MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year marks the 40th anniversary since the first meeting of AChemS. Started by a group of 10 researchers, the organization has grown over 50-fold to embrace scientists from academic, industrial and clinical areas. Our unique strength lies in bringing together practitioners from a variety of disciplines to gain a more complete understanding of the chemical senses. Despite a challenging climate of funding, our organization remains vital and financially strong.

Why Are We Meeting Tues-Fri This Year?
We were asked to shift the meeting by one day this year in exchange for $50,000 credit from the hotel so they could accommodate another function. The Executive Committee decided that this was worthwhile and so the meeting dates were shifted. A fraction of these funds will be used to support our 40th Anniversary end-of-meeting party and to supplement the funds for the Diversity Travel Awards. The Executive Committee will be discussing other ways of using these one-time funds; suggestions from membership are welcome. Please address these to my attention in care of the AChemS office: info@achems.org.

Management & Meeting Organization
The organization has been under the guidance of a new management team, SPLtrak, since Fall of 2016. I am pleased to report that the transition to SPLtrak to run the 2017 meeting worked out well despite a compressed timeline for their assuming the task. SPLtrak brings to the organization an up-to-date approach to registration and display of meeting schedule along with an improved on-line platform. The AChemS executive committee continues to work with SPLtrak for further enhancements to the website for a more complete digital experience for our members. We look forward to working with Melissa Sz Kodzinska and Adam Kohm into the future. Please say "Hello" to them at the meeting.

Members may note that for this year, like last, a satellite symposium complements the regular schedule of the annual meeting. This year’s symposium, which begins on Monday April 16 at 1:50 pm, focuses more on central functions rather than transduction. This is in keeping with our goal of centering the satellite meeting on different topics each year. I encourage each of you to think about what general topic you would like to see in next year’s satellite and to forward proposals to next year’s program chair, Nirupa Chaudhari.

Website Improvements
You may have noticed the complete overhaul of the AChemS website. This is thanks to the efforts of SPLtrak and to Rachel Herz and the website committee. This is still a work in progress and suggestions for new features or improvements are welcome. Also, you may note that the section on funding opportunities is actively updated with emphasis on smaller, lesser known programs. We encourage all members to utilize this resource.

ISOT 2020
The next ISOT (International Symposium on Olfaction and Taste) is slated for 2020 in the USA. Our elected meeting organizer, Jay Gottfried, has been hard at work and we are pleased to announce the timing and venue of this meeting: June 19-24, 2020 - Portland Convention Center, Portland Oregon. We trust that members will find this an attractive venue and an "undiscovered gem" (for those of you who have never visited!), with reasonably priced hotels, good public transportation and a vibrant culture, restaurant scene, and nightlife. Portland is also a perfect stepping-off point for travel in the Pacific Northwest -- only 1-2 hours from many attractions including the Oregon coast, the Willamette Valley wineries or the Columbia River Gorge, and a bit longer to Mount Hood and Mount Rainier. Many thanks to Jay and SPLtrak for making these arrangements. A call for proposed symposia will go out in the later part of this year.

(Continued on page 2)
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (continued)

Affiliation with AAAS
Following up on an initiative begun by our Past-President, Steve Munger, we applied for and were granted affiliate status with AAAS, the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This affiliation will enable AChemS to better co-ordinate its public information and outreach efforts with the larger organization and to fulfill our mission of promoting an appreciation of the chemical senses and their impact on the functioning of diverse organisms including humans. Affiliation with AAAS also will provide AChemS with timely information regarding budgetary and other impactful matters pending at the Federal level.

Finally, I want to thank the membership for offering me the opportunity to serve as AChemS President. This job would not be tenable without the key services of SPLtrak along with the numerous volunteers from our membership who serve crucial roles on the Committees that underlie the functioning of the organization. I look forward to transitioning to the role of Past-President as I turn over the role of President to Minghong Ma at our upcoming business meeting.

SECRETARY’S REPORT
Rachel Herz, PhD

There are four main areas where substantial changes have taken place over the past year.

