Committee on Science

Report to the Council

Boston, Massachusetts

Wednesday, August 22, 2018

Mr. President and Members of Council:

One of the primary purposes of the Committee on Science, ComSci, is to identify new frontiers for chemistry. In order to advance this goal, the Committee met in Boston with the Editor-in-Chief of *Accounts of Chemical Research* to share strategies for identifying these emerging areas. Special topics issues and co-organized symposia are two possibilities for collaboration between ComSci and the journal going forward. Additionally, ComSci welcomes input from all ACS members to identify emerging areas in chemistry.

The Committee continues to focus on implementing its new strategic plan. ComSci’s four subcommittees, on science and technology, public policy, awards, and communication, adopted frameworks for identifying emerging areas of science; reviewing existing policy statements; nominating candidates for national and international awards; and communicating effectively with stakeholders. Project teams are advancing specific tactics to accomplish the goals outlined in the strategic plan and applying these new ways of working to fulfill ComSci’s mission.

ComSci approved updated policy statements on energy and hydraulic fracturing. The Committee organized a symposium on the “DARPA Make-It Program: Automating Small Molecule Route Design, Optimization and Synthesis,” which was held yesterday. Colleagues at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) served as co-organizers on this symposium. ComSci also co-sponsored on Monday a symposium on synthetic biology and the Presidential symposium on ion transport at the nanoscale.

The Committee discussed each of the petitions before Council. ComSci members provided input during a briefing about the petition under consideration at this meeting about streamlining the ACS governing documents. In a session with our ConC liaison, the Committee also discussed committee communication, networking and collaboration, and identified strategic areas as opportunities for future collaborations with other committees.

Mr. President, this concludes my report.

Mark Cesa, Chair