

15 January, 2019

Dear Colleagues and Friends in Science,

As we launch 2019, it is very sobering to realize that the stalwart officers who kept the division organized and managed the 'endearing' administratum of the ACS, have now escaped. They are free. Of course none of them is lounging around, they are finally concentrating on their own science and new-year's goals. However their legacy remains tangible. It is a pleasure to thank Craig Townsend for patient detail-oriented attention to the final revision of division bylaws, wrapping up an effort that in fact began with Dewey McCafferty. I am inheriting from Craig a crucial project of securing sponsorship for more awards, as there is so much highly deserving biological chemistry going on, yet disproportionately little recognition. Please write to me if you would be willing to join me in this effort, or have contact with a potential award sponsor. Tom Meek somehow managed to get tasks done cleanly and ahead of schedule, even the hairballs. He made it look so easy, a sure sign that we underappreciated him, too. The buzz and bustle of our division would not have been possible without active committees ensuring that we had diverse input and numerous critical eyes at work on all our tasks. Liz Hedstrom has completed her excellent service to the Program committee, upon which she served for four years. On the Nominating committee, Jimmy Hougland and his team are responsible for the great new folks we have coming on board. We are grateful to Karen Allen and Michelle Hamm for their Advisory committee service, and will miss their helpful input at meetings. Please thank these people for jobs well done, when you see them at the next National Meeting presenting science (instead of safeguarding division-sponsored food from marauding Org, Comp or Poly predators).

Although we new officers will be on a collective learning curve this spring, I am confident about the outcomes because we have excellent people coming on board. Please join me in welcoming Sheila David (Chair-Elect) and Hazel Holden (Division Secretary) to our division executive. Kate Pletneva is beginning her service to the program committee as is Tim Stemmler to the Nominating committee. I am very excited to have two people with extraordinarily valuable experience joining our Advisory Committee. Taking advice can be more difficult than giving it, but when it comes from Ruma Bannerjee and Kay Ahn, we will know it is well worth listening to. Please visit our web site to see photos and learn about the backgrounds of these, *your* division officers. <http://www.divbiolchem.org/>

Finally, the most important predictor of an excellent 2019 is the membership itself. Below, I invite you to read about some of the directions your officers want to explore for the division's future. However what we want most of all is to have YOU guide the process. Watch our web site for a member poll, and please plan to contribute. What do you wish the division were involved in? What activities could give the division real value to our scientific community, our nation, the practice of science, and the future that will fall to our children and our planet. What would you be proud to help with? Please think of these questions as a chance to become part of a team addressing pressing issues that matter a lot to you, but are too big for you to tackle alone. Please think beyond the current deadlines that dot the land, and ask what we could do to reshape the landscape. We have to cut the division's expenditures stiffly this year, so we need to make decisions that align purposefully with the greatest concerns of our membership. Please speak up.

In considering new opportunities we will also want to hear from you what are the current DBC activities you want retained or strengthened. These include our student travel awards enabling undergraduates and graduate students to attend their first National Meeting; our symposia that give young professionals their first podium and a chance to fledge among friends; the social gatherings in which we are able to catch up with the author of a paper that has helped us, or get tips on a technique that eludes us; the poster sessions providing exciting snapshots of a diverse spectrum of biochemistry; our symposia offering in-depth coverage of topics that are changing the way we think, delivered by experts and people at the frontiers. Our divisional awards are also important. They help our department chairs realize what important contributions are made by biological chemists, and how much they are respected. Finally our division has supported a bevy of regional and specialty meetings, which are in many cases the only meetings accessible to younger scientists at a crucial time in their decision-making, or professionals who are not professors but nevertheless are vital members of the research effort.

I welcome your feedback,

Anne-Frances Miller

Please email to afmill3r2@gmail.com and include 'DBC' in the subject line to help me retrieve your message from the sea of stuff.

Upcoming award deadlines on 1 February !

Nominations for the **Gordon Hammes Awards are due on February 1st**. These awards recognize excellence in biological chemistry research.

The Gordon Hammes Scholar Award recognizes a young scientist who published a first-author paper in *Biochemistry* in 2018. For more information and to nominate an undergraduate, graduate student, or postdoc, see:

https://acspubs.formstack.com/forms/2019_biochemistry_scholar_award

The Gordon Hammes Lectureship Award recognizes an established investigator for outstanding contributions in the field of biological chemistry. For more information and to nominate a colleague, see:

https://acspubs.formstack.com/forms/2019_biochemistry_lectureship

A special note to those who nominated a colleague for the now-defunct Repligen Award: the selection committee for the Gordon Hammes Lectureship Award has graciously agreed to consider Repligen nomination packages that are resubmitted via the Hammes Lectureship Website

(https://acspubs.formstack.com/forms/2019_biochemistry_lectureship). Please take advantage of this opportunity!

