Welcome to Chicago and the ACS spring national meeting!

After six years, we are pleased to return to the city of Chicago – 170 years “young.” Chicago is a great place to visit. I truly hope that you will have some time to explore! That said, we have accepted over 9,000 papers for this meeting, and it promises to be most exciting.

The overarching theme for this national meeting – part of the new thematic programming initiative of ACS divisions and secretariats – is **Sustainability of Energy, Food and Water**. Our full week together starts off with three presidential events: **Sustainability: A World View** [Sunday, March 25]; **Technology Challenges and Opportunities for a Sustainable Future**, and **Educating for Sustainability** [Monday, March 26]. Join us for round table discussions over lunch on Monday [sponsored by ComSCI and CEI] and for e-discussions at ACSpresident.org.

Along with a rich program of scientific papers, we have **Realizing the Full Potential of Solar Energy** [sponsored by PHYS; cosponsored with Sustainability, SUST], on Monday, March 26; and **Going with the Flow** [sponsored by HIST, cosponsored with SUST and Division of Environmental Chemistry] and **Benchmarking the Research Competitiveness of U.S. Chemistry and Chemical Engineering** [cosponsored with CHED, CEPA, ComSCI, and International Activities Committee] on Tuesday, March 27.

For more information on these and other sessions on the meeting theme, refer to the Sustainability (SUST) listing in the technical program or on-line at chemistry.org/meetings/chicago2007.

It is my sincere hope that thematic programming will not only nucleate ideas, foster community, and accelerate the pace of innovation, but will also communicate the positive impact of chemistry - loud and clear. Openly discussing these topics as a scientific community enables us to speak with one voice to our membership, the media, the public and the next generation.

We also have a wonderful array of continuing education choices will be offered through ACS short courses, divisional and professional workshops, and exposition workshops. The exposition itself will be held at McCormick Place, presenting attendees with an opportunity to learn about scientific and industrial trends, discover effective technologies and services, and network with more than 300 companies that serve chemical professionals.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to extend a very special thanks to the members of the Chicago Local Section, the ACS Committee on Meetings and Expositions and the ACS staff for the time and effort they have expended to make this meeting a splendid success. I’m looking forward to spending a high-energy week with all of you - reigniting our commitment to science and technology - education, collaboration and innovation!

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The ACS Committee on International Activities cordially invites you to attend a reception for International Attendees at the American Chemical Society Meeting in Chicago. The reception is co-sponsored by the U.S. National Committee of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and will be held Sunday 25 March from 5:30-7:30pm in the Superior Room of the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers.

**ACS Vision: Improving People’s Lives through the Transforming Power of Chemistry**