WE MUST DO OUR BEST FOR ACS, SCIENCE, AND SOCIETY

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I am eager and able to accept the challenges and responsibilities of the presidency of the world's leading scientific organization to further serve the members of ACS and society at large. I ask for your vote to help me advance the mission of ACS, to maintain its preeminence, to strengthen its effectiveness, and to expand its contributions. I need your help for what is **BEST** for ACS:

- **B**enefit and enable members to flourish scientifically, economically, and professionally.
- **E**ncourage creativity, innovation, collaboration, and competitiveness.
- **S**timulate connections, partnerships, and effective communications.
- **T**each chemistry well at all levels and communicate its importance to the public.

ACS is a membership organization and we must retain and attract members. I want ACS to better serve its members and to advance the professional status of chemists. My agenda includes: assuring the viability of ACS as a membership organization, strengthening what ACS does best through its publications, meetings, divisions, and sections; increasing public and private support for research and education; assuring openness in ACS governance matters; advocating openness and integrity in the conduct of research and publication; addressing national security issues including chemical plant security and foreign scientist visas; dealing with globalization and its consequences; addressing environmental regulations; focusing on workforce needs and employment; enhancing quality, supply, and salaries of teachers; fostering international cooperation and collaboration in research and in education; promoting sustainable development; and improving scientific communications within and among different cultures.

Chemistry is a discipline practiced by highly competent and responsible professionals who are engaged in enterprises that are self-rewarding and can benefit society. I will devote my presidency to helping our members showcase the best of chemistry as it addresses significant human and societal issues.

I have reached many audiences through my scholarly activities and through my presentations on public and commercial radio and television, in national, international, and local newspapers and magazines, through my chemical demonstrations books and other publications, and through my public service in local, regional, national, and international arenas. My national leadership roles (e.g., founding director, Institute for Chemical Education; NSF chief education officer; founding director, Initiative for Science Literacy) will greatly help my effectiveness as your president.

Throughout my career I have promoted chemistry both as the central science and as the familiar science. The familiarity of chemistry has yet to be fully exploited in reaching the various segments of society, especially the non-specialists. We must increase awareness of chemicals, their transformations, hazards, and how they benefit our health, safety, and environment. ACS must improve and expand its role in leading all scientific societies and groups in communicating the value of science and technology to everyone.

I have always emphasized the richness of our chemical heritage. My Christmas Lecture, in the
tradition of Michael Faraday, is now in its 37th year and is on PBS and cable stations. In the OXYGEN public symposium and in related appearances on NPR I have featured historians of chemistry. My association with the History of Chemistry Division goes back to the ACS Centennial Celebrations in Northumberland, Pennsylvania. I have benefitted from its offerings and from it scholars, particularly my late colleague Aaron Ihde.

Chemistry brings a wide range of goods and functions to everyone and thus is vital to our democracy. Science literacy is necessary for the democratic process to work, and I am a tireless promoter of achieving it. I make a distinction between scientific literacy, expertise in a particular field, and science literacy, a broad appreciation and understanding of science and its practitioners, and of what science is capable of achieving and what it cannot accomplish. Science literacy enlightens and enables people to make informed choices, to be skeptical, and to reject shams, quackery, unproven conjecture, and to avoid being bamboozled into making foolish decisions where matters of science and technology are concerned. Science literacy is for everyone --chemists, artists, humanists, all professionals, the general public, youth and adults alike.

As ACS president I will work hard to enhance the quality of our chemistry education programs by highlighting our chemical heritage. Education is key to fulfilling the mission of ACS and achieving its dynamic goals. Education is the key to personal enrichment, to social and professional advancement, and for preparation to serve and advance humanity.

The future of ACS depends on effective leadership and sustained member support. I will serve ACS as a grass-roots and uniting leader. I ask for your vote and for your collaboration to do what is best for ACS, for science, and for society.

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