AChemS Wikipedia page: Our Wikipedia page (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_for_Chemoreception_Sciences) is doing fairly well and has been stable for a number of months. However, Wikipedia still (irrationally) flags content that it recognizes as being posted by someone affiliated with AChemS. Currently, the best way to deal with this is to have colleagues who are not AChemS members post content, which can include information that you provide to them. When posting content it is very helpful (for preventing the content from being taken down by Wikipedia) to include external links such as online media where the content you have posted is cited. Additionally, if you provide chemosensory content on any other Wikipedia pages, linking that information to the AChemS page will help to validate our page to Wikipedia.

New Website and Website Committee
The website committee comprised Rachel Herz, Tom Finger, Martha Bajec, Thomas Mast, Cedric Uytingco. We and SPLtrak worked hard to develop a much improved and modernized site. We hope that by now you have had a chance to navigate through it, and we welcome any of your comments. We will continue to improve the site based on your feedback, so please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Certain aspects of the website rely on active membership involvement, and I am pleased to report that we had vigorous contributions for postings related to: Job Announcements and Members in the News. Indeed, we had so many noteworthy achievements reported for the Members in the News section that we have had to change the criteria for “news” to be from third party sources. For example, another media outlet needs to write about your outstanding new findings published in Nature or Chemical Senses. We would also like to encourage members to offer visually compelling images of their research for display on the homepage.

An additional highlight on the new website is that we have been making an effort to announce funding opportunities from non-government sources that people may be less aware of. When these funding opportunities become available we have been posting them on our homepage and on social media. A full list can be found on the website under Resources/Funding Opportunities.

For any and all feedback and to inform us of achievements, jobs, and funding opportunities please contact us at info@achems.org

Newly formed Social Media Committee
To increase our social media presence, attract people to become involved with AChemS, and to provide information about the chemical senses in general a new social media committee was formed this year comprising Rachel Herz, Tom Mast, Genevieve Bell, Warren Green, Cedric Uytingco. Our social media platforms are Twitter and Facebook. We developed an internal and an external strategy to facilitate these goals.

1. Internal Strategy: The internal strategy involved posting annual meeting reminders, major event announcements, new funding opportunities, Members in the News items, and Chemical Senses new issue alerts.

2. External Strategy: The committee’s external goal is to target the general public and share the importance of olfaction and taste with the hope of increasing awareness of AChemS and potentially positively impacting membership. To this end, we have developed several postings per month relating to both basic science and lay person interest. For this anniversary year we have focused on acquiring landmark, historically significant postings of scientific articles to highlight chemical senses related achievements, in an “in this month” format. To date, a list of “in this month” postings has been compiled through July 2018.

(Continued on page 3)
SECRETARY’S REPORT (continued)

Additionally, each month we have posted and reposted general public-oriented chemical senses information and have compiled a list of postings through April 2018. This outreach has succeeded in improving our social media presence as indicated by a graph below of social media activity on Twitter from January 2017-February 2018. Facebook information is not available. Suggestions for furthering our outreach and internal social media activity are welcome.

Newly Formed Ad hoc Social Committee for AChemS 40th Anniversary
To celebrate AChemS’s 40th anniversary an ad hoc Social Committee was formed comprising Rachel Herz, Veronika Schopf, Sanne Booseveld and Leslie Cameron. In recognition of this special year and with the goal of invigorating the social exuberance that AChemS has been known for, we will be having a dance party on the last night of the meeting, Friday night April 20th, in the Mangroves lounge. The dance party will begin at 9:00pm following the AChemS Award Lectures and will continue until midnight. Appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Alcoholic alternatives are available 20 feet away at the Mangroves bar. Dance music will be spun by “DJ with Class”. We look forward to seeing you there!

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TREASURER’S REPORT
Joel Mainland, PhD

In June of 2017 AChemS had over $470K in assets. Two major grants were received just after the fiscal year cutoff, which improved our financial position relative to last year. Our meeting revenue increased last year, and our attendance rebounded from the low in 2016. Since inception in December of 2011, the value of our investment portfolio has increased by approximately $86K.

