

Nanoscience Challenges

We hope that you enjoyed the Spring 2009 American Chemical Society Meeting in Salt Lake City. We were given the opportunity to program the meeting around the theme “Nanoscience: Challenges for the Future”. Happily, many of the speakers and organizers took us up on the chance to give forward-looking talks laying out the future of our field. The breadth of what was covered was remarkable. The “buzz” in the hallways was alive with the latest talks, results, and ideas.

If you were not able to attend the meeting in person, or if there were simply too many interesting talks at the same time, we do have two ways for you to catch up with what you missed. This spring and summer we will publish a Nano Focus article related to each of the special symposia, the keynote lecture given by Prof. Angela Belcher of MIT, and the Kavli Foundation ACS Presidential Plenary Lectures given by Prof. Vicki Colvin of Rice University, Prof. James Hutchison of the University of Oregon, Prof. George Whitesides of Harvard University, and Prof. C. Grant Willson of the University of Texas at Austin.

The first of this series appears in this issue, in which Dr. Andrew Greenberg discusses current efforts in the U.S. to integrate nanoscience education into high school and college classrooms.² One of the discussion points that came up repeatedly at the meeting was training in nanoscience. Beyond the symposium organized on this theme by Dr. Greenberg, the topic became part of the panel discussion at the Kavli Foundation symposium and again at the career panel discussion that Prof. Belcher and I had with students and postdocs.

The second way that you can catch up is online. Approximately 30 of the talks were recorded and will appear on the Web (another part of the experiment).¹ You can also hear encore performances of “The Nano Song”, our “What Is Nano?” contest winner and latest viral video hit featured on ACS Nanotation.³ Both Dr. Greenberg and those behind “The Nano Song” are featured on this month’s podcast.⁴



IMAGE COURTESY OF PETER CUTTS PHOTOGRAPHY, LLC

Prof. Angela Belcher of MIT gave the ACS Presidential Keynote Address, “From Nature and Back Again: Giving New Life to Materials for Energy”. This and selected other talks from the Spring 2009 ACS meeting will be available online.¹



IMAGE COURTESY OF MITCH JACOBY

Speakers, organizer, and sponsor of The Kavli Foundation ACS Presidential Plenary Session on Challenges in Nanoscience. Front row, left to right: Prof. Vicki Colvin, Rice University; Dr. Miyoung Chun, Kavli Foundation; Prof. Paul Weiss, Penn State and ACS Nano. Back row, left to right: Prof. George Whitesides, Harvard University; Prof. C. Grant Willson, University of Texas at Austin and ACS Nano; Prof. James Hutchison, University of Oregon.

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"The Nano Song" was the winner of our "What Is Nano?" contest. You can watch it at the ACS Nanotation Web site.³

IMAGE COURTESY OF ACS NANOTATION

Finally, a great thank you to all who helped organize the meeting and the special symposia! We hope that you were pleased with the results and found enough success with our experiments to want more such interdisciplinary programs and more flexibility to improve each subsequent meeting.

Paul S. Weiss
Editor-in-Chief

Acknowledgment. We gratefully acknowledge Penelope Lewis, Richard Love, and the ACS meetings staff for all their hard work organizing the meeting and trying to accommodate our many special requests. We thank the special symposium organizers and speakers for their efforts to try something new and to make this a successful program, and for their contributions that you will see in this and upcoming issues. We thank the Kavli Foundation and Dr. Miyoung Chun for encouraging and sponsoring both the Kavli Foundation ACS Presidential Plenary Session described above and the "Nano Meets Neuro" special symposium, and the ACS President's office and President Tom Lane for their support and encouragement.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. <http://www.softconference.com/ACSchem>.
2. Greenberg, A. E. Integrating Nanoscience into the Classroom: Perspectives on Nanoscience Education Projects. *ACS Nano* **2009**, *3*, 762–769.
3. <http://www.acsnanotation.org/whatisnano>.
4. Lewis, P. A. Episode 21; *ACS Nano* April **2009**; <http://pubs.acs.org/page/ancac3/audio/index.html>.