



Fall 2011

Dear Attendees,

Welcome to the 2011 Midwest-Great Lakes Joint Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society! As you are probably aware, 2011 has been designated by the United Nations as the **International Year of Chemistry**. We have chosen a theme, *Solutions for a Changing World: Celebrating the International Year of Chemistry*, to highlight the ways that chemists are an important, integral component of the world's economic and educational systems.

The Program Chair and Symposium Chairs have worked hard to bring you a comprehensive program of current chemical research, with over 14 special symposia and 8 different sessions on more traditional chemistry topics. We will have as many as 7 parallel sessions – please review the meeting schedule and presentation titles so you don't miss the talks and posters of particular interest to you. Many students will be presenting their research for the very first time: one of our goals has been to provide a stage for cutting-edge research in a student-friendly environment.

The Expositions Committee has gathered a record-breaking number of educational and scientific equipment vendors, as well as numerous graduate school recruiters for Ph.D. and M.S. chemistry programs from across the country. The Exposition Hall is also the site for the poster presentations. Be sure to look for the special posters on "IYC 2011: International Trends and Practices in Chemistry," where international students, post-docs, and industrial chemists are showcasing research, the chemical industry, and highlight chemical education trends and practices in their home countries.

Many Special Events are planned: an opening Sci-Mix session on Wednesday night, a Diversity Lunch with ACS President Nancy Jackson, an Awards Reception and Banquet, Career Development workshops, Leadership Development workshops, special programming for undergraduate students, a box-lunch discussion on *Chemistry and Citizen Science* with ACS President-Elect Bassam Shakhshiri, and special programming for high school chemistry teachers on Saturday.

Please avail yourselves of the scientific and social activities that are planned – we are all so glad you are here. Have a great meeting!

Leah O'Brien, General Chair
Midwest-Great Lakes Joint Regional Meeting