

I attended the 2012 Fall ACS Meeting in Philadelphia, PA (August 20-22) thanks to a student travel grant from the Pittsburgh Section of ACS. During the conference I was able to attend talks both within and outside my area of research (polymers and materials) as well as network with fellow chemists and suppliers we use for our lab. To start off the week I was able to attend the graduate and postdoctoral reception where I was able to talk to representatives from my division as well as meet other graduate students who were attending the meeting. Monday night was the Sci-Mix poster session, which showcases the best posters from all the divisions. I was able to see posters ranging from polymer synthesis to computational chemistry to chemical education. On Tuesday I was able to attend a session on non-traditional chemistry careers. The panel consisted of an independent consultant, an analytical chemist turned forensic investigator with the Philadelphia Police Department, and a chemist turned patent lawyer. It was very interesting learning the broad array of things I can do with my chemistry background if I were to choose not to stay at the bench. Tuesday afternoon I attended a session on chemical informatics where my advisor, Prof. Hutchison was giving a talk. While my research is in materials synthesis, I took the opportunity at the meeting to learn about areas of interest that are not part of my research. On Wednesday I was able to talk to some vendors we use at the exhibition (I even saw a giant rotovap) and attend a talk given by one of my fellow group members (Xinfeng Quan). Wednesday afternoon I gave my talk entitled "Synthesis and computational screening towards new D-A and D-D conjugated polymers with elucidation of the sequence effect" in the POLY division. It was a great experience to give my talk to a group of people totally unfamiliar with my research and then get the opportunity to answer their questions. I was also able to attend another one of Prof. Hutchison's talks on Wednesday. This time he focused more on the group's

research. I always find it really interesting and helpful to hear someone else (especially my advisor) talk about my research.

