



Report from San Jose: AAAS Annual Meeting

Morton Z. Hoffman [hoffman@bu.edu]

The 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) was held on February 12-16 in San Jose, CA, and covered areas of science ranging from anthropology to public policy and sustainability; its overall theme was innovations, information, and imaging. The meeting opened with an address from AAAS President Gerald Fink (Professor of Genetics, M.I.T.) and was followed by a busy daily schedule of plenary lectures, topical lectures, symposia, poster sessions, section business meetings, receptions, and social events. Details about the meeting can be found at .

The meeting was the occasion for the presentation of those AAAS members who had been elected by the Council in October 2014 as Fellows whose efforts on behalf of science or service to society “distinguish them from among their peers.” The following are those in chemistry from within NESACS:

- Timothy F. Jamison, M.I.T. – For distinguished contributions to the field of organic chemistry, particularly for synthesis, transition metal-catalyzed reactions, and flow chemistry.
- Richard R. Schrock, M.I.T. – For pioneering work with high oxidation state amido and carbene complexes and their application to the reactions of dinitrogen and organic compounds.
- Joanne Stubbe, M.I.T. – For revealing important roles of chemistry in biology, especially for establishing the chemical mechanisms of ribonucleotide reductases, polyester syntheses, and natural product DNA cleavers.
- Yang Shao-Horn, M.I.T. – For distinguished contributions to the fields of physical chemistry and materials science, particularly for fundamental mechanistic understanding of catalytic activity and stability in oxygen electrocatalysis.

In addition, Mark T. Spitler of the U.S. Department of Energy, who was the Interim Editor of the Summer 2004–February 2005 issues of *The NUCLEUS*, was elected a Fellow for exemplary accomplishments in the development and management of basic research programs in solar energy.

One highlight of the meeting was the presentation of AAAS awards to recognize “extraordinary achievements advancing science and serving society.” Among them was the 2014 AAAS Award for Science Diplomacy, which was established in 2012, to Zafra Lerman, President of the Malta Conferences Foundation, who was the recipient of the 2002 James Flack Norris Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Teaching of Chemistry from NESACS. “Dr. Zafra Lerman is recognized for her efforts to foster



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scientific cooperation in the Middle East in order to encourage understanding and peace in a region facing political and societal tensions.” She contributed the \$5,000 award to the Foundation in support of the seventh biennial Malta Conference, which will be held in Morocco in November. More information about this award can be found at .

This reporter made a poster presentation with Lerman on The Malta Conferences: Science Diplomacy as a Bridge to Peace in the Middle East in the Science in Society session.