



REACTION MECHANISMS CONFERENCE

June 7–10, 2026 | Holland, Michigan

 **HAWORTH HOTEL**
AT HOPE COLLEGE

 **Hope**
COLLEGE

#RMC2026

*The 40th biennial
Reaction Mechanisms
Conference*

Haworth Hotel
Hope College
Holland, MI, USA

hope.edu/rmc2026

Summary Schedule

all events in Haworth Ballroom (rms 134/136/140) unless indicated otherwise

Sunday, June 7, 2026	
3:00-5:00pm	Check-in / packet pick-up Poster setup (<i>will remain up for duration of Symposium</i>)
5:15pm	Welcome and Opening Remarks & Instructions
5:30-7:30pm	Expanding Catalysis in Organic Chemistry
7:30-9:30pm	Poster Session and Reception
Monday, June 8, 2026	
7:45-8:30am	Complimentary light breakfast
8:30-10:30pm	Mechanistic Research in Industry
10:30-11:00am	Coffee Break with light refreshments
11:00am-12pm	Industry Careers Panel, sponsored by AbbVie
12-5:30pm	Free afternoon for Tourism & Networking; lunch & dinner on your own; complimentary Motorcoach to Beach or Vineyard depending on weather
5:30-7:30pm	Synthetic Methods & Chemical Reactivity
7:30-9:30pm	Poster Session and Reception
Tuesday, June 9, 2026	
7:45-8:30am	Complimentary light breakfast
8:30-10:30pm	Mechanistic Research in Undergraduate Institutions
10:30-11:00am	Coffee Break with morning refreshments
11:00am-12pm	PUI Careers Panel, sponsored by Hope College
12-1:30pm	Lunch on your own (or invite-only Undergrad Context Lunch in rm 156/158)
1:30-3:00pm	Predicting Reactivity: Computation & Data-Driven Models
3:00-3:30pm	Coffee Break with afternoon refreshments
3:30-6:00pm	Tribute to Prof. Em. Dr. Peter Chen
6:00-7:00pm	Celebratory Reception in Honor of Peter Chen – <i>all are welcome</i>
7:00-9:00pm	Conference Banquet – <i>paid ticket-holders only</i> – Haworth Dining Room 104
Wednesday, June 10, 2026	
<i>dorm checkout by 10am, hotel checkout by 11am, bags can be left in room 154</i>	
7:45-8:30am	Complimentary light breakfast
8:30-10:30pm	Functional Organic π -Systems
10:30-11:00am	Coffee Break
11am-12:30pm	Spectroscopic Windows into Molecular Mechanisms
12:30-12:45pm	Closing Remarks & Instructions; Conference Survey
1:05pm	Motorcoach Shuttle Departs Haworth Hotel for GRR Should arrive by 1:45pm, sufficient for domestic departures later than 3:15pm or international departures later than 3:45pm
Thursday, June 11, 2026	
<i>dorm checkout by 10am, hotel checkout by 11am</i>	
11:25am	Motorcoach Shuttle Departs Haworth Hotel for GRR Should arrive by 12:15pm, sufficient for domestic departures later than 1:45pm or international departures later than 2:15pm

Dear RMC2026 Participants,

It is our pleasure on behalf of the full RMC Board and all of our sponsors to welcome you to the 40th biennial Reaction Mechanisms Conference, to the campus of Hope College, and to Holland, Michigan. This meeting has been in the works for nearly two years, with planning beginning just months after the 39th RMC in Albuquerque in 2024.

We are extremely excited to carry-on a tradition of excellence dating back 80 years and featuring some of the most prominent founding fathers and mothers of physical organic chemistry. Looking through the RMC history maintained by Bryan Meyers and Ed Fenlon is a veritable trip through time and a who's who of the discipline. (Ed and Bryan would have our heads if we didn't ask if any of you had the programs or speakers & titles for the 1958, 1962, 1980, and 2004 RMCs!). Reviewing that history also shows the way that the RMC has grown beyond a Physical Organic meeting to embrace the fullness of mechanistic investigation across the chemical subdisciplines, a trend we see continue with this present meeting. We also embrace recent efforts by participants and the board to increase industrial participation in the RMC, with both a dedicated session of speakers from industry and an industry careers panel this year!

Despite a long-running history of being an incredibly welcoming and nurturing community, quick to embrace students and trainees at all levels, including undergraduates, as well as faculty from a broad range of academic institutions, including many from primarily undergraduate institutions, this is just the fifth of forty RMCs to be held on the campus of a PUI, and the first since 1976! We have therefore doubled-down this year to offer not only a dedicated session on mechanistic research at PUIs, but also a panel on careers at such institutions. Of course we continue our perennial tradition of an Undergraduate Context Session, instigated or at least made famous by Dave Reingold. This an even lower-stakes and more welcoming place for undergraduates from any institution to ask an informal group of PUI faculty their most naïve or embarrassing questions. All undergraduates and all PUI faculty are invited to a casual lunch together on Tuesday for this purpose.

While there is no formal excursion this year, we hope you'll take advantage of Hope's campus, Holland's scenic downtown, or a free motorcoach to either a local vineyard and winery or our scenic Lake Michigan state park beach on Monday afternoon to network and enjoy both our local and intellectual community together. We also have plenty of breaks, lots of good food, and nightly receptions – drink tickets are in your name badges! There is a formal ticketed banquet on Tuesday evening.

