

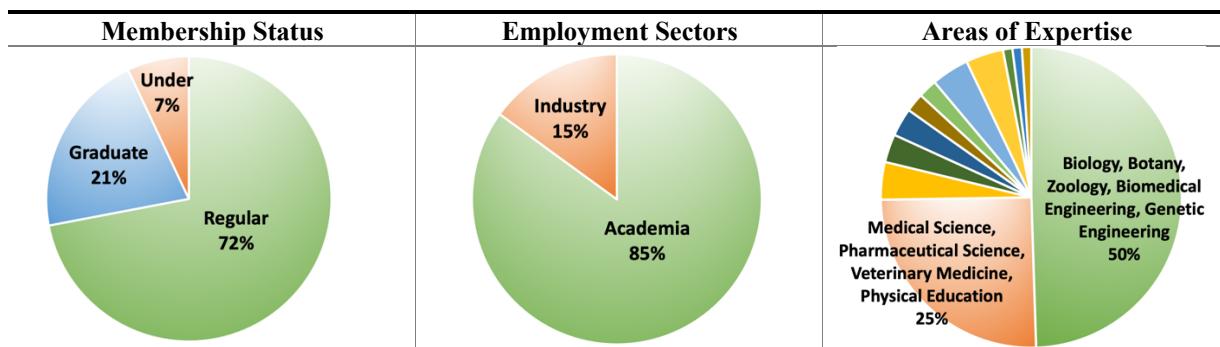
# New York Metropolitan Chapter

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Reviewed by Sung-Kwon Kang, Myung Jong Lee, Jeong Seop Shim, and Sae Woong Park

## Introduction

The New York Metropolitan (NY Metro) Chapter was founded in 1977, five years after the KSEA was founded. 52 scientists and engineers attended the inaugural meeting at SamBogJeong Korean restaurant in Manhattan, NY on March 5, 1977. During the last 50 years, the chapter has grown to be the most active and the largest chapter of the KSEA, with more than 300 members ranging from college students to senior scientists and engineers and experts in diverse fields as shown in the below graph. The first chapter president was late Dr. Chong Whan Kim who worked at Schering at that time. The Council consisted of 10 councilors at the beginning and later expanded to have 22-27. The chapter gave birth to five KSEA Headquarters (HQ) presidents as of 2021; namely, Drs. Chin Ok Lee (1989-1990), Sung-Kwon Kang (2006-2007), Kang-Wook Lee (2008-2009), Myung Jong Lee (2013-2014), and K. Stephen Suh (2018-2019). The chapter has been collaborating with a variety of organizations and local communities based on the New York Metropolitan area, including the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in New York, Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) New York, New York Korean Biologists (NYKB), Korean American Society in Biotech and Pharmaceuticals (KASBP), Korean-American Innovative Technology Engineers and Entrepreneurs (KITEE), and Korean-American Women in Science and Engineering (KWiSE).



These graphs show the distribution of our chapter members in terms of membership status, employment, and expertise as of 2021.

## List of Former Chapter Presidents (CPs)

Term	Name	Term	Name	Term	Name
1 <sup>st</sup>	Chong Whan Kim	17 <sup>th</sup>	Byung Joon Han	33 <sup>rd</sup>	Seongwon Kim
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jong Jin Lim	18 <sup>th</sup>	Yeon Tae Jung	34 <sup>th</sup>	SeungHyuk Shin
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Induk D. Moon	19 <sup>th</sup>	Myung Jong Lee	35 <sup>th</sup>	Il Park
4 <sup>th</sup>	Menger Chung	20 <sup>th</sup>	Kang-Wook Lee	36 <sup>th</sup>	Seongjoo Jang
5 <sup>th</sup>	Chin Ok Lee	21 <sup>st</sup>	Ki Won Lee	37 <sup>th</sup>	Jun Ho Shin
6 <sup>th</sup>	Sung-Kwon Kang	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Seung Pil Kim	38 <sup>th</sup>	Bongjun Ko
7 <sup>th</sup>	Je Chul Kim	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Daniel Yu	39 <sup>th</sup>	Grace Park

