



Director's Comments 2011



I have often been asked, "What makes the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund so successful?"

The ACS Petroleum Research Fund is a relatively small funding agency with a large impact through its support of advanced scientific education and fundamental research in the petroleum field. What makes the ACS Petroleum Research Fund so successful are people.

The staff of the Office of Research Grants administers the ACS Petroleum Research Fund and other ACS research grant programs. My staff handles the day-to-day operations of the ACS PRF including proposal processing and grant management. Each proposal is linked into our database and undergoes a compliance check, with the compliant proposals sent out for external peer review. Proposals and peer reviews are then sent to the ACS PRF Advisory Board who evaluate the proposals and make funding recommendations.

My staff utilize the world class computer-assisted scientific search capabilities of the ACS Chemical Abstracts Service and the best journals for chemistry and related sciences and engineering from our Publications Division.

Our Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Madeleine Jacob, is committed to keeping ACS as the premier chemical society in the world. As part of this commitment, she fully supports the activities of the Office of Research Grants.

Three ACS governance groups are directly involved with ACS PRF. The Board Standing Committee on Grants & Awards (G&A) has overall responsibility for ACS PRF and actually awards the grants. The Board Standing Committee on Pensions and Investments (P&I) manages the ACS PRF investments and is responsible for setting the ACS PRF budget. G&A has delegated authority to the ACS PRF Advisory Board to handle proposal evaluation.

Finally, we depend upon the science and engineering community for external peer reviews. We would not be able to fund proposals in all of the broad science and engineering disciplines without your help in providing external peer reviews.

With so many individuals supporting the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund, how could we not be successful? We invite you to read the progress reports on the innovative research that our Fund has supported.