**ACS Committee on Science (ComSci)**

Oral Council Report

ACS National Meeting, Dallas—March 2014

Mr. President and Fellow Councilors:

The Committee on Science, ComSci, is pleased to report on three important areas; identifying and promoting efforts at the frontiers of science, recommending eminent chemists for prestigious awards outside of ACS, and developing public policies to advance science in society.

Following an online survey and other outreach last year, ComSci identified two multidisciplinary areas that hold great promise for fostering innovation and opportunities for chemistry-related scientists worldwide: advanced materials and the chemistry of clean and renewable energy. Our goal here is to work with technical divisions and other groups to coordinate and facilitate increased awareness and progress in these two areas. This includes actions such as partnering with others to develop special forums at the 2015 and 2016 national meetings and supporting the multidisciplinary program for future meetings.

ComSci also will continue to hold broad forums of eminent scientists and young investigator awardees to help illuminate emerging frontiers in science. This will include a young investigator awardee forum scheduled for the San Francisco national meeting in August. We are delighted to report that last year’s initiative to create on-demand video interviews with Nobel Laureates and other eminent scientists has drawn extremely favorable reviews so far. Three videos sponsored by ComSci with chemistry Nobel Laureates are now available online at the ACS “Chemistry over Coffee” site at acs.org. And a fourth video will be uploaded in April.

The second major ComSci focus area involves recommending outstanding scientists for high-profile external awards. I am pleased to report that the ACS Board has approved the ComSci recommendation for the annual Presidential National Medal of Science. This nomination will be submitted to the White House next week. The ACS Board recently identified the high-profile Grand Prix Award in France as one warranting a nomination from the Society, and asked ComSci to identify a worthy nominee. Accordingly, the committee identified several possible candidates and recommended one for nomination in January. This was approved by the Board and submitted to the Grand Prix Foundation last month.

ComSci also continues to play an active role on public policy. We are happy to report that the ComSci-led policy statement on forensic science adopted just last year has gained recent traction in both the House and Senate. We recently assumed a lead role for the development of a new policy statement on responsible fracking, in collaboration with other ACS committees. The committee is also lending its expertise toward policy statements on visa and immigration policy, sustainability, scientific integrity, federal R&D, and a competitive U.S. business climate for innovation and jobs.

Finally, ComSci is pleased to offer its continued expertise to the Presidential Task Force on Supply and Demand. Mr. President and fellow councilors, this concludes my report.