8 <sup>th</sup>	Ho Sam Ahn	24 <sup>th</sup>	Jong-Deok Choi	40 <sup>th</sup>	K. Stephen Suh
9 <sup>th*</sup>	Jong Won Lee	25 <sup>th</sup>	Seong In Kim	41 <sup>st</sup>	Sae Woong Park
10 <sup>th*</sup>	Change Rae Lee	26 <sup>th</sup>	Hyun Park	42 <sup>nd</sup>	Eon Soo Lee
11 <sup>th</sup>	Soon Mok Kang	27 <sup>th</sup>	Young Lok Kim	43 <sup>rd</sup>	Min Suk Kang
12 <sup>th</sup>	Dong Joon Lee	28 <sup>th</sup>	Kang-Ill Choe	44 <sup>th</sup>	Ohbong Kwon
13 <sup>th</sup>	Hoon Ahn	29 <sup>th</sup>	Sunghoon Kim	45 <sup>th</sup>	Ju-Hyun Lee
14 <sup>th</sup>	Dae Suk Song	30 <sup>th</sup>	Sunghoon Choi	46 <sup>th</sup>	Eunju Im
15 <sup>th</sup>	Sang-Keun Park	31 <sup>st</sup>	Jeong Seop Shim		
16 <sup>th</sup>	Tea-Sam Yoo	32 <sup>nd</sup>	Sung Hyuk Cha		

\*The 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> CPs served the 9<sup>th</sup> admin as the 9<sup>th</sup> CP left the town in the middle of the 9<sup>th</sup> admin. Thus the 11<sup>th</sup> CP served the 10<sup>th</sup> admin and the 46<sup>th</sup> CP is serving the 45<sup>th</sup> admin.

## Major Chapter Activities

### 1. KSEA NY Metro Math & Science Olympiad (KMSO)

Since 1994, the NY Metro chapter has been hosting KMSO, the annual competition for the second generation Korean-American and non-ethnic Korean students in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades residing in the New York Metropolitan area, to promote science and mathematics for the young generation. The additional objectives are (i) to promote and nurture the curious young minds in their pursuit of challenges, (ii) to help them discover the joy of science and mathematics, (iii) to provide mentoring and sense of community, and (iv) to serve the Korean-American Community. In addition to a math exam, a student typically participates in his or her choice of a science competition out of a written exam, an experiment, a student-parents collaborative project, and a research poster presentation, depending on his or her interest, level, and age. A parents program has been always offered in a form of invited speeches and/or panel discussions to share experiences, knowledges, and career paths in the STEM field for their children. This KMSO history is elaborated in a separate section of the KSEA History.



26<sup>th</sup> KMSO: Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 @SJU

### 2. Northeast Regional Conference (NRC)

In 1988-1991, the NY Metro chapter organized its first technical and career symposiums while the neighboring chapters of New Jersey, Lehigh Valley and Philadelphia held their first regional conference in 1988. In 1992, the four chapters had jointly organized a conference which was named “The 3<sup>rd</sup> Northeast Regional Conference (NRC)”, the abbreviation of which was made “NRC” in 1995 when it was expanded to a 2-day event. From 2005 to 2015, the three organizations of NY Metro, NJ, and KASBP co-hosted it. Since 2016, three chapters (NY



28<sup>th</sup> NRC: Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 @Montclair State Univ.

