



ACS Local Section  
Portland

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

# Portland Section Meeting Notice

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December 2019

2019 December 5 Meeting Notice

## THE CHEMISTRY OF VAPING

a talk presented by

# Prof. Robert M. Strongin

Chemistry Department, Portland State University

7:45 PM Thursday December 5, 2019

Reed College Vollum Lounge

3203 SE Woodstock Blvd, Portland, OR 97202

[map](#) (use East Parking Lot; Vollum is number 37 on map)

**Dinner Reservations—Dinners are \$20 for early reservation**

Dinner reservations FIRM deadline **9 AM Friday Nov. 29**

**Please Note: Reed College catering requires reservations one week in advance.**

Prices increase to \$25 after the deadline! (including at the door)

**Schedule: 6:00 pm social • 6:45 pm buffet dinner • 7:45 talk**

background photo credit: [https://d279m997dpfwgl.cloudfront.net/wp/2019/04/0425\\_e-cigs-1000x645.jpg](https://d279m997dpfwgl.cloudfront.net/wp/2019/04/0425_e-cigs-1000x645.jpg)

Warren Ford, Chair  
(acting) Chair-Elect, Warren Ford  
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*Professor Robert Strongin*

## **Abstract: The Chemistry of Vaping**

Evidence-based research is urgently needed to understand the health impacts of vaping. The recent outbreak of EVALI (e-cigarette or vaping product use associated lung injury) has exacerbated concerns about both tobacco and cannabis vaping. In the absence of longer-term epidemiological data, our labs

have focused on the chemical reactions and aerosol products associated with vaping to afford timely information about potential health risks. However, there are significant challenges inherent in studying the thousands of formulations and the perpetually evolving e-cigarette configurations. In addition, standardized analytical methods are lacking, and inconsistencies in interlaboratory findings are relatively common. This lecture will describe our major recent findings concerning vaping concentrated THC and terpenes, as well as flavored tobacco e-liquids, including our efforts to address not only technical challenges but also industry-propagated misinformation.

## **Bio: Robert M. Strongin**

Dr. Robert M. Strongin is a Professor of Organic Chemistry at Portland State University. He has studied the chemistry of vaping for the past six years. A large part of his focus is determining how e-liquid solvents and flavorings react and degrade when heated and aerosolized. In 2017 he began to investigate cannabis vaping and published the first peer-reviewed papers on the aerosol toxins formed when dabbing terpenes, and, more recently, on vaping and dabbing concentrated cannabis oil. He obtained a PhD in Organic Chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania and began his independent career at Louisiana State University where he rose steadily through the academic ranks to become the Philip and Foymae Kelso West Distinguished Professor of Chemistry. Upon moving to the Portland State University Department of Chemistry in 2007, he received affiliate appointments at the Oregon Health and Sciences University, where he has ongoing research collaborations on targeted molecular probes and biosensors for cancer. Professor Strongin runs an internationally-recognized research program, has founded two biotech startup companies and is active in STEM education and science advocacy. He has published 150 peer-reviewed manuscripts and three books, and has received several research and teaching awards.

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## **Section Officers Announced**

During October 2019 Portland Section Members cast their votes for 2020 candidates selected by the Portland Section Nominating Committee. The 2020 lineup of Portland Section officers includes:

- Marcie Merritt, 2020 Chair
- Ken Schriver, 2020 Chair-Elect
- Dave Reingold, Treasurer
- Angela Hoffman, Councilor I
- Warren Ford, Alternate Councilor I
- Jim Tung, Councilor II
- Theresa McCormick, Alternate Councilor II

New Section officers will be introduced at the upcoming December 5 meeting at Reed College.

## **Linus Pauling Medal Award Symposium**

Oregon State University hosted the 2019 Pauling Medal Award Symposium held on Oct. 26, 2019. The photo below shows the presentation of the Medal to Prof. Catherine Murphy, Department of Chemistry, University of Illinois.



*L to R: Myles Taylor (Chair of the Oregon Section), Prof. Murphy, Jennifer Marsalla (Chair-elect of the Puget Sound section), and Warren Ford, Portland Section Chair. (Photo Despina Strong)*