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Why I want to run for president of the Pittsburgh Diffraction Society (PDS): I have been an active member in the crystallography community for about 20 years. As president, I would like to fulfill the mission of the PDS- *to promote fundamental and applied diffraction and crystallographic research and the exchange of ideas and information concerning such research-* in the following ways.

In the past years, participants of the PDS have been diminishing. I would execute an aggressive campaign to increase the participation of the major crystallographic/diffraction laboratories (industry and academics) from the eastern U.S. in the annual PDS conferences. I have a history of organizing meeting workshops, major conferences and fundraising. My past experiences in this area would be applied to this effort. It is my vision to raise the level of active participants in the PDS conference to that of the West Coast Asilomar meetings.

A major part of my career has been involved in the study of protein crystal growth and methods development for X-ray and Neutron crystallography. As a council member of the International Organization for Biological Crystallization, organizer of ICCBM (20years in existence), and the U.S. National Committee of Crystallography, I can provide unique contribution and input from these organizations that have not been emphasized so far. I am eager to take a leadership role in the PDS from this perspective in improving research awareness and education (K-12 and beyond) in the field of crystallography and diffraction fostering professional contacts and education among biologists, chemists, physicists and engineers.

Education, training and professional experience: *B.S. Biochem. (1985)*, Univ of CA Los Angeles; *Ph.D. Biochem. (1992)*, UC Riverside; *Postdoc (1993-1998)*, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Strasbourg, France; *Assist. (1998-2004)* and *Assoc. Professor (2004-present)*, UAHuntsville; *President (2005-present)*, iXpressGenes, Inc; *Sabbatical Visitor (2006)*, The Scripps Research Institute.

Representative crystallography-related service and awards: **Service-** Instructor for EMBO course, CNRS, Strasbourg, France (2000); Organizer of NSF sponsored crystallization workshop in the Univ. of South Alabama (2001); Instructor and co-organizer for the 9th (2002), 10th (2004), 11th (2006) and 12th (2008) International Conference on the Crystallization of Biological Macromolecules (ICCBM) workshops and meeting; Instructor for Macromol. Crystallization Workshop, Uppsala Univ., Sweden (2003); Co-editor for the Proceedings to 10th and 11th ICCBM published in *Acta Cryst. Sect D.* (2004) and *Cryst. Growth & Des.* (2006) respectively; Council member of the International Organization for Biological Crystallization (IOBCr); Organizer of NASA sponsored High School student crystallography workshops (2000-present). Co-session chair of Ed-Outreach session in ACA (2009). Chair and organizer of the SERCAT (2009) conference; Member of the Pittsburgh Diffraction Society. **Awards-** Sigma Xi Scientific Res. Soc.(2001); Foundation Research and Creative Achievement (2002) and Dean's Service for the, College of Science (2002),UAHuntsville; HudsonAlpha Outstanding Innovation in Life Sciences nominee (2009), member of the U.S. National Committee of Crystallography (USNC/Cr),

Current activities and professional interest: My current research activities include methods development in protein crystal growth and structural and functional biology of extremophilic enzymes. Over 60 peer-reviewed research articles have been published related to structural biology, protein crystallization and X-ray crystallography. **Recent PDB depositions:** 3I98, 3E46,3F92,3E19, 3DA5, 1Z2U, 1YEM.

