

Professional Ethics for Chemists - Presenters

Kathy Janzen, BSc, PChem

Kathy Janzen is the Executive Director for the Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta (ACPA). She has been a member of the ACPA since 1993 and served six years on the Board of Directors, including two years as President (2010-2012). Kathy represents the ACPA on several national and provincial committees.

Kathy earned an Honours B.Sc. in Biochemistry from the University of Alberta. After a 25-year career as a forensic scientist, she retired from the RCMP Forensic Laboratory Service in 2006. In her work as a forensic toxicologist, she analyzed exhibits from crimes, wrote reports and opinion letters, and testified as an expert witness in court. Her duties also involved training police officers on all aspects of forensic science and consulting with investigators on case submissions. Kathy served on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Society of Forensic Science (CSFS) for six years and is a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Forensic Science.

Kathy has spent more than ten years as an entrepreneur with direct experience in several start-up companies, including providing chemical analysis and consulting services for the Alberta oil industry and quality assurance for a company developing silver-based wound-care products. At the Northern Alberta Business Incubator in St. Albert, Kathy has also helped to provide business services, educational programs and coaching to numerous small start-up companies.

Her years with the RCMP, the CSFS, and the ACPA have made Kathy keenly aware of professional ethics. Together with her forensic work—where the objective was to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth—and her practical experience in the business world, she has built a solid understanding of ethical conduct in industry.

Nils Petersen, Ph.D, FCIC

Dr. Petersen is a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Alberta, a National Institute for Nanotechnology (NINT) Fellow, and an Honorary Professor at the University of Twente, Netherlands.

Dr. Petersen received his B.Sc. Honours in Chemistry from The University of Western Ontario in 1972 and his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the California Institute of Technology in 1978. After positions at Cornell University and Washington University Medical School, he returned to The University of Western Ontario's Department of Chemistry as a faculty member in 1981. He was Chair of the department from 1995 to 1999. From 1993 to 1995, he was Associate Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies; from 1999 to 2000 he served as Associate Vice-President (Research) and Acting Vice-President (Research). After three years as Vice-President (Research) at the University of Western Ontario, he served as the Director General of the National Institute for Nanotechnology from 2004 to 2011.

Dr. Petersen is a Fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada.

He currently serves as a member of several boards of not-for-profit organizations, including the Canadian Light Source (CLS), the Business-Led NCE ArboraNano, Compute Canada, and TecTerra. He also Chairs the Board of the NSERC Strategic Network BiopSys at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Petersen's current research in membrane biophysical chemistry focuses on intermolecular interactions in biological membranes, particularly the study of the dynamics and distribution of molecules within the membrane; on the function of lung surfactants in healthy and diseased lungs; and on characterization of nanoparticles and their interaction with cell surfaces.

His understanding of professional ethics for chemists derives from 20 years of experience in senior academic positions—including Department Chair, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Vice-President of Research, and Director General—during which he had to deal with conflicts of interest, scientific misconduct, supervisor-student conflicts, and numerous other aspects of professional conduct and conflict resolution. He has also in the past taken extensive training in Tribunal Hearings.