

Tom Connelly – ACS Chief Executive Officer

President-Elect Cheng, Fellow Councilors, Good Morning.

I am pleased to present my 11th oral report to Council, as your Chief Executive Officer. The last time I addressed Council, in San Diego, I began with reflections on our core value of Diversity, Inclusion and Respect (DI&R). It is necessary that I do so, once again. Our intent remains to advance this Core Value among our membership, our staff, and our profession. And in the aftermath of the tragic killing of George Floyd, we must challenge ourselves and our Society to accelerate dramatically the rate of progress.

The Board of Directors had chartered a DI&R working group, comprising members of the Board and the DI&R Advisory Chair, supported by senior staff. The role of the working group is to develop the ACS strategic focus areas for DI&R. Then the working group will create the charge to the DI&R Advisory Board for proposing actions and activities to support these focus areas.

Meanwhile, the ACS staff has conducted internal listening sessions seeking ideas to accelerate our progress toward being a more inclusive, respectful and equitable organization. DI&R training will be important for our staff and volunteers. Our policies and practices will be reviewed to assure that they support DI&R. Changes that are substantive and sustained will result from these and other efforts.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also challenged ACS on many levels. Most of our staff moved to remote work in mid March. Guided by our Core Value of Safety, we are still awaiting the time when we can return to our offices.

This virtual Council Meeting is only one manifestation of virtual governance meetings. Conferences, including two ACS national meetings, all regional meetings, Green Chemistry & Engineering, and PacifiChem have all been terminated, delayed or shifted to virtual formats. ACS recognition events have

been similarly impacted. For the first time ever, Project SEED and the National Chemistry Olympiad were conducted virtually.

We have responded to COVID with new approaches and offerings. All COVID-related content from ACS publications, including *C&EN*, was immediately made openly available. CAS staff has authored three overview articles that were published in ACS journals. These articles have been downloaded more than 340,000 times.

We expanded our dues waiver to all members adversely impacted by COVID. We created a Linked-In Learning pilot for our members, of whom more than 13,000 have participated. Our Webinar program was expanded from one-per-week to as many as five-per-week -- and total attendance was many times greater than prior years. In record time, we developed information technology to host massive technical meetings, as we are doing this week. And our new SciMeeting™ platform creates a permanent scientific record for the science presented at our virtual meetings, complete with an ACS-assigned DOI, for scientists who elect this option.

And before concluding, I would like to draw attention to some positive developments this year.

Our Development Team has secured the largest contribution to ACS in many years -- \$3.5 million from Genentech to support the ACS Bridge Program.

Dr. James Milne was appointed ACS Publications President at the start of this year, having served as acting President for some months. We have announced *JACS Au*, an open access analog of our flagship journal, with plans to increase still further our open access journal portfolio.

In July, our US Team for the first all-virtual International Chemistry Olympiad brought home four gold medals, the best possible result. Alex Li, of Lexington, MA, was the top scorer among all 235 participants.

And despite COVID headwinds, ACS is on track to meet all its Financial Guidelines, without furloughs or reductions of staff.

President-Elect Cheng, this concludes my report.

Thomas Connelly, Chief Executive Officer