

Dear Colleagues,

We hope you are as excited as we are about the upcoming 79th Gaseous Electronics Conference (GEC). The 2026 GEC will be held from November 2 - 6, 2026 at the Hilton Chicago, Chicago, joint with the APS Division of Plasma Physics (DPP), providing an exceptional opportunity for members of the low-temperature plasma and broader plasma physics communities to interact, exchange ideas, and build new collaborations.

Based on the abstracts received, a scientifically rigorous program has been put together consisting of 3 Workshops on Monday, 4 concurrent oral sessions on Tuesday - Friday, and 2 poster sessions (Tuesday and Wednesday). The full 2026 GEC program can now be found at the GEC 2026 Schedule Website, <https://www.apsgec.org/gec2026/>.

GEC Registration: Registration for the 79th GEC is now open. Registration details can be found on the GEC website at <https://www.apsgec.org/gec2026/registration.php>. Early registration rates are available until September 25, 2026. When you register, please remember to sign up for the workshops and other special events. In addition, we look forward to seeing you at the banquet, which will be held at the Conference hotel, Hilton Chicago.

One of the highlights of every GEC is the **GEC Student Award for Excellence**, a long-standing tradition recognizing outstanding student research contributions. Following a highly competitive selection process, the students listed below, in alphabetical order, have been selected as finalists for the 2026 Student Award for Excellence. We encourage all conference participants to attend their presentations and support these outstanding young researchers. The winner of the 2026 GEC Student Award for Excellence will be announced during the banquet on Thursday, November 5, 2026.

- Jean-Baptiste Billeau
- Jiandong Chen
- Geon Hwi Kim
- Ryan Park
- Sean Peyres

GEC Student Poster Prize: The GEC is accepting nominations for the student poster prize. The deadline for nominations is October 16, 2026. Three student posters will be selected and recognized during the banquet. To be eligible for the award the student must present a poster as first author, and register for the poster judging before the application deadline.

Will Allis Prize Talk: A special highlight of this year will be the 2026 Will Allis Prize Talk, which will be delivered by Professor Mounir Laroussi, Professor Emeritus at Old Dominion University. Professor Laroussi is being recognized for his seminal contributions to the physics and diagnostics of low-temperature plasma jets and guided ionization waves, as

well as for pioneering research on their biomedical applications. The Will Allis Prize for the Study of Ionized Gases remains one of the highest honors in our community, and we gratefully acknowledge the support of Intel Corporation, Lam Research, and Micron Technology, Inc., whose generosity enables to award this prestigious prize annually.

Invited Talks: The conference will also feature an outstanding lineup of invited speakers representing a broad range of topics in plasma science, plasma technology, and atomic and molecular collision physics. The complete list of invited speakers is available at https://www.apsgec.org/gec2026/invited_speakers.php

2027 GEC Invited Speaker Nomination: The selection of GEC invited speakers is strongly influenced by nominations submitted by the GEC community. Nominations are now being accepted for the 2027 GEC invited speakers. Please use the form at the 2026 GEC Invited Speaker Nomination webpage (https://www.apsgec.org/gec2026/invited_speakers.php) to nominate your favorite speakers for the 2027 GEC.

Workshops: The 2026 GEC will begin with 3 workshops on Monday. A list of confirmed workshop speakers and presentation topics can be found on the GEC 2026 Workshops website. The workshop topics are:

- Physics and Applications of ExB Plasmas Workshop (Session Chair: Andrei Smolyakov, University of Saskatchewan)
- Plasma Surface Interactions in Low Temperature Plasmas (Session Chair: David Ruzic, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
- AI/ML for Modeling Plasma and Plasma-Surface Interactions (Session Chair: Ali Mesbah, University of California, Berkeley)

Special Events: The 2026 GEC will feature the following networking and special events:

- Banquet and award ceremony
- Women in Science luncheon
- GEC Student Award for Excellence
- GEC Student Poster Award
- Student Networking forum

Please see the 2026 GEC website (<https://www.apsgec.org/gec2026/index.php>) for details about these events.

The GEC has always been a forum where new ideas are exchanged, collaborations are formed, and the future directions of our field are discussed. We are looking forward to an outstanding week of science and community engagement, and we hope you will join us in Chicago this November.

We look forward to welcoming you to Chicago!

Sincerely,

GEC Chair, Mark Koepke, chair@apsgec.org

GEC Chair-elect, Trevor Lafleur, t.lafleur@unsw.edu.au

GEC Secretary, Davide Curreli, dcurreli@illinois.edu