

ACS Senior Chemists Committee Created

The ACS Committee on Committees (ConC) is pleased to announce that the Council and Board of Directors have now officially approved the establishment of the Joint Board-Council Committee on Senior Chemists (SCC), effective January 1, 2013. The age demographics of the ACS demonstrated the need for a Senior Chemists Committee. Of its more than 164,000 members, more than 37% are over the age of 50 (as of Dec. 31, 2011) with this segment of the Society being one of the fastest growing groups.

SCC will be a group of highly professional, volunteer chemists whose mission is to enrich the educational, technical, and cultural lives of the ACS membership while ministering to and employing the talents of senior ACS members (over the age of 50) in the following ways:

- sharing with ACS members of all ages a rich variety of personal experiences and expertise gained over many years of professional service;
- fostering interest and participation in the science of chemistry through community outreach, especially in grades K-12;
- acting as science advisers/ambassadors for the purpose of cultural exchange at home and abroad;
- providing senior ACS members with challenging, diverse, and enjoyable professional experiences that enable them to contribute to the cultural experiences of their communities;
- recommending policies that address issues of interest to senior chemists.

SCC will initially consist of 15 members and such associates and consultants as the President and Chair of the Board of Directors deem necessary. And, as stipulated in the Bylaws for such committees, SCC will be “subject to review by ConC no less often than every five years to advise Council whether it should be continued.” The Senior Chemists Task Force (SCTF) had formally requested that ConC review and evaluate its request for the establishment of SCC as a Joint Committee of the Board and Council. SCTF had been functioning as a quasi-committee for three years, and was the culmination of more than a decade of task forces examining the need for a senior chemists committee. ConC acted on this request and brought a specific recommendation to Council in Philadelphia that the establishment of such a committee be approved subject to the concurrence of the Board of Directors.

SCTF believed the committee could serve two constituencies within the ACS: (1) seniors who are still active either as full-time or part-time employees, consultants, or those who still wish to stay closely connected to the ACS and its spectrum of activities; and (2) younger members and students who have questions about a chemistry-based career or who have started careers but are looking for guidance on how to progress. Examples of SCC activities are mentoring, career guidance and counseling, job training seminars and webinars, alternate career selection, problem support, workshops, and tutorials.

The new committee will hold its first meeting in New Orleans on Monday, April 8, 2013.