End of Year (June 30) Financials:

- Meeting Receipts: $281,439
- Dues & Contributions: $76,589
- Grant income: $40,000
- Investments: $1,424
- Total Revenue: $398,028

- All Administrative Expenses: $172,251
- Meeting Expenses: $246,847
- Total Expenses: $419,099

- Reserve assets: $473,220

Note: A portion of our grant income was not received before the end of the fiscal year, accounting for the negative net revenue.
MEMBERSHIP REPORT
Kurt Illig, PhD

As of early March 2018, a total of 567 members have renewed their membership, a slight (2%) increase compared with this time last year (2017= 554). Each year, the early registration deadline for the Annual Meeting coincides with a large number of membership renewals; at the time of this report, that deadline was still 3 weeks away.

So far in FY 2018, Regular membership is at 360 members, slightly above the membership last year at this time (2017=353), and on-par with the past two years. The Post-doctoral, Student, and Emeritus membership categories appear to be holding steady at 41, 119, and 47 members, respectively.

To encourage membership, we now directly email members at their renewal date and send monthly reminders. We have been working with SPLtrak to improve the demographic information we collect from our membership to facilitate reporting to our granting agencies, and to provide better categories for members who are not in academic institutions: Management/Executive; Research & Development; Marketing. These efforts will help us understand our membership and make better decisions about annual meeting programming and other membership benefits.
As we seek to grow and expand our membership and the impact of our society, so to must we support our youngest members as they embark upon their research careers in the chemical senses. As a society we do this by investing in their education, offering outreach and networking opportunities, and by providing support to attend the annual meeting. This year, AChemS is happy to provide support to five junior investigators with the Polak Postdoctoral Travel Awards. In addition, we will support meeting attendance for 46 domestic and international students with the Student Travel and Housing Awards. Travel and Housing awardees will operationally support the meeting, by helping to hang poster numbers, staffing the Welcome Banquet, performing registration and check-in for attendees, directing attendees to event and meeting locations, volunteering at our outreach event, and by documenting the meeting through videography and as Photo Squad members.

Another way we expand the impact of our society is by holding community outreach events. Last year, we partnered with the Imaginarium Science Center in Ft. Myers, FL to introduce students from the Franklin Park Elementary School to the chemical senses. Franklin Park is located in one of the most socio-economically challenged areas of Lee County, has a student population that is predominantly African-American, and has a 96% rate of free and reduced lunch.

Franklin Park is also a Title 1 school, which means it receives additional funding as a result of the socioeconomic status of its students. For the 2017 event, nine AChemS members (Suzanne Sollars, Andrew Riquier, Eric Larson, Courtney Wilson, Jordan Ross, Cameron Ogg, Stephanie Staszko, Olga Escanilla, and Joshua Sammons) generously volunteered to inspire 4th grade students with demonstrations.

This year, AChemS volunteers will again offer exhibits, displays, and demonstrations that revealed the importance of smell, taste, and flavor in everyday life to students from Franklin Park Tuesday, April 17th, 2018. Small groups of students will rotate through four demonstration stations. AChemS members Stephanie Staszko and Jordan Ross will perform the jelly bean experiment where students will explore the impact of olfaction on flavor; Andrew Riquier, Kristi Apa, and Suzanne Sollars will teach students about taste and how to visualize fungiform papillae with the “Blue Tongue” experiment; Hillary Schiff and Renee Hartig will discuss chemesthesis with a demonstration where students will sample cool, minty flavors as well as cinnamon red hots; and Elbrich Postma and Paulina Morquecho Campos will explore how expectations may influence food perception and choice. We look forward to this year’s demonstrations, and welcome any suggestions and ideas from the membership regarding future demonstrations and outreach events.
2017 AChemS Travel Fellowships for Diversity Award Recipients

Olga Escanilla
Binghamton University

Brian Jackson
University of Washington

Kayla Lemons
University of Maryland
Baltimore County

Kimberly Nnah
Binghamton University

Vincente Ramirez
University of California
Merced

Melissa Singletary
Auburn University

Regine West
Eastern Michigan University

2017 Polak Postdoctoral Travel Award Recipients

Tobias Ackels, PhD
The Francis Crick Institute

Yan Chen PhD
Texas A&M University

Warren Green, PhD
University of Florida

Eric Larson, PhD
University of Colorado

Casey Trimmer, PhD
Monell Chemical Senses Center
2017 AChemS
Student Housing and Travel
Award Recipients

