December 10, 2014

Dear Colleague,

As Chair-2015 of the North Jersey Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS), I am pleased to announce that we will be participating in the 2015 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO). The primary goals of this program are to stimulate interest and achievement in chemistry among high school students throughout the United States and to provide recognition of outstanding young chemistry students, teachers, and schools.

Students competing in the USNCO are eligible to be selected as members of the United States team for the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO). For the past thirty one years, the United States has sent a team of four students to compete with nations around the world at the IChO. The students participate in both theoretical and laboratory examinations over several days. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded to the best performers, and the IChO provides students the opportunity to interact with their peers from other countries. The 2015 International competition will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, July 20-28, 2015.

My immediate task is to encourage you and your students to participate in this program. The identification of the four-member U.S. team begins at the local school system level. It is the responsibility of the North Jersey section to nominate students from this area to take the USNCO national examination. In order to identify these students, we have decided to conduct a preliminary screening of students through Chemistry Olympiad Local Exam in March 2015.

I encourage your school to participate in this academic Olympiad. All students who participate will be recognized and presented with a certificate; top 150 students receive recognition for outstanding performance at the national level. We hope this recognition will serve to stimulate interest in chemistry and to promote a positive attitude toward chemistry.

Dr. Jiwen Chen has been appointed the USNCO Coordinator for this area. We encourage you to enter students from your school in this competition by completing and returning the enclosed registration form to him (nj.chemistryolympiad@gmail.com) before January 20, 2015. Thank you for helping promote chemical education in this country.

Sincerely,

Ronald Kong, Ph.D.
Chair-2015, North Jersey Section, ACS
Email: rkong0605@gmail.com