Before that Banquet, we also continue a 10 meeting, 22 year tradition of naming an honoree from among the giants of the field. This year it is our pleasure to honor Peter Chen, with a session featuring three alumni spanning different decades of his impactful career!

We're grateful to the huge team of folks at Hope College, Haworth Hotel, and Creative Dining, to all our sponsors, to our honoree and invited speakers, but most of all we're grateful to you our participants – without you there could be not meeting!

Please enjoy all that #RMC2026 has to offer! And if we can improve your experience in any way, please don't hesitate to ask.

Enthusiastically,

Jason, Judy, and Peter



Conference Participants,

As Chief Academic Officer, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Hope College for the 40th Biennial Reaction Mechanisms Conference.

We are honored to host 120 distinguished scientists, educators, students, and industrial researchers. Since its founding in 1946, the Reaction Mechanisms Conference has provided an intellectual home for rigorous discussion, and the advancement in understanding of chemical reactivity. The enduring success of the conference reflects its ability to unite scholars across subdisciplines, institutions, sectors, and generations.

I am particularly delighted to welcome this year's honoree, Professor Emeritus Dr. Peter Chen of ETH Zürich. His groundbreaking scholarship in the area of reactive intermediates, mentorship of generations of scientists, and sustained contributions to the mechanistic chemistry community have helped shape your discipline.

The Reaction Mechanism Conference has distinguished itself through its commitment to fundamental academic research, including undergraduate researchers and their faculty mentors. Few major scientific conferences have so consistently created opportunities for undergraduates to engage directly with leaders in their fields. That tradition resonates deeply with Hope College's own educational philosophy in which undergraduates are given multiple opportunities to be co-creators in the advancement of knowledge. We are therefore especially proud that Hope joins a very short list of primarily undergraduate institutions that have hosted this conference, following Bryn Mawr (1952), Swarthmore (1956), Brandeis (1968), and William & Mary (1976).

The faculty at Hope have embraced a model of collaborative undergraduate research that places students alongside faculty mentors as active participants in discovery. That commitment has been a hallmark for many years, but it has also recently increased, including rises in *U.S. News & World Report* rankings overall and in undergraduate research and creative activity in particular. In the latter, we are currently 22nd in the nation among all academic institutions. Moreover, we see this commitment to scholarship as a national outgrowth of our commitment to providing a Christian liberal arts education.

Conferences such as RMC remind us that scientific progress depends not only on individual achievement but also on the relationships, conversations, and communities that sustain discovery. We hope that your time at Hope College will provide opportunities for all three.

Thank you for joining us for this landmark conference. I encourage you to take time to enjoy our campus, the City of Holland, and the beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline during your stay.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gerald D. Griffin
Provost
Hope College

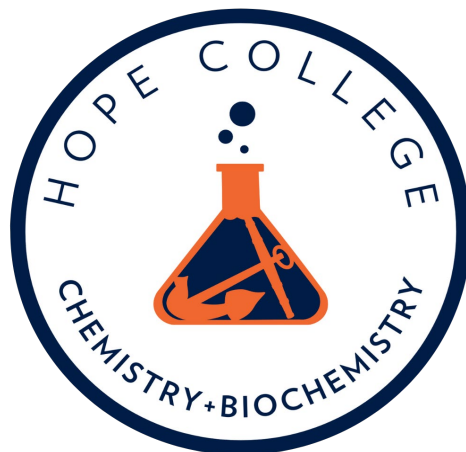
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*We are extremely grateful to all our sponsors, who collectively
have subsidized more than 40% of the cost of this meeting!*

Detailed Program

all sessions in Haworth Ballroom (134/136/140) unless indicated otherwise

Sunday, June 7, 2026

- 3:00-5:00pm Check-in / packet pick-up
Poster setup (*will remain up for duration of Symposium*)
Find your abstract, or consult the table on the inside back cover of this book, to know which Poster # you have been assigned!
- 5:15pm **Welcome and Opening Remarks & Instructions** – Jason Gillmore
- 5:30-7:30pm **Expanding Catalysis in Organic Chemistry** – Judy Wu
- 5:30pm **Valery Fokin** – University of Southern California
“Mechanisms at the Edge: Emergent Reactivity at Water–Organic Interfaces”
- 6:00pm **Joseph Moran** – University of Ottawa
“Electric Field Catalysis and the Metabolic Origin of Life”
- 6:30pm **Reginald Mills** – University of Houston
“Paramagnetic First-Row Organometallic Catalysts Involved in Cross-Coupling of Thiol-, Alcohol-, and Carboxylic Acid–Derived C(sp³) Electrophiles”
- 7:00pm **Raul Hernandez** – Rice University
“Not All Nets Catch the Ball”
- 7:30-9:30pm **Poster Session with a light reception**

