

2018 Linus Pauling Medal Award Winner

The American Chemical Society (ACS) Oregon, Portland, and Puget Sound Sections have named Dr. Geraldine Richmond, Presidential Chair in Science and Professor of Chemistry at the University of Oregon, the 2018 recipient of the Linus Pauling Medal Award. Dr. Richmond has made fundamental discoveries of interactions at oil-water and air-water interfaces which produced observations of how environmentally and biologically important molecules adsorb and orient at liquid surfaces. The significance of this research has become apparent in the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 as such fundamental research can lead to new products (e.g., oil dispersants) that are more effective or more environmentally friendly than those available today.

As described by her colleagues “Dr. Richmond is the embodiment of what we revere in the life of Linus Pauling: an exceptional chemist whose impact went beyond the science to include his extraordinary humanitarian efforts for peace and social justice around the world.” Dr. Richmond has “has done it all – an outstanding researcher, a devoted educator, and an amazing mentor.”

Dr. Richmond’s contributions have been recognized with numerous awards including the 2018 Priestley Medal, the 2013 National Medal of Science awarded by President Obama, the 2013 Charles L. Parsons Award, the 2013 Davison Germer Prize for Atomic and Surface Physics from the American Physical Society, and the 2011 Joel H. Hildebrand Award in the Theoretical and Experimental Studies of Liquids. Her scientific leadership positions include Presidential appointment to the National Science Board, President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), U.S. Science Envoy for the Lower Mekong River Countries, and the founding of COACH which works to increase the scientific success and leadership capacity of women scientists and engineers in the U.S. and in developing countries. More information on Dr. Richmond can be found at <http://richmondscience.uoregon.edu/>.

The Linus Pauling Medal has been awarded annually since 1966 by the Oregon, Portland, and Puget Sound Sections of the American Chemical Society in recognition of outstanding achievement in chemistry comparable to that of its namesake and initial awardee, Dr. Linus Pauling. A native of the Pacific Northwest, Dr. Linus Pauling is noted as being the only person to whom two undivided Nobel Prizes have been awarded: Chemistry (1954) and the Peace Prize (1962). Over a third of the Linus Pauling Medal recipients have also won the Priestley Medal, which is the highest honor given by the American Chemical Society and typically recognizes a lifetime of achievement. Likewise, over half of the Linus Pauling Medal roster has received the National Medal of Science – the highest award that a scientist can receive from the United States government – and more than a quarter are Nobel laureates.

The Linus Pauling Medal Award Symposium and Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, November 17, 2018 at the University of Washington Bothell. More information and event registration may be found at <https://www.uwb.edu/physical-sciences/2018-pauling-medal>.



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