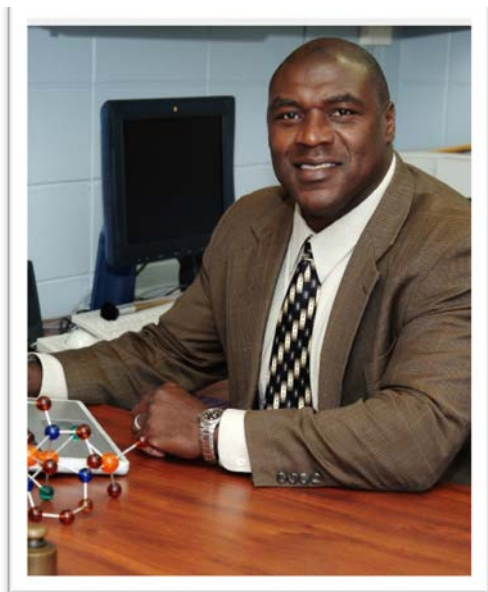




FOR PRESIDENT- ELECT 2017



GREGORY H. ROBINSON

The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

ROBINSON, GREGORY H. *Northeast Georgia Section.* The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

Academic Record: Jacksonville State University, B.S., 1980; The University of Alabama, Ph.D., 1984.

Honors: Chemist of the Year Research Award, Northeastern Georgia Section, ACS, 2013; F. Albert Cotton Award in Synthetic Inorganic Chemistry, ACS, 2013; Charles H. Herty Medal, Atlanta Section, ACS, 2008; Charles H. Stone Award, Carolina-Piedmont Section, ACS, 2002; Henry A. Hill Award, ACS Northeast Section, 1998; Southern Chemist Award, Memphis Section, ACS, 1998; Chemist of the Year Research Award, Northeastern Georgia Section, ACS, 1998; Southeastern Conference (SEC) Faculty Achievement Award, 2014; Alexander von Humboldt Research Prize, 2012; Lamar Dodd Creative Research Award, The University of Georgia, 2010; The Percy L. Julian Award, NOBCCHE, 2004; NSF Award for Special Creativity, 1999; Henry A. Hill Award, NOBCCHE, 1998; Alumnus of the Year Award, Jacksonville State University, 1994; Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow, 1994; Outstanding Achievement Award, Clemson University, 1992; NSF Award for Special Creativity, 1989.

Professional Positions (for past 10 years): The University of Georgia, Foundation Distinguished Professor, 2013 to date; Franklin Professor of Chemistry, 2005-13.

Service in ACS National Offices: Editorial Advisory Board, *Inorganic Chemistry*, 2012-15; Advisory Board, *Chemical & Engineering News*, 2001-06; Editorial Advisory Board, *Organometallics*, 2003-06.

Service in ACS Offices: Member ACS since 1981. *Northeast Georgia Section:* Chair, 2015.

Member: National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE). *ACS Division:* Inorganic Chemistry.

Related Activities: Editorial Boards: *Synthesis and Reactivity in Inorganic and Metal-Organic Chemistry*; *Journal of Coordination Chemistry*; *Main Group Chemistry*; Board of Visitors, National Science Foundation, 2001; Clemson University, Professor of Chemistry, 1995; published 150 research articles on various aspects of inorganic chemistry; edited one book on organoaluminum coordination chemistry.

STATEMENT

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

The American Chemical Society (ACS) is a professional organization of chemists, chemical engineers, teachers, scientists, group leaders, and journalists engaged in the study, commerce, practice, craft, and promotion of the enterprise of chemistry. ACS membership is, correspondingly, diverse. As a nominee for President-Elect 2017, I would particularly stress two areas: (1) Promotion of Chemistry and (2) Education. Efforts in these areas would directly impact the ever-important area of employment.

Promotion of Chemistry

We are witnessing amazing technological and medical advances. As many of these discoveries could not have been predicted as recently as a decade ago, this rapid pace of discovery may well be unprecedented. Advances at the atomic and molecular interface of matter have been central to these discoveries. More accurately stated: "Advances in *chemistry* have been critical to these discoveries." While this assessment may seem superfluous to an ACS member, this is certainly not the case for the general public. To a significant degree, *chemistry* and *chemicals* have long been socially perceived as pejorative. Consistent with the ACS 2015 Strategic Plan, we must publicly, unabashedly and "passionately" embrace who we are and what we do. From the synthesis of miracle drugs (*i.e.*, chemical compounds) to advanced electronic materials, we—the ACS—have a fantastic story to tell. Indeed, consistent with our mission statement, we use the transformative power of chemistry to improve people's lives. We must do a better job of communicating this to the general public. Indeed, we have to clearly communicate that chemistry will be indispensable as we seek solutions to global problems like climate change. Correspondingly, the positive promotion and implementation of chemistry will have a positive impact on employment and possibly research funding. I would propose the ACS spearhead a

new public service campaign wherein we extol the positive aspects of our profession. I welcome the opportunity to be a visible and strong advocate for ACS and positively promote chemistry.

Education

On a recent visit to a high-risk high school in a neighboring state I was tasked with presenting chemistry as a viable career option. I conveyed to these students the excitement of scientific discovery. Finding “excitement” in science was a novel concept to this audience. Furthermore, these students had absolutely no concept of the myriad career opportunities in chemistry. We have to strive to be ever inclusive and augment the existing programs of ACS in this regard. I believe that we can do a better job of presenting chemistry to low-income students.

We are surely witnessing more high profile allegations of scientific misconduct and significantly more retractions of chemistry research articles. For example, it has been estimated that there were approximately 30 retractions a year in the early 2000s. Incredibly, it was recently estimated that the Web of Science indexed more than 400 retractions in 2014 (Jill Neimark; <https://aeon.co>). Although ACS has always subscribed to a high ethical standard, we must acknowledge this unfortunate new reality and be much more proactive. Although the vast majority of scientists are absolutely honest in their daily work, temptations remain. As stressed in the ACS 2015 Strategic Plan, the well-trained chemist should also receive some training in ethics. However, we must increase our efforts in stressing ethics and honesty in science. ACS could mount a public service campaign highlighting topics such as plagiarism, scientific misconduct, and other dubious research practices. It is paramount that the public does not lose confidence in science.

I believe that many of our challenges can be effectively addressed through positive promotion of our discipline and educational initiatives. If elected, I would be honored to serve as your President and be your tireless advocate.