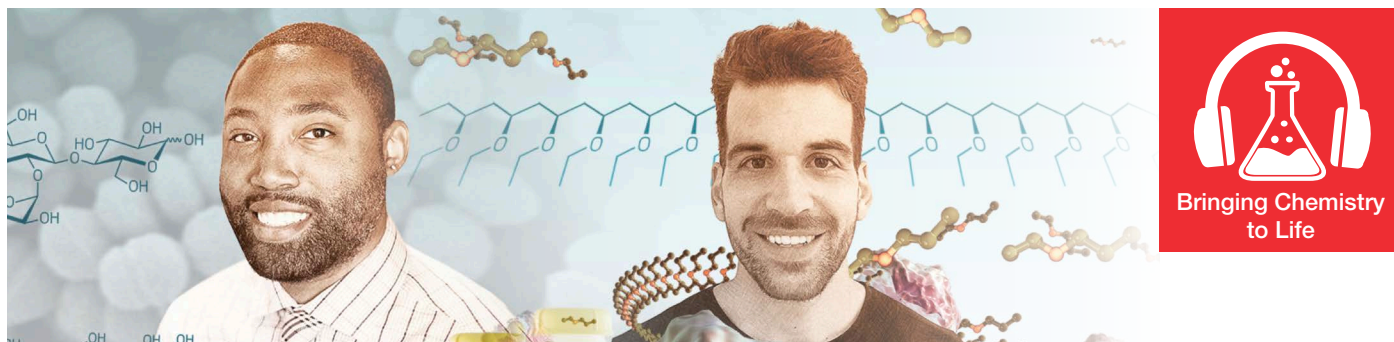


# Bringing Chemistry to Life podcast series

ThermoFisher  
SCIENTIFIC

Season 4: **Expanding Chemistry Perspectives**  
Episode 1: **The chemists' charisma**



## Episode abstract

We open Season 4 with a unique double interview with Dr. Steven Townsend (Vanderbilt University) and Dr. Frank Leibfarth (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). These are our original two guests from Season 1 of this series!

Steve Townsend and Frank Leibfarth are two of the best chemists of the current generation as well as being incredibly charismatic and fun humans. With that said, this episode is a bit different in that it was a fun moment of connection and entertainment where we discuss things on the fringe of chemistry, tongue in cheek. As it happens, it became much more than that, a journey into personal history, motivation and drive, stories and reflections on great chemists of the past and present, and much more. The human element behind the science takes center stage in this episode for certain. One not to miss.

## About our guests

### Steven D. Townsend, PhD

Professor of Chemistry, Vanderbilt University

Steve's group sites:

<https://www.townsendchemistry.org/>

<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/chemistry/faculty/townsend.php>

### Frank A. Leibfarth, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry,  
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Frank's group site:

<http://www.frankleibfarth.com/>

## Steve's Recent Publications:

- [Mother Knows Best: Deciphering the Antibacterial Properties of Human Milk Oligosaccharides](#)
- [2'-fucosyllactose Ameliorates Chemotherapy-Induced Intestinal Mucositis by Protecting Intestinal Epithelial Cells Against Apoptosis](#)
- [Synthesis and Cytotoxicity Evaluation of Arimetamycin A and its Daunorubicin and Doxorubicin Hybrids](#)

## Frank's Recent Publications:

- [Diversification of aliphatic C-H bonds in small molecules and polyolefins through radical chain transfer](#)
- [Critical advances and future opportunities in upcycling commodity polymers](#)
- [Ionic flocogels for remediation of per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances from water](#)
- [Mechanistic insight into the stereoselective cationic polymerization of vinyl ethers](#)

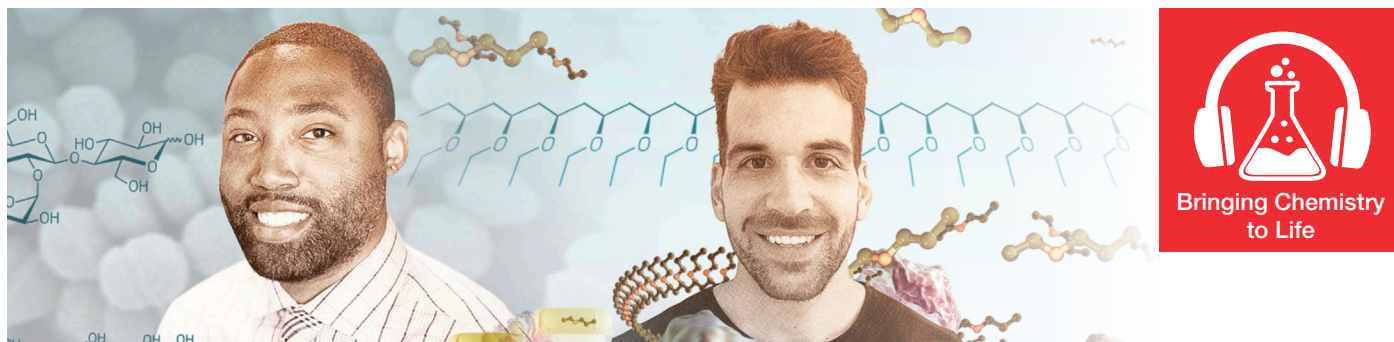
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This podcast series is available via the following links



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### Steve's Content Recommendations:

[Very Smart Brothas](#), a current events blog

[The Root](#), a current events website

[National Museum of African American Music](#), Steve's favorite museum in Nashville

### A bit of research trivia from Steve:

*"Tip for trainees - when you prepare an NMR sample, filter the solution through a tiny plug of cotton to remove residual solids (think silica gel)."*

### Frank's Content Recommendations:

[YoteCast with John Thayer](#), the official podcast of University of South Dakota Athletics

[Does My Son Know?: Fatherhood, cancer, and what matters most](#), an essay by Jonathan Tjarks

[The Lawyer Who Became DuPont's Worst Nightmare](#), a New York Times feature from 2016

### A bit of research trivia from Frank:

*"Our work making materials to remove PFAS from water was inspired by my experience as a parent. I was using diapers and wondered if the same mechanism of sorption used in diapers could be used to make materials that we selective for PFAS sorption. Turned out it worked!"*

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