

# Kenneth S. Suslick

Marvin T. Schmidt Research Professor of Chemistry

Ken Suslick received his B.S. from Caltech in 1974, his Ph.D. from Stanford in 1978, and came to UIUC immediately thereafter. He has published more than 360 papers, edited four books, and holds 43 patents and patent applications. He has mentored nearly 150 students in research, who have gone on to be leaders in industry, academia and beyond.

The Suslick Research Group is multi-disciplinary, with research projects that span inorganic, but also in organometallic, bio-organic, materials (both inorganic and biomaterials), surface, analytical and physical chemistry. Two major research areas are the chemical effects of ultrasound and chemical sensing (development of an optoelectronic nose). The latter project is an exciting spinoff of the group's earlier work on the bioinorganic and materials chemistry of metalloporphyrins.

In addition, Ken has had significant entrepreneurial experience. He was lead consultant for MBI and part of the team that commercialized the first echo contrast agent for medical sonography, Albunex™, which became Optison.™ He also was the founding consultant for VivoRx and helped invent Abraxane™, albumin microspheres with a paclitaxel core, which is currently the predominant delivery system for taxol chemotherapy; VivoRx became Abraxis Bioscience, which was acquired by Celgene for \$2.9 billion. He then co-founded ChemSensing and its successor, iSense/Metabolomx for commercialization of the group's optoelectronic nose.

**Ken's addition:** This Group Reunion is *not* meant to be about me; it's really about all the individuals who have contributed so much to the efforts of this whole group of outstanding people over the past 38 years. Some of you may have heard my reciting the parable of the long spoons. For those of you who haven't:

The Editor of a great newspaper assigned his star investigative reporter to determine the difference between Heaven and Hell. So the reporter gets himself up to the pearly gates, shows his press credentials and asks Saint Peter to explain Heaven and Hell.

Saint Peter takes the reporter down a long corridor until they come to a huge pair of double doors, which swing open to reveal a magnificent hall where a long candle-lit banquet table is laden with bowls of steaming hors d'oeuvres, fragrant soups, succulent roasts, perfectly cooked vegetables, aromatic loaves of bread, the finest of wines, fruits of every kind, and a dazzling array of cakes and pies. Diners fill every chair, but shockingly for these surroundings, the scene is one of pain and anguish. The guests at this banquet are skeletal forms, twisted and moaning in starvation, with barely enough strength to snarl and strike at each other with their spoons. Looking closer, the reporter notes that all spoons have very long handles – longer than the diners' arms – too long for the diners to be able to feed themselves. "This is Hell," intones Saint Peter.

Saint Peter then leads the reporter out of Hell and down another long corridor to an identical pair of double doors, which swing open to reveal an identical hall with an identical banquet table laden to overflowing with the same food. Here, the hall is filled with the sounds of laughter, friendly chatter, and song, and all the diners are well fed and happy enjoying the company and the bounty before them. The startled reporter stares in amazement, for all these guests, too, have the same long spoons: But here are feeding each other! "And this," Saint Peter whispers with a smile, "This is Heaven."



## SUSLICK GROUP CELEBRATION

**A Symposium on the Science, Life, and  
Humor of the Suslick Group**

**Saturday August 13, 2016**

**B102 CLSL, 600 S. Goodwin Av., Urbana  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
9 am – 5 pm**

# Schedule of Events

8:30-9:00 Coffee available/social time

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**Presiding: Sara Skrabalak** (Suslick Ph.D. 2002-06)

James H. Rudy Associate Professor of Chemistry, Indiana University

9:00-9:30

**Gregory Girolami**

William H. and Janet G. Lycan Professor and Head of Chemistry, UIUC

*Welcome Address*

9:30-9:50

**Ben Suslick** (Suslick high school RA 2008-09, UC Berkeley chem grad student)

*Ken Suslick: The Man behind the Mask(s)*

9:50-10:10 Coffee Break

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**Presiding: Dave Benson** (Suslick Ph.D. 1992-97)

Associate Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry, Calvin College

10:10-10:30

**Christopher Ziegler** (Suslick Ph.D. 1992-97)

Professor of Chemistry, University of Akron

*A Day in the Library will Save You a Week in the Lab... Wisdom from Ken Suslick*

10:30-10:50

**Neal Rakow** (Suslick Ph.D. 1996-2001)

Global R&D Manager, 3M Company

*Built on the Prairie: Setting a Foundation for Life*

10:50-11:10

**Paul Schubert** (Suslick Ph.D. 1978-1983)

Chief Operating Officer, Velocys

*Making it Work*

11:10-11:30

**Jo Eisenhart** (Suslick undergraduate 1981)

SVP-Human Resources, Northwestern Mutual

*From the Science of Molecules to the Science of People: How Working in the*

*Suslick Group Prepared Me for the Corporate World*

11:30-11:50

**Margaret Kosal** (Suslick Ph.D. 1995-2000, Postdoc 2001-02)

Associate Professor, Sam Nunn School of Intl. Affairs, Georgia Institute of Tech.

*From Beakers to Bombs: a Chemist at the Intersection of National Security and Technology*

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11:50-1:45 Lunch (Noyes Chemistry Library, 170 Noyes Lab)

1:45-2:00 Group Photo (Krannert Center Steps)

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# Schedule of Events, continued

**Presiding: Hangxun Xu** (Suslick Ph.D. 2006-11)

Asst. Prof. of Polymer Sci. & Eng., U. of Science & Technology of China

2:00-2:20

**Taeghwan Hyeon** (Suslick Ph.D. 1991-96)

Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering, Seoul National University

*Designed Chemical Synthesis and Assembly of Uniformed-sized Nanoparticles for Medical Applications*

2:20-2:40

**Sara Skrabalak** (Suslick Ph.D. 2002-06)

James H. Rudy Associate Professor of Chemistry, Indiana University

*Shaping the Synthesis of Nanomaterials*

2:40-3:00

**David Flannigan** (Suslick Ph.D. 2001-06)

Assistant Professor of Chemical Eng. & Materials Sci., University of Minnesota

*Seeing the Heat: Visualization of Acoustic Phonons with Ultrafast Electron Microscopy*

3:00-3:20

**Tanya** (Suslick Ph.D. 2000-04) **and Ruslan Prozorov**

Ames Laboratory and Iowa State University

*Sonochemical Physics*

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3:20-3:30 Coffee Break

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**Presiding: David Huffman** (Suslick Ph.D. 1988-93)

Professor of Chemistry, Western Michigan University

3:30-3:50

**Dennis Smithenry** (Suslick Ph.D. 2000-04)

Associate Professor of Education, Elmhurst College

*What Chemistry Students Think about and Learn from the Whole-Class Inquiry Curriculum*

3:50-4:10

**Jiangyun Wang** (Suslick Ph.D. 1998-2003)

Institute of Biophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences

*Metalloprotein Design using Genetic Code Expansion*

4:10-4:30

**Mark Grinstaff** (Suslick Ph.D. 1987-1994)

Distinguished Professor of Chemistry & Biomedical Engineering, Boston Univ.

*Superhydrophobic Biomaterials*

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**Presiding: Peter Dorhout** (Suslick undergraduate 1985)

Vice President of Research, Kansas State University

4:30

**Kenneth Suslick**

Marvin T. Schmidt Research Professor of Chemistry, UIUC

*Closing Remarks: Time flies like a banana*