Monday, June 8, 2026

- 7:45-8:30am Complimentary light breakfast
- 8:30-10:30pm **Mechanistic Research in Industry** – Tom Peterson
- 8:30am **John Fetzer** – Chevron (retired) / Fetzpah Consulting
“Catalytic Hydrocracking and the Large Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons”
- 9:00am **Stephanie Valenzuela** – Dow
“Keeping it Cool Space – Thermal Interface Materials using Key Crosslinking Strategies for Reliability”
- 9:30am **Shashank Shekhar** – AbbVie
“Methods and Tools to Meet the Synthetic Needs of Process Chemistry”
- 10:00am **Yunlong Zhang** – Aramco
“Unexpected Thermal Reaction Regimes in Aromatic Molecular Growth”
- 10:30-11:00am *Coffee Break with light refreshments*
- 11:00am-12pm **Industry Careers Panel, sponsored by AbbVie** – Jeff Kallemeyn
- 12-5:30pm Free afternoon for Tourism & Networking; lunch & dinner on your own; complimentary Motorcoach to Beach or Vineyard depending on weather
- 5:30-7:30pm **Synthetic Methods & Chemical Reactivity** – Julie Peterson
- 5:30pm **Robert Mayer** – Technical University of Munich
“High-Throughput Kinetics Enable Predicting Reactivity and Mechanisms of Catalysis in Water”
- 6:00pm **Artur Mardyukov** – Justus Liebig University Giessen
“On-Surface and Matrix-Isolation Strategies for Accessing Elusive Pnictogen–Nitrogen Species”
- 6:30pm **Melanie Chiu** – Michigan State University
“Light as a Tool for Polymer Synthesis”
- 7:00pm **Steven Lopez** – Northeastern University
“Machine-Learning Accelerated Simulations of Organic Photochemical Reactions”
- 7:30-9:30pm **Poster Session with a light reception**

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

- 7:45-8:30am Complimentary light breakfast
- 8:30-10:30pm** **Mechanistic Research in Undergraduate Institutions** – Ren Wisconsin
- 8:30am **Amanda Turek** – Williams College
“Mechanistic Investigations of Nucleophilic Aromatic Substitution Reactions”
- 9:00am **Dasan Thamattoor** – Colby College
“Bounties from Phenanthrene: Reactive Intermediates and Unusual Molecules”
- 9:30am **Daniela Arias-Rotondo** – Kalamazoo College
“Manganese(II) Complexes for Sustainable Photochemistry”
- 10:00am **Andrew Petit** – California State University, Fullerton
“Lewis Acid Activation of Ground- and Excited-State Proton Transfer”
- 10:30-11:00am *Coffee Break with morning refreshments*
- 11:00am-12pm** **PUI Careers Panel, sponsored by Hope College** – Jason Gillmore
- 12-1:30pm Lunch on your own
- except
- Undergraduate Students (from all institutions) as well as all willing PUI Faculty are invited to RMC’s traditional **Undergrad Context Lunch** in Haworth Room 156/158 – Ron Brisbois
- 1:30-3:00pm** **Predicting Reactivity: Computation & Data-Driven Models** – Maduka Ogba
- 1:30pm **Anat Milo** – Ben-Gurion University
“Data Science Strategies in Organocatalysis”
- 2:00pm **Peng Liu** – University of Pittsburgh
“Flexibility Effects in Catalytic Organic Reactions”
- 2:30pm **Alistair Sterling** – University of Texas, Dallas
“Numbers and Insight in the Age of Universal Machine-Learned Interatomic Potentials: Implications for Reactivity Prediction”
- 3:00-3:30pm *Coffee Break with afternoon refreshments*
- 3:30-6:00pm** **Tribute to Prof. Em. Dr. Peter Chen** – Peter Schreiner
- 3:35pm **Chris Sloatweg** – University of Amsterdam
“Catalyzing a sustainable future: radical redesign of chemistry for circularity”
- 4:10pm **Renana Poranne** – Technion–Israel Institute of Technology
“Old Ideas, New Tricks: Additivity in Polycyclic Aromatic Systems”
- 4:45pm **Marc-Etienne Moret** – Utrecht University
“Teaching Nickel New Tricks with π -Pincer ligands”
- 5:20pm RMC2026 Honoree **Peter Chen** – ETH Zurich
“FLP Activation of Methyltrioxorhenium as an Olefin Metathesis Catalyst: a Homogenous Model for Heterogenous Rhena Catalysts”
- 6:00-7:00pm **Celebratory Reception in Honor of Peter Chen** – all are welcome
- 7:00-9:00pm **Conference Banquet** –for paid ticket-holders only
in Haworth Dining Room 104

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

dorm checkout by 10am, hotel checkout by 11am, bags can be left in room 154

7:45-8:30am Complimentary light breakfast

8:30-10:30pm Functional Organic π -Systems – Jeremy Bard

8:30am **Vladimir Popik** – University of Georgia

“Unusual Features of SPAAC Reactions: Experiment vs Calculations”

9:00am **Arthur Winter** – Iowa State University

“Bounties from Phenanthrene: Reactive Intermediates and Unusual Molecules”

9:30am **Malika Jeffries-EL** – Boston University

“How to Break a Bond with Light”

10:00am **Benjamin King** – University of Nevada, Reno

TBA

10:30-11:00am Coffee Break

11am-12:30pm Spectroscopic Windows into Molecular Mechanisms –

Nathanael Kazmierczak

11:00am **Cláudio Nunes** – University of Coimbra

“Tunneling-Driven Reactivity of Arylnitrenes and Related Intermediates in Cryogenic Matrices”

