

Committee: Government Affairs

March 12, 11:00 am Eastern

Participating: Linda Olafsen, Josh Caldwell, Jen Nekuda Malik, Thomas Beechem, Nishit Mohan Murari, Colleen Scott, Chris Shuck, Joshua Young, Todd Osman, Danielle Boston, Glenn Ruskin, Judy Meiksin



Today's Agenda

1. Welcome Remarks – Linda
2. Recap of 2024 Federal Funding Webinars – Josh
3. 2024 -2025 MRS Congressional Fellow – Jen & Danielle
4. Washington Update – Capitol Hill & Administration – Glenn
5. 2024 CVD & FAS Activities – Linda, Josh, Glenn
6. Circular Economy Coalition – Todd
7. Updates – MRS Meeting Activities, Capitol Hill Briefing, etc.
8. Wrap-up & Next Meeting Date – Linda

Government Affairs Committee Chair Linda Olafsen opened the meeting.

Committee Roster Updates

Linda is working on appointing a Vice-Chair

Incoming GAC members:

Ilke Arslan and Dio Placencia rejoining after a hiatus period

Amit Sharma, new member

Recap of 2024 Federal Funding Webinars

Policy Volunteer Lead Josh Caldwell reported that 462 MRS attendees, mostly US, took part in the federal funding webinar series and rated it highly. Attendance was significantly higher compared to what in-person would have been.

2024 -2025 MRS Congressional Fellow

Congressional Fellow Lead Jen Nekuda Malik and MRS Member Engagement Manager Danielle Boston reported that Shriya Pai, the 2024 MRS/Optica Congressional Fellow, is the first non-US born Congressional Fellow chosen by MRS/Optica.

Washington Update – Capitol Hill & Administration

MRS Washington Principal Glenn Ruskin reported that stalemates continue to block the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations process. The first session of the 118th Congress has been the least functioning since the Great Depression and the 2024 legislative outlook remains bleak, especially with the upcoming presidential election.

Congress has passed 6 of the 12 appropriations bills through the end of the fiscal year in September 2024; the funding levels are below what was requested.

Six remaining appropriations bills need to be approved within the next 10 days.

The FY2025 Biden budget is \$7.1 trillion, of which only \$1.67 trillion is for discretionary spending.

The MRS Coalitions (Coalition for National Science Funding and the Energy Sciences Coalition) are preparing letters asking for \$11.9 billion for NSF and \$9.6 billion for DOE Office of Science.

The National Quantum Initiative Reauthorization Act passed the House Science, Space and Technology Committee with bipartisan support.

The AI and Critical Technology Workforce Framework Act of 2023 was introduced, directing NIST to play a pivotal role in shaping the workforce. MRS was added as a supporter of this legislation.

2024 Congressional Visits Day

June 4: Arrive at the hotel, prep meeting to review congressional asks and MRS leave-behinds. MRS Meeting Planner Brooke Baker is setting up the MRS hotel block for CVD participants. Rates are significantly lower (approx.\$250/night compared to \$400/night) in the MRS-discounted block.

June 5 Congressional Visits and Debrief

Action Item: Danielle will send emails to update the participants.

Confirmed MRS Participants:

1. Ilke Arslan
2. Josh Caldwell
3. Amanda Koh
4. Nishit Murari
5. Linda Olafsen
6. Steve Smith
7. Joshua Young
8. Looking for 1 more MRS Member

MRS Staff

Glenn Ruskin, MRS Government Affairs Principal

Todd Osman, MRS Executive Director

The Executive Director and President of the Electrochemical Society are interested in learning how MRS conducts its advocacy efforts and will join us for CVD.

1. Christopher Jannuzzi, ECS Executive Director
2. Gerardine Botte, ECS President

Microsoft will be exhibiting and sponsoring at S24 and has a representative on the AI forum. Todd may pull GAC members in for a quick chat or to visit the Microsoft Exhibit Booth. Cross-pollination among GAC, Focus on Sustainability Subcommittee and the AI Staging Group will make the CVD experience better-informed by knowing what companies are involved in these areas.

CVD Materials Success Stories Leave-Behinds

Judy Meiksin, *MRS Bulletin* Managing and Content Editor, would like to have a core group of GAC volunteers who can gather information to re-cast for congressional staff members. MRS has a lot of information from the journals, including graphics and copyright, which GAC members can whittle down from a *Bulletin* article to a one-pager. Judy will send articles to GAC and set deadlines.

Additional Materials Success stories to adapt from *MRS Bulletin* articles into leave-behinds include:

Microelectronic packaging	Thomas Beechem
New materials for semiconductors	Babu Chalamala
Batteries	Nishit Mohan Murari
AI and Machine learning	Joshua Young

Todd wants to identify areas in advance and develop the content for science policy news. The articles will be submitted to Judy, copying Linda and Josh Caldwell. An MRS volunteer can re-cast it. Glenn can review it as a one-pager advocacy piece.

