

## Advancing Graduate Education in the Chemical Sciences

Report of the ACS Presidential Commission on Graduate Education in the Chemical Sciences

Brief Presentation followed by discussion moderated by Dr. Nancy Goroff



**2012 ACS President  
Bassam Z. Shkhashiri  
Professor of Chemistry,  
UW-Madison**

**Wednesday, April 24, 2013**

**1:00 – 2:20 p.m.**

**Chemistry Building, Room 412**

*A reception will follow in Chemistry Room 410*

### Catalyzing action pursuant to the report's five major conclusions:

1. Current educational opportunities for graduate students, viewed on balance as a system, do not provide sufficient preparation for their careers after graduate school.
2. The system for the financial support of graduate students, as currently operated by private, institutional, state, and federal funds, is no longer optimal for national needs.
3. Academic chemical laboratories must adopt best safety practices. Such practices have led to a remarkably good record of safety in the chemical industry and should be leveraged.
4. Departments should give thoughtful attention to maintaining a sustainable relationship between the availability of new graduates at all degree levels and genuine opportunities for them. Replication in excess is wasteful of resources and does injustice to the investment made by students and society.
5. Postdoctoral training and education is an extension of graduate education that is important for success in a variety of career paths, particularly for faculty appointments. Postdoctoral associates should be treated as the professional scientists and engineers they are. A post-doctoral appointment should be a period of accelerated professional growth that, by design, enhances scientific independence and future career opportunities.