

## **Council Oral Report**

**Nancy B. Jackson**

**President**

Fellow Councilors,

We are two-thirds of the way through the International Year of Chemistry. Between the honor of representing ACS this year and my day job which allows me to collaborate with chemists in developing countries, I have had a glimpse of the world of chemistry, where it has been and where it is going.

The times they are a changing. From testifying on Capitol Hill about merit review to watching the unemployment figures for recent chemistry graduates, from the enthusiasm of chemistry students who I meet in developing countries who are motivated to use their chemistry to transform their world, to the repatriation of Chinese and Indian-born chemists to exciting jobs in their home countries, change is in the air.

Change is hard – but it is also an opportunity. The American Chemical Society is responding to change. Unemployment and underemployment are high, so ACS now holds virtual career fairs, teaches local sections how to help job seekers, and will soon offer support to those who would like to be entrepreneurs. Federal support of research is waning and the ACS Office of public affairs is on the Hill patiently talking to each new member about the role of federally supported research in innovation and jobs.

In addition, I have worked with others, including past-president Katie Hunt, to establish the Presidential Roundtable on Sustainable Manufacturing whose membership will include chemical and allied product companies, national labs, academic institutions and professional organizations. Our first activity will be to provide one-page documents summing up the different elements of a sustainable manufacturing research agenda. The goal here is to assist the federal government in identifying the research that is essential in order to facilitate the development of sustainable manufacturing in the United States.

Like the Pharma Roundtable in the ACS Green Chemistry Institute, it will provide a source of credible, sound information on the application of the principles of sustainability in chemical manufacturing. We will promote sustainable manufacturing through the media to the technical community, manufacturing stakeholders, and the general public. We will provide a congressional briefing on the elements of the research agenda and the associated policy and economic implications of this much needed research. If Congress does not listen to the top leaders of chemical industry on the need for research in sustainable manufacturing – I just don't know who they would listen to. But no matter what, we must try everything we possibly can to support our profession and build up our research and manufacturing sector in the U.S.

At my last Council meeting as president, I thank you for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to represent ACS during the International Year of Chemistry. I am continually humbled by the visionary, hardworking and dedicated volunteers at ACS. Thank you for all you do and for all you will continue to do to make this world a better place.

This concludes my report.