

RICHMOND SARPONG

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Title of Lecture: “Break-it-to-Make-it Strategies for Chemical Synthesis Inspired by Complex Natural Products”

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Education:

2001 Ph.D., Organic Chemistry, Princeton University

1995 B.A., Chemistry, Macalester College

Research and Professional Experience

2018-present	Executive Associate Dean, College of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley
2014-present	Full Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley
2015-2018	Vice-Chair for Synthetic Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley
2010-2014	Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley
2004-2010	Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley
2001-2004	Postdoctoral Fellow, California Institute of Technology

Honors and Awards

Alexander von Humboldt Research Award (2022); ACS Award for Creative Work in Synthetic Organic Chemistry (2022); ACS-DOC Edward Leete Award (2021); Elected Fellow of the American Chemical Society (2019); ISHC Alan R. Katritzky Award (2019); Mukaiyama Award of the Synthetic Society of Organic Chemistry Japan (2019); John Simon Guggenheim Fellow (2017); Noyce Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (2016); Schülich Visiting Professor (Technion, Israel) (2015–2016); Royal Society of Chemistry Synthetic Organic Chemistry Award (2015); ACS Arthur C. Cope Scholar (2015); Fuson Lecturer, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign (2014); Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Fellowship (2013); Paul Dowd Lecturer, University of Pittsburgh (2013); Honorary Lifetime Membership of the Israel Chemical Society (2012); Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry Japan Lectureship Award (2011); Ginsberg Lecturer (Technion, Israel) (2011); Roche Excellence in Organic Chemistry Award (2010); UC Berkeley Department of Chemistry Teaching Award (2009); Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award (2009); Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellow (2009); American Cancer Society Research Scholar (2009-2012); Eli Lilly Grantee Award (2009-2010); National Academies of Science Kavli Fellow (2008); University of California Hellman Faculty Award (2008-2009); AstraZeneca Excellence in Chemistry Award (2008); Dupont Young Professor Award (2008-2010); Johnson and Johnson Focused Giving Award (2008-2010); GlaxoSmithKline Scholar Award (2008); Amgen Young Investigator Award (2007); National Science Foundation CAREER Award (2007-2011); Abbott Young Investigator Award (2007-2008); Eli Lilly Young Investigator Grantee (2004).

Research Interests

At Berkeley, Richmond’s laboratory focuses on the synthesis of bioactive complex organic molecules, with a particular focus on secondary metabolites that come from marine or terrestrial flora and fauna. These natural products continue to serve as the inspiration for new medicines. It is Richmond’s hope that through the work in his laboratory, he and his coworkers will uncover methods and strategies for synthesis that may contribute to more efficient ways to prepare bioactive compounds that may inspire new medicines.