

Committee on Women Chemists
Oral Report to Council
Orlando, FL
April 3, 2019

Madame President and Council Colleagues:

The Women Chemists Committee, also known as WCC, partnered with ACS Webinars on the program, “Advocating for Yourself: Stop Looking for Yoda to Advance your Career”. This webinar, which took place Thursday March 21st featured 3 panelists: members of the ACS Board of Directors, Dorothy Phillips and Kathleen Schulz, as well as, Pushpa Murthy of COACH and Michigan Tech. Over 500 people tuned into the webinar, from 47 states or territories and 31 countries and the feedback received was overwhelmingly positive. WCC looks forward to future collaborations with ACS webinars on topics of interest to women chemists.

WCC is extremely grateful to be celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the WCC/Eli Lilly & Company Travel Award during 2019. Since its establishment in 1989, the generous financial support of the Eli Lilly & Company, of over a half a million dollars, has allowed WCC to support over 700 scientists to attend and present the results of their research at a national meeting. In addition to the current cohort of winners who presented posters before the WCC Luncheon at this meeting, we also featured past-winners of the award at both the WCC Breakfast, as well as a half-day symposium. The WCC Just Cocktails event, focused on celebrating this momentous anniversary.

The WCC luncheon celebrated the accomplishments of Dr. Lisa McElwee-White, recipient of the 2019 Francis P. Garvan-John M. Olin Medal, who was also honored during multi-day symposium sponsored by the inorganic division. Dr. Ruth Baltus, recipient of the 2019 ACS Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences, also was honored during a half-day symposium. Finally, the winners of the 8th annual WCC Rising Star award, which recognizes early to mid-career women chemists with exceptional accomplishments in their fields, spoke at a half-day symposium.

WCC is looking forward to a year filled with continued advocacy efforts in the areas of: nominating women for national technical awards, supporting non-tenure track faculty members, sexual harassment prevention and awareness, as well as supporting the rights and safety of women chemists who are pregnant or breastfeeding. I encourage all of you to continue to recognize the achievements of women and underrepresented minorities through nominations for prestigious national awards. Every one of us has something to contribute to a positive shift in our cultural climate, which depends on and values the perspectives and experiences of ALL of our members.

Madame President and Council Colleagues, this concludes my report.