**ACS Committee on Science (ComSci)**

Oral Council Report

ACS National Meeting, San Francisco—August 2014

Mr. President and Fellow Councilors:

The Committee on Science, ComSci, remains focused on three areas; increasing understanding of the emerging frontiers in science, recommending eminent chemical scientists for prestigious external awards, and developing public policies to advance science in society.

ComSci identified two multidisciplinary areas that hold great promise for fostering innovation and opportunities for chemistry-related scientists: advanced materials and the chemistry of clean and renewable energy. We are working with divisions and other groups on organizing multidisciplinary forums to identify key technical, policy and economic challenges to accelerate advanced materials for solar energy, computation, and other critical areas. This series of forums, which are being coordinated with national meeting themes, will launch next spring and continue through 2017.

We are also working to identify other emerging frontiers by eliciting insights from top chemical scientists from industry, academia and government—including both eminent researchers and rising stars—through surveys, outreach, national meeting forums, and video interviews. At a successful ComSci session on Monday, we heard from young, national award-winning researchers on their cutting edge science, and we will continue such efforts in 2015.

I’m also pleased to report that ComSci has now completed four on-demand video interviews with Nobel Laureates and other celebrated scientists, which are available on acs.org. This virtual content effort will be linked with our onsite emerging science forums in 2015.

ComSci has been active on public policy since the last meeting—developing, reviewing and editing six policy statements, working with other committees. ComSci debated and recommended for approval five statements at this meeting, including new policies on hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, visa restrictions, sustainability, scientific insight, and a competitive U.S. business climate. The proposed statement on fracking is particularly noteworthy, which, if supported by other committees and the Board, would be the first ACS statement on this important issue. A sixth statement on science and technology in the federal budget will be reconsidered in the coming weeks.

ComSci also began to formulate suggestions in a response to a recent call from the White House for recommendations on a new national innovation strategy. We will provide suggestions to the ACS Office of Public Affairs later this month, building on our recent work on alternative energy, the ACS presidential supply and demand task force, and recent public policy statements. Based on our discussion on Saturday, our suggestions will include new ways to enhance industry and university collaboration.

Finally, the ACS nominations for the Presidential National Medal of Science and the high-profile Grand Prix Award in France were submitted following the national meeting in Dallas. Announcements for these awards are pending.

Mr. President, this concludes my report.