.

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STOE HAS JOINED AMI – EXPANDING OUR PRESENCE ACROSS AMERICA

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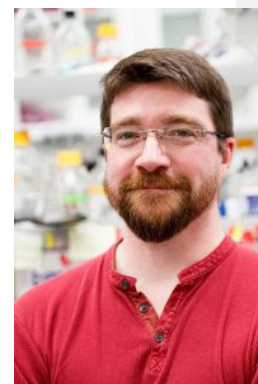
Stay Connected with the AUC

As planning and coordination around the American Union of Crystallography (AUC) continue to move forward, we want to be sure interested members stay informed and engaged. If you would like to receive updates, announcements, and correspondence related to the AUC, please be sure to add your name to the AUC interest form. This will ensure you're included on future communications as discussions and activities develop.

[Add your name to the AUC list!](#)

Structural Dynamics: A New Chapter

We're pleased to share an exciting update from *Structural Dynamics*, the associations official scientific journal. The publication is entering a new chapter with the appointment of a new Editor, continuing its commitment to advancing research at the intersection of structure, time, and function. Read the full announcement to learn more about the new editorial leadership and what's ahead.



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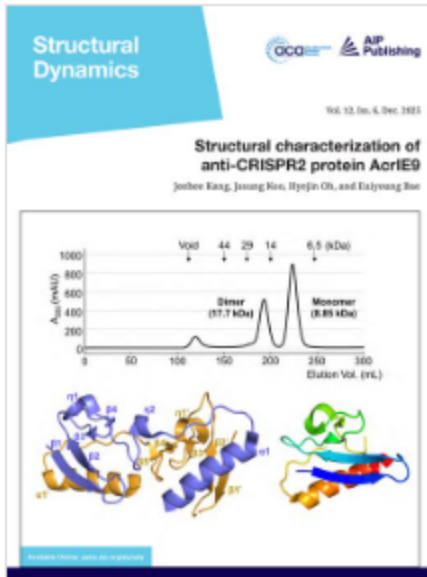
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What's Next for ACA SIGs

ACA recently gathered SIG leadership and Council for a productive discussion on strengthening SIG engagement and expanding opportunities for members to get involved throughout the year. From clearer timelines and enhanced virtual

participation to new leadership development initiatives, the conversation underscored the essential role SIGs play in building a connected and sustainable ACA community.

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Celebrating a Century of Structural Biology

This fall, the scientific community marks an important milestone: **100 years of structural biology!** In the *Structural Dynamics* article *Happy 100th, structural biology*, Phillips and Lattman reflect on the origins and evolution of a field that has transformed our understanding of life at the molecular level. About a century ago, James B. Sumner's pioneering work crystallizing the enzyme urease helped reveal that enzymes are proteins with defined atomic structures — a foundational insight that helped launch structural biology as a discipline. Today, structural biology plays a central role in deciphering molecular and cellular function, guiding drug design, and advancing biotechnology. From early experiments in ultracentrifugation to modern techniques like cryo-EM and computational structure prediction, the field's century of innovation highlights its profound impact on science and medicine.

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Next-Generation X-ray Crystallography

- Unbeatable x-ray detection
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Get Ready for IUCr2026 in Calgary!

Get ready for an unforgettable global gathering of the crystallographic community at IUCr2026! We're thrilled to welcome scientists from around the world for a dynamic program showcasing cutting-edge research, inspiring keynote lectures, engaging workshops, and countless opportunities to connect and collaborate. Registration is now open, and we encourage you to secure your place early! Even more importantly, the Call for Abstracts is open through February 25, 2023—don't miss the chance to share your science on this international stage. We can't wait to see your contributions and welcome you to what promises to be a truly exceptional Congress.

[Visit the Congress Website...](#)

Protein Dynamics: A Bright — and Intricate — Future

Proteins are dynamic molecules, and understanding their motions is increasingly key to understanding their function. In the Perspective article *Protein dynamics: The future is bright and complicated!*, the authors examine how new experimental and computational advances are transforming the study of protein dynamics—particularly in enzyme systems. The article highlights both the promise and the growing complexity of this rapidly evolving field, pointing to exciting opportunities for the structural science community.

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Listening, Learning, and Looking Ahead: Insights from ACA's Future Meetings Discussion

Recently, the ACA hosted a *We're Listening* session to review and discuss the results of the Future Meetings Survey. The conversation was thoughtful, candid, and highly productive—providing important context and nuance that goes beyond the survey data alone. Together, participants explored what matters most when deciding to attend an ACA meeting, how we allocate resources, and where there are opportunities to better support students and early career scientists. The insights shared during this session will play a key role as we begin planning for future meetings, including site selection for 2027 and beyond.