11:30am **Ruth Gschwind** – University of Regensburg

“Assembly and Flexibility: Key Aspects of Photo-, Organo-, and Ion Pair Catalysts Revealed by NMR-Spectroscopy”

12:00pm **Carlos Crespo-Hernandez** – Case Western Reserve University

“Discovering New Chemistry in an Old Molecule: A Twisted Ground State Intermediate Leads to the Formation of Uracil Photohydrates in RNA After UV Excitation”

12:30-12:45pm Closing Remarks & Instructions; Conference Survey

1:05pm Motorcoach Shuttle Departs Haworth Hotel for GRR

Should arrive by 1:45pm, sufficient for domestic departures later than 3:15pm or international departures later than 3:45pm

Thursday, June 11, 2026

dorm checkout by 10am, hotel checkout by 11am

11:25am Motorcoach Shuttle Departs Haworth Hotel for GRR

Should arrive by 12:15pm, sufficient for domestic departures later than 1:45pm or international departures later than 2:15pm

Poster Assignments

Poster #	(Lead) Presenter	Title
1	Abbas, Sulaiman	Effects of Hydrogen Bonding on the Photodynamic Behavior of 4-azido-1-(4-hydroxyphenyl) butan-1-one
2	Alatrsh, Noor	Controlling the Chemo- and Enantio-Selectivity of Cross Benzoin Reactions by Secondary Sphere Modification
3	Allen, Connor	Distinguishing Birch Reduction Pathways with Intramolecular KIEs
4	Armon, Amit Manor	Extracting design principles for kinetically stable quaternary ammonium hydroxide salts for electrochemical devices from machine learning models
5	Aue, Donald	Unexpected Mechanistic Behavior in Quantum Dynamics for Peracid Epoxidation of Alkenes
6	Austin, Madelyn	The Ortho-Meta Effect Revisited
7	Bard, Jeremy	Synthesis and Characterization of an Azaphosphinine-NBD Hybrid Fluorophore
8	Bartels, David	Radiation-induced Free Radical Chemistry of Borate Buffers
9	Bos, Haleigh	Mechanism and Reactivity Drivers of the Intramolecular Dearomative Didehydro-Diels–Alder Reaction of Heteroarenes
10	Chalfon, Meitar Klodin	Investigating Chemical Interactions and Solvent Effects in Organo-Catalysis
11	Cragin, Jeffrey	Solvent Dynamics in a Cationic Rearrangement
12	D'Amico, Joseph	Palladium-catalyzed Coupling of Aryl Halides to Organometallics from Tertiary Alcohols
13	Doyon, Allison	Synthesis and Lanthanide Coordination Chemistry of Six Thienyl Phosphine Oxide Ligands for Photophysical Applications
14	Dulal, Rashmita	Tuning Thiol-Michael Dynamic Chemistry through Photolabile Protecting Groups
15	Fernando, Bashini	From Light to Fracture: Triplet-Driven Mechanisms and Photodynamics of Azide Crystals
16	Fisher, Fran	Solid-State Photodynamics of Fluoro-Substituted Aryl Azides
17	Haas, Lainey	Photoswitches: Activation Energy and Recovery of InSten-Me
18	Haider, Zulqarnain	Single Component Photocatalytic Strategy for Anti-Markovnikov Nucleophilic Addition to Alkenes
19	Haneef, Aansa	A Metal-Free Single Component Photocatalytic Strategy for Anti-Markovnikov Addition to Alkenes
20	Havenner, Nicolas	Zero-Point Energy Effects on Transition State Theory in Proton And H-Atom Transfers
21	Husien, Roaa	Beyond the Active Site: Secondary-Sphere Noncovalent Control in Organocatalysis

Poster Assignments (continued)

Poster #	(Lead) Presenter	Title
22	Ijeoma, Innocentia	From Flatland to Curved π -Systems: Harnessing Pericyclic Reactions for the Synthesis of N-Doped Polycyclic Aromatics
23	Jones, Amanda	Mechanism and Phosphine Ligand Design in Homogeneous Gold (I) Catalysis
24	Joshi, Dharma	Mechanistic Study for Product Formation and Photodynamics Behavior of Crystals for Halogenated Aryl Azide
25	Jothish, Subhiksha	Confinement-Controlled Photochemistry in Stilbene Azides
26	Kakkad, Dhyeyi	Visible-light Activated Persulfide Donors Based on a BODIPY Photocage Scaffold
27	Kallemeyn, Jeffrey	Development of a Scalable Route to ABBV-576 Leveraging Multiple Process Technologies
28	Kazmierczak, Nathanael	Spectroscopic Insights into Nickel-Bipyridine Photoredox Catalysts
29	Khan, Muhammad Usama Gul	Three Wrongs Make a Right: A Computational Investigation of $[4n]$ - $[4n]$ - $[4n]$ π -Systems
30	Kuttiyil, Hrishikesh	Make it or Break it: Blue Light Activated Dynamic Covalent Bonds
31	Laze, Elissya	Recent Experimental and Computational Investigations of BF ₂ -Coordinated Azo Dyes, Hydrazones, and their Precursors
32	Loya, Jesus	Controlling Nitrogen Atom Inversion in the Solid State
33	Martinez, Nancy	Synthesis of a Tripodal CMPO Compound Bearing Hexyl Chains as a Ligand for <i>f</i> -Elements
34	Martins, Francisco	Light Triggered Metal-free Routes to Accessing CF ₂ X Containing Aromatics
35	Morgan, Kathleen	Efforts Towards the Synthesis of Novel Epoxide Radicals
36	Neils, Tom	A Meta-Analysis of Published Brønsted Plots Supports Brønsted's "Conventional" pK _a Values: 14.00 for Water and 0.00 for H ⁺ (aq)
37	Norman, Skylar	Generation of Oxiranylidene and Ketene from a Phenanthrene-Based Precursor
38	O'Leary, Daniel	PyQuiverHS: A Web Tool for Computing Isotope Effects
39	Ogba, Maduka	Interpretable Machine Learning as a Spatial Blueprint for Cyclic Peptide Design
40	Pandey, Vijay	Multifunctional Organophotocatalysts for Divergent Decarboxylative Protonation, Oxidation, and Alkylation
41	Poole, James	The Structure and Chemistry of Phosphazides and Iminophosphoranes: Steric Effects

