

**Nominee for Director at Large, Controlled Release Society**  
**Vision and Goals**  
**Yunching (Becky) Chen**

The Controlled Release Society (CRS) stands at an important moment in the evolution of delivery science. As advances in nanomedicine, biologics, nucleic acid therapeutics, and translational immunotherapy accelerate globally, CRS must continue to serve not only as a scientific forum, but as an integrated platform that connects research, mentorship, and international collaboration. My vision as Director at Large is to help strengthen CRS as a globally coordinated, inclusive, and strategically aligned society—one that operates cohesively across regions, research communities, and chapters throughout the year.

**Strengthening International Engagement**

A central priority will be deepening international engagement through sustained cross-regional collaboration. Having worked extensively with international chapters, I believe CRS can move beyond geographically parallel activities toward coordinated global programming. I would actively facilitate co-organized local chapter meetings—both virtual and in-person—built around shared scientific themes and jointly developed by chapters across Asia, Europe, and the Americas. These collaborations should not be occasional but structured and recurring, supported by clear communication channels among chapter leaders.

In particular, I aim to further strengthen CRS engagement across Asia by expanding the visibility of Asian scientific contributions within CRS programming, supporting leadership development in emerging chapters, and enhancing integration between Asian chapters and the broader CRS network. Given the rapid growth of delivery science in Asia, CRS is uniquely positioned to serve as a bridge connecting Asian innovation with global collaboration.

**Enhancing Synergy Between CRS and Pharmaceutical Journals**

Prestigious pharmaceutical and drug delivery journals play a defining role in shaping the direction of delivery science. As Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Controlled Release, Guest Editor of Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews, and Editorial Board member of Drug Delivery and Translational Research, I have seen how editorial leadership and society programming can mutually reinforce one another.

As Director at Large, I would work to facilitate closer alignment between CRS activities and its publication platforms. This could include encouraging thematic CRS sessions aligned with emerging areas highlighted in CRS-related journals, organizing interactive panels that facilitate exchange between journal editors and CRS members, and promoting collaborative initiatives that connect journal leadership with focus groups and global local chapters. By strengthening this ecosystem, CRS can offer members a coherent pathway from scientific exchange and global collaboration to scholarly impact and professional visibility.

## Institutionalizing Diversity, Equity, and Leadership Development

Diversity, equity, and inclusion must be embedded structurally within CRS leadership and programming. This includes systematically identifying and nominating emerging leaders across regions, broadening opportunities for early-career investigators and members from underrepresented communities to serve as speakers, session chairs, and committee contributors, and expanding mentorship models that integrate academic, industrial, clinical, and regulatory perspectives. Enhancing the onboarding experience for first-time attendees and new members through structured Young Investigator and networking opportunities can further improve long-term engagement and retention, ensuring that CRS remains welcoming and accessible across career stages.

Finally, CRS should continue extending its value beyond the annual meeting through sustained year-round engagement. By aligning international chapters, focus groups, journals, and translational dialogue, CRS can function as a continuously active global network and maintain momentum throughout the calendar year.

My leadership approach is centered on connecting people and supporting systems that enable sustainable progress. If elected Director at Large, I would work collaboratively with the Board, chapters, and focus groups to help implement practical strategies that strengthen international coordination and support excellence across the global CRS community. CRS has shaped the field of delivery science for decades, and I would be honored to contribute to its continued growth and impact.



“Together We Go Far” CRS 2025 Annual Meeting – Local Chapter Gathering (Philadelphia)