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Conventional Wisdom

Communicating science through conventional channels such as scientific meetings is quite invigorating and unlikely to go out of fashion anytime soon. The feeling of presenting research, the culmination of months and often years of rigorous effort, in an open forum is quite exhilarating in itself. Add to that the fact that meetings bring scientists with diverse interests and backgrounds together, and you have an incubator for innovative approaches and ideas. A meeting of minds can be especially useful for scientists engaged in research in chemical biology, because the field spans many traditional disciplines.

We are thrilled that two scientific meetings being held next month, the 235th American Chemical Society (ACS) National Meeting in New Orleans and the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) in San Diego, will feature symposia and talks that focus on recent advances in chemical biology. The simultaneous meetings of two major professional scientific societies featuring research in chemical biology underscores the high quality and broad impact of the research being conducted in this field. In addition, these meetings are a robust affirmation of the unique role that chemical biology promises to play in both the biological and chemical arenas in coming days.


At the ACS national meeting (April 6–10), several symposia, such as “Frontiers in Chemical Biology” and “New Techniques in Chemical Biology”, will offer a stimulating array of talks. Both symposia are sponsored by the Division of Biological Chemistry. Other symposia sponsored by the division will showcase interesting research, including “Biological Macromolecules” and “Enzymes and Pathways”. In addition, the Division of Inorganic Chemistry will feature different symposia on enzymes, nucleic acids, and metals in health and disease. As expected, the Division of Carbohydrate Chemistry will present symposia on all matters carbohydrate but also, interestingly, on exploring RNAs as drug targets. Complete details of the technical program are available in the online and print versions of *Chemical & Engineering News* (1). In short, with so many impressive choices, time management is key to making sure you do not miss “must-attend” talks. Eric Martens, who is the Managing Editor of *ACS Chemical Biology* (ACSCB), will be one of the attendees, and the journal will have a significant presence at the meeting. We are also particularly pleased that many of the organizers and speakers of the symposia have recently published with ACSCB.

Many of us, including me, are taking a trip to San Diego for the ASBMB Annual Meeting (April 5–9). Editor-in-Chief Laura Kiessling and Board of Editors member Anna Mapp are organizing sessions spread out over four days that showcase research at the interface of chemistry and biology (2). The symposia in the “Chemical Biology” theme will cover diverse topics such as strategies for imaging protein localization and dynamics, chemical perspectives in the neurosciences, small-molecule control of protein folding and assembly, and the use of chemical probes to identify new therapeutic targets. Jennifer Doudna, also a member of our Board of Editors, will be presenting at the ASBMB meeting on RNA-controlled gene expression. Other thematic sessions of particular interest include “Drug Discovery”, “Protein Synthesis and Turnover”, “Biomolecular Catalysis”, and “Folding and Design”. As with the ACS national meeting, quite a few speakers and organizers of diverse themes at the ASBMB meeting have published with ACSCB. For example, Ronald Raines, the correspond-

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ing author of an authoritative review on the use of fluorophores in this issue (3), will be speaking on the use of latent fluorophores in biomolecular imaging.

Here at ACSCB, we are excited about both meetings. Whether you sample some savory *étouffée* in New Orleans or get a nice tan in San Diego, please feel free to take a minute to talk to us about your research and our journal. We look forward to seeing you!



Anirban Mahapatra
Assistant Managing Editor

REFERENCES

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