

Welcome to San Diego and the 243rd ACS National Meeting!

Welcome to the 243rd ACS National Meeting. Our meeting is held at a major international hub for scientific research, education, innovation, and technology. We are in a hospitable location and I hope you will explore a few of the many attractions that have made this part of California famous around the world.

The meeting theme is "Chemistry of Life" which is the topic of a Sunday afternoon plenary session featuring outstanding scholars. The entire meeting program is rich in scientific, educational, and professional content. There is plenty to select from and I am sure you will make wise choices to satisfy your needs and expectations.

There are several presidential symposia and events related directly to my 2012 ACS presidential theme, "Advancing Chemistry and Communicating Chemistry." On Monday morning there is a Presidential Symposium, "Production of Fuel Directly from Sunlight: A Grand Challenge for Chemistry of the 21st Century."

I am delighted that NSF director Dr. Subra Suresh will deliver the ACS Presidential Plenary Lecture on Monday at 11:00 AM at the San Diego Marriot Marquis. Dr. Suresh will discuss NSF initiatives and priorities related to our role as scientists in addressing national and global challenges.

An all-day Presidential Symposium on Catalysis, sponsored by The Camille & Henry Dreyfus Foundation, will be held on Tuesday.

Communicating chemistry to fellow scientists and to the world is one of the ACS core functions. The quality and prestige of our publications, including 41 journals and C&EN, and the services of Chemical Abstracts Service are second to none. Please visit the ACS booths on the floor of the Convention Center and learn more about our scholarly and professional publications.

One purpose of communicating the values and role of the chemical sciences to non-specialists is to showcase chemistry at its best in addressing significant human and societal issues. On Monday afternoon, we present the second Presidential



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Symposium on Communicating Chemistry to the Public. Later on Monday, UC-Berkeley Professor Carolyn Bertozzi will present the third "The Kavli Foundation Innovations in Chemistry Lecture." Please consult the listings in this program or the online technical program [www.acs.org/sandiego2012] for all programming details.

Also available are many choices for continuing education offered through ACS short courses, divisional and professional workshops, and exposition workshops. The Exposition offers an opportunity to learn about scientific and industrial trends, discover effective technologies and services, and network with more than 250 exhibitors that serve chemical professionals.

This year is the sesquicentennial of the Morrill Land Grant Act. This Act gave federal lands to states to establish colleges that focus on teaching agriculture, science, and engineering in addition to liberal arts. I invite you to join me in publicizing the accomplishments of chemical scientists from your institutions, whether land-grant or not, by making them available widely through the Web, as I have for my institution [www.scifun.org/MorrillLandGrantAct.html]. We should embrace and celebrate our rich contributions as chemical scientists, as scientific and educational disciplines, and as a professional Society to society at large.

I express thanks to the members of the ACS San Diego Local Section; the Committee on Meetings and Expositions; the thematic program chair Dr. Peter Senter; the divisional program chairs and symposium chairs responsible for organizing this meeting's technical sessions; and the ACS staff for making it all happen. I thank you for contributing to the success of this meeting and for joining me in doing our best for ACS, for science, and for society.



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