



A Propitious Time for ECS

Energy has been recognized as one of the most important issues of

our time where the world must address the critical challenge of transforming the current fossil-fuel-based energy economy to a sustainable cost-effective energy economy. In his April 2009 address to the National Academy of Sciences, United States President Obama stated, "...in no area will innovation be more important than in the development of new technologies to produce, use, and save energy." While the challenges associated with the transformation of how the world generates, stores, conserves, and uses energy are large, with challenge comes opportunity.

The Electrochemical Society is well positioned as a leader in technical subject areas that are relevant to the energy challenge. The members of the Society are active in diverse fields that will provide technical solutions to the energy challenge. While other organizations may be trying to move into topics related to energy research, ECS has been and remains at the core of those subjects. Thus, the mission of the Society is as relevant as ever.

If we consider the state of technology, communication, and society as a whole in 1902 when ECS was founded to now, the changes are quite staggering. Change continues to take place, perhaps at an accelerated pace. The Society has continued to flourish for over 100 years due to the commitment and dedication of the people involved and the ability of ECS to adjust to the dynamic external environment. It is imperative that the Society be agile in adapting to the external pressures where appropriate while holding tight to its key objectives, which are:

- to advance the theory and practice of electrochemistry, solid-state science, and allied subjects;
- to encourage research and dissemination of knowledge in these fields; and
- to assure the availability of adequate training and education of fundamental and applied scientists and engineers in these fields.

Attending ECS meetings is one of the high points of my spring and fall. The meetings continue to be outstanding technical resources for some very compelling reasons. The topics are highly relevant to important and current fields of investigation and the excellent science is presented in well-conceptualized symposia. The meetings draw a diverse constituency including strong representation from universities, industries, and government laboratories. Additionally, the meetings are international in scope often assisted by the location. This diversity of participation is a tremendous asset as a variety of ideas and approaches can be brought together for dissemination and discussion.

The Society is defined by its active participants including members, meeting attendees, and the ECS staff. The roles and responsibilities of the participants vary and move beyond technical content to include all aspects of running a nonprofit organization from finance, to development, to publication, to meeting organization. It is the cumulative dedication and hard work of ECS members and ECS staff that will ensure the Society's health far into the future.

On behalf of the Society, I would like to express my gratitude to each of you for your continued participation, hard work, and support of the Society.

I look forward to an exciting year.

Esther S. Takeuchi
President