

**WARNER, JOHN C. *Northeastern Section.*** Zymergen Corporation, Emeryville, California.

**Academic Record:** University of Massachusetts Boston, B.S., 1984; Princeton University: Ph.D., Chemistry 1988.

**Honors:** ACS Fellow, 2012; Harry and Carol Mosher Award, ACS Silicon Valley Section, 2016; University of Bath, Sustainability Global Chair, 2020; Doris and Kenneth Kolb Chemistry Lectureship, Bradley University, 2019; “The John Warner Center for Green Chemistry Startups” German Government, 2017; American Association for the Advancement of Science, Lemelson Invention Ambassador, 2016; SCI Perkin Medal Award, 2014; One of the 25 Visionaries, “Changing the World” Utne Reader, 2012; Environmental Merit Award, US EPA, 2011; International Career Institute, One of the most influential people impacting the Chemical Industries and Sciences, 2008; Award for Outstanding Leadership, Council of Science Society Presidents, 2008; Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Mentoring, NSF & President Bush 2004; Distinguished Chemist of the Year, American Institute of Chemists, North Eastern Chapter, 2002; Reinventing Government, National Performance Review, Vice President Al Gore, 1997.

**Professional Positions** (for past 10 years): Zymergen Corporation, Senior Vice President, Chemistry & Distinguished Research Fellow, 2020 to date; Monash University, Distinguished Professor of Green Chemistry, 2019 to date; Beyond Benign, Co-Founder, 2007 to date; Warner Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry, Co-Founder, 2007 to date.

**Service in ACS National Offices:** Governing Board for the ACS Green Chemistry Institute, 2005-10; Editorial Board, *Crystal Growth and Design*.

**Member** (current): Member ACS since 1984. *ACS Division(s):* Chemical Education; Chemical Health & Safety; Chemical Toxicology; Environmental Chemistry; Industrial & Engineering Chemistry; Medicinal Chemistry; Organic Chemistry; Polymer Chemistry; Polymeric Materials Science & Engineering; Small Chemical Businesses.

**Related Activities:** National Meetings, Chaired or Co-Chaired 10 – 12 sessions; ACS Regional and National Meetings, Presenter or Co-Presenter of over 100 papers; Served on various National Awards Selection Committees; ACS Diversity; ACS Global Chemistry; International Activities; Newsletter for Senior Chemists; Sustainable & Green Chemistry and Nexus Newsletters; holds nearly 300 patents; over 100 publications providing foundational work in the fields of noncovalent derivatization, polymer photochemistry, metal oxide semiconductors and synthetic organic chemistry; coauthored the defining text and articulated the 12 principles of green chemistry.

**STATEMENT**  
**John C. Warner**

In 1983, I spoke at the ACS National Meeting. At 20-years-old, I realized that I not only liked chemistry, I LOVED chemistry. I was a first-generation college student from a blue-collar family. Among the thousands of people wearing their ACS name tags, I felt “at home”. The ACS provides this environment for people with unique backgrounds and perspectives, to give them the tools and resources to pursue their passions.

Over my 40-year career, I’ve worn many lab coats. As an industrial chemist, I received the Perkin Medal for work that I began at the Polaroid Corporation on noncovalent derivatization and green chemistry. As an academic, I received the PAESMEM Award from President Bush and the NSF while

a full professor of chemistry and plastics engineering at UMASS. As an entrepreneur, I was named a Lemelson Invention Ambassador for my 300+ patents and the six new companies created based on my work and inventions. I am engaged in government policy, having served on chemicals policy initiatives in the US, the EU and Australia.

This broad chemistry experience has given me a perspective on how chemists (and society) view the way we **Do, Teach, Invent, and Manage** chemistry. The world is facing serious problems that need solutions. Countless women and men, at hoods and benches, have prepared us for this moment. Many in society applaud chemistry's accomplishments: Vaccines to free us from a global pandemic, molecules in computer chips allow spacecraft to take off and return to earth with amazing precision, and agricultural technologies that feed the world's hungry, are powerful examples. But there are also those that see chemistry as a cause of climate change and environmental damage, as insidious components in our everyday products that cause cancer, birth defects and other diseases. Despite all the benefits, chemists still face the dual challenge of low public awareness and skepticism.

In an era of increasing science denialism, chemists aren't alone in facing these challenges. I believe chemistry is uniquely capable of bridging disciplines and moving society away from doubt and back toward belief in discovery. While issues facing society are complex, and solutions require perspectives from everyone, we in chemistry have an opportunity to be more proactive in sharing our perspective – helping shift perception not only by telling, but by showing the path to a better future. If I am given the honor of serving as the President of the ACS, I will help bring the various groups of our broader culture – both from inside and outside the ACS – together. My three main goals will be focused around this unifying theme:

- **Diversity and Inclusion:** There are significant systemic issues in both our professional community and the broader society that require new eyes and new ideas. We must improve how we think about and address issues of inclusion and diversity, and open the door to a broader spectrum of people.
- **Education:** I co-authored the book “Green Chemistry Theory and Practice” that established the 12 Principles of Green Chemistry. I feel that integrating concepts of sustainability and green chemistry into the K-12 and university curricula is an important part of bringing us closer to the society we serve. The ACS Education division and the Green Chemistry Institute have done amazing things. I look forward to helping to evolve their reach and integration throughout society inside and outside the ACS.
- **Multidisciplinarity:** The worlds of physics, biology and chemistry are changing quickly, and the boundaries are blurring further. We must not lose sight of the fact that chemistry is central to the design and understanding of the transformations of matter, whether it happens inside an organism, in huge stainless-steel reactors or an industrial fermentation tank. We must continue to bring the various sub disciplines together and use our collective spirit of innovation to drive positive change for society at large.

Like many chemists in the field today, I owe my career to the services and opportunities that the ACS provides. ACS insights helped me submit my patent applications. The ACS supported me in the 90's when we started the world's first Green Chemistry PhD program at UMASS. The ACS's intellectual ecosystem helped create the companies to commercialize my inventions. And the ACS, through the Green Chemistry Institute, continues to advance one of my greatest passions. The ACS has many capable people to choose for the next President. I am honored to be considered and will work tirelessly to advance the ACS mission if I am given the opportunity to serve.