**ACS Committee on Science**

Report to ACS Council

246th ACS National Meeting, Indianapolis

September 2013

Madame President and Members of Council:

Since our last meeting in New Orleans, the Committee on Science, ComSci, has worked to identify one or two priority emerging multidisciplinary science issues by year-end to guide our content development and programming over the next two years. To that end, we have disseminated a 3-question online poll to more than 80 leading chemical scientists thus far—including ACS division and program chairs, journal editors, and federal agency officials to help identify these priority areas. Next week we will send it to a targeted group of industrial leaders and entrepreneurs. We will examine the results of the poll next month.

We are also very excited to launch a new series of video interviews with Nobel laureates in chemistry, the first two of which were shot last month. This special series is part of the larger ACS "Chemistry over Coffee" video interviews with celebrated chemists, and the videos will be available this fall. We plan to complete two more interviews this year and several more in 2014.

ComSci continues to advise ACS on public policies related to chemical science. ComSci led the development of a new ACS policy statement on forensic science this year, which was approved by the ACS Board of Directors. Most recently, ComSci helped draft a policy statement on chemical risk assessment and management--which the Committee approved on Saturday pending edits. We will also work with other committees this fall to revise ACS policy statements on visa restrictions and scientific integrity, which will expire at the end of 2014. In addition, ComSci looks forward to working with the Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs and others on a potential new policy statement on fracking.

We continue to work with the Committee on Environmental Improvement to carry on the Climate Science Initiative spearheaded by ACS Past President Bassam Shakhashiri—offering our support on matters of technical content and proposal review.

Regarding programming at national meetings, ComSci organized a successful session on Monday featuring a first-rate group of young investigator award winners discussing hot topics in organic and medicinal chemistry. And next spring at the Dallas national meeting, ComSci will organize another emerging science forum featuring a panel session of Nobel laureates.

The Committee is also pleased to be a part of the new Supply and Demand task force recently established under the leadership of President Wu to help bring the supply and demand of chemical scientists and jobs into better equilibrium. ComSci also provided input on upcoming national meeting themes, as well as a new representative to the Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group, or MPPG.

Finally, ComSci is currently considering possible ACS nominees for the Presidential National Medal of Science--to submit next spring on behalf of the Society. We also will work closely with the Committee on Patents and Related Matters toward an ACS submission next year for the companion National Medal of Technology.

Madame President, this concludes my report.