Abdullah Al-Matrouk
Xiaojun Bao
Elizabeth Carney
Brandon Chelette
Jingguo Chen
Ciera Crawford
Rudolf Degen
Bapon Dey
Laura Donner
Wayne Doyle
Malena Ezzat
Veronica Flores
Deanna Hojati
Jason Hwang
Liang-Dar (Daniel) Hwang
Ashley Iannantone
Mohamed Ishan
Catherine Kaminski
Marley Kass
Megen Kepas
Kirill Korshunov
Tenzin Kunkhyen
Simona Manescu
Elizabeth McCarthy
Maellie Midroit
Adrianna Milton
Takuya Osakada
Katherine Pendergast
Daphnee Poupon
Alexa Pullicin
Andrew Riquier
Madeline Rochelle
Sara Simpson
Longzhi Tan
Claire Terrier
Lutz Wallhorn
Yuting Ye
Xingjian Zhang

2017 Logo Contest Winner
Courtney Wilson

AChemS Young Investigator Award

2016 Don Tucker Award

Polak Young Investigator Award
Max Mozell
Award Recipient

Statement of Research Focus, and Acknowledgements

My work has been on the mechanisms by which chemosensory information reaches the brain and how it is represented there; ranging from temporal patterns of activation in the olfactory bulb to the influence of GnRH and the bidirectional impulse traffic in the shark nervous terminalis. However, an early success in establishing how the mammalian vomeronasal organ is stimulated, led to a series of experiments on accessory olfactory contributions to chemosensory communication and reproductive behavior in male rodents, including the influence of GnRH, androgen and oxytocin. These, in turn, led to our current work on characteristic spatial patterns of activation in medial amygdala elicited by social chemosignals carrying different messages, and the local circuits that generate these patterns and ultimately evoke appropriate behavioral responses. The work has been made possibly by research and training grants from NIDCD, NSF, the University of Pennsylvania, Rockefeller University and Florida State University; and by the inspiration, dedication and hard work of graduate students, postdocs and colleagues.

Meredith Blankenship

Barry Jacobs
Award Recipient

Research Focus

Generally, my research has sought to better understand the mechanisms underpinning food-evoked perception, pleasure, and behaviors in humans. Using a multidisciplinary approach combining psychophysics, electrophysiology and behavioral measurements, we investigate chemesthesis, taste, and flavor as well as the interactions that occur between these systems. Recently we have begun to incorporate immersive technologies into our experimental paradigms in an effort to explore the role of context in shaping perception, reward and food choice.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank MindGenomics for making this award possible and AChemS for honoring me as the 2017 recipient. I have benefitted immensely from my association with this community and my interaction with the AChemS membership has contributed greatly to my scientific growth. I would also like to thank my students, colleagues, and mentors for their contributions, support, and guidance. In particular, Earl Carstens, Mike O’Mahony and Barry Green have had tremendous impact on my development as a scientist. Finally, I would like to thank my wife who, since day one, has been an integral part of this journey.

Don Tucker
Award Recipient

Research Program

My research has focused on the role of olfactory modality on odor preference learning. I found that in the context of consumption, the retronasal route of odor experience may be more effective for learning than the orthonasal route: rats learn odor preferences more rapidly when odors are introduced intra-orally as opposed to merely sniffed. Surprisingly, I found that preferences learned through this route do not appear to directly “generalize” to the same odor in the orthonasal modality. Instead, it appears that concurrent retro- and orthonasal experience is required to rapidly learn orthonasal preferences—reminiscent of olfactory experience during consumption of natural foods. Next, I investigated the role of primary taste area gustatory cortex (GC) in these phenomena. I found that normal GC function appears to be uniquely required for the expression of retronasal preferences. My findings highlighting the relationship between taste and retro-smell as two orally-sourced chemosensory streams.

