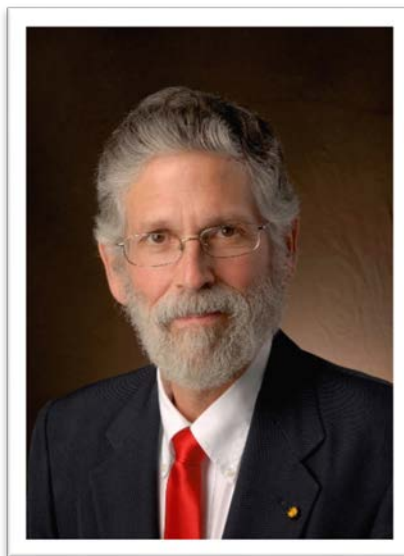




## FOR PRESIDENT- ELECT 2019



**LUIS A. ECHEGOYEN**

**University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas**

**ECHEGOYEN, LUIS A. *Rio Grande Valley Section.*** University of Texas at El Paso.

**Academic record:** University of Puerto Rico, B.S., 1971; Ph.D., 1974; Postdoctorate, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1975.

**Honors:** ACS Fellow, 2011; Herty Medal, Georgia Section, ACS, 2007; ACS Award for Recognizing Underrepresented Minorities in Chemistry for Excellence in Research & Development, 2011; Florida Section, ACS, Award, 1996; IUPAC Fellow, 2009; Alumni Research Award, Clemson University, 2007; Clemson University, College of Engineering and Science Award for Faculty Achievement in the Sciences, 2004; American Association for the Advancement of Science, Fellow, 2003; Fogarty Senior International Fellow, 1990 and 1997; University of Miami Provost's Scholarly Activity Award, 1997; Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award, 1968.

**Professional positions** (for past 10 years): University of Texas at El Paso, Robert A. Welch Professor of Chemistry 2010 to date; Clemson University, Professor 2002-10, Professor and Chair, 2002-06; National Science Foundation, Director, Chemistry Division, 2006-10; University of Miami, Professor, 1983-02, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, Assistant-Associate Professor 1977-82, Union Carbide Corp., Bound Brook, NJ- Chemist I, 1975-77.

**Service in ACS national offices:** ComSci, 2005-08, Committee Associate, 2003-05; member of USNC of IUPAC, 2015-18; ACS Fellows Oversight Committee, 2016-18; George A. Olah Award in Hydrocarbon or Petroleum Chemistry Committee.

**Service in ACS offices:** *Chicago Section:* Gibbs Medal Jury, 2008-12.

**Member:** Member ACS since 1973. American Association for the Advancement of Science; Electrochemical Society.

**Related activities:** Editor in Chief, *Journal of Physical Organic Chemistry*, 2011 to date; Union Carbide Corporation, Chemist I, 1975-77; University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, Associate Professor, 1980-83; Assistant Professor, 1977-80; Program Officer in Chemistry Division-NSF, 1982-83; Member of Advisory Committee for Chemistry Division-NSF, 1986-89; Sabbatical at University Louis Pasteur with Professor Jean-Marie Lehn (as Fogarty Senior International Fellow), 1990; Sabbatical at Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich in Switzerland with Professor Francois Diederich (as Fogarty Senior International Fellow), 1997-98; Member of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS), Advisory Committee of the NSF, 2003-06; Member, Committee on Equal Opportunity in Science and Engineering (CEOSE), NSF, 2003-06; Editorial Board, *Journal of the Mexican Chemical Society* (JMCS), 2005 to date; Editorial Board, *Fullerenes, Nanotubes and Carbon Nanostructures*, 2006 to date; Vice-Chair, Gordon Research Conference on "Physical Organic Chemistry", 2009; Chair, Gordon Research Conference on "Physical Organic Chemistry", 2011; Member of the Board of Trustees, Instituto Madrileño de Educación Avanzada (IMDEA) Nanociencias (Spain), 2008 to date; Member of the Governing Board of the Council for Chemical Research, 2008 to date; Member of the International Advisory Board, Physical Chemistry of Solid Surfaces (PCOSS) Institute, Xiamen, China, 2009 to date; Distinguished Guest Professor, Changchun Institute of Applied Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 2009 to date; published 301 journal articles, 42 book chapters; 328 invited lectures.

## **STATEMENT**

*(As provided for Council Agenda, March 2018)*

*The statements of the candidates represent their opinions and do not necessarily represent the views of the ACS.*

Chemists almost unanimously agree about the centrality of their discipline among the sciences and its crucial role in providing the solutions to the grand challenge problems, which include sustainability, health and security. However, the biggest challenge that we face is to convince other scientists, government, and the public of this centrality and importance. If we want to be effective in convincing others about the importance of chemistry we need specific and realistic plans to effect change. Although change is the only element of life which is constant, effecting change is difficult and requires strong leadership based on conviction and experience. Eric Hoffer, author of *The Ordeal of Change*, wrote "In times of change, learners inherit the Earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists". I strongly believe that change is essential for advancement.

As president of ACS, I would:

**Promote Inter- and Multidisciplinary Education and Research.** Educating the future generations to succeed in an increasingly diverse, complex and multidisciplinary world necessitates creative

approaches in the classroom and in the laboratories. Although we promote inter- and multidisciplinary education, curricular changes have been incremental at best, partly due to structural constraints and inertia. Through the Committee on Professional Training I would evaluate curricular alternatives that best exploit our rich diversity and reflect the ways in which chemical research is conducted in industrial and academic institutions. Real changes are needed to continue to thrive intellectually if our discipline is to remain vibrant.

**Advocate Strongly for Increases in Research Funding.** Using my academic and industrial experience, scientific expertise, and the knowledge acquired during my years at the NSF, my top priority would be to work closely with the ACS Office of Public Affairs (OPA), to educate and convince Congress that investing in basic chemical research is essential for the health of the U.S. innovation engine and the long range competitiveness and prosperity of the country. **Funding chemical research is not an expense, it is an investment for the country.** Investments in our field have been shown to yield substantial returns, both intellectual as well as economic. My years in Washington D.C. gave me a very broad and somewhat unique perspective that will be crucial to articulate a powerful and convincing case on behalf of our community.

**Establish Closer Ties Between Industry and Academic Institutions.** Our discipline is the only science with an associated industry that bears the same name. In order for the U.S. to retain a privileged position in worldwide science and innovation, the research and development enterprise in chemistry demands closer ties between industrial and academic sectors and requires a delicate balance between public and private funds. Industry can no longer expect that all of the basic research and education of future generations be exclusively supported with public funds nor can academic institutions plan to function as industrial centers. The ACS has a key role to play in bringing these sectors closer together and to help catalyze a positive and synergistic interaction for the collective good. Intellectual property issues have to be addressed and resolved, and as president, I would make this one of my top priorities.

**Increase International Partnerships and Collaborations.** Defining the fine dynamic balance between collaboration and competition at the international level is important to set the right path for the success of the U.S. International partnerships need to start at the very early educational stages *via* student exchanges at all levels and extend into cooperation in fundamental and applied research addressing grand challenge issues. ACS should encourage these interactions through the expansion of some of its existing programs in the Education Division, the Office of International Activities, and the Green Chemistry Institute and create new programs and cooperative funding mechanisms. To this end, I would strengthen and establish new partnerships with other professional societies in the U.S. and around the world.

In summary, if elected president of ACS, I would concentrate my efforts in catalyzing change at many levels, in multidisciplinary education, advocating on behalf of the profession, promoting closer university-industry ties, and enhancing international partnerships. I look forward to taking these challenges for the benefit of our community and to convince others of the centrality and importance of our discipline.