

# Mahdi M. Abu-Omar

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## Education

G.C.E., <i>Valedictorian</i>	St. George's High School, Jerusalem	1988
B.S. <i>summa cum laude</i>	Hampden-Sydney College, Virginia	1992
Ph.D.	Iowa State University	1996
Postdoctoral Scholar	California Institute of Technology	1996-97

## Professional Appointments

Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of California, Los Angeles	1997-present
NIH Postdoctoral Scholar, Division of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering, California Institute of Technology (Research Advisor: Harry B. Gray)	1996-97
Graduate Research and Teaching Fellow, Department of Chemistry, Iowa State University (Research Advisor: James H. Espenson)	1992-1996

## Awards and Honors

Faculty Career Development Award, UCLA, 2001; Faculty Early Career Development Award (CAREER), National Science Foundation, 1999; Beckman Young Investigator Award, The Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation, 1999; Basil O'Connor Starter Scholar Research Award, March of Dimes Foundation, 1999; Faculty Career Development Award, UCLA, 1999; Alpha Chi Sigma Award for Excellence in Graduate Research, Iowa State University, 1996; Research excellence Award, Iowa State University, 1996; GAANN Fellowship, Iowa State University, 1994-96; Nobel Hines Fellowship, Iowa State University, 1992-93; Venable Merit Scholarship, Hampden-Sydney College, 1989-92; President's Award in Natural Sciences, Hampden-Sydney College, 1992; inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, Hampden-Sydney College, 1992.

## Professional Activities

Inorganic Graduate Advisor, Department of Chemistry, UCLA, 2000-present; Faculty Advisor, Beta Gamma Chapter of  $\Lambda\chi\Sigma$  Fraternity, UCLA, 1999-present; Member, Committee on Safety, Department of Chemistry, UCLA, 1999-present; Member, Committee on Diversity, Academic Senate, UCLA, 1998-00; Member, Curriculum Committee, Department of Chemistry, UCLA, 1997-present; Member, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1997-present; Member, American Chemical Society, 1992-present.

## Research Interests

Environmental and biological inorganic chemistry; chemical kinetics and reaction mechanisms; remediation of perchlorate and other oxyanions; 'green' catalytic transformations in ionic liquids; mechanistic enzymology of phenylalanine hydroxylase; molecular and chemical basis of phenylketonuria (PKU).