Pointers for presentation on Capitol Hill:

- Double down on funding the CHIPS & Science Act to keep the US competitive.
- Identify government funding source--Try to make a direct connection between the funding and how that funding is allowing your research at your place of employment.

Linda pointed out that when a senator or representative has an interest in a topic that's researched in the geographic area they represent, they develop a much stronger interest in supporting that research.

Judy can call upon graduate students in the MRS writing program who will connect with GAC members when they need people to interview after the pages are finalized.

Federal Agency Summit June 6, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

The Summit will focus on exploring progress being made pursuant to the CHIPS & Science Act in establishing the US as a research/manufacturing leader in semiconductors.

Invited Federal Participants:

Jay Lewis, CHIPS for America & Director, National Semiconductor Technology Center

Germano Iannacchione/NSF Director, Division of Materials Research, NSF

Barry Johnson/NSF, Director, Division of Translational Impacts, Technology, Innovation & Partnership Directorate

Andrew Schwartz/DOE, Director, Division for Materials Science & Engineering

Bindhu Nair/DoD, Director, Office of Basic Research

Antti Makinen/Navy, Office of Naval Research

Kenneth Caster and/or Bennett Ibey/Air Force, Air Force Office of Scientific Research

David Stepp/Army, Chief, Materials Research Division, Army Research Office

David Rampulla/NIH-NIBIB, Director, Division of Discovery and Technology,

Stephanie Hooker/NIST, Director, Materials Measurement Laboratory

MRS Representatives – Linda Olafsen; Josh Caldwell, Todd Osman, Glenn Ruskin

Circular Economy Coalition

Former MRS Government Affairs Director Damon Dozier presented this opportunity to join the coalition to advance a more circular economy with net greenhouse emissions by 2050.

What is CEC?

- A nonpartisan effort to promote sustainability
- Just starting now, but has connections to some international groups, five corporations, some municipalities, solid waste and environmentalist program
- Offers affiliate member status at no charge to MRS
- Focus: Education, Awareness, Advocacy
- Purpose: Asking MRS to provide scholarly research, facts, data.

Todd asked for feedback before GAC decides whether to join CES.

Support for Engaging with CEC:

Two points to consider:

- 1) Todd will verify that there's no cost to MRS.
- 2) Does this align with MRS advocacy and focus?

Action Item: If yes, Todd will speak with FoS so their volunteers will engage with GAC in MRS advocacy.

Although CEC is small, they're connected to industry and are in discussions with trade organizations. CEC tenets are consistent with the MRS portfolio.

- Josh Caldwell sees alignment with the MRS mission. Depending on how much is materials focus versus a business model, MRS can contribute.
- Affirming that CEC is focused on science and technology rather than politics, has a materials focus, and is at a level MRS can pilot, Linda sees this as a positive.
- Glenn sees the strength in joining another group with aligned interests to make an impact.

MRS gains CEC connections and experience in advocacy that can expedite connections for GAC and enhance energy engagement for MRS.

CEC gains technological significance through MRS alignment when advocating their issues.

Action Item: GAC approved Todd contacting FoS before or at S24 regarding CEC engagement and reporting back at the May 21 GAC meeting.

GAC Advocacy Resources

Member Engagement Manager Danielle Boston directed attention to the updated GAC Resources Page at <https://www.mrs.org/advocacy-policy/resources> where science policy articles and MRS Presents Funding Webinars are available.

Action Item: Danielle and Judy will cross-reference *MRS Bulletin* science policy articles to this page.

Upcoming Activities

MRS Spring Meeting Session – Material Needs for Energy Sustainability by 2050: AI-assisted Materials Development for a Sustainable Future April 25th; 5:30 PM

Danielle encouraged any GAC members attending the Spring Meeting to attend this panel session that has industry representatives from Microsoft & IBM and also a representative from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

MRS Fall Meeting Session – Future Opportunities for Microelectronics- Federal Agencies & MRS Members Discussion (Date & Time TBD)

GAC leadership is awaiting feedback from Dr. Bindu Nair, who wants MRS to bring together federal agency heads, funding reps, and MRS members from the microelectronic packaging field to explore future opportunities to bring new things into use.

GAC members approved proceeding with the event provided that the MRS focus of the topic is confirmed and funding is provided.

MRS/ACS Capitol Hill Briefing

CHIPS & Science Act Focus – Materials Science Breakthroughs in Microelectronics – (3rd Quarter - Date & Time TBD)

Goal of the briefing will be to share with attendees how Congressional support and funding for R&D programs, like CHIPS and the Science Act, translates into real world breakthroughs drives US economic growth, job creation and sustains our global competitiveness.

GAC attendance at S24: Thomas Beecham, Josh Caldwell
Paula will contact other GAC members regarding onsite attendance at S24.