

Paul Jackson

I would like to thank the Pittsburgh section of the ACS for providing funding for me to attend the 249th ACS National Meeting in Denver because it was a great experience. I arrived in Denver the afternoon before the conference started, and my friends who live in Denver drove me to the mountains where we could see Denver in the distance. Sunday morning the conference began, and I learned my way around the conference center. I attended some interesting presentations on small molecule immune modulation and hydrogen bonding organocatalysts in the medicinal and organic chemistry sessions. I spent Sunday evening at the exposition opening where new technologies were on display. Bench top NMR was one of the most exciting new developments that I learned about.

I spent most of my time in the organic, medicinal, and biological chemistry sessions, but the SciMix poster session on Monday night gave me a chance to see posters from all the divisions. Some of the prominent lectures were Dr. P. Andrew Evans, who talked about new allylic alkylations and methods to generate acyclic quaternary stereocenters. Dr. Sarah Reisman presented her work on the synthesis of pyrroloindoline alkaloid natural products and acyl cross-coupling. Dr. Richmond Sarpong presented strategies for natural product synthesis, and described using the most bridged ring as a key disconnection in retrosynthetic analysis. Dr. Abigail Doyle presented new developments in C-H activation with nickel catalysts. One of the most interesting presentations was Dr. Thomas Hoye's trapping of benzyne intermediates with complex molecules which reacted surprisingly selectively. I also attended the Kavli lecture by Dr. Laura Kiessling about distinguishing mammalian and microbial cells using carbohydrates.

I enjoyed exploring downtown Denver in my free time and visited a variety of restaurants near the conference center for lunch and dinner throughout the week, although there were many more I would have liked to try. Tuesday night I presented my poster on the synthesis of guaianolide analogs in the organic poster session. I enjoyed talking about my current research. I stayed in Denver an extra day after the conference ended, and I was able to visit Boulder and Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre before returning home. Overall, I had a great time at the conference and in Denver. I would encourage everyone to go to an ACS meeting, and I want to thank the Pittsburgh ACS section again for giving me the chance to attend.



