

HERNANDEZ, RIGOBERTO *Georgia Section*. Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

Academic Record: Princeton University, B.S.E., 1989; University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D., 1993.

Honors: Stanley C. Israel Regional Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences, SERMACS, 2018; Herty Medal, 2017; ACS Award for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students into Careers in the Chemical Sciences, 2014; Outstanding Service Award, ACS Georgia Section, 2012; ACS Fellow, 2010; Cottrell IMPACT Award, Research Corporation, 2020; RSC, Fellow, 2020; Transformational Research and Excellence in Education Award, Research Corporation, 2016; Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar, 2015-16; Diversity Award, Council of Chemical Research, 2015; Diversity Champion Award, Georgia Tech 2013; APS Fellow, 2011; Vasser Woolley Faculty Fellow, Georgia Tech, 2011-13; Humboldt Research Fellow, 2006-08; American Association for the Advancement of Science, Fellow, 2005; Goizueta Foundation Junior Professor, Georgia Tech, 2002-06; Alfred P. Sloan Fellow, 2000; Sigma Xi Southeast Regional Young Investigator, 2002, 2000; Research Corporation Cottrell Scholar, 1999; Blanchard Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Georgia Tech, 1999-01; National Science Foundation CAREER Award, 1997; Feinberg Postdoctoral Fellow, 1994; AT&T CRFP Fellow, 1989-93; NSF Graduate Fellow, 1989-92; and Sigma Xi, Member, 1994.

Professional Positions (for past 10 years): Johns Hopkins University, Gompf Family Professor of Chemistry, 2016 to date, Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, by courtesy, 2020 to date, Professor Materials Science and Engineering, by courtesy, 2020 to date, Director, Open Chemistry Collaborative in Diversity Equity (OXIDE), 2011 to date; Georgia Institute of Technology, Adjunct Professor, 2016-18, Professor, 2009-16, Associate Professor, 2002-09, Co-Director of Center for Computational Molecular Sciences and Technology, 2000-16.

Service in ACS National Offices: Committee on Budget & Finance, Member, 2016-21; National Awards Advisory Board, Chair, 2018-21; Board of Directors, Director, District IV, 2014-19; Councilor ex officio, 2014-19; Committee on Professional and Member Relations, Member, 2017-19, 2014; Committee on Grants and Awards, Member, 2014-16; Committee on Science, Member, 2013; Committee on Committees, Member, 2009-12; Committee on Divisional Activities, Member, 2004-08; Joint DAC/LSAC Subcommittee, Co-Chair, 2005-07; Board Committee on "Minorities in Academe Implementation Team," 2003-04; Hildebrandt Award Canvassing Committee, 2002-04.

Service in ACS Offices: *Georgia Section:* Bylaw Councilor, 2012, Alternate Councilor, 2012-13, Councilor, 2003-11; Past-Chair, 2000; Chair, 1999, Chair-Elect, 1998; Herty Award Committee, Chair, 2006-16; 75th Herty Medal Celebration Chair, 2009; Herty Medal Undergraduate Research Symposium, Founding Chair, 2006-10. *Computers in Chemistry Division:* Alternate Councilor, 2013.

Member (current): Member ACS since 1992. American Association for the Advancement of Science; American Physical Society; Biophysical Society. *ACS Division(s):* Computers in Chemistry; Physical Chemistry.

Related Activities: Education Advisory Board (EAB) of *Chemical Reviews*, 2022 to date; Committee on Opportunities in Science, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 2020 to date; EAB of *Journal of Physical Chemistry*, 2019 to date; Academic Leadership Training Workshop, co-Founder and Chair, 2016 to date; Minority National Science Foundation (NSF), Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) PhD Advisory Committee, Sloan Foundation, 2013 to date; Scialog Review Committee, Chemical Machinery of the Cell, Research Corporation, 2018-21; Science and Software Advisory Board (SSAB), Molecular Sciences Software Institute, 2017-19, Chair, 2019, Vice-Chair, 2018; STEM Education Review Committee, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 2015-16; Executive Board, Georgia Tech Faculty, 2013-16; National Institute of Health (NIH), Macromolecular Structure and Function B (MSFB) Study Section, 2009-13; Research Corporation Cottrell Scholars Advisory Committee Member, 2011-17 and Chair, 2016-17; National Academies Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology, 2007-10; Board of Directors of Telluride Science Research Center, 2007-09; External Review Committee for Morehouse College Chemistry Department, 2007; Steering Committee for NSF Workshop on complexity and emergent phenomenon, 2007; Steering Committee for NSF Workshop on excellence empowered by a diverse workforce, 2007; National Academies Committee on Revealing Chemistry through Advanced Chemical Imaging, 2005-06; published over 150 peer-reviewed articles to date.