Acknowledgements

Firstly, I would like to thank the AChemS committee for selecting me to be a recipient of the Don Tucker award and allowing me to present my research at the annual meeting. I would like to thank my advisor, Dr. Donald Katz, for providing guidance during this project. He has allowed me the freedom to pursue the scientific topics that interested me most even when they deviated from his “normal” line of work, enabling me to grow as an independent scientist. I would also like to thank Dr. Joost Maier for being a close collaborator on the project from the beginning, and who has provided key conceptual insights without which this project wouldn’t have been possible. Finally, I want to thank Maria Grigorova for being a thoughtful, hard-working mentee and technician that any graduate school or laboratory would be lucky to have on staff (hint hint).
AChemS Young Investigator Award Recipient

Max Fletcher

Research Summary
My research uses in vivo imaging combined with behavioral assays to understand how behavioral states such as fear or arousal modulate sensory information within the olfactory bulb (OB). We are currently studying the effect of fear learning on OB odor representations and subsequent behavioral responses to both feared and novel odors, a process known as generalization. We are also interested in the ways centrifugal input from neuro-modulatory centers during attention can enhance OB processing, olfactory perception, and odor learning. Our work has demonstrated a necessary role for one such neuromodulator, acetylcholine, in this process. We continue to explore the mechanisms by which acetylcholine enhances OB odor responses and drives odor salience.

Acknowledgements
First, I would like to thank AChemS for this award and Dr. John Boughter for nominating me. I would also like to thank my post-doc advisor Dr. Wei Chen and especially, my graduate advisor Dr. Donald Wilson for being an amazing mentor. Finally, I want to thank the past and present members of my lab for their tolerance, hard work, and dedication.

Ajinomoto Award Recipient

Kathrin Ohla

Research Focus
Understanding the principles that drive food intake is a prerequisite for the development of targeted interventions to promote healthy eating. My research aims at unraveling the workings of the human gustatory system, the gateway to nutrient sensing, and I ask how taste perception is influenced by attention and learning from prior exposure and experience. Because food is more than taste, I also ask how different senses interact and integrate to a holistic food experience. In my research, I combine electrophysiological and behavioral responses with mathematical modelling to study the 1) cortical representations of the most pertinent features of taste (quality, intensity, hedonicity), 2) susceptibility of taste representation to context information, experience, and learning, as well as 3) cross-modal sensory interactions involving taste and smell. Part of my work involves the development of novel stimulation techniques and psychophysical tests to allow achieving our goals.

Acknowledgements
First of all, I would like to thank Donald Katz, Wolfgang Meyerhof, Johan Lundström, Thomas Hummel, and Jessica Albrecht for supporting my nomination for this prestigious award. I am grateful to my supervisor Johan Lundström and my mentor Micah Murray who have provided guidance and support along the way and who have been a source of motivation during the past years; I would also like to thank my collaborators, particularly, Niko Busch and Sebastian Crouzet for the most exciting and fun collaboration. Although I haven't been long at the Monell Chemical Senses Center, I would like to thank all people who make this place the most incredible and inspiring research environment for chemosensory research; I will always keep fond memories of my time there. Least but not last, I would like to thank the German Institute of Human Nutrition for giving me the opportunity to start my own lab in a stimulating, multi-disciplinary environment.
PROGRAM CHAIR’S REPORT

Update on the 2018 AChemS XL meeting, April 16-20, 2018.
John Boughter, PhD, Chair

The upcoming AChemS meeting will mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of our society. The program for the meeting can be found online at http://achems.org/2018/program.php. Thanks are due to the Program committee, and the management team at SPLtrak for developing what is sure to be a great meeting. An important change to be aware of this year is a slight change in schedule, with the opening ceremonies this year occurring on Tuesday, and the meeting wrapping up on Friday night.

The 2018 meeting will kick off with a special introduction that briefly touches on the history and founding of AChemS, followed by award presentations and election results. The Givaudan lecture will be given by Kent Berridge from the University of Michigan. Dr. Berridge is perhaps the world’s foremost expert on neural processing of Pleasure and Reward, and the title of his lecture is “Brain systems of taste ‘liking’ & ‘wanting’: roles in addiction”.

