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*College of Science
Distinguished Speaker Series*



*Dr. Nancy B. Jackson
President of the American Chemical Society*

Sunshine to Petrol

**Friday, October 28, 2011
2:00 PM CAR 1125**

Solar irradiation is the only sustainable energy source of a magnitude sufficient to meet projections for global energy demand. Solar fuels (i.e., fuels created from sunlight, carbon dioxide, and water) are especially attractive as they impact not only energy production and climate change, but also energy storage and energy security. Applying a solar energy source to chemically “reverse combustion” and produce liquid hydrocarbon fuels that are compatible with our current infrastructure from CO_2 and H_2O is analogous to the process of photosynthesis. However, by directly applying concentrating solar power to the problem of splitting CO_2 and H_2O to produce CO and H_2 , the basic energy-rich building blocks of synthetic liquid fuels, Sandia is optimistic that sunlight-to-fuel efficiencies will be significantly improved over biofuels. This unique approach of re-imagining the transportation fuel paradigm is called “Sunshine to Petrol” or S2P.

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