

ACS Committee on Science

Madam President and Members of Council,

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

ComSci is continuing its emphasis on the emerging field of advanced materials. We organized a forum on Monday where experts from academic, industrial and government laboratories shared their perspectives on key challenges in the computational design of advanced materials. This was our third forum on advanced materials, all of which generated content that we plan to distribute widely. We recently prepared a paper based on our first forum last March, which focused on advanced materials for solar energy and will be published soon.

Our second forum was held last August in Boston, where ComSci organized a successful roundtable with division, journal and industry leaders. Several valuable recommendations were generated. One we are currently pursuing is to develop success stories of chemistry-related cross-sector collaboration. We believe communicating vignettes about effective industry and university collaboration, sometimes facilitated by government, will help encourage stakeholders to accelerate innovation. And we have begun working with other ACS and external groups on this initiative.

ComSci is also working to help inform policymakers and our membership on strengthening forensic science. The committee led an effort to develop the Society's first policy statement on this issue in 2013, and we will enhance and update the statement this summer for Board consideration. In addition, we are organizing a symposium on this issue at the national meeting in August in Philadelphia. We expect this will be a model for future ComSci efforts to better link our policy work with our work on symposia.

At this meeting, the committee also took a close look at the ACS public policy priorities document, and we will offer suggestions to the Office of Public Affairs by the May deadline.

ComSci submitted an ACS nomination in February for the French Grand Prix award, and we are on track to submit an ACS nomination in April for the Presidential National Medal of Science—the nation's highest honor for a scientist.

Finally, ComSci had an informative and productive exchange with ACS planning committee representatives at our meeting Saturday on environmental scanning and external trends influencing the mission of ComSci and ACS. We expect this effort will help us advance our mission and optimize our planning going forward.

Madam President, this concludes my report.