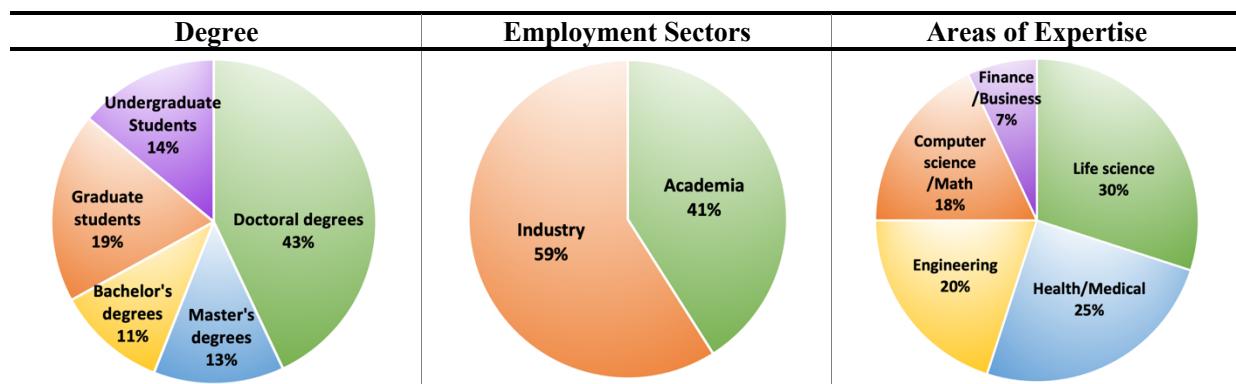
Metro, NJ, and Philadelphia) have co-organized it. This conference offers a community space for KSEA members to present their research finding and exchange research ideas as well as to promote interdisciplinary collaborations. The program covered a variety of fields including IT, engineering, biotechnology, as well as entrepreneurship. For the young generation (graduate students and young professionals) and the women members, their own career and networking sessions were organized by themselves. The NRC has also contributed greatly to the advancement of research and development in both the US and Korea. In addition, the NRC has provided an opportunity for members and other experts to establish professional networks, as well as to explore career opportunities. This NRC history is elaborated in a separate section of the KSEA History.

### 3. Young Scientists' Night (YSN)

YSN is an annual networking event to promote young generation professionals and students in the greater NYC area to meet with a diverse group of like-minded intellectuals across different disciplines and age-groups. The program consists of cocktail hour, dinner, short presentations and networking sessions. Many attendees are composed of undergraduates, graduates, as well as professionals in the field of academia, pharmaceuticals, consulting, IT, and others as shown in the below graph. Through the event many new members have joined the NY Metro chapter.



*3<sup>rd</sup> YSN: Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @KAAGNY*



*These graphs show the degrees, the employment sectors, and the expertise of the YSN participants as of 2019.*

### 4. Annual Fall Picnic

Fall picnic with undergraduate and graduate students started in 1981 under the leadership of the 6<sup>th</sup> CP Dr. Sung-Kwon Kang. It served as a good networking opportunity among regular members, students and young professionals. At this fall picnic, many regular and student members and their families and friends had

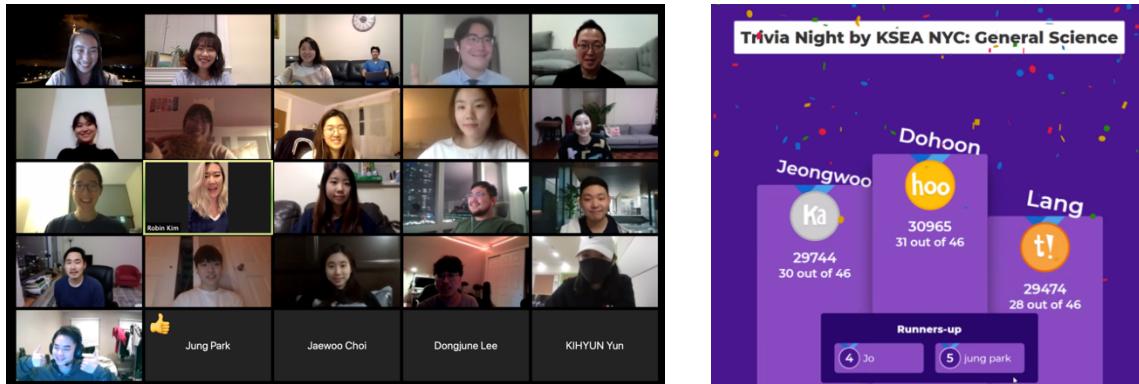


*Fall picnic: Sep. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @Rockland Lake State Park*

gathered together in NY or NJ parks to enjoy BBQ and a variety of games and sports like soccer, baseball and volleyball often in a form of group competition. Networking and friendship were promoted. This activity had been held for 36 years from the 6<sup>th</sup> admin (1981-1982) to the 41<sup>st</sup> admin (2016-2017).

## 5. Trivia Night

The Trivia Night is planned to promote fellowship among members and to invite potential new members especially when in-person meeting is not possible due to the pandemic. Through the event, many existing members renewed their membership, and the invited friends joined the KSEA membership. The trivia night has been held with regular cadence with different topic such as General Science, Chemistry, Physics, and Biology.



