**Younger Chemists Committee**

# **Oral Report to Council**

**Denver, CO**

Madam President and Members of Council,

When I spoke with you in Anaheim, I shared preliminary results from a survey of younger ACS members that looked at the perceived benefits and opportunities within our Local Sections and Divisions. This survey was developed jointly by the Younger Chemists Committee (YCC), the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) and the Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC) and captured feedback from 2,464 younger ACS members. I have already shared these results with LSAC and DAC, but would like to take a moment to highlight some key findings here:

A significant majority (72 percent) of respondents indicated they were members of an ACS Division. However, nearly one-fifth of early career chemists said they are not a member of a Division. When asked why; top reasons include increased cost; not knowing that Divisional membership was in addition to ACS membership; uncertainty about the benefit to becoming a member of a Division; and a lack of knowledge about ACS Divisions.

Based on these findings, the YCC is developing a plan to work more collaboratively with DAC to engage younger members with divisional programming and opportunities.

[SHOW SLIDE]

When asked to identify the most valuable Local Section or Division benefits; having ‘insiders’ information on job openings; receiving information on fellowships; and having the opportunity to network topped both Local Section and Division lists.

The survey also asked early career chemists what was the most valuable thing ACS could do, or do better, at this point in their career. Of the 781 responses, the most common feedback related to career advice and guidance. Other suggestions included more networking and mentoring opportunities, more training including short courses and webinars, and student or schooling advice.

In line with these survey results, the YCC continues to promote increased networking opportunities for younger chemists. Through a partnership with the European Younger Chemists Network, the YCC and the Colorado Local Section are piloting a physical exchange program, with the goal of helping both US and international younger chemists make connections and build professional relationships. Seven younger chemists from across the European Union are here in Denver attending the YCC committee meeting; presenting technical posters; and touring local laboratories. Next year, younger members from the Colorado Local Section will travel to Prague and participate in the 4th European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences Chemistry Congress. Based on the favorable response to this pilot, the YCC is currently exploring the feasibility of hosting another physical exchange program during an upcoming National Meeting.

Madam President and Members of Council, this concludes my report.

Dorothy (Dotti) Miller, Chair

Younger Chemists Committee