

Thanks for the travel grant provided by ACS Pittsburgh section. I was very excited for their support to give me a chance participating in ACS meeting in Indianapolis this fall. It's a great conference, and I enjoyed every minute there.

As a chemistry graduate student, I need learn a lot from other researcher's work through ACS publications and keep myself up to date. The ACS conference provides a great opportunity to learn about newest and coolest work in chemistry. Every day, I spent all my day time in talks across different symposiums. Some of them were close related to my research and very helpful to solve problems I have or suggestive in some aspects to make my researches more solid. There were also some other talks that not related but really innovative. They inspired me a lot about science. Since the ACS conference is very large that includes talks in many different research areas across the whole chemistry world. Everyone can find things that very interesting and helpful to them. It's also a great time to go outside the area I work in the lab and know other attracting field in chemistry.

Even though you can read other people's papers at university and know their researches quite well. But attending their talks is still quite different. Usually during the talk, presenters talks about several their papers in a more systemic way, so that you can understand their general thoughts toward the trend of the research field which provides a good guide for new researchers. I met some well-known scientists during the meeting, like the Nobel Prize laureate Prof. Grubbs, as well as other famous scientists in my research area like Prof. Cheng and Prof. Bao. I had known their names for a long time from their publications. But from their talk, I learned some of their unpublished work, asked some questions and discussed with them about my confusion.

At night time, there was a poster section. It was hold in a very big room in the convention center with hundreds of posters exhibited each night. I liked to walk around posters and talk to people. It was a very efficient way to discover researches that interesting to me from this large amount of posters. I also presented a poster. One thing I like the poster section a lot, whether I presented or read other people's poster, is I had plenty of time to discuss and talk with other graduate students. There was no time limit and you can ask a lot of questions and talk about many things. It's a great opportunity to expand my network and get very helpful advice from people. I talked with graduate student from many different universities, professors and some editors of well-known research journals. I was very happy that they were interested in my work and thought it would be very important in our area. We all enjoyed the talk and I am still in touch with some of them even after the meeting.

This was the first ACS meeting I had been to. It was a wonderful meeting with so many talented people getting together and sharing their new discoveries. I was very happy to be part of it and I am looking forward to the meeting next year.

