

Past-Chair Report

Before I review some of our 2016 accomplishments I'd like to first thank my fellow officers and other members of our Executive Committee (EC), most notably Harry Elston (2017 Chair), Neal Langerman (Treasurer), Ralph Stuart (Secretary), and Joe Pickle (2017 Chair-Elect) for their much-needed support and hard work. And we are indeed indebted to Debbie Decker, Frankie Wood-Black, and Joe for keeping the Division's "Technical Programs" so full and for bringing very relevant information to our members. Ezra Pound and the "CANN" sub-division leaders have not only made great inroads in getting the sub-division going and organizing several outreach activities -- but have lead the way in Division growth by bringing in over a hundred new members and they raised much needed seed money through donations -- which will help in attracting even more safety conscious "cannabis chemists" to our fold. Truly -- I must include "every" member of our leadership team in my thanks -- since they all pulled their weight and contributed to the Division's success, so I'll simply point to our "[About Us](#)" page of the Division's website and note that all deserve our support and cheers because they are some of the hardest working volunteers you'll find in the American Chemical Society... (<http://dchas.org/about-us/>)

Perhaps the most important accomplishment in 2016 for the Division was to engage the ACS Board of Directors and Society leaders in very meaningful discussions about how fundamental "Safety" is to our profession. We were successful in getting "SAFETY" inserted into Society's "Core-Values" and we've got the direct support of the Society's President, Chair-of-the-Board, Secretary, and Executive Director in emphasizing how crucial safety is to chemistry and how central it should be in shaping our everyday professional activities. Allison Campbell (2017 ACS President) is working with us to organize a "Presidential Symposium" directed at further identifying best-practices and developing inroads towards bringing a "Culture" of safety to the entire profession and "across" the entire Chemistry Enterprise. Her Symposium is slated for the "Fall National Meeting" in Washington, D.C. Also, the ACS Leaders have sought and received (a great deal of) our help in crafting "ACS policy statements" on safety. Those updated policy statements are now ready for release to the public and to fellow members of our profession.

In our 2015 "Strategic Planning" retreat division leaders that participated identified several important goals. In 2016 our leadership team began the work to reach those goals. We've been successful at getting a co-sponsored "Innovative Project Grant" (\$10,000) for a broader "professionally developed" survey of ACS members and other individuals to really understand how we might identify and be more effective at meeting member and society needs in the area of Chemical Safety. We also sought and won another Innovative Project Grant (\$5,000) to join with the ACS (Senior ACS Leadership is contributing an additional \$15,000) in sponsoring part of the 2018 "Safety-by-Design" NIH hosted "Workshop" that should tap a broad spectrum of talent and further explore how to best nurture a culture of safety in our educators, business leaders, and, of course, our youngest members of the chemical profession as they begin their careers.

I again thank all of you for your help and support in leading our small division forward and I wish Harry and Joe even greater success in our 2017/2018 divisional activities.

Sincerely,

John Palmer, (immediate "Past-Chair")