



FOR DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE, 2017-2019



KRISTIN M. OMBERG

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington

OMBERG, KRISTIN M. *Central New Mexico Section.* Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington.

Academic Record: Gonzaga University, B.S. in Chemistry, 1993, B.A. in Philosophy, 1993; University of North Carolina, Ph.D. in Chemistry, 1998, Doctoral Certificate in Public Policy Analysis, 1998; Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Postdoctoral Fellow, 1999-2001.

Honors: ACS Fellow, 2012; ACS Congressional Fellowship, 1998-99; LANL Distinguished Performance Awards, 2015 & 2001; US Secret Service Certificates of Appreciation for Outstanding Support to the Democratic National Convention, 2008 and 2004; LANL Women's Career Development Outstanding Mentor Award, 2005; US Department of Homeland Security, Certificate of Appreciation for Service to National Security Special Events, 2004; R&D 100 Award, 2003; LANL Director's Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1999-2001; Sigma Xi; American Council of Teachers of Russian, Gold Medal, Northwest Spoken Russian Olympiada, 1989.

Professional Positions (for past ten years): Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Group Leader, Chemical & Biological Signature Science, 2015 to date; Los Alamos National Laboratory, R&D Manager and Technical Staff Member, 2001-15.

Service in ACS National Offices: Council Policy Committee, (Nonvoting), 2015; Committee on Budget and Finance, 2014-16, Chair, 2015, Committee Associate, 2009-13; Board Committee on Planning, 2015; Board Committee on Executive Compensation, 2015; Committee

on Chemistry and Public Affairs, 2004-12, Chair, 2008-10, Committee Associate, 2001-03; ACS Presidential Taskforce on Enhancing Innovation and Competitiveness, 2007-08; ACS Presidential Taskforce on the Department of Energy, 2002.

Service in ACS Offices: Member ACS since 1994. *Central New Mexico Section:* Councilor, 2014-16; Past Chair, 2015; Chair, 2014; Chair-Elect, 2013; National Chemistry Olympiad Coordinator, 2014-15; Executive Advisor, 2012-13.

Member: American Association for the Advancement of Science; Association for Women in Science; Sigma Xi.

Related Activities: Organizer/Presider, “Symposium on Congressional Science Fellows,” American Chemical Society 230th National Meeting, 2005; Organizer/Presider, “Award Symposium for Thomas J. Meyer,” American Chemical Society 223rd National Meeting, 2002; Invited Participant, “How to Fund Science: The Future of Medical Research,” sponsored by the AAAS, 1999; Sigma Xi Annual Forum Steering Committee, 1997-98; 31 publications in peer-reviewed journals; two book chapters in the areas of inorganic chemistry and biology; one book chapter on career opportunities for chemists in government; author or co-author of more than 50 controlled publications and technical reports, and federal interagency guidance.

STATEMENT

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

It is an honor to be considered for ACS Director-at-Large. Thank you for taking time to evaluate my qualifications and vision. I am passionate about ACS’s mission, and as a current Councilor, current and former Committee Chair, former local section Chair, and former ACS Congressional Fellow, I ask for your vote so that I can bring my unique perspective and experiences to the Board.

As a member of the Board, I will consider it my duty to communicate the “what,” “why” and “how” of Society processes and decisions. ACS is an influential, complicated, and sometimes confusing organization. But fundamentally, ACS is you, me, and all of our members. We should feel ownership in our Society, its direction and its success; understanding how ACS works and having a voice in Society decisions are critical to that ownership. As the current Chair of the Society Committee on Budget & Finance, I have made it a priority to understand the “what,” “why” and “how” of the Society’s financial decisions, and to communicate them to members: for example, I’ve published C&EN comments on how dues revenues are allocated ([C&EN, November 2, 2015, pg. 47](#)), and how dues increases are determined ([C&EN, May 09, 2016, pg. 34](#)). I will continue to do this as a Member of the Board. You and I may have legitimate disagreements about Society issues—for example, dues increases—but it’s hard to resolve them if we don’t have all the relevant information. It is imperative that ACS leadership broadly communicates current processes as well as possible changes and their impacts, so that we can all participate in making informed choices for the Society’s future.

I will also consider it my duty to gather diverse input and advocate for diverse representation in the Society and its decisions. One of ACS's core values is "diversity and inclusion," and we must remember that when decisions are made. We are strongest when we inspire all members to contribute regardless of their demographic characteristics or personal discriminants, when we gather input across a full spectrum of views, and when we participate in making informed choices, however controversial, together.

I will work to ensure that ACS's Core Values are emphasized across all goals and programs, and whenever decisions are made. ACS has four core values: "Passion for chemistry and the global chemistry enterprise in the broadest sense," "Focus on members," "Professionalism," and "Diversity and Inclusion." We often focus on ACS's goals, because goals are easier to track. But values are integral to our identity. I will consider all Board decisions in the context of promoting our values, as well as achieving our goals.

I will work to strengthen ACS's advocacy programs, and will promote programs and policy positions that take a long term perspective, so that we advance science and employment prospects in the future as well as today. In 1999, I was the ACS Congressional Fellow. I worked on the US Senate Committee on the Budget, organizing hearings on doubling the budget of the National Institutes of Health. I learned firsthand, in that role, that the real impacts of federal research funding are felt years or even decades after decisions are made. Following my Fellowship, I campaigned to join the ACS Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs, and eventually became Chair of the Committee, so that I could give back to ACS by sharing what I had learned. Today's flat research funding does not just hurt today's researchers and students: it will impact technology and employment among chemists in the year 2030 in ways we cannot foresee. As a premier advocacy organization, ACS has a mandate to promote policies that support its members' interests in the short and long term. In today's political environment, it's difficult to look past the next election, but ACS should be working to influence the next decade, or several decades, through policy. To do that, we must prioritize working with federal agencies, as well as Congress. Federal agency staff are already shaping the policies and initiatives we will see in the 2020s. A new President will also bring his or her priorities to the office. I will work to ensure resources are available for ACS to effectively engage the federal agencies and the new Administration, while continuing to support our successful programs on Capitol Hill.

I appreciate your consideration of my statement, and I hope I have convinced you to give me one of your two votes. I would be honored to represent you as Director-at-Large. Please leave any feedback at <https://kristinmoberg.wordpress.com/>