The meeting program includes 8 member-initiated symposia, as well as stand-alone Clinical and Industrial symposia. Collectively, these symposia will feature a diverse array of exciting, cutting-edge chemosensory topics. The Presidential symposium features invited speakers who will reflect on both past discoveries and future directions of research in the chemical senses. There will also be 2 awards symposia: The Polak Young Investigators symposium, and the AChemS Awards symposium.

In addition to symposia, a total of 238 poster presentations will be spread out over 5 sessions. Once again, several of the presentations in each session will use digital poster boards, which allow for unique, interactive exhibitions.

Other highlights of the meeting include special lectures on science writing and Citizen science, as well as several career-related mixers and events. The third annual Journal Club will focus on the work of AChemS founder Max Mozell. For the second year in a row, the main meeting will be preceded by a satellite meeting, organized and co-chaired by Dan Wesson and Max Fletcher, and this year focusing on Central mechanisms and pathways for chemoreception. Finally, we will end the meeting with a celebration, featuring light food, music and dancing.

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Minghong Ma, PhD, Chair

The awards committee is composed of ten AChemS members (Barry Ache, Martha Bajec, Jeannine Delwiche, Rona Delay, David Gire, Robin Krimm, Juyun Lim, Joost Maier, Wayne Silver, Ann-Marie Torregrossa) and chaired by the President-Elect.

From a slew of excellent nominees, the committee has selected the winners for the following four awards.

The Max Mozell Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Chemical Senses: John R. Carlson, PhD, Higgins Professor, Yale University

The Barry Jacobs Memorial Award for Research in the Psychophysics of Human Taste and Smell: Sanne Boesveldt, Assistant Professor, Wageningen University

The Ajinomoto Award for Young Investigators in Gustation or Oral Chemosensation: Yuki Oka, Assistant Professor, California Institute of Technology

The AChemS Young Investigator Award for Research in Olfaction or Nasal Chemosensation: Joel D. Mainland, PhD, Associate Member, Monell Chemical Senses Center

These four individuals will be acknowledged in the opening ceremonies on April 17th and they will present their work in the Award Symposium on April 20th. In the opening ceremonies, the 2017 Don Tucker Memorial Award winner (Austin B. Schwartz) and the undergraduate research award winner (Yonina G. Frim) will also be acknowledged.

During the 2018 annual meeting, eight finalists out of twenty nominated graduate students will be considered for the Don Tucker Memorial Award and four undergraduate students for the undergraduate research award. Their posters will be indicated in the meeting program. Please come to see the presentations from these talented junior scientists. The winners for student research awards will be acknowledged in the 2019 annual meeting.
MENTORING/NETWORKING COMMITTEE REPORT

Jeremy McIntyre, PhD, Chair

For the 40th Anniversary of the AChemS meeting, this year the Mentoring/Networking Committee has decided to try some new things. This year our event will take place in the Calusa Ballrooms and Foyer. Please join us at 4:00 PM on April 19th to hear about “NEW CAREER DIRECTIONS IN NEUROSCIENCE: SCIENCE WRITING AND CITIZEN SCIENCE”. Listen and talk with Dr. Maryam Zaringhalam and Dr. Nicole Garneau about their journeys to these careers. Following the discussion, we will once again provide food, drink, and a chance to talk with others in your field, in a more casual surrounding. We will continue to host feature topic tables on issues in science and provide an opportunity where you can talk with scientists actively recruiting undergrads for grad school programs, new PhD grads for postdoc positions, and industry representatives looking for those keen to make a switch.

This is a great event to attend if you’re looking to take the next step, looking to recruit a new trainee, or just want to get to know you’re colleagues better. Don’t forget we are also looking for all types of regular members to serve has mentors to our trainees and spend a little time getting to know each other and passing on advice. Finally, this year we will once again have a graduate student happy hour on Tuesday, April 17 from 9:00 PM – 11:00 PM at the Mangroves Patio. The hotel has graciously agreed to extend their happy hour menus for our Graduate Students (although all others are welcome too). If there are any suggestions for next year’s events, please direct them to the Mentoring/Networking Committee either at the meeting, or via email (info@achems.org), and here’s to another year!

CHEMICAL SENSES REPORT

Wolfgang Meyerhof, Editor-in-Chief

Chemical Senses – March 2018

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*from 28 countries, 136 original articles, 10 review articles, 2 commentaries, 3 book reviews, 1 letter to editor; the trend to papers reporting human/clinical research continues.

