



**ACS** Local Section  
Puget Sound

**American Chemical Society- Puget Sound Section  
presents three informative sessions on**

## **Careers in Chemistry for Undergraduates**

**The events are recommended for all STEM undergraduates (not just chemistry students)**

- **Event 1: Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:30-6:30 PM - Dr. Mark Lonergan, “So you decided you want to be a graduate student in chemistry, what’s next?”**
- **Event 2: March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 5:30-6:30 PM – Panel discussion on Careers in Chemistry with a diverse panel representing various employment agencies in WA State**
- **Event 3: March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:30-6:30 PM– Nishanthi Perera, “Successful Approaches to Resumes, Cover Letters, Interviews, and LinkedIn”**

**Please register (free) for one or all three events to reserve your spot at**  
<https://forms.gle/cccdV8pTUUMYAEM37>

For more information: [bopegedd@evergreen.edu](mailto:bopegedd@evergreen.edu)

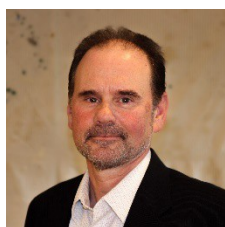
**Please see the next page for information on the presenters**

**Event 1 (Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021): Dr. Mark Lonergan, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Oregon. “So you decided you want to be a graduate student in chemistry, what’s next?”** – will highlight important factors students must consider to be successful when applying to graduate schools.

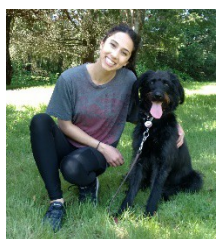


Dr. Lonergan grew up in the Pacific Northwest and attended the University of Oregon as an undergraduate and Northwestern University as a graduate student. After postdoctoral work at Caltech, he returned to Oregon as a faculty member in 1996, where he is now the Head of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. His research interests are in electrochemical systems for the interconversion of different forms of energy such as solar cells or ion pumps. He particularly enjoys teaching introductory chemistry courses and in the areas of electrochemistry and semiconductor device physics. Outside of chemistry, Mark enjoys martial arts, skiing, and camping with his family.

**Event 2 (March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021): Meet the panelists who will share what it is like to work as a chemist (scientist) in the real world and how you can successfully gain employment or secure internship opportunities.**



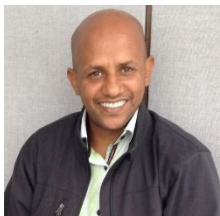
For the past nine years **Stuart Magoon** has served as an Assistant Division Manager with City of Tacoma’s Science and Engineering Division. He is responsible for the coordination and production of all analysis conducted at the Environmental Services Laboratory. He manages 16 staff in a highly technical, scientifically, and culturally diverse work environment. Stuart has over 30 years of experience in the environmental laboratory business in both the private and public sector. Prior to working at Tacoma Environmental Services laboratory Stuart worked at the State of Washington Department of Ecology for 24 years; for 13 of those years he served as the Laboratory Director. His laboratory experience spans the range of laboratory functions from bench level analytical work through quality assurance management, client project management, laboratory information management systems (LIMS) development, laboratory management and leadership. Stuart earned his BS in Chemistry from the University of Puget Sound.



**Wafa Tafesh**, Water Quality Planner at the King County Water and Land Resources Division, is a University of Washington graduate with a career focused in environmental public health and has experience in non-profit, private, and government sector work. Various projects include green stormwater infrastructure, disinfection and coliform compliance of public drinking water systems, and stormwater and hazardous waste management compliance. Currently, Wafa’s work includes water quality sampling, managing water quality data systems, and assisting with report writing with the Science and Technical Support Section within King County’s Water and Land Resources Division. She has been involved in various aspects of the hiring process at King County including subject matter expert reviews and as an interview panelist.



**Susannah Rowles**, Water Quality Planner/Project Manager (Lab Project Manager) started her career with the King County Environmental Lab as a chemist in the Trace Metals Department, analyzing a variety of water, soil and tissue samples in support of wastewater treatment plants and other monitoring programs throughout King County. After 16 years, she moved into Project Management. She coordinates with customers across the state to provide for their analytical needs in support of NPDES and Solid Waste Permits. She also serve on hiring panels, coordinate summer interns and serve as our Equity and Social Justice lead.



**Biniam Zelelow**, Industrial Wastewater Compliance Investigator, was born in Eritrea, East Africa and immigrated to the United States in 1995. He earned his BS and MS degrees in Chemistry from the University of Washington. After leaving UW, he worked at a local environmental lab as an analyst for mercury, arsenic, and selenium and speciation of these pollutants. After 4 years, he joined the Department of Ecology Air Quality Program, calibrating, maintaining, and repairing ambient air monitoring instruments deployed in a network of monitoring sites around the state. In 2013, he moved to the Water Quality Program and his duties were mainly writing and issuing water quality permits for industrial wastewater discharges. To further advance his career, he returned to UW on a part time basis and earned a master's in Environmental Engineering in 2017. After that he joined the King County (November 2019) Industrial Waste Program as a Compliance Investigator.



**Jeff Moore**, is the Manager of Facility Compliance at the North Creek (Bothell) Manufacturing site for Seattle Genetics. He earned his BS degree in Chemistry and Biology from Eastern Washington University. One of his first jobs out of college was an analytical chemist in the Quality Control lab at Bayer/Hollister-Stier in Spokane, WA. He has been a Career consultant for the American Chemical Society for over 12 years.

**Event 3 (March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021): Nishanthi Perera, Geotechnical Specialist, WA State Department of Transportation. “Successful Approaches to Resumes, Cover Letters, Interviews, and LinkedIn”** – will highlight how to be make a successful transition from college to the workplace



Nishanthi Perera is a geotechnical specialist working in the Foundation Design group at the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). She earned her BS degree in Geological Engineering from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and her MS degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado, Boulder. The most exciting part of her job is being able to engineer for different kinds of projects from small box culverts underneath obscure highways to I-90 Snoqualmie Pass embankments. As a recent graduate, she is experienced in seeking out employment and internships and has the job application process down to a science.



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