

Joseph A. Romo

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EDUCATION

[Macalester College](#), Saint Paul, MN

May 2018

Major: Chemistry

Honors: Catharine Lealtad Scholarship

Thesis title: Self-assembly of pentameric macrocycles through alkene metathesis of bis(4-vinylbenzene)methyl derivatives

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

[The Cao Lab](#)—[Macalester College](#), Saint Paul, MN

April 2016 – May 2018

Research Assistant

- Employ alkene metathesis to produce porous molecules valuable for encapsulation and adsorption applications
- Prepare analytical samples, perform characterization analysis, and interpret results for molecules of interest
- Devised a cost-effective method to quantify hydrogen production during evolution experiments
- Communicated research to others by attending conferences and poster presentations
- Presented findings at the Organic Chemistry Division of the 255th American Chemical Society National Meeting
- Starting to prepare a research manuscript for an eventual publication

[Groupe GOBS](#)—[Université Pierre et Marie Curie - Paris 6](#), Paris, France

May 2017 – August 2017

Research Assistant, National Science Foundation [REU](#)

- Conducted study on the selective deprotection of benzylated cyclodextrins to access novel functionalization
- Synthesized molecules suitable for use as ligands in metal-catalysis and for improving chiral HPLC discrimination
- Prepared analytical samples, perform characterization analysis, and interpret data of cyclodextrin derivatives
- Communicated professionally with colleagues and prepare media for presentations
- Submitted abstract to present at the Chemical Education Division of the 255th ACS National Meeting

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

[Axalta Coating Systems](#)—[NA Industrial Wood Coatings](#), Minneapolis, MN

June 2018 – Present

Associate Chemist (June 2018 – January 2019)

Scientist (January 2019 – Present)

- R&D for high performance waterborne coating technologies for exterior wood and composite building materials
- Lead and assist in formulation and technical development projects according to objectives and timelines
- Responsible for providing technical guidance to manufacturing plants to ensure products are within specification
- Aid technical field support and troubleshoot equipment at customer facilities
- Analyze experimental data through statistical methods and create efficient design of experiments (DoE)
- Communicate effectively and build rapport within the organization, with customers, and prospective clients
- Managed the inventory and procurement of indirect goods and services for the R&D lab through SAP Ariba

[PreemPrice.Com LLC](#), Holtsville, NY

September 2010 – Present

Chief Executive Officer, Co-Founder

- Designed, developed, and marketed own product line of mobile accessories that yielded a 1600% ROI in one year
- Manage business records and prepare quarterly reports to comply with state and government requirements
- Maintain a successful eCommerce storefront and process customer orders

[Macalester Information Technology Services](#), Saint Paul, MN

September 2014 – February 2017

Help Desk Associate – Tier II

- Provided technical support for College and student-owned computer technology
- Assisted in answering phone calls, emails, and web chats from faculty, staff, and students

SELECTED CONFERENCES AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

The Assembly of Carbon Macrocycles through Alkene Metathesis

Joseph A. Romo, [Dennis D. Cao](#)*

- Senior Thesis Presentation, *Macalester College, Saint Paul, MN* April 25, 2018
- MAS Winchell Undergraduate Research Symposium, University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul, MN April 21, 2018
- 255th American Chemical Society National Meeting, New Orleans, LA March 19-20, 2018
- Macalester Summer Research Poster Fair, *Macalester College, Saint Paul, MN* October 6, 2017
- MAS Winchell Undergraduate Research Symposium, Macalester College, Saint Paul, MN April 22, 2017
- MCMS Undergraduate Research Symposium, Washington University, Saint Louis, MO November 4-5, 2016
- Macalester College SRO Poster Session, Macalester College, Saint Paul, MN October 7, 2016
- ACTC Chemistry Summer Symposium, Bethel University, Saint Paul, MN July 20, 2016

Selective Functionalization of the Primary Rim of Alpha-Cyclodextrin for Practical Applications,

Joseph A. Romo, [Olivia Bistri](#), [Matthieu Sollogoub](#)*

- 255th American Chemical Society National Meeting, New Orleans, LA March 19-20, 2018

NOTABLE HONORS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Judge's Choice Award for Best Poster and Presentation April 21, 2018
Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Rank April 14, 2014
Principal's Award of Excellence in Scientific Research 2010 – 2014

1. Played key role in the commercialization success of "Axalta Unrivaled" prefinish platform (~\$12MM in annual sales)
2. Identified and implemented a formulation change that saves Axalta \$120K in annual raw material costs

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Coatings Association • American Chemical Society

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

Macalester College, Saint Paul, MN February 2017 – May 2018

MacWeekly Mobile App Development Team (October 2017 to May 2018)

- Contributed to designing UI and UX for iOS and Android mobile apps of Macalester College's community paper

Macalester College Student Government (February 2017 to May 2018)

- Ran a close race for student government office as Junior Class Representative
- Worked with College administration and student government to demand the 3rd party campus foodservice company to be more transparent about their pricing structures and operational practices.

Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center, Saint Paul, MN

September 2016 – May 2018

Volunteer

- Designed and led interactive chemistry activities to teach chemical concepts and principles to underserved youth

SUMMARY OF SKILLS

Lab: Experienced with synthetic organic chemistry techniques, formulation of waterborne coating systems, as well as color theory, color matching and CIELAB and CMC color spaces. Familiar with ASTM methods for coatings testing

Instruments: NMR, GC-MS, ESI-MS, FT-IR, UV-Vis, CombiFlash®Rf, and Brookfield Viscometers

Computer: Advanced experience with ChemDraw, MestReNova, Spartan, TopSpin, DataColor®, and MS Office; Familiar with Mathematica, Minitab, SAP® ERP, RStudio, Java, C++, and HTML/CSS

Language: Native speaker of English and Spanish; proficient in French

Relevant Coursework: Advanced Organic Chemistry, Polymer Chemistry, Applied Multivariable Calculus I-III, Linear Algebra, and Statistical Modeling