

## MAHDI M. ABU-OMAR

Purdue University, Department of Chemistry and School of Chemical Engineering  
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**Title of Lecture:** “Sustainability through Catalysis: Making Biofuels and Chemicals from Biomass”

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### Education:

1996 Ph.D. Inorganic Chemistry, Iowa State University  
1992 BS Chemistry, Hampden-Sydney College

### Research and Professional Experience

School or Company	Position	Dates
Caltech	NIH Postdoctoral Scholar	1996-97
University of California, Los Angeles	Assistant Professor	1997-03
Purdue University	Associate Professor	2003-08
Purdue University	Professor	2008-2013
Purdue University	Associate Director, Center for direct Catalytic Conversion of Biomass to Biofuels (C3Bio)	2009-present
Purdue University	R. B. Wetherill Professor of Chemistry and Professor of Chemical Engineering	2013-present
Spero Energy Inc.	Founder and President	2012-present

### Research Interests

Synthetic and mechanistic organometallic catalysis and its use in renewable energy and sustainable chemistry.

### Awards and Honors

1999-03 NSF Faculty Early Career Development Award  
1999-02 Beckman Young Investigator Award  
1999-01 Basil O'Connor Starter Scholar Award, March of Dimes  
2007 College of Engineering Team Excellence Award, Purdue University  
2008-12 University Faculty Scholar, Purdue University  
2008 Fulbright Senior Fellow Award, Israel  
2008 Visiting Professor, Department of Organic Chemistry, Weizmann Institute of Science  
2009 Visiting Professor, Faculté de Chimie, L'université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France  
2010 JPP Young Investigator Award from the Society of Porphyrins and Phthalocyanines  
2010 College of Science Interdisciplinary Award, Purdue University  
2011 Visiting Scholar, Department of Chemistry, Stanford University  
2013 Visiting Lecturer, Department of Material and Life Science, Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University, Japan  
2013 Crano Memorial Lectureship, ACS Akron Section, Ohio  
2013 Fellow of the American Association for Advancement of Science (AAAS)  
2014 College of Agriculture TEAM Award, Purdue University