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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chemists use the arts, humanities to simplify scientific language

Can you imagine writing a poem about the latest advance in the chemistry laboratory? Or creating a play about the discovery of a gas?

Several noted scientists will use theater, poetry, photography and other tools to explain how to translate their profession's technical terms of art into more understandable language at a special presidential event at the 228th national meeting of the American Chemical Society in Philadelphia Aug. 22. The session, which is open to the public at no cost, will be held from 2-5 p.m. in the Liberty Ballroom at the Philadelphia Marriott.

In addition to suggesting how chemists might more clearly communicate their findings to nonscientists, the President's Cultural Event: Science, the Arts & the Humanities will paint a picture of chemists as people as well as experts in the laboratory. The symposium, co-sponsored by the ACS Division of Chemical Education, will be a forum for scientists and writers who have succeeded in linking science to the arts and humanities.

The session will include the reading of excerpts from the acclaimed play, "Oxygen," written by renowned chemists Carl Djerassi, Ph.D. and Roald Hoffmann, Ph.D. It dramatizes the discovery of the gas and the Nobel committee's 21st century sensibilities as it argues about who should be awarded the first "retro" Nobel Prize for chemistry. Djerassi, in addition to being one of the few to earn the National Medal of Science and National Medal of Technology, is a fiction writer. Hoffmann has won a Nobel Prize in chemistry.

In addition to Djerassi and Hoffmann, Dava Sobel, award-winning writer and former *New York Times* science reporter who has contributed articles to *Audubon*, *Discover*, *Life* and *The New Yorker* and Felice Frankel, science photographer and research scientist at M.I.T., will speak at the symposium. Charles P. Casey, Ph.D., ACS president, will open the session and Bassam Z. Shakhshiri, Ph.D., department of chemistry, University of Wisconsin, symposium organizer, will introduce the program.

As part of the symposium, four students from the mid-Atlantic area will be given Chemagination awards for writing an article for *ChemMatters* magazine as it would appear 25 years from now. The article must describe a breakthrough or innovation related to chemistry that would improve the quality of life of a teenager 25 years into the future. Awards will be made in the areas of biotechnology, medicine/health care, new materials and transportation/the environment.