*1<sup>st</sup> Trivia Night: Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (Left) Group photo (Right) Winners of the 1<sup>st</sup> Trivia Night*

## 6. Publication of Newsletters, Lunar New Year Party and Annual Award Banquet

Newsletters had been published as hard copies for 23 years from the 1<sup>st</sup> term (1976-1977) to the 23<sup>rd</sup> term (1998-1999). A typical issue included activity reports and annual plans with photos, member news, list of officers and councilors, Bylaws and Rules, essays, and/or member addresses.



*(Right) Probably the last hard copy of NY Metro Newsletters published in Dec 1998; (Left) 1995 Annual Award Banquet (9 out of the 10 members here are former CPs)*

The Lunar New Year Party is one of the first chapter activities in which members and their spouses participated. From 1992 (16<sup>th</sup> term) an annual award was given to a member with an excellent career and outstanding contribution to the Chapter. The name of this award and social activity had been changed to

“Annual Award Banquet” from 1995 (19<sup>th</sup> admin). To further formalize the award, an annual award guideline was established. The annual awards were given from 1992 to early 2000’s and then discontinued as the KSEA HQ awards were formalized. When Dr. Sung-Kwon Kang was the HQ VP in 1999-2000, he has proposed the current award system at the 28<sup>th</sup> HQ Council meeting to establish the KSEA Award system.

## **Summary**

### **1. Chapter Status in the Headquarters (HQ) Level**

For the last 40 years, the NY Metro chapter has been the largest and most active chapter among all KSEA chapters in terms of the number of due-paid members and the quality/quantity of activities. KMSO, NRC, fall picnic, YSN, a harmonious relationship with NYKB, the sound & consistent governing structure, and a long and good tradition are believed to the factors why the chapter has been successful and active year-after-year without a year of exception.

### **2. New York Korean Biologists (NYKB)**

NYKB (a KSEA Affiliated Professional Society) and NY Metro chapter have been the most symbiotic partners since 2008. The relationship has been mutually beneficial and helpful. KSEA HQ also helped NYKB’s fund-raising to organize and hold its first annual conference in early 2009 and the subsequent conferences. KSEA and NY Metro chapter have invited the Presidents of NYKB to their council meetings. Recently, many NYKB presidents became the presidents of NY Metro chapter. The large membership of NYKB has been a significant factor such that the NY Metro chapter could have maintained the status of the largest super chapter.

### **3. Chapter’s Contribution to KSEA HQ Activities**

- a. **Award System:** The chapter’s successful annual award and its system in the 1990’s was the key idea that the HQ adopted to establish the current award system, mostly thanks to Dr. Sung-Kwon Kang’s efforts when he was a VP. Dr. Kang was also involved in upgrading the award-related policies when he was the chair of the Honors and Awards Committee.
- b. **NMSC:** The huge success in KMSO in the 1990’s was the motivation for the HQ to start its NMC (National Math Competition) in 2002. The NMC was expanded to the current NMSC in 2007 when Dr. Sung-Kwon Kang was the President and Dr. Kang-Wook Lee was the VP and Chair of the NMSC with the dedicated help of NY Metro members such as Dr. Jeong Seop Shim. Most other chapters also adopted the NY Metro’s format by including a parents program.
- c. **YGLF (Ygnite):** The NRC had successfully launched and continued YG programs from 1996 to 1998 with 60-150 YG participants and 14 technical posters were presented in 1997. A few NY Metro members were part of the key organizers. KUSCO granted \$5,000 for the 1997 YG program upon evaluating a hand-written proposal which was prepared by Dr. Kang-Wook Lee while traveling (in the age of no portable computers). This grant was the KUSCO’s first support for any YG activity in their history. In 1998, KSEA HQ (President Kyong Chul Chun) with Dr. Kang-Wook Lee’s help submitted a proposal of a similar YG activity to KUSCO. Since then, KUSCO decided to support only the KSEA HQ with a larger fund. This move made HQ’s YG activities possible in 1999 which was called YG Leadership Forum (YGLF). YGLF was further developed to YGTL (YG Technical Leadership Conference) in 2005.