

Diane Grob Schmidt
Council Oral Report
Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Good morning fellow Councilors and members of governance.

It continues to be an honor to serve my professional society as ACS Immediate Past President; and I have enjoyed every moment of my time in the Presidential Succession.

Last year as you may recall, I organized a symposium on nanotechnology, a U.S. and global Grand Challenge priority. Continuing on the theme of addressing Grand Challenges, Dr. Michelle Buchanan and I organized a symposium on Energy under the Division of Energy & Fuels at this meeting. *Research Opportunities for Future Energy Technologies* started off with a keynote address by US Under Secretary for Science and Energy, Department of Energy, Dr. Lynn Orr. He was followed by speakers from industry, academia and national laboratories discussing groundbreaking technology in energy storage, new materials, and additive manufacturing. The symposium was a resounding success, due to our wonderful sponsors: Division of Energy & Fuels, ACS Energy Letters, ACS Publications, Chemical Abstracts Service and Chemical & Engineering News.

Turning my attention to Philadelphia, I will be assisting in organizing two symposia: one honoring the legacy of former ACS President and Board Chair Ernest L. Eliel, and the other focusing on another inspired Grand Challenge, the nexus of nanoscience, neuroscience, and big data, with emphasis on chemistry and the contributions of chemists.

Connectivity and the Global Reach of Chemistry: Honoring the Life and Scientific Contributions of Ernest L. Eliel, will feature academic speakers from Cuba, Japan, Mexico and the United States, honoring the legacy of Professor Eliel lecturing on their current chemistry. The idea for this symposium developed in Havana during a meeting with representatives of the Cuban Chemical Society last October. Professor Eliel, having studied in Cuba, represents a bridge between our two countries as relations begin to thaw. I am so glad to be part of this historic symposium honoring a pioneering chemist, former ACS President, and former Chair of our Board of Directors.

Also in Philadelphia, I will be working with Drs. Paul Weiss and Anne Andrews, and the Kavli Foundation to organize a symposium on a challenge championed by President Obama called the BRAIN Initiative. The purpose of the Initiative is to accelerate technologies that study the brain at the level of individual cells and mapping complex neural circuits. The symposium will bring together researchers focused on the overlap between neuroscience, nanoscience and big data – elements all required to explore the human brain in real time.

Lastly I would like to thank all of you. I have visited many local sections to tremendous hospitality, and have received fantastic support from so many Divisions through co-sponsorships of various symposia. You all are the lifeblood of this Society, and I am always in awe when I witness the volunteerism that sustains this wonderful organization.

Thank you so much. This concludes my report.