

ACS Committee on Ethics (ETHX)
Report to Council
Judith Currano, Chair
Fall 2018, Boston, MA

Mr. President and fellow Councilors.

The ACS Committee on Ethics met in open session on Sunday, August 19, 2018. Modern technology is a wonderful thing; teleconferencing once again enabled remote members to participate in all aspects of our meeting.

We are proud to announce the publication of our first Symposium Series volume, published online this June, and sponsored by the Division of Chemical Information. *Credit Where Credit Is Due: Respecting Authorship and Intellectual Property* presents information and case studies on various topics surrounding authorship and inventorship, and it is a riveting read!

On Monday, we co-organized a symposium on the “Ethics of Data Sharing” with the Division of Chemical Information. We are also planning a session entitled, “Publish, Patent, or Perish: Ethical Communication in Chemistry” for the Orlando meeting, so, start thinking about your abstracts now!

Our subcommittees were hard at work on Sunday morning and made concrete progress on all projects. We are currently reorganizing and reviewing the resources in our Web space to make them more relevant and accessible, and two questions on forthcoming Salary Surveys will give us information about the ethics interests of ACS members. We have also revised the criteria for our ChemLuminary Award for “Outstanding Local Section Programming Related to the Promotion of Ethics in Chemistry,” asking Local Sections who wish to self-nominate to answer more directed questions.

The Committee on Ethics’ charge precludes us from adjudicating ethics cases raised by ACS members. This year, we received many communications from members, citing a variety of ethical concerns, and, in some cases, requesting resolution to upsetting and troublesome situations. While we are happy to provide members with resources and make referrals, we are not permitted to render judgments. If this need by our members cannot be filled through referrals to other entities, the Society might want to consider forming an adjudicatory body in the future.

Mr. President, members of Council, this concludes my report.