

Spring 2025 SBU Photochemistry Supergroup

The Department of Chemistry will host the third meeting of the SBU-BNL Photochemistry Supergroup in SAC Ballroom B on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 from 12–5:30 pm. Prior Supergroup meetings were held in the Department of Chemistry (November 1, 2023) and at Brookhaven National Lab's Division of Chemistry (April 30, 2024).

The SBU-BNL Photochemistry Supergroup was started as a way for researchers with an interest in the fundamental or applied aspects of photochemistry, across Departments, Centers, Institutes, and Divisions at both Stony Brook and BNL, to interact in a casual setting; the key goals of the Supergroup are to share research directions and ideas among researchers across a broad array of sub-disciplines to help seed collaborative solutions to solving problems, applying technologies, and conceiving of new research directions. Participating groups (faculty and trainees) draw from the Departments of Chemistry, Physics & Astronomy, Materials Science and Chemical Engineering, as well as the Institute for Advanced Computational Science and School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at SBU, as well as the Artificial Photosynthesis and Electron- & Photon-Induced Process Groups in the Division of Chemistry, the Soft & Bio Nanomaterials and Interface Science & Catalysis Groups in the Center for Functional Nanomaterials at Brookhaven National Lab. At the most recent (Spring 2024) Supergroup Meeting at BNL, the scope of attendees was expanded to include participants from CUNY (Queens College, Brooklyn College, the Graduate Center, and the Advanced Science Research Center). This positions the Supergroup, spearheaded by faculty at SBU, as burgeoning regional locus of photochemistry and photophysical research.

The format of the Photochemistry Supergroup is trainee-focused. Graduate student and/or postdoc trainees from participating groups are selected to deliver 15-minute talks, followed by a 5-minute Q&A to stimulate further discussion. Interspersed 20 minute coffee breaks allow for further discussion as a means of facilitating deeper connections. As participating groups hail from a diverse array of sub-disciplines – photocatalysis, spectroscopy, theory/computation, chemical biology, biophysics, materials, organic and inorganic chemistry, atmospheric chemistry – these sessions are designed to allow for effective cross-pollination of different perspectives.

Beginning with the Spring 2025 Supergroup, participation will be expanded to include attendees from across the CUNY system (newly including City Tech, Baruch, York, Staten Island, Queensborough CC, Manhattan CC, LaGuardia CC), various SUNY campuses (Old Westbury, Suffolk CC, Nassau CC), and other local Long Island PUIs (Adelphi, St John's). To accommodate this expanded scope, the event will include a lunch-time poster session. This will expand the number of trainee presenters from ~ 10 (all talks) to a target of ~ 40 (10 talks, 30 posters). The posters will be accessible during coffee breaks, facilitating further discussion during the course of the afternoon.

A successful expansion of scope and goals as planned for the Spring 2025 meeting is a critical step in enabling the Photochemistry Supergroup to further develop into a regional hub for all things photochemical/photophysical.