

Council Oral Report ACS President (San Francisco, CA)

My fellow Councilors,

I can't tell you how happy I am to relate that my two symposia at this meeting, one on Hydraulic Fracturing, and the other on Photocatalytic Conversion of Water, are over and were very successful, and that the one on fracking was the most difficult one to put together I could imagine, as it took almost 1.5 years to finally complete. With organizations agreeing to produce speakers but not producing, speakers forgetting that they had agreed to speak, and just last week one of my five speakers sending a one sentence email to ACS saying he would not be able to participate, with no explanation. I'll be heading up to Calgary to egg his house as soon as this meeting is over. Just wishful kidding, as by a miracle we were able to secure an excellent replacement, and I'll actually heading out tomorrow to attend the IUPAC International Conference on Green Chemistry in South Africa.

I know that all of you are eagerly waiting to hear how many exotic places to which I've traveled in the past four months, but it really hasn't been that many as the two biggies to Brazil and China never materialized for various reasons. But even if they had I'm sure that I still would be saying that the most personally fulfilling trips I took were to Colorado and Vancouver. In Golden, Colorado, I spent several days at the ACS Green Chemistry Summer School. And listening to those 50 graduate students eagerly and excitingly discussing all the various aspects of "green chemistry" made me feel a lot better about the future. And the future has been on my mind since I was asked by the Canadian Society of Chemistry to come to their national meeting in Vancouver and serve on a panel and present my views on the future of chemistry. This is the kind of thing that one agrees to do, only if they know they don't have to work on it for at least a year in the future. A few days before departing for Vancouver, I finally sat down, did a cranial download, and wrote for a couple of hours. Without going into detail, I will tell you that I see a bright future for chemistry. The easiest group for which to predict a bright future is analytical chemistry. Mountains of data will need to be analyzed in the future and most of that data will come from analytical chemistry. Much of chemistry will more and more partner with the life sciences in this, the century of gaining an understanding of life. There will be almost unlimited opportunities in this as well as other areas such environmental, energy and material sciences. I firmly believe that it will be a wonderful time to be a chemist.

This concludes my report.