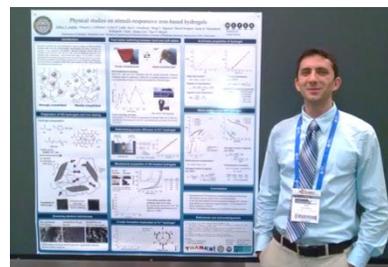


Account of 248th National ACS Meeting, San Francisco, August 10 – 14, 2014
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First, I would like to thank the Pittsburgh ACS section for supporting my attendance at this year's National ACS meeting in San Francisco, California. As this was my first ACS meeting, the experience was extremely rewarding and valuable in numerous ways. The opportunity to hear top researchers in my field present their latest findings is unparalleled at the National meeting. During the day, I spent a great deal of time in the POLY division symposia, specifically in the Metal-Containing and Metallo-Supramolecular Polymers and Materials Symposium, garnering new information and ideas for my own research. I heard talks given by key pioneers in my field, including Christoph Weder, Ulrich Schubert, Ian Manners, and Stuart Rowan. Outside of my field, I attended one of the Presidential lecture series focused on hydraulic fracturing and its associated hazards. I also attended one of the Kavli lectures given by Dr. Ali Khademhosseini on hydrogels for tissue regeneration, where he detailed the design of an electrically stimulated, beating, pumping, hydrogel cell matrix to mimic heart tissue, which I considered a rather impressive feat. Additionally, I listened to John Hartwig's talk on "Connecting organometallic complexes with catalytic reactions", which I found riveting even as a materials chemist as his group does some very intriguing and selective transformations.

One of the most fulfilling aspects of science, aside from actually performing the research and seeing the results, is effectively communicating your work and findings with others.

As a graduate student, to maximize my potential audience I decided to present my work "Physical studies on stimuli-responsive iron-based hydrogels" as a poster in the POLY division. The poster session also gave me an opportunity to meet other graduate students and principal investigators in my field, especially those from outside the United States, and engage in discussion about my research. I was fortunate to meet Ian Manners, a prominent researcher in my field, who I believe was impressed with my poster presentation, which helped me win one of the poster prizes from Wiley VCH in my symposium.



The ACS meeting also hosts a variety of other events throughout the week. The graduate student networking session was a great chance to practice networking skills, and I made several new contacts who I hope to see at future ACS meetings. Of course, visiting the Expo floor was a must, where I spoke with potential employers and checked out all of the new research equipment I wished I could buy, chatting with the vendors along the way. I spotted Professor Molenium, the ACS mascot, at one of the poster sessions, and found to my great surprise that the organizers of the Med Chem/Organic division poster session planned a reception with a live band afterwards.



Following my own poster session, I explored some of the night life in the downtown area, stopping in at a nearby jazz bar with some new friends to enjoy the music and a few drinks.

After the meeting I took a couple of days to explore San Francisco and the nearby region. As a Floridian surfer, I took a chance to fulfill a life-long dream and surf the west coast. An old friend of mine also happens to live in the city and he gave me a personal bike tour of San Francisco, from Haight-Ashbury, to Golden Gate Park, the Golden Gate Bridge, The Wharf,

North Beach, Chinatown, Alamo Square, and though several other famous neighborhoods and vistas. I also visited Muir woods and went for a run among the redwood trees.

Overall, the experience was very informative and inspiring, especially as I move forward with my career in chemistry. I'm looking forward to attending my next National ACS meeting and Thanks again to the Pittsburgh ACS section for your generous support.