Distinguished Professor Kenneth Shea Receives American Chemical Society Tolman Medal

Thursday, June 05, 2025
UC Irvine School of Physical Sciences News



This prestigious honor recognizes Professor Shea’s outstanding contributions to the field of chemistry, particularly in Southern California, where his research, mentorship, and leadership have left a lasting impact.

Picture Credit:
Kenneth Shea

The Southern California Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) has awarded the 2025 Tolman Medal to Dr. Kenneth Shea, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus, at the University of California, Irvine. This prestigious honor recognizes Professor Shea’s outstanding

contributions to the field of chemistry, particularly in Southern California, where his research, mentorship, and leadership have left a lasting impact.

Professor Shea's career spans decades of pioneering work in the synthesis of new polymers and materials. He has mentored over 150 Ph.D. and postdoctoral scholars and involved more than 65 undergraduates in his research, fostering the next generation of scientific leaders. With over 350 published manuscripts between him and his students, 11 U.S. patents, and more than 325 invited and plenary lectures at symposia, academic and industrial institutions worldwide, his influence extends across academia, industry, and international scientific communities.

Currently a visiting professor at Zhejiang University and Beijing University of Chemical Technology, Professor Shea continues to contribute to global scientific advancement. His accolades include the ACS Cope Scholar Award, fellowships in multiple ACS divisions, and appointments at institutions such as Cambridge University and Sandia National Laboratories.

The Tolman Medal celebrates Professor Shea's exceptional achievements in chemical research, education, and leadership, underscoring his enduring legacy in the Southern California scientific community and beyond.

Dr. Shea will be recognized at the Tolman ceremony on June 11, 2025, at the Beckman Center. Tickets to attend the ceremony are available here.

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