Also coming soon: the ACS National Meeting in Orlando FL.

Early registration ends on 21 January, so sign up!

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/national-meeting/registration.html>

The biological chemistry program is rapidly taking shape and a preliminary glimpse follows.

Sunday 31 March, morning

Targeting RNA with drugs (M. D. Disney presiding)

Graduate Student & Postdoctoral Fellow Symposium

Co-sponsored:

Interdisciplinary chemistry for new frontiers in biology and
medicine: Nanobio

Bio-based materials for energy conversion and storage applications

Bio-based electrolyte and separators for battery applications

Interplay of cellulose and other biopolymers in biological & designed materials

systems interactions of plant polymers in model systems

Sunday 31 March, afternoon

Murray Goodman Award: Symposium in honor of David Beratan (presiding)

Early career investigators in biological chemistry

Co-sponsored:

Interdisciplinary chemistry for new frontiers in biology and
medicine: Microbia

Bio-based materials for energy conversion and storage applications

Lignin-based materials for supercapacitor and other applications

Bio-based electroconductive hydrogels

Interplay of cellulose and other biopolymers in biological & designed materials:

structure and mechanics of plant cell walls

Sunday 31 March, evening (7:00-9:00) Biological **Posters**

Monday 1 April, morning

Chemical signaling in plants (K. Torii presiding)

Protein folding and aggregation (X. Zhang presiding)

Co-sponsored:

LGBTQ+ graduate student and postdoctoral scholar research symposium
Interdisciplinary chemistry for new frontiers in biology and
medicine: Biomarker Discovery
Interplay of cellulose and other biopolymers in biological & designed materials:
xylan and lignin interactions with cellulose.

Monday 1 April, afternoon

Chemical signaling between organisms (R. A. Butcher presiding)
Advances in metabolic labeling and profiling

Co-sponsored

LGBTQ+ graduate student and postdoctoral scholar research symposium
Interdisciplinary chemistry for new frontiers in biology and
medicine: DNA/RNA & disease diagnosis
Fluorescence techniques applied to lignocellulose characterization
Undergraduate research **posters**: Biochemistry

Monday 1 April, evening

Sci Mix

Tuesday 2 April, morning

ACS Chemical Biology Award symposium (L. L. Kiessling presiding, reception follows)

Co-sponsored

Exploring the frontiers of chemistry through NASA research.
Getting there: advanced materials for space travel.
MEDI awards symposium
Interdisciplinary chemistry for new frontiers in biology and
medicine: Structure, imaging and sensing.
Advanced chemistry of 'nontraditional' polysaccharides.

Tuesday 2 April, afternoon

ACS National Awards: Breslow (L. Kay) and Nakanishi (D. Tirrell)

Co-sponsored

Exploring the frontiers of chemistry through NASA research.
Living there: science for the future of manned space exploration
LGBTQ+ graduate student and postdoctoral scholar research symposium
Advanced chemistry of 'nontraditional' polysaccharides.
Biomolecular technologies: biomolecular engineering & design
LGBTQ+ graduate student and postdoctoral scholar research **poster** session

Wednesday 3 April, morning

DNA instability and repair (K. Dalby presiding)
Mid-career investigators in Biological Chemistry

Co-sponsored

Nanocellulose from fundamentals to function
Bioactive delivery: Frontiers in biomaterials.
Bio-based gels and porous materials
3D printing and rheology of cellulose and nanocellulose

Wednesday 3 April, afternoon

Graduate Student & Postdoctoral Fellow Symposium
Mid-career investigators in Biological Chemistry

Co-sponsored

Nanocellulose from fundamentals to function
Bioactive delivery: Frontiers in biomaterials.
Bio-based gels and porous materials
Bio-based gels in medical applications

Thursday 4 April, morning

Graduate Student & Postdoctoral Fellow Symposium
Early career investigators in biological chemistry

Co-sponsored:

Nanocellulose from fundamentals to function
Additive manufacturing of bio-based and renewable materials.
Upstream processes: synthetic biology and genome engineering
Bio-based gels and porous materials: Nanostructuring of gels and aerogels and
their use as sensors.

Thursday 4 April, afternoon

Co-sponsored:

Nanocellulose from fundamentals to function
Additive manufacturing of bio-based and renewable materials.
Bio-based gels and porous materials: Bio-based aerogels and carbogels.
Upstream processes: synthetic biology and genome engineering