Using Chemistry to Find Cures for Children

Growing up with her father battling diabetes, Fatima Rivas, Ph.D., dreamed of finding a cure. Today, she heads her own laboratory at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, where she researches drug-resistant cancers and uses natural product synthesis to develop new treatments for children’s diseases.

As a current member and alumna of the American Chemical Society’s Scholars Program, Fatima credits ACS with helping her accomplish her professional aspirations. “They show you how you can change the life of a person,” she says. “I wouldn’t have understood the potential chemistry can have without them.”

Moving to Los Angeles from Ecuador as a child, Fatima had limited access to the educational and financial resources necessary for college. However, while working several jobs to support her
education as an undergraduate student at California State University (CSU), Dominguez Hills, Fatima became an ACS member and became involved with the ACS student chapter at her school. The ACS members were instrumental in directing her toward organic chemistry and helping her build a support network.

“ACS provides access to mentors who can help you navigate the system,” Fatima explains. “Without them, I would have gone a different route.”

**Encouraging Involvement With ACS**

While striving to improve children’s lives through her work, Fatima never forgets the role ACS played—and still plays—in her success. As chair of the ACS Memphis section, Fatima’s primary goal is to get faculty at local schools more involved with the Society so that they can provide students with additional tools available through ACS programs. She begins in her own lab, where she encourages her staff to attend ACS meetings and shares the benefits of becoming part of the ACS community.

“ACS has been there for me throughout my career,” Fatima says. “I am very thankful to ACS and the ACS Scholars Program for their support when I most needed it. My involvement with the ACS is my opportunity to pay it back.”

**The ACS Scholars Program**

The ACS Scholars Program grants renewable scholarships to underrepresented minority students pursuing an education in the chemical sciences or chemical technology field. The awards can eliminate the need to pursue part-time employment, allowing students to dedicate critical extra time to the lab and their studies.

Fatima was awarded a scholarship through the ACS Scholars Program during her junior year at CSU. “The program is outstanding for students who are financially challenged,” she says gratefully.

*Please contact Mary Bet Dobson at (202) 872-6210 or m_dobson@acs.org for more information about the ACS Scholars Program or to learn how you can provide support for future students and programs.*
Thinking Outside the Box
Consider These Gift Options

If you care about ACS but are hesitant about increasing the size of your charitable contribution, think outside the box and consider one of the following gifts. These donation options allow you to keep the cash in your pocket and often come with tax benefits as well.

- Remember ACS in your will or revocable living trust.
- Designate ACS as a beneficiary of a percentage of your retirement plan assets or life insurance.
- Fund a charitable trust with stock.
- Donate your home but continue living there.

Contact us for additional details about smart ways to provide support that don’t require giving up assets today.

“The ACS Scholars Program has been successful at delivering what it promised—ensuring that a diverse pool of students have the opportunity to contribute to the chemistry field. In fact, ACS is planting the seed for the next generation of chemists who come from various walks of life and will lead the nation....[The program] is beneficial to our society because it ensures that talented students who do not have the financial means meet their academic goals and give back to their local communities.”

—Fatima Rivas, Ph.D.

Discover a Dozen Ways to Make a Difference
In 12 Ways to Support Your Favorite Cause, you’ll find ideas on how to create a meaningful legacy for the important people and causes in your life. With so many different options, you’re sure to find a plan that fits your goals.
Eli has designated the ACS Scholars Program in his will because he recalls his family not being able to afford tuition when he attended Brooklyn College. Providing scholarship support “is my way of helping someone with a similarly disadvantaged background.”

Eli also recognizes the importance of mentorship, a significant aspect of the Scholars Program. His mentors, Charles G. Overberger, William J. Bailey and Ernest Becker, were dedicated ACS volunteers who encouraged his involvement with ACS, guiding him in his research and along his career path.

Eli was the driving force behind the ACS Silver Circle Working Group urging ACS leadership to consider meeting the needs of its senior members. His efforts contributed to launching the ACS Senior Chemists Task Force, now the ACS Senior Chemists Committee.

For information on how to include ACS in your long-term estate plans, contact us or visit www.acs.org/legacy.