

**LACK OF DIVERSITY**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to all the 2016 ACS national award winners (C&EN, Jan. 4, page 29). However, I hope I am not the only one to notice the lack of diversity, with 95% of the winners being male. As a relatively recent ACS member I have to ask, is this list typical or acceptable?

Perhaps there needs to be an examination of the awards process. For example, are enough leading female and underrepresented minority chemists being nominated? Are their achievements being championed? What are the compositions of the awarding committees? Was there an awareness of unconscious bias when making selections?

ACS is surely strengthened by ensuring equality across its activities, by increasing participation from women and underrepresented groups, and by supporting a wider talent pool. Diversity is crucial in delivering excellence and creativity in chemistry and across the society. Award-winning female chemists can also be important role models for the younger generations and for supporting women to stay in science.

**Saiful Islam**  
Bath, England

**I HAVE REVIEWED** the 2016 ACS national award winners. Of the 66 winners, only five are women. ACS, I am appalled.

**Frederick A. Beland**  
Little Rock

try calling for "applications." The logical difference between those could be one of the many barriers to diversity.

**Liskin Swint-Kruse**  
Fairway, Kan.

*Editor's note:* In a previous ACS (C&EN, Feb. 1, page 39), Madeleine chair of the ACS Committee on Diversity Affairs, highlighted efforts to diversity among ACS national award winners. In this week's ACS Committee (page 40), George M. Bodner, chair ACS Board Committee on Grants (G&A), and Valerie J. Kuck, past G&A, also discuss these efforts.

**A TRUE HOLLYWOOD**

**I READ THE STORY** of how Tufts University professors rescued their nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer during Hurricane Katrina (C&EN 2015, page 27), and as I did so, the thought that crossed my mind was "has to be made into a movie."

Whether it was Bethany Hallgrimsdottir's brilliant writing/reporting or the story was just compelling, I really care. I can say is that there was a lot of good going on in that article that deserves to be shared with the rest of the world.

I think a movie that puts a cinematic (and heroic) spin on the destruction that happened during the hurricane would further serve to shine a good light on the discipline, which is an opportunity