#No. of submissions: United States > Germany > Japan > UK > France = Italy > China > 21 other countries.

A special issue on “The Role Of The Chemical Senses In Disgust’s Disease Avoidance” has been published.
As we prepare for the 40th Annual Meeting, I would like to thank our sponsors and exhibitors who provide essential financial support that enriches the depth and diversity of the meeting’s programs and that recognize the exceptional research accomplishments of AChemS scientists through its various awards. Without you, AChemS could not provide the outstanding programming that attendees have come to expect year after year.

Don’t miss the Industry Symposium on April 18 (Wed), “Texture and oral processing: From basic mechanisms to practical applications”. It is well known that texture is a powerful driver of food acceptance and rejection, but our understanding of texture perception lags well behind our knowledge of other oral sensations.

This symposium brings together five speakers working in different areas of this field to discuss new findings ranging from the biomechanics of chewing, and basic cellular and molecular mechanisms of texture perception, to individual differences in oral processing and their effects on flavor perception, eating rate and food consumption. My thanks to the Industrial Liaison Committee (Bernadette Cortese, Carter Green, Linda Flammer, Chris Simons, and Yu Wang), for their assistance with fundraising and development of this year’s exciting symposium.

This year, the committee reviewed 10 applications for the AChemS Travel Fellowships for Diversity, and offered the award to 9 very strong applicants. The awardees include under-represented ethnic groups, veterans and disability groups. The awardees will attend a luncheon in their honor on April 18th. This year’s lunch will include a presentation by former diversity awardee Genevieve Bell.
Valerie Duffy, PhD, Chair

We organized the Second Annual Journal Club for AChemS 2017. These events are to highlight classic work in chemosensory sciences by senior colleagues, and bring the concepts and results forward to current thinking in the field. Presenters are senior and junior AChemS members. The 2017 Journal Club, with a standing-room only audience, was ‘An Introduction to Conditioned Taste Aversion ---- Highlighting Contributions to the Chemosensory Sciences from James C. Smith, Florida State University.

After AChemS 2017 we have had on-site and telephone meetings to plan contributions for 2018, the AChemS 40th anniversary meeting, and other initiatives. These include: (1) A brief introductory PowerPoint presentation of AChemS' inception, deriving from the Gordon Conference on Chemical Senses, Taste and Olfaction, 1978. (2) A poster to expand on the PowerPoint presentation and illustrate elements of the history of AChemS. (3) The initiation of standardized interviews with AChemS members to build a catalog of short videos with members. These will start this year on-site with a videographer enlisted by SPLtrak and an interview format crafted by the History Committee. (4) The Third Journal Club, to highlight the contributions of Maxwell M. Mozell, ‘From the Chromatographic Theory to Odor Perception: Spatiotemporal Pattern in Olfaction’. Contributors will be senior and junior colleagues and audience participants.

We continue to grapple with straightforward means to archive photos for AChemS history. We welcome labeled photographs from your collections.

Dr. Diego Restrepo, Co-Director, Center for NeuroScience at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, and his interdisciplinary collaborators will present on cutting edge evidence in animal models of the cellular basis of early behavioral alterations in demyelinating disorders, including alterations in olfactory behavior. With focus to chemosensory disorders, Dr. Johannes Frasnelli, Department of Anatomy at the University of Quebec in Trois-Rivieres and Sacré-Coeur Hospital in Montreal, will present integrated behavioral and imaging research on olfactory dysfunction in mild TBI, including the longitudinal progression of olfactory function after the insult. In an intersection between PTSD and olfactory function, clinical psychologist Dr. Deborah Beidel from the University of Central Florida and the RESTORES clinical research center, will highlight new research on use of olfactory signals in the etiology and potential treatment of PTSD. The Clinical Symposium Committee thanks the speakers in advance for their willingness to share their expertise and generate research ideas and new collaborations. Importantly, our Committee thanks the AChemS Executive Committee for generous support of the travel of Dr. Flory and Beidel to present at and attend the meeting to interact with AChemS members.