John H. Dawson

John H. Dawson is Carolina Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of South Carolina. After earning his A.B. from Columbia University, he received his Ph.D. in chemistry from Stanford University working with Carl Djerassi, James Collman and Richard Holm. He was an NIH Postdoctoral Fellow with Harry Gray at CalTech. He has been at the University of South Carolina for his independent career, serving as department chair from 2008-15. His research has focused on the active site structures and mechanisms of action of cytochrome P450 and of novel halogenating and dehalogenating heme-containing peroxidases and on demonstrating the importance of magnetic circular dichroism spectroscopy in establishing the coordination structures of heme iron centers in proteins.



He is the recipient of both the Southern Chemist Award, given by the Memphis American Chemical Society (ACS) Section, and the Stone Award, given by the Charlotte/Piedmont Section. He has also received the South Carolina Governor's Award for Excellence in Scientific Research, given by the SC Academy of Sciences, and the Eraldo Antonini Award in Heme Protein Science, given by the Society of Porphyrins and Phthalocyanines. A Fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the ACS, he is author of over 225 research publications (H-index, 60; Citations >15,700) and has given over 350 invited lectures at conferences and universities worldwide. Editor of J. Inorg. Biochem. from 1996-2022, he is now Associate Editor for Special Issues. He was chair of the 10th International Conference on Cytochrome P450 (ICC-P450) in 1996, of the Bioinorganic Subdivision of the ACS Inorganic Division in 2000, of the Metals in Biology Gordon Research Conference in 2005, and of the Society of Biological Inorganic Chemistry Nominations Committee from 2014-17. He has also been extensively involved in organizing bioinorganic symposia for Pacifichem (1990-present), for the International Conference on Porphyrins and Phthalocyanines (2002-present) and for the Canadian Bioinorganic Chemistry Conference (CanBic, 2011-present). He served on the International Scientific Advisory Committee for ICC-P450 (1995-2017), for the International Symposium on Applied Bioinorganic Chemistry (2005-2025) and for CanBic (2010-present).

Personal Statement: I have been a strong supporter of the Society of Biological Inorganic Chemistry since it was established 30 years ago. Our research field benefits enormously by having SBIC promote our research, organize conferences and workshops worldwide, and, especially, recognize and encourage young rising bioinorganic stars with early career awards. I bring extensive experience in developing and sustaining relationships in the scientific community here and abroad, both as conference organizer and journal editor. I am highly motivated to continue to serve the bioinorganic community and to further enhance the strong impact of SBIC on our research field.