

I was very pleased to be awarded a Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) Travel Award to attend the 254th American Chemical Society (ACS) National Meeting held in Washington, D.C. from August 20-24, 2017. The ACS is the largest scientific society in the world, with more than 157,000 members. Twice a year, the ACS holds national meetings in which about 15,000 people come together from all different fields of chemistry. There are many different symposia held during the conference five days.

One symposium of particular interest was held in honor of Ed Solomon, my academic grandfather. This symposium included many of his previous students and others who have worked with him throughout the years. The research focus of many of these now-faculty is very different research than the focus of my current group; however, we all utilize many of the same techniques. This symposium also had a poster session dedicated to this group of researchers. I found it very rewarding to present my poster, "Mechanistic Studies of Iron-Catalyzed C-H Functionalization," in this session since many people who would not ordinarily attend poster sessions attended the focus was of interest. Numerous people talked to me at my poster, and several seemed very interested in my work, offering a great variety of useful ideas for me to test in my research.

I also spent some time ~~in~~ attending different symposia that were outside the area of my current research. Attending these symposia helped me get a better idea of other areas of chemistry that are interesting to me and could possibly be areas to explore further when looking for careers in the coming year. In one very interesting talk, Roald Hoffman discussed his early career work with Woodward. I also greatly enjoyed attending multiple poster sessions in the evenings and discussing each the poster presenters' research, offering ideas to them about their research.

I found the conference to be very rewarding. I was able to hear a number of talks and discuss my science with many people who I would not normally meet. Thank you GWIS for giving me the opportunity to travel to the 254th ACS National Meeting in Washington, D.C.