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## Foreword

The American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund (ACS PRF) is unique among agencies that fund scientific research. The unusual origin of the Fund is briefly described in the introduction to this report. Since PRF awarded its first grants-in-aid of research in 1954, thousands of scientists, including several Nobel Prize winners, have received support for “advanced scientific education and fundamental research related to the petroleum field.” A wide variety of topics that “may afford a basis for subsequent research directly connected with the petroleum field” have been supported.

While funding from ACS PRF has been significant for the Principal Investigators who received the grants, perhaps the greatest impact has been on the student researchers supported by these grants. Each year many students at the undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral levels are involved in ACS PRF research projects and the experience gained will be very valuable in their future careers. The author of this foreword is pleased to be among the large group of scientists whose education was enhanced by PRF support.

In its efforts to support the research that best fulfills the intent of the Trust establishing the Fund, the ACS PRF seeks guidance from the scientific community through the peer review process. Each year, thousands of scientists critique the submitted research proposals. The ACS PRF Advisory Board uses these reviews and ultimately selects the best proposals with the greatest potential for impact. Once again, these volunteer efforts helped select an outstanding portfolio of research.

While looking through this report one cannot help but be impressed by the quality and variety of what has been accomplished. I hope all who read it gain an appreciation for the important work catalyzed by the donors of the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund.

W. Christopher Hollinsed, Ph.D.  
ACS PRF Director  
Washington, DC  
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