Poster Assignments (continued)

Poster #	(Lead) Presenter	Title
42	Puthoff, Derek	Designing Visible Light Photoswitches for Protic Environments
43	Rablen, Paul	Why Does Bromine Atom Sometimes Add to an Alkene and Other Times Abstract an Allylic Hydrogen Atom?
44	Ramos, Marc	Bowls and Plates: Does Shape Give Different Mechanisms in Shining Light to Large Nitroaromatic Compounds?
45	Ranathunga, Nishadi	Synthesis and Molecular Recognition Property of 3D Nanographene
46	Schab, Evelyn	Characterization of Lanthanide Triflate Complexes with Thienyl-Substituted Phosphine Oxides
47	Schneider, Brooke	Light-Controlled Dynamic Covalent Chemistry Using Coumarin
48	Schober, Joao	From SMILES to Diradical Character in Microseconds: A Graph-Based Approach
49	Schoch, Timothy	Pyridoxal-Inspired Photo-Decarboxylase Catalysis: Photochemical Decarboxylation of Unprotected Amino Acids
50	Segura, Leobardo	Organometallic Catalysts with Potential: an Electro-generated Iridium Complex for Alkane Dehydrogenation
51	Skubi, Kazimer	Radical Conjugate Addition to Chalcones Enabled by Photoredox Catalysis
52	Turon, Maya	Multifunctional Quinoline Photocatalyst for Decarboxylative Protonation and Partial Carboxylic Acid Reduction
53	Van, Phu Kang	Mechanism and Behavior of a Biomimetic Photoswitch in Aqueous Environment
54	VanEngen-VerBeek, Andrea	Synthesis and Testing of Class II Selective Histone Deacetylase Inhibitors
55	Wiscons, Ren	The Ferroelectric Curie Temperature of Azangulene
56	Wiskur, Sheryl	Silicon Phthalocyanine Photocatalysis: A Physical Organic Chemistry Approach to Understand Reactivity

Formal poster sessions are 7:30-9:30pm on Sunday and Monday. But per recent tradition we will keep posters up for the duration of the meeting to foster informal browsing and conversation. Posters should be put up on Sunday afternoon and not removed Wednesday's mid-morning break (or no earlier than 7pm Tuesday for those departing early.)

During the two formal poster sessions, if a poster has a single presenter, ODD posters should be attended by their presenter the first and third half-hours of each poster session (7:30-8pm and 8:30-9pm), EVEN posters should be attended by their presenter the second and fourth half-hours (8-8:30pm and 9-9:30pm). If a poster has multiple presenters, please have it attended throughout the poster sessions.

Reaction Mechanisms Conferences		Year
1st	University of Notre Dame Paul D. Bartlett, Charles C. Price	1946
2nd	Gordon Research Conference William v E. Doering, Frank H. Westheimer, Frank Mayo, Saul Winstein	1948
3rd	Northwestern University Stanley J. Cristol, John D. Roberts, Cheves Walling	1950
4th	Bryn Mawr College Ernst Berliner, Herbert C. Brown, David Y. Curtin, C. Gardiner Swain, Wyman E. Vaughan	1952
5th	University of New Hampshire Donald J. Cram, Nathan Kornblum, Henry Kuivila, Richard M. Noyes	1954
6th	Swarthmore College Frederick G. Bordwell, George S. Hammond, Harold Kwart, Robert W. Taft	1956
7th	University of Chicago Weldon G. Brown, Elias J. Corey, Ralph G. Pearson	1958
8th	Princeton University George Buchi, DeLos F. DeTar, Paul v R. Schleyer, Andrew Streitwieser, Jr.	1960
9th	Brookhaven National Laboratory Frederick D. Greene, William McEwen, Kenneth B. Wiberg (Chair), Alfred P. Wolf	1962
10th	Oregon State University Ronald Breslow, John L. Kice, Elliot N. Marvell, V. J. Shiner (Chair), Howard E. Zimmerman	1964
11th	McMaster University Jerome A. Berson, Arthur N. Bourns, Joseph F. Bunnett (Chair), Gerhard L. Closs, John Warkentin	1966
12th	Brandeis University Harlan L. Goering, Ernst Grunwald, Maurice M. Kreevoy, Howard E. Simmons (Chair)	1968
13th	University of California, Santa Cruz Joseph F. Bunnett, Harold Hart, Ross Robertson, William F. Saunders, Jr. (Chair)	1970
14th	University of Vermont Paul G. Gassman, William M. Jones, John L. Kice, Calvin D. Ritchie (Chair)	1972
15th	Colorado State University John I. Brauman, Kenneth E. DeBruin, Anthony M. Trozzolo (Chair), Charles E. Wilcox, Jr.	1974
16th	College of William and Mary Robert J. Crawford, Charles H. DePuy (Chair), Eddie Hedaya, Melvyn D. Schiavelli	1976

