

ACS PRF Annual Report 2023 Program Administrator's Comments

The ACS Board Standing Committee on the Petroleum Research Fund (PRF) regards PRF grants as essential seed funding for both early-career principal investigators (PIs) and established researchers. These grants encourage investigators to explore new directions in their research. By enabling the collection of crucial "proof-of-concept" data, PRF grants provide the foundation needed for researchers to secure further funding from other agencies.

In line with the stipulations of the trust that sustains the PRF, all supported research focuses on fundamental petroleum science. The **2023 PRF Annual Report** presents details of all the awarded PRF grants from the past year, the progress of active grants, and an overview of the enduring impact of ACS PRF.

Since its inception, the PRF has played a pivotal role in advancing hydrocarbon research. With over 18,000 funded projects and more than \$750 million distributed, it has facilitated groundbreaking discoveries that have greatly expanded our understanding of hydrocarbons. Research funded by the PRF has not only advanced scientific knowledge but has also paved the way for innovations in areas such as energy production, catalysis, environmental protection, and materials science.

In 2023 alone, PRF grants supported more than 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students, as well as postdoctoral scholars, fostering the next generation of scientists. While all newly funded projects align with PRF guidelines and contribute to progress toward U.N. Sustainable Development Goal 4, "Quality Education," approximately 50% also address topics related to sustainability and green chemistry.

A notable highlight from 2023 was the connection between the ACS PRF and two Nobel Laureates in Chemistry. Dr. Moungi Bawendi, awarded a PRF grant in 1991 for his pioneering work on the spectroscopy of nanometer-sized semiconductor crystallites, made significant contributions to the field of quantum dots. Additionally, Dr. Louis Brus, who served on the PRF Committee in 2002-2003, further demonstrates the importance of supporting fundamental research and new directions for early-career investigators in driving innovation.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the external reviewers whose thoughtful evaluations and insights are instrumental in the PRF grant decision-making process and in guiding researchers as they develop new projects. Their dedication helps ensure that the PRF continues to foster excellence in research.

Thank you for your interest in the ACS Petroleum Research Fund.

Joerg Schlatterer, Ph.D.
Program Administrator ACS Petroleum Research Fund