

Chair's Report

Philadelphia – City of Brotherly Love – we are here!

I must confess that I felt the San Diego National ACS Meeting in March was “great”. We had a spectacular technical program, very good attendance, and a super-engaged audience. My special thanks to our program/symposium organizers -- and in particular to our past-chair, Debbie Decker, for really making our program soar in San Diego!

Back to Philadelphia -- due to some confusion and miscommunication the Presidential Symposium on Safety, Ethics and Diversity was withdrawn from the meeting's technical program. Of course we felt let down since this was an event that the division had invested a great deal of energy as the primary “divisional co-sponsor”. On the bright side of this heart-felt loss is a newly invigorated commitment by members of the ACS Board of Directors (in particular, “President-Elect”, Allison Campbell; Chair of the Board, Pat Confalone; and the Society's “Executive Director/CEO”, Tom Connelly, Jr.) in helping us focus the Society's efforts towards getting an explicit inclusion of ‘Safety’ as a fundamental tenet of our profession. Past President, Diane Schmidt, has been working on this issue for the past couple years and it feels like we're finally getting some real traction. We've even been invited to provide a special presentation at the Divisional Activities Committee – Frankie, Debbie, and Harry will capitalize on that stellar opportunity.

Despite the loss of that “Presidential Event” – we still have an extensive and noteworthy technical program here in Philadelphia. Our outstanding set of “divisional award” winners will be presenting on Sunday afternoon and we have our program extending all the way through Wednesday afternoon (where you'll note that our CANN sub-division members organized a symposium on the biochemistry of cannabis). On Tuesday we have an extensive poster session co-located with our morning technical program (“Ask Dr. Safety”).

Don't forget that this is “Philadelphia” and so, as has been his habit, Russ Phifer has organized a great social event for our division and SCHB (Philadelphia History Museum at the Atwater Kenton) on Monday evening 5-7pm including an extensive list of wines for our enjoyment.

Thanks to Ralph, the IPG we applied for [together with CINF] funding a professionally developed “Survey” has been awarded. Also, after attending a very useful workshop entitled “Safety by Design” organized by UC, Northwestern, and NIH and held at the NIH Bethesda campus – I'm hopeful that we can join with ACS Leadership and help co-sponsor and organize the next one planned for Spring 2018. The “Workshop” that occurred this April drew participation by a number of ACS/CHAS/CCS members including Past-President Diane Schmidt, Dawn Mason, CCS's Marta Gmurczyk, Joe Pickel, Jim Kaufman and many other friends!

Note that we're working with Allison Campbell [and ACS Leadership/Staff] to arrange a special Presidential Symposium at the “DC meeting” next fall which focuses on Safety across the Chemical Enterprise. Joe, Harry and I will update you on our “breakfast” meeting with her that should have just occurred!

My thanks to all our members and friends.

John Palmer, Chair (2016)