

It was a wonderful experience to attend the 2013 Spring ACS Meeting in New Orleans (April 7-11, 2013). It was a further privilege to be funded by the ACS Pittsburgh Section to participate in this conference. The conference assumes significance due to the participant volume and diversity in their research interests. I had an opportunity to present a talk entitled, "Core-size and Ligand Dependent Luminescence properties of Atomically Precise Gold Nanoclusters" and it was highly commended.

I am currently a PhD Candidate with Prof. Rongchao Jin at Carnegie Mellon University. My lab focuses on the synthesis and spectroscopic studies on the atomically small nanoclusters. In this direction, I studied the luminescence properties of gold nanoclusters with different core sizes and ligands. I was able to show the remarkable difference in the luminescence properties of these clusters. The talk gave me an opportunity to meet, interact and exchange ideas with seasoned scientists and graduate students from other universities. I was able to establish some collaboration. The intent of these collaborations is to use atomically precise gold and silver nanoclusters in diverse applications.

I was highly motivated to attend the entire session hosted in honor of Prof. Younan Xia. His contribution to the field of nanotechnology was recognized. The session hosted some bigwigs in the field. I was very impressed by the work presented by Prof. George Whitesides, Prof. Richard P. Van Duyne and Prof. Peidong Yang, to name a few.

It was also a wonderful platform for networking. I made many acquaintances, thanks to the poster sessions. The job fair was very useful for me as I could know the perspectives of industrial openings and helped me take part in the job process.

I strongly believe that these things have been possible only, due to the generous funding by the Pittsburgh Section of ACS, which funded the travel to the conference.