

Vision Statement – 2026 CRS Director-At-Large

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CRS was the first international scientific conference I ever attended as a PhD student in 2006, and I still remember how inspiring it felt to be surrounded by scientists who were not just advancing their own work but shaping an entire field. That experience defined how I think about community, mentorship, and innovation. My vision as a CRS Director-At-Large is to keep CRS that kind of place, where discovery happens through connection, and where bold ideas are met with curiosity and collaboration.

Over the years, I have been fortunate to serve CRS in many roles: as Social Media Director for the Gene and Drug Delivery and Editing Focus Group (2019-2021), Director of Poster Judging, and a member of the Annual Meeting Program Committee (AMPC) in both 2024 (Bologna) and 2025 (Philadelphia). I also served on the CRS Awards Committees for the Best Thesis Award (2024/2025), the Young Investigator Award (2023/2024), chaired numerous sessions at the Annual Meetings, experiences that deepened my appreciation for the talent and creativity that define our community. Notably, I worked with the 2025 AMPC Chair to introduce Poster Bingo to make poster sessions more interactive and fun, and to spark meaningful interactions between poster presenters and attendees - an initiative that received enthusiastic feedback from the CRS community.

Mentorship is especially close to my heart. Over the years, I have given YSC talks on attracting funding and building a research career, and serving as a CRS Luminary has been one of the most meaningful honors of my career. Having earned my PhD in Germany, worked in industry at GlaxoSmithKline in England, and now leading my lab in the U.S. since 2013, I have seen how much innovation comes from bringing people together across countries, disciplines, and viewpoints. If elected, I would work with the YSC to expand structured mentorship pathways, strengthen global connectivity, and build stronger industry and academic translational bridges. The YSC already does so much to support young scientists, and I am excited about the chance to contribute to that momentum. Translation takes many forms, and academic researchers play a central role in turning discoveries into real-world impact. Many young scientists are curious about the full range of career paths available to them. I would love to help create more touchpoints with biotech and pharma through short project internships and also support academic translation through workshops on technology transfer and conversations who have built translational programs within universities. These experiences can broaden perspectives and help young researchers see the many ways they can make a difference.

As a CRS Fellow, Executive Editor of *Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews*, and Editorial Board member and guest editor for the *Journal of Controlled Release*, I see our field entering a new phase where nanocarriers, biologics, and living therapeutics increasingly converge. Nanocarriers remain central in this landscape, not just as delivery vehicles, but as programmable, multifunctional platforms that enable biologics and even engineered microbes to reach their full potential. For both ADDR and JCR, I am curating Special Issues on “Live Biotherapeutics and Living Drug Carriers,” reflecting how rapidly these modalities are advancing and how they will redefine delivery science. CRS should not simply follow these shifts; it should help lead them.

If elected as a Member of the CRS Director-At-Large, I will focus on supporting CRS’s ongoing efforts to stay innovative, inclusive, and globally connected, a community where people and ideas come together to shape the future of delivery science. CRS was where my journey began, and I want to help ensure it remains a source of inspiration for the next generation of scientists.