

Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs Report to Council

July 2021

Kevin M. Kuhn, Chair

“Public policy that is much more informed by chemical professionals,” is the vision statement for the Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs, and the Committee’s mission statement is to “Increase ACS member engagement and effectiveness in impacting public policy.” I am pleased to report some of the CCPA activities undertaken to help make ACS a premier advocacy organization.

Member engagement in public policy

CCPA encourages and highlights ACS local section engagement in public policy activities by sponsoring the ACS President’s Local Section Government Affairs Award presented at the annual ChemLuminary Awards Reception. CCPA would like to congratulate the Nashville, Northeastern, and Southern Arizona Local Sections, which have been nominated for their government affairs efforts in 2020. Stay tuned to learn which local section is crowned the winner later this year. Please note that the ACS President’s Local Section Government Affairs Award will go on hiatus while CCPA partners with another committee to introduce a new pilot award for 2021 activities. More details will be shared in the CCPA oral report at the ACS Fall Council Meeting.

Public Policy Fellowships

For the past 45 years, the American Chemical Society has sent chemists to Washington D.C. for an immersive experience in how the government works through the ACS Public Policy Fellowships. The purpose of the program is two-fold: to give chemists a better understanding of how government policy affects the chemical enterprise, and to inject some scientific knowledge into the policy-making process. ACS congressional fellows serve in the office of a congressional committee or personal office; science policy fellows work with ACS External Affairs and Communications (EAC) staff in the ACS headquarters in Washington DC.

CCPA provides oversight of the ACS Public Policy fellowship program and guides the annual selection process that selects two congressional fellows. This year, 21 CCPA members and past fellows reviewed nearly 60 applications for the 2021-2022 fellowship term. The fellowship interviews were held virtually again this year due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. I am pleased to share the results of that selection process: **Leila Duman** from the Chemical Society of Washington, and **Joshua Melko** from the Jacksonville Local section, will spend one year working as ACS congressional fellows on Capitol Hill as part of the broader AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships program. **Mary Sabuda** from the Minnesota local section was selected as the ACS science policy fellow and will spend a year embedded in the ACS government affairs team learning about science policy.

ACS members at all career stages are encouraged to apply for the fellowships. More information can be found at www.acs.org/policyfellows.

ACS Public Policy Statements

ACS public policy statements define the Society’s advocacy agenda and provide recommendations to policymakers at the state and federal levels. In 2021, CCPA has participated in the multi-committee working group reviewing the ACS policy statements on and will vote on whether to recommend the statement draft to the ACS Board of Directors for final approval at our Fall 2021 meeting. A CCPA working group also reviewed the ACS policy statement on

innovation and prepared comments for the Board's consideration. All ACS policy statements can be found at www.acs.org/policy.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Kuhn

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