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**Iota Sigma Pi Awards National Honorary Member 2020 to Prof. Vicki H. Grassian of University of California-San Diego**

Iota Sigma Pi, the national organization for women in chemistry, has selected **Prof. Vicki H. Grassian** to receive the **National Honorary Member Award**. This award honors exceptional and significant achievement in chemistry or an allied field of such nature to merit international recognition. This award is the highest honor that Iota Sigma Pi bestows on outstanding women chemists. She has been invited to participate in the organization's Triennial Convention in 2020.



After a distinguished career at the University of Iowa, in 2013 Professor Grassian became co-Director of the Center for Aerosol Impacts on Climate and the Environment (CAICE,) a multi-institutional NSF-Chemical Center of Innovation headquartered at the University of California San Diego (UC San Diego) campus. In January 2016, she joined the faculty at UC San Diego as Distinguished Professor and holds the Distinguished Chair of Physical Chemistry. In August 2016, she was appointed Associate Dean of Physical Sciences and in January 2018 Executive Associate Dean of Physical Sciences.

Dr. Grassian's research spans physical, analytical, surface, materials and environmental chemistry. Her nominators said, "Her research focuses on the chemistry of environmental interfaces including indoor surfaces, heterogeneous and multiphase aerosol chemistry, climate impacts of atmospheric aerosols, and environmental, energy and health aspects of nanoscience and nanotechnology. In particular, she has been a pioneer in laboratory studies of the reactivity and physicochemical properties of mineral dust and sea spray aerosols." "Her research has transformed several areas including atmospheric chemistry and climate impacts of particulate matter and the environmental and health impacts of nanoparticles. These studies provide the fundamental basis needed to understand the global impacts of mineral dust."

"Professor Grassian is an innovative and dedicated teacher. In her distinguished career, Professor Grassian has mentored nearly two hundred students in her laboratory including thirty-two students who have received their PhDs under her guidance. In 2018, she received the ACS-CEI Award for Incorporation of Sustainability into Chemistry Education for her innovative work in education. She has mentored numerous women including junior faculty, postdocs and graduate

and undergraduate students paving the way for woman chemists to follow in her successful career path.

As a member of several technical divisions of American Chemical Society (ACS) including Physical Chemistry, Colloid and Surface Chemistry, Environmental Chemistry and Geochemistry she has served in the governance of ACS, as well as providing leadership and vision. She also co-chaired the AWIS-ACS AWARDS Task Force. In this role, she worked to increase the number of women nominated and selected to receive national