Science and Technology of Materials, Interfaces, and Processing

MEDIA RELEASE

Topical Areas
2D Materials
Biomaterials
Environmental S&T
Magnetic Materials
Manufacturing S&T
Materials Characterization
Materials Processing
MEMS
Microelectronic Materials
Nanoscale S&T
Plasma S&T
Quantum Science
Spectroscopic Ellipsometry
Surface Engineering
Surface Science
Thin Films
Vacuum Technology

Contacts
Chief Operating Officer
212-248-0200, ext. 222

Exhibition
530-896-0477

Finance
212-248-0200, ext. 224

Marketing/Meetings
530-896-0477

Member Services
212-248-0200, 221

Publications
919-361-2787

Short Courses
530-896-0477

Web/IT
212-248-0200, ext. 223

Officers
President-
Mark Engelhard

President-Elect-
Sally McArthur

Past-President-
Bridget R. Rogers

Clerk-
David Surman

Treasurer-
Gregory J. Exarhos

Directors-
Andre Anders
Sebastian U. Engelmann
Erwin Kessels
Stephanie Law
Marcy Stutzman
Scott Walton

AVS
125 Maiden Lane, 15B
New York NY 10038

Phone: 212-248-0200
E-mail: avsnyc@avs.org
Web: www.avs.org

AVS Announces Its Major Award Winners of 2026

New York, November 9, 2026 —The AVS has selected its major award winners for 2026. The AVS established an annual awards program to encourage excellence in research and innovation in technical areas of interest to the AVS. Listed below are the major award winners:

Medard W. Welch Award— Paul S. Weiss, UCLA, "For pioneering contributions in adding the chemical dimension to nanolithography by controlling surface functionality from the submolecular to the macroscopic scales and developing the enabling technologies that have resulted" The award recognizes and encourages outstanding accomplishments in the fields of interest to AVS. The award consists of a cash award, a medal, a plaque, and an honorary lectureship at a regular session of the International Symposium.

Gaede Langmuir Award— Sefik Suzer, Bilkent University, "For pioneering development of AC/Pulsed biasing during XPS measurements to extract local charge dynamics in solids and at solid/solid and solid/liquid interfaces" This award recognizes outstanding discoveries and inventions in the fields of interest to AVS. The award consists of a cash award, a plaque, and an honorary lectureship at a regular session of the International Symposium.

Peter Mark Memorial Award— Naihao Chiang, University of Houston, "For the contribution to tip-enhanced Raman spectroscopy and its extension scanning ion-conductance microscopy" The award recognizes outstanding theoretical or experimental work by an early career scientist or engineer, at least part of which must have been published in an AVS Journal. The nominee must have worked in a scientific/technical field(s) for no more than 10 years (cumulative) after receiving their Ph.D. The award consists of a cash award, a plaque, and an honorary lectureship at a regular session of the International Symposium.

A complete list of the Fellows as well as the 2026 national graduate student winners is attached. Nominations for the 2027 awards are currently being solicited. For more information, please contact Angela Klink, AVS, 212-248-0200, e-mail angela@avs.org.

Additional Awards

2026 AVS Fellows

AVS Fellows are Platinum Members who have made sustained and outstanding contributions in areas of interest to AVS.

Ashleigh Baber, James Madison University, “For advanced UHV instrumentation and surface science undergraduate research through mentoring and external funding, and expanded visibility for undergraduate research through leadership and advocacy at AVS”

Parag Banerjee, University of Central Florida, “For pioneering early work in the emerging discipline of process-data engineering, coupling in situ data collection with machine learning to understand atomic layer deposition reactions, thermodynamics and thin film materials”

Mark D. Losego, Georgia Tech, “For pioneering contributions to understanding the kinetics and mechanisms of inorganic vapor infiltration of polymers to synthesize novel hybrid materials, and for dedicated service to the vapor phase processing community”

Dario Stacchiola, Brookhaven National Laboratory, “For pioneering contributions to in-situ surface chemistry through the development of multimodal ambient pressure characterization tools and for distinguished leadership and service to the AVS and surface science communities”

Zihua Zhu, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, “For outstanding contributions to the development and application of advanced SIMS methodologies addressing critical questions at solid–liquid interfaces, and dedicated mentorship and inspiration of next generation researchers”

2026 AVS National Student Awardees

There are five (5) top-level named Graduate Student Awards and three (3) Graduate Research Awards, described below. The recipients of these awards are determined after a general competition with all the graduate research applicants and a presentation to the Awards Committee.

Russell and Sigurd Varian Award

The Russell and Sigurd Varian Award was established in 1982 to commemorate the pioneering work of Russell and Sigurd Varian. It is presented to recognize and encourage excellence in graduate studies in the sciences and technologies of interest to AVS. The award is supported by Agilent Technologies Vacuum Products Division. It consists of a cash award, a certificate, and reimbursed travel support to attend the International Symposium.

- Sooho Choo, University of Minnesota

Nellie Yeoh Whetten Award

The Nellie Yeoh Whetten Award was established in 1989, in the spirit of Nellie Yeoh Whetten, to recognize and encourage excellence by women in graduate studies in the sciences and technologies of interest to AVS. A fund to support the award was established by Timothy J. Whetten, friends and family of Nellie Yeoh Whetten, and AVS. The award consists of a cash award, a certificate, and reimbursed travel support to attend the International Symposium.

- Molly McDonough, Pennsylvania State University

Dorothy M. and Earl S. Hoffman Award

The Dorothy M. and Earl S. Hoffman Award was established in 2002 to recognize and encourage excellence in graduate studies in the sciences and technologies of interest to AVS. It is funded by a bequest from Dorothy M. Hoffman, who was president of AVS in 1974 and held other positions of responsibility in the Society. The award consists of a cash award, a certificate, and reimbursed travel support to attend the International Symposium.

- Peace Adegbite, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Dorothy M. and Earl S. Hoffman Scholarships

The Dorothy M. and Earl S. Hoffman Scholarships were established in 2002 to recognize and encourage excellence in graduate studies in the sciences and technologies of interest to AVS. They are funded by a bequest from Dorothy M. Hoffman. The scholarships consist of a cash award, a certificate, and reimbursed travel support to attend the International Symposium.

- Abigail Jiang, Harvard University
- Ali Zayaan Macknojia, University of North Texas

2026 Graduate Research Awards

The Graduate Research Awards were established in 1984 to recognize and encourage excellence in graduate studies in the sciences and technologies of interest to AVS. Each consists of a cash award, a certificate, and reimbursed travel support to attend the International Symposium.

- Liya Bi, University of California, San Diego
- Shilpa Choyal, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Amit Kumar, University of Georgia

Marketing Communications Contact: Della Miller, AVS West, 110 Yellowstone Dr., Suite 120 Chico CA 95973, Phone: 530-896-0477, Fax 530-896-0487, E-mail della@avs.org