STATEMENT

Rigoberto Hernandez

Do you still need the American Chemical Society? We were here together when you started your path as a chemist. If you are reading this, we are still together as you have continued to see and experience the value of membership. Together, we publish the leading molecular science, we train chemists at all stages of their careers, we advocate for science and education to the public and governments, and we accelerate careers and innovation in molecular science and engineering. Despite this, our society faces an existential crisis posed by declining memberships as social media and other technologies are flattening communication and access to professional networking. Thus, the ACS must change, and I ask you to help me make the changes that you and our future members need.

The ACS should be the first place that everyone turns to when they have any concern related to the molecular sciences and engineering. Our journals are the “Most trusted. Most cited. Most Read.” They are the first place many molecular scientists turn to when they want to disseminate or learn new advances. Our national and international meetings have historically been among the largest such meetings in chemistry. Many chemists still receive their first grant, as well as paradigm shifting grants later in their career, from our Petroleum Research Fund. The US Congress chartered the ACS in 1937 as an advocate for the chemical enterprise and its practitioners. Thus, in many ways, the ACS has been first in the molecular sciences for the past century or more. The challenge and responsibility for us is to redefine and expand what it means to be ACS First across all our membership worldwide, and to do this in a way that helps existing and emerging members appreciate the value of our society. To this end, if elected, I would commission an **ACS First** Task Force charged to establish the ACS First brand and provide a vision for how the ACS can be the primary home for chemists, and all who wish to interact with us.

Perhaps the easiest way to ensure that once a chemist is a member of the ACS, they remain a member is to offer ACS life memberships. After all, what binds us together is not necessarily what

we work on now, but instead it is the way we think about solving problems from a molecular perspective. In the article, “ACS: Your brick-and-mortar and virtual network all in one” [[C&EN 96:10, 34 \(2018\)](#)], I argued that this commonality among our very diverse membership is the key to the value proposition for being members. So, if we can be chemists for life, why can’t we also be ACS members for life? I appreciate that there are challenges to taking this vision to reality because we must work out the finances of such an offer, and we need to clarify the rights and responsibilities of life members. If elected, I would therefore champion an **ACS for Life** Task Force charged to construct an implementation plan that would allow members to truly be engaged with the ACS throughout their life.

In recent years, we have learned the power of the ACS to address the challenge of chemical safety by way of creating a safety culture. That is, safety is not just something we talk about in a yearly training class, but rather it is something that must be ingrained through continuous practice. In a similar way, advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion is not a practice that we can do through one-time events or training. I have learned through my work with the Open Chemistry Collaborative in Diversity Equity (OXIDE) that creating and fostering a **diverse culture** is critical for advancing inclusive excellence. I am excited about the new directions in the ACS establishing DEIR as a core value and look forward to taking it to action through championing the notion of a diversity culture throughout all of our activities.

I hope that you will give me the chance to promote ACS First, ACS for Life and Diversity Culture over the next few years. Promotion of the ACS First brand would remind not just members, but all the chemical enterprise, government organizations and the public, that they should turn to us when they need chemical solutions or advice. Life members would provide stability to our membership and would allow us to reward such members with the security of engagement with us throughout their lives. Finally, we are stronger because of the diversity of our membership—spanning many disciplines and people from different races, ethnicities, and countries—and we can ensure that strength only through the inclusion and belonging, that an authentic diversity culture will bring. I ask you to help me make the change you want and need for the ACS.