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Westchester Chemical Society

150 YEARS OF THE ACS, TOGETHER



Speaker: Rigoberto Hernandez, PhD, FACS,
FAPS, FAAAS, FRSC
Gompf Family Professor of Chemistry
John Hopkins University

2027 Immediate Past President,
2026 President,
2025 President-Elect,
American Chemical Society

Date: **Tuesday,**
December 1, 2026

Time: **6:00 pm**

Place: **ZOOM ONLY MEETING**

https://fordham.zoom.us/j/84524426389

Event is free of charge

Please contact Peter Corfield at pcorfield@fordham.edu to RSVP for the meeting or if you have any questions.

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Abstract:

As we celebrate the 150th year anniversary of the American Chemical Society, we are focusing not just where we have been, but also where we will go over the next 150 years. Our aim is to advance chemistry, its practitioners, and everyone who is touched by chemistry. During my Presidential year I have been promoting ACS First, ACS for Life, ACS for All and their alignment with our sesquicentennial celebration of the ACS. Through ACS First, I am aiming to ensure that the ACS is the first place that everyone comes to for advocacy and advisory for advancing chemistry globally. Through ACS for Life, I have advocated for the notion that once a chemist, always a chemist, and aim to make it easier for members to remain members for life. Through ACS for ALL, I have supported and advocated for policies open to all scientists who self-identify as chemists (broadly defined!), and those who wish to engage with chemists. As a membership society, we should meet chemists where they are because together we are truly better.

Biography:

Dr. Rigoberto Hernandez serves as the Gompf Family Professor of Chemistry at Johns Hopkins University and directs the Open Chemistry Collaborative in Diversity Equity (OXIDE). Born in Güines, Cuba, he completed his B.S.E. in Chemical Engineering and Mathematics at Princeton (1989) and Ph.D. in Chemistry at UC Berkeley (1993). His research encompasses theoretical and computational chemistry alongside work in diversity and equity within the sciences. He has authored over 199 publications in these areas. His contributions have been recognized through awards including the NSF CAREER Award, Sloan Fellowship, ACS Award for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students, RCSA STAR Award, Herty Medal, and Humboldt Research Prize. He is a Fellow of AAAS, ACS, APS, and the Royal Society of Chemistry. He is serving as ACS President in 2026.

With attendance at this event, attendees agree to ACS volunteer and