**CPRM Council Oral Report**

Thank you Mr. President, and good morning Council.

Innovation has always been a key generator of economic progress for the chemistry community. Intellectual property (IP) protections help ensure that there are fair and appropriate incentives to innovate, and the Committee on Patents and Related Matters (known as CPRM) focuses on advocacy, education, and honors related to intellectual property. A more detailed discussion of these areas of focus may be found in my Comment published in C&E News in April 2018, but today, I will highlight what CPRM has done and continues to do in these areas.

First, in advocacy, CPRM is proud to have spearheaded the effort for ACS to adopt the Intellectual Property Policy Statement on intellectual property. This Policy Statement provides a vehicle for ACS to actively support the continued development of a robust IP system. CPRM continues to identify opportunities for ACS to advocate on the importance of intellectual property guided by this Policy Statement.

CPRM collaborates with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in fostering innovation. We have worked to secure volunteer chemical scientists and engineers, both from industry and academia, to participate in the USPTO’s Patent Examiner Technical Training Program. Through providing guest lecturers, ACS helps provide technical training and expertise to the USPTO’s patent examiners to keep pace with the recent developments in chemistry. We encourage ACS members to volunteer to serve as guest lecturers. Guest lecturers can present in-person at the USPTO’s Alexandria, Virginia headquarters or at one of its regional offices in Dallas, Denver, Detroit, or Silicon Valley or virtually from home/work, and it will be broadcast to patent examiners nationwide.

CPRM also strives to educate ACS members about IP issues impacting chemistry and ACS members, including patents, trade secrets, copyrights, and technology transfer. CPRM makes publications and informational materials on these and other topics freely available through the ACS website.

Finally, CPRM works to promote recognition of chemistry-related inventors’ contributions by recommending that the Board nominate deserving chemical scientists and engineers for external awards, such as the National Inventors Hall of Fame. CPRM also makes recommendations on nominations for the National Women’s Hall of Fame and the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. CPRM welcomes suggestions for these important awards and will be reaching out to divisions for input as well.

If you would like to serve as a USPTO guest lecturer or have suggestions for IP advocacy, education, or award nominees, please us at Patents@acs.org. Mr. President, this concludes my report. Thank you.