

I am very grateful for support I received from the Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) Travel Award to attend the 250th American Chemical Society (ACS) National Meeting in Boston, MA from August 16-20, 2015. ACS organizes the most widely recognized and attended meetings world-wide in chemistry, drawing about 15,000 people to its national meetings to report on all fields of chemistry.

The national ACS meeting was comprised of 20 minutes talks within each session of each division during the day, and poster sessions were held in the evening for each division. Topics covered the breadth of chemistry, from agriculture and history to catalysis and materials. This extensive coverage of topics allowed me to learn about cutting-edge research currently being performed in my field, as well as many other fields. This allowed me to see talks in alternate fields, such as heterogeneous catalysis or materials, which I may want to pursue in the future. I was also able to see a wide-variety of research currently being performed by groups at national laboratories, where I would be interested in attaining a post-doctoral position. I was able to engage in useful discussions with many professors, grad-students, post-docs, and representatives from industry who were among the wide variety of people present at the meeting to aid in my own research as well as a decision for a future career.

In addition, I presented my work in the “Organometallic: Catalysis” session of the inorganic division, titled “Iron(II) Active Species in Iron Bisphosphine Catalyzed Cross-Coupling with Phenyl Nucleophiles”. This research further demonstrates the novel application of physical inorganic techniques developed by our group to monitor in-situ iron speciation and mechanisms of iron-based catalytic reactions. Many people expressed interest in my research, especially those who work in the iron-based chemistry community, and I was able to gain valuable feedback from them.

Overall, my experience at the ACS national meeting was very valued, as I was able to see talks from and discuss science with a specific community of people in the organometallic/inorganic division, as well as see talks from many leading scientists in divisions other than my own. I am very thankful to GWIS for this travel award and for the opportunity to present at the 250th ACS national meeting.