

# Five Lessons from a Career in Cereal Science

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As a new graduate student I remember the excitement and discussions among the graduate students and professors. They were hard at work putting the finishing touches on their presentations for the AACC International Annual Meeting that fall. Lloyd Rooney, my professor, encouraged me to join AACCI, telling me I would be preparing a presentation for the meeting the following year. I presented a poster at that next AACCI Annual Meeting.

There have been many changes in my life and career over the years, but my membership in AACCI has continued—and for good reason. The personal and professional connections I've made and the knowledge and skills I've developed as a result have been invaluable. Through my involvement in AACCI, I've come to realize the following.

## No One Succeeds Alone

Everyone needs a mentor at some point, and for me, AACCI served that role. AACCI jump-started my connections to the cereal grain science community and continues to do the same for students and young professionals today. In 2012, the Manhattan Section (with the support of generous donors) presented 77 Student Travel Awards. I received one of these grants every year while I was graduate student, so it was an honor to hand out checks to their recipients during the Manhattan Section meeting in Florida. At this year's annual meeting, students also participated in the Best Student Research Paper and Product Development competitions. Efforts like these, along with our active Student Division and other young professional outreach activities, add value and meaning to our association.

## It May Be an Online World but Personal Connections Still Matter

Anyone who has attended an AACCI Annual Meeting, a section or division meeting, or other AACCI event knows that virtually as much science happens between attendees as they network before and after events as happens during the scientific presentations themselves. The multiple hallway conversations, working dinners, and poster-viewing discussions I witnessed at this year's annual meeting are proof positive of the value of attending association events. Thank you to all the attendees for making the annual meeting such a success and to Art Bettge and the Annual Meeting Technical Program Planning Committee for giving us such a great program!

## If You Have Something Important to Say, You Have an Obligation to Say It

AACCI's scientific initiatives were introduced at last year's annual meeting, and over the past year they have been used to

guide the association's direction. Five opportunities in which AACCI has an important role to play have been identified and were introduced at this year's annual meeting:

- 1) Unifying the grain health benefits message
- 2) Raising the profile of food processing
- 3) Ensuring food safety worldwide
- 4) Advancing production and sustainability to meet the world's food needs
- 5) Sharing our science and advocating for more

We are in the process of forming working groups for each of these opportunities and were pleased by the number of people at the annual meeting who were interested in participating in these efforts. More volunteers are needed, so please contact me if you are interested.

## Progress Means Publishing and Publishing Means Progress

Science doesn't advance in a vacuum—it needs to be shared. Key aspects of AACCI's publication strategy are now in place. *Cereal Foods World* and *Cereal Chemistry* have new looks and have expanded their scope. In addition, *CFW Plexus* was launched in April and promises to be an excellent addition to our online journal resources. *Cereal Chemistry's* ISI impact factor has risen for the fifth straight year, and this momentum will continue with new Editor-in-Chief Craig Morris, who will oversee the expansion of *Cereal Chemistry's* scope and the elimination of page charges. *Cereal Chemistry's* first focus issue, "Closing in on Cereal Structure-Function Relationships," edited by Bruce Hamaker, will also be published in 2013. I would like to thank retiring *Cereal Chemistry* Editor-in-Chief Carl Hoseney for his long and continued service to AACCI.

## Good Science (Like Fine Wine) Gets Better with Age

AACCI will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2015. Planning for the celebration at our annual meeting in Minneapolis, MN, has begun, with Bill Atwell chairing the Centennial Committee. We plan to look to the future as well as the past, so there will be many opportunities for you to participate. Watch for more details.

I would like to thank our outgoing board members Barry McCleary, Lydia Midness, and Rodney Booth and outgoing President Debi Rogers for their service. You have all done an incredible job, and I have enjoyed working with each of you.

Finally, please join me in welcoming our 2012–2013 Board of Directors: Art Bettge, Bruce Hamaker, Marta Izydorczyk, Perry Ng, Jaan Perten, Don Sullins, Dave Braun (treasurer-elect), Linda Hansen (treasurer), Jan Delcour (president-elect), and Debbie Rogers (chair of the board). Contact information for the board is available on [aacnet.org](http://aacnet.org). We would love to hear from you. Send us your ideas and please volunteer—you'll find it's more rewarding than you might have imagined.

Most importantly, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your president.