

Mark Macbeth, Candidate for PDS Secretary

Statement: My name is Mark Macbeth, I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University. I have entered my name for consideration to the post of Secretary for the PDS for a variety of reasons, the most important being that I look forward to serving the community of scientists with interests in X-ray diffraction and I look forward to working with my colleagues in this field. As secretary for this organization, I would promote its activities and seek to help the board members in any way possible. I believe that being local to Pittsburgh, I can help promote its visibility within our local institutions and participate in hosting the annual meeting upon its return to Pittsburgh. In addition to serving the society in this manner, I also feel strongly about enhancing the education and training of young scientists and look to complement the vital role of the society by helping to educate young researchers interested in diffraction.

Education and Training: I received my B.S. degree in Biological Sciences at the University of Vermont where I worked with Bennett Van Houten (now at the University of Pittsburgh) on DNA repair. I received my Ph.D in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 1999 from the University of Chicago where I studied RNA-protein interactions in the ribosome in the lab of Ira Wool. As a postdoctoral associate in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at the University of Utah, I solved the first crystal structure of the catalytic domain of an RNA editing protein while working in the laboratory of Brenda Bass. I was appointed as an Assistant Professor at Carnegie Mellon University in 2007, where my lab continues its studies on the structural biology and biochemistry of this important class of RNA editing enzymes.

Thank you for considering me for the post of Secretary to the Pittsburgh Diffraction Society.