

## The Committee on Free Dissemination of Research

*This Committee is charged with evaluating the future of Open Access and its impact on scientific advancements in electrochemical and solid state science and technology; and for making recommendations concerning the structure, funding, and advocacy requirements necessary for an Open Access model that will lead to successful and uninhibited scientific advancement allowing ECS to **Free the Science**<sup>™</sup>.*

### Members

**Chair: Larry Faulkner** is President Emeritus of the University of Texas at Austin, former President of ECS, and a former member of the chemistry faculty at the University of Illinois.

**Allen Bard** is the Director of the Center for Electrochemistry and the Norman Hackerman-Welch Regents Chair at the University of Texas at Austin, the former Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, a member of the National Academy of Science, and winner of both the 2014 Enrico Fermi Award presented by U.S. Department of Energy and the 2011 U.S. National Medal of Science.

**William Brown** is the former President of ECS and former Chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and winner of the 1995 ECS Thomas D. Callinan Award.

**Cor Claeys** is the Director of Advanced Semiconductor Technologies at IMEC and Professor at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium, former ECS Board member, a former Associate Editor of the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society*, and winner of the 2004 ECS Electronics & Photonics Division Award.

**Akira Fujishima** is the President of Tokyo University of Science, former President of the Electrochemical Society of Japan, the 2003 winner of Japan's Medal with Purple Ribbon and the Japan Academy Prize.

**Esther Takeuchi** is the Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at Stony Brook University, former President of ECS, member of the National Academy of Engineering and National Inventors Hall of Fame, and the 2010 winner of the U.S. National Medal of Technology.

**Isao Taniguchi** is the President of Kumamoto University and a former member of the ECS Board of Directors. He received the Outstanding Paper Award from the Electrochemical Society of Japan in 2005.

**Masayoshi Watanabe** is on the Faculty of the Engineering Division of Materials Science & Chemical Engineering at Yokohama National University and is the former Vice President of The Electrochemical Society of Japan.

**Martin Winter** is a Technical Editor for the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* and *ECS Electrochemistry Letters* and the scientific head of the Münster Electrochemical Energy Technology, Battery Research Centre at Münster University.

**Mark Wrighton** is Chancellor and Professor of Chemistry at the University of Washington, former Provost at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the former Vice Chair of the NRC Committee on America's Energy Future.

### Ex-Officio Members

**ECS Past President: Tetsuya Osaka** is the Deputy Dean of Faculty and Director of the Inst. for Nanoscience & Nanotechnology at Waseda University. He is the former President of The Electrochemical Society of Japan and the 2010 winner of Japan's Medal with Purple Ribbon.

**ECS President: Paul Kohl** is the Hercules Inc/Thomas Gossage Chair at the Georgia Institute of Technology and former Editor of the three scholarly publications: *Journal of The Electrochemical Society*, *Electrochemical & Solid-State Letters* and *Interface*.

**ECS Executive Director: Roque Calvo** is the Executive Director of ECS and the former President of the Council of Engineering and Scientific Society Executives.



## The Grandest Challenge of Them All

Over the past 38 years, I have enjoyed the many benefits of being an ECS member, including the opportunity to be editor of ECS publications, including *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* (1995-2008), *Electrochemical and Solid-State Letters* (1998-2003), and *Interface* (1992-1995). Along the way, I have met and shared experiences with the most interesting people, each with a special story. For example, recently I learned that Ralph Brodd, 2014 Acheson Award winner and ECS past-president, became an ECS member 61 years ago by writing a winning essay to the Corrosion Division. Norman Hackerman, ECS past president and Editor of the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* (1950-1990), encouraged him to enter the essay contest.

ECS is a 112-year-old organization that has continually sought to create new opportunities for the scientific community because it is a mission-based society and a not-for-profit entity. The ECS goals are to create programs that benefit its members, and to advance electrochemical and solid state science and technology.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to be President of ECS, especially at this moment in time, because this is perhaps the most exciting and important period in ECS history. ECS has undertaken a most noble and bold initiative in scholarly publishing... the commitment to *open access* for its scholarly publications. In May 2013, the ECS Board of Directors boldly committed to an Open Access plan "that would enable the dissemination of content from the ECS Digital Library at no cost to authors, readers, libraries, or funding agencies." This means that authors will be able to publish scholarly works, using the same high-quality, peer-review process in place now, without financial cost to themselves or to their readers. This is an enormous benefit for authors because readers everywhere would enjoy unobstructed access to their articles. Institutions that sponsored the original research are better served because the dissemination of the results is not hampered by being hidden behind subscription paywalls. The ECS journals are the best place to publish electrochemical and solid state manuscripts because of our established reputation and open access to the world without charge to most authors.

This may be the boldest and most important change to scholarly publishing since the first publisher, Cambridge University Press, was chartered in 1534. Its mission included advancing learning, knowledge, and research worldwide. For-profit corporations and some professional societies have been draining billions of dollars per year as profit from researchers, authors, readers, and funding agencies. New journal titles are created each year solely for the purpose of selling more titles and increasing profits. While these publishers may facilitate the review process, it is still the scientists and engineers who

provide the editorial and review services, not the publishers themselves. ECS can attempt this open-access initiative because it is driven solely by benefits to its members and society.

I am very pleased to join a *Committee for Free Dissemination of Research* (see page 8) whose goal it is to raise funds to endow our ECS serial publications so that all barriers to publishing and reading peer-reviewed ECS publications can be eliminated. This goal is so important that Larry Faulkner, ECS past president and president emeritus of The University of Texas, has agreed to lead this committee. It is a privilege to join Larry and the others who have volunteered to *Free the Science*. The ultimate goal is to create a \$30M endowment! The goal of this Committee (see page 8) is raise funds through philanthropic and other organizations to make this dream a reality. We have a good start thanks to a successful ECS Centennial Campaign (2002-2007), and careful management of those funds. We are well on our way with an \$8M endowment already established.

This open access goal affects each ECS member and person who interacts with the Society. One of the many benefits is higher-quality journals with greater reach and impact. Participants are ultimately the creators of more opportunities, such as the essay contest in 1953 that brought Ralph Brodd into ECS. This brings me to the role of each ECS member in this endeavor. For authors, publishing in ECS journals has never been easier or faster. Open access of individual articles is available to *all* authors publishing in ECS journals today at no cost for most authors. Authors, for the first time, can publish scholarly works in a high-quality, peer-reviewed journal *free of charge* by taking advantage of the many waivers to the current open access article processing charge. Waivers are given for being a member, attending a biannual meeting, or being at an institution that subscribes to ECS journals. And if that does not work, just let me know and we will find a way for you to publish your article as an open access one.

I hope everyone supports ECS by submitting their top manuscripts to the ECS journals because it is the *best* place to publish your top papers. No other journal provides a high quality, peer-reviewed venue with world-wide open access at no charge to most authors. On a broader scale, ECS members can support this open access initiative financially or by helping us to approach philanthropic organizations. We welcome your contributions and stories about how you have been affected by your ECS experience. It's time for everyone to help.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul A. Kohl". The signature is stylized and cursive.

**Paul A. Kohl**  
ECS President