17th	University of Minnesota – Duluth Robert G. Bergman, Ronald Caple, Maurice M. Kreevoy, J. C. Martin (Chair), Robert A. Moss	1978
18th	University of Massachusetts – Amherst Charles P. Casey, E. Thomas Kaiser, C. Peter Lillya, J. Michael McBride (Chair), Bernard Miller	1980
19th	University of Utah Peter B. Dervan, Josef Michl (Chair), Ned A. Porter, Peter J. Stang	1982
20th	Duke University Edward M. Arnett (Chair), Robert D. Miller, Richard R. Schrock	1984
21st	University of Texas – Austin Marye Anne Fox, Joseph J. Gajewski, John C. Gilbert, Kendall N. Houk (Chair), L. M. Stephenson	1986
22nd	University of Pittsburgh John I. Brauman, Paul Dowd, David McClure, Julius Rebek, Jr., Stuart W. Staley, Patricia L. Watson	1988
23rd	University of Colorado Cynthia J. Burrows, Gerhard L. Closs, Paul Dowd, G. Barney Ellison, Matthew S. Platz (Chair), Phillip M. Warner	1990
24th	University of Maine Udo H. Brinker (chair), Joseph J. Dannenberg, Gideon Fraenkel, Raymond C. Fort, Jr., James E. Jackson, Philip T. S. Lau, Allan R. Pinhas	1992
25th	University of Notre Dame Edward M. Arnett, John E. Baldwin, Joseph P. Dinnocenzo, William v E. Doering (Chair), Paul Dowd, Kendall N. Houk, Frank-Gerrit Klärner, Daniel J. Pasto, Matthew S. Platz, Richard L. Schowen, Robert R. Squires, Kenneth B. Wiberg	1994
26th	State University of New York – Stony Brook William J. le Noble, Kenneth B. Wiberg (Chair)	1996
27th	Asilomar Conference Center – Pacific Grove, California Donald H. Aue, John E. Baldwin, Cynthia J. Burrows, Miguel A. Garcia-Garibay, Kendall N. Houk (Chair), Frank-Gerrit Klärner, Yves Rubin	1998
28th	University of Wisconsin – Madison Barry K. Carpenter (Chair), Robert J. McMahon	2000
29th	The Ohio State University – Columbus Christopher M. Hadad, Hilikka Kenttämää (co-Chair), Matthew S. Platz, Craig Wilcox (co-Chair)	2002

30th	Northwestern University Weston T. Borden (Chair), Joseph B. Lambert	2004
31st	University of Maryland Donald H. Aue (Chair), Daniel E. Falvey	2006
32nd	University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill Malcolm D. E. Forbes, Richard P. Johnson (Chair), Clelia W. Mallory	2008
33rd	University of Massachusetts, Amherst Robert S. Sheridan (Chair), Paul R. Rablen (Vice Chair), Paul M. Lahti (Local Organizer), Sally Mallory (Convener)	2010
34th	University of Missouri in Columbia Christopher Hadad (Chair), Rainer Glaser (local host)	2012
35th	UC Davis Paul G. Wenthold (Chair), Dean Tantillo (Local Organizer)	2014
36th	St. Louis University John P. Toscano and Dina C. Merrer (co-Chairs), Ryan D. McCulla (Local Organizer)	2016
37th	University of British Columbia, Vancouver William Jenks and Anna Gudmundsdottir (co-Chairs), Jason Hein (Local Organizer)	2018
38th	University of Colorado, Boulder Igor Alabugin & Jeehiun Lee (co-chairs), Oana Luca & Michael Marshak (Local Organizers)	2022
39th	University of New Mexico William Karney & Kathleen Morgan (co-Chairs), Brian Gold & Jeffrey Rack (Local Organizers)	2024

<https://www.organicdivision.org/meetings/reactionmechanismsconference/>

History of RMC honorees:

- 2024 Cynthia Burrows
- 2022 Josef Michl
- 2018 Ken Houk
- 2016 Wes Borden & Matt Platz
- 2014 Bob Bergman
- 2012 Chuck DePuy
- 2010 Jerry Berson
- 2008 Ernest Eliel & Ken Wiberg
- 2006 John D. Roberts
- 2004 Wm Von Eggers Doering

RMC Board

Board members serve a term spanning three conferences (typically six years). Organizers are selected from current board members.