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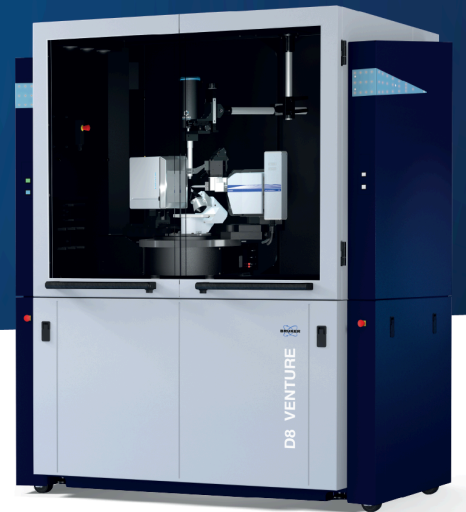
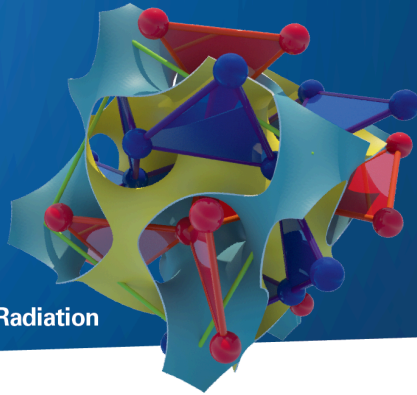
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Call for Nominations: ACA Awards & Fellows

The American Crystallographic Association is now accepting nominations for several major awards and for ACA Fellows. These honors recognize outstanding scientific contributions, leadership, and service to the crystallographic community.

Nominations are open for the following awards, all to be presented at the ACA Annual Meeting in 2027:

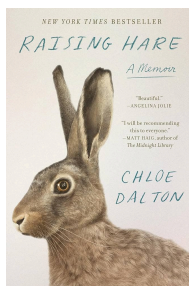
- Bertram Eugene Warren Diffraction Physics Award
- M.J. Buerger Award
- Margaret C. Etter Early Career Award
- Elizabeth Wood Science Writing Award

For all four awards, nominations open in Fall 2025 with a submission deadline of April 1, 2026.

In addition, nominations are invited for ACA Fellow, recognizing sustained excellence and service to the Association.

We encourage members to consider nominating deserving colleagues and helping ensure broad representation across our community. Full nomination details are available on the ACA website from the link below.

[Read More](#)



Winter Book Reviews

We love sharing good reads—especially this time of year. Each quarter, we highlight books that inspired us, made us laugh, or helped us see things in a new way. Whether you're looking for thought-provoking nonfiction or a cozy weekend escape, there's something here for everyone.

[Read More](#)

Call for 2027 Session & Workshop Ideas

The American Crystallographic Association is now inviting Session, Workshop, Keynote, and Social/Networking Event Ideas for the 2027 ACA Annual Meeting. This call gives members an opportunity to share timely topics, emerging areas, creative formats, and community-building activities they would like to see reflected in the meeting. Session/workshop ideas submitted will be shared with the appropriate Scientific Interest Groups (SIGs) for consideration as they plan their programs ahead of their annual meetings. This process is not intended to replace the SIGs' role in curating the scientific program, but rather to provide additional insight into the interests and priorities of ACA members and meeting attendees.



[Submit Your Suggestion](#)



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of Your Crystals, We
Have a Diffractometer
for You.

HyPix technology
and CrysAlis^{Pro}
software powers all of
our diffractometers.



2025 in Reflection, 2026 in Focus

As we close out 2025, we want to thank our members, volunteers, partners, and friends for another year of discovery, collaboration, and community across the structural sciences. From inspiring science at our meetings to new initiatives that strengthen education, equity, and engagement, this year reflected the collective energy and dedication that define the American Crystallographic Association.

We look ahead to 2026 with excitement and purpose. A new year brings fresh opportunities to connect, to lead, and to advance crystallography together—through our programs, our committees and SIGs, and our shared commitment to excellence and inclusion. Click on the image below to watch a short video highlighting some of the moments, people, and experiences that brought us together in 2025. Thank you for being part of the ACA community, and we wish you a restful close to the year and a bright, productive start to 2026.



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