At or soon after each conference the present board invites additional board members to replace those concluding their terms. *If you would be interested in serving or learning more, please reach out to a current board member at the meeting or in the next few weeks!*

Current Board

2024–2030

- Jennifer Hirschi (SUNY Binghamton)
- Peng Liu (University of Pittsburgh)
- Tom Peterson (Dow)
- AJ Vasiliou (Middlebury College)

2022–2028

- Osvaldo Gutierrez (UCLA)
- Franziska Schoenebeck (RWTH Aachen)
- Judy Wu (University of Houston)
- Yunlong Zhang (Aramco)

2018–2026 (*no RMC2020*)

- Laina Geary (University of Nevada Reno)
- Jason Gillmore (Hope College)
- Jason Hein (University of British Columbia)
- Peter Schreiner (Justus Liebig University Giessen)

Downtown Holland Food & Drink Field Guide

Downtown Holland packs an impressive amount of food and drink into a few walkable blocks. While visitors often come for Tulip Time, the heated sidewalks, Hope College sporting events, or the Dutch architecture, locals know the downtown food & beverage scene is one of the city's biggest strengths. This guide (a combination of local insight and AI help) focuses on the places you're most likely to hear recommended when someone asks, *"Where should we eat downtown?"*

Coffee Shops

Lemonjello's Coffee 61 E 9th St

If Holland has a coffee shop with a soul, it's Lemonjello's. The atmosphere is artsy, eclectic, and a little bit grungy in the best possible way. You'll find Hope College students writing papers, professors grading exams, artists sketching, and regulars who have been coming for years. The coffee is excellent, but the real standout is the bakery case, which offers one of the best selections of gluten-free, vegan, and organic treats anywhere in town. **Local tip:** If you're looking for the least corporate, most distinctly "Holland" coffee experience, start here.

Foxtail Coffee Co. 57 E 8th St

Foxtail occupies one of downtown's most visible corners and feels like a modern coffee shop designed for lingering. The espresso program is solid, the seating is comfortable, and the in-house gelato makes it as much a dessert stop as a coffee stop. It's a great choice if you're meeting friends, working remotely, or simply people-watching along 8th Street. **Local tip:** The affogatos are worth trying, especially in summer.

The 205 Coffee Bar 205 E Columbia Ave

A little removed from the busiest part of downtown, The 205 has become a favorite among serious coffee drinkers. The coffee program is outstanding, but the waffles have developed almost as much of a following as the espresso. The space is larger and quieter than most downtown cafés, making it a great place to settle in for a while. **Local tip:** If someone says they want "the best coffee in town," there's a good chance they're talking about The 205.

Brewpubs, Taprooms & Bars

Our Brewing Company 76 E 8th St

Small, friendly, and distinctly local. Our Brewing feels more like a neighborhood gathering place than a destination brewery. The beer list is intentionally smaller than some competitors, but that's part of the charm. Beer is central, but there are a few wines, ciders, and liquors to be had. Since there's no kitchen, you're encouraged to bring in takeout from anywhere downtown.

Local tip: Grab tacos from Mezkla, a sandwich from City Deli, or a pizza from Crust54 and bring them on over.

New Holland Brewing Company – Pub on 8th 66 E 8th St

The brewery that put Holland on the craft beer map. While New Holland is now nationally known for Dragon's Milk and its spirits program, the downtown pub still feels connected to its hometown roots. The space is large, energetic, and almost always busy, even with expansive outdoor seating. The food is almost as good as the beer, especially the pizzas, appetizers, and seasonal specials. **Local tip:** If you're only visiting Holland once and want one brewery stop, this is probably it.

Big Lake Brewing 13 W 7th St

One of Holland's original craft brewery success stories, Big Lake helped establish the city's reputation as a serious beer destination long before craft beer became mainstream. The brewery focuses on approachable, well-executed beers rather than chasing every trend, and the food menu has grown into one of downtown's more reliable casual dining options. Expect burgers, sandwiches, pub favorites, and seasonal specials alongside a solid lineup of house-brewed beers. The atmosphere is relaxed and welcoming, striking a nice balance between brewery, restaurant, and neighborhood gathering place. **Local tip:** Big Lake often gets overshadowed by New Holland because of New Holland's national reputation, but many locals still consider Big Lake one of the most consistently enjoyable places downtown for both beer and food. It's also a great choice when the wait at some of the bigger downtown destinations starts to grow, or to accommodate a larger group at some of their big community tables and a large back patio.

Hops at 84 East 84 E 8th St

For beer nerds, Hops is heaven. The tap list is one of the deepest and most thoughtfully curated in West Michigan, with local favorites sharing space with hard-to-find national and international selections. The food goes well beyond standard bar fare, and the cocktail and wine lists are equally strong. **Local tip:** The menu is surprisingly ambitious for a place most people initially visit for the beer.

HopCat 80 W 8th St

A dependable choice for groups. The beer selection is huge, the menu has something for everyone, and the famous Cosmik Fries live up to the hype. It's not uniquely Holland, but it's consistently good. **Local tip:** This is often the easiest place to take a group with wildly different tastes.

Big E's Sports Grill 121 E 8th St (inside the Marriott Courtyard hotel)

Part sports bar, part family restaurant, part better-than-average hotel restaurant, Big E's offers burgers, wings, barbecue, sandwiches, and plenty of TVs for game days. **Local tip:** One of the better options downtown if you're dining with kids or a larger group.

Waverly Stone Gastropub 20 W 8th St

A little quieter, a little more grown-up, and often overlooked by visitors. Waverly Stone serves excellent cocktails and elevated comfort food without feeling pretentious. It's one of the best choices downtown for conversation. **Local tip:** One of the best date-night spots in Holland.

Obstacle No. 1 55 W 8th St

Holland's answer to the modern metropolitan craft cocktail bar. The drinks are carefully built, the spirits selection is impressive, and the atmosphere feels closer to New York or Chicago than

small-town Michigan. **Local tip:** You're paying for craftsmanship here. If your idea of a cocktail is a rum and Coke, there are cheaper options nearby.

1847 Lounge 61 E 7th St (inside Tulyp Hotel)

The 1847 Lounge delivers a polished drinking experience that's more memorable than your typical hotel bar. A strong cocktail program, a decent wine list, a good happy hour, in a setting that's elegant without being stuffy. **Local tip:** A perfect choice when you want something quieter and more refined than the brewery scene.

The Curragh Irish Pub 73 E 8th St

A longtime downtown favorite that manages to feel like a real neighborhood pub rather than a themed restaurant. The menu balances Irish classics with American comfort food, and the beer and whiskey selections are strong. Live music nights can get lively. **Local tip:** When downtown feels busy and touristy, Curragh often still feels like a locals' hangout.

Skiles Tavern 63 E 8th St

A true Holland institution. Skiles isn't trendy, isn't fancy, and doesn't care. What it does offer is cheap drinks, thin-crust pizza, and decades of local history. Generations of Hope College students have made memories here. **Local tip:** Ask almost any Holland resident over 30 about Skiles and you'll probably get a story.

Fine & Elevated Dining

Butch's Dry Dock 44 E 8th St

If Holland has a classic special-occasion restaurant, it's Butch's. The steaks are excellent, the service is polished, and the wine list is unmatched anywhere nearby. It's equally popular for anniversaries, business dinners, and celebrations. **Local tip:** Even people who don't care much about wine tend to leave impressed by the wine program.

Seventy-Six 52 W 8th St

Chef Lucas Grill's flagship restaurant has quickly become one of the most exciting kitchens in town. The menu changes frequently, highlighting seasonal ingredients and thoughtful technique without feeling overly formal. **Local tip:** Probably the most ambitious and creative restaurant currently operating downtown.

Lovejoy 46 E 8th St

Lovejoy is a new Lucas Grill concept with a focus on comfort, hospitality, and scratch-made food that feels personal and familiar while still being chef-driven. **Local tip:** Think elevated comfort food rather than fine dining.

Casual Dining

Crust 54 54 E 8th St

The local answer to the Chicago deep-dish debate. The deep dish is rich, heavy, and absolutely worth the wait if that's your style. Detroit-style and thinner crust options are also available. **Local tip:** Don't show up starving and expect a deep dish immediately—it takes time, that's the deal.

City Delicatessen 52 E 8th St

A downtown lunch institution. The city-themed sandwich menu is extensive, creative, and surprisingly good across the board. Portions are generous and service is fast. **Local tip:** One of the easiest places to recommend because almost everyone finds something they like.

Jimmy John's 36 W 8th St

You know exactly what you're getting here: quick, reliable sandwiches and fast service.

Crane's in the City 11 E 8th St

The downtown extension of the beloved Fennville orchard. Soups, sandwiches, cider, and pie dominate the menu. It's especially popular during cooler months. **Local tip:** Save room for pie.

Bowerman's on 8th 2 E 8th St

A cheerful café built around the Bowerman family's blueberry farm. Blueberries find their way into everything from baked goods to salads and specialty drinks. **Local tip:** If you're looking for a distinctly West Michigan breakfast or lunch, this is one of the best choices downtown.

Windmill Restaurant 28 W 8th St

The classic downtown diner, open for lunch or dinner. Nothing is trendy, everything is comforting, and portions are generous. It feels like the kind of place that hasn't changed much in decades. **Local tip:** Order a cinnamon roll or the hashbrown omelet.

Asian Cuisine

Mizu Sushi 99 E 8th St

The default answer when someone asks where to get sushi in Holland. Consistently excellent rolls, both classic and creative, along with plenty of Japanese (and some Korean) non-sushi options. **Local tip:** Great when half your party wants sushi and half doesn't.

OI Asian Bistro 44 W 8th St

A broad pan-Asian menu spanning multiple cuisines, from ramen and rice bowls to stir-fries and Korean-inspired dishes. **Local tip:** One of the best options downtown for groups with varied tastes.

Mexican & Latin American

Mezkla Taqueria 19 W 8th St

One of downtown's most interesting success stories. What began as a popular food truck has evolved into a thriving brick-and-mortar restaurant serving authentic Mexican street food. Handmade gluten-free corn tortillas, excellent tacos, empanadas, street corn, and Mexican snacks anchor the menu. **Local tip:** Mezkla is where many locals send visitors looking for something uniquely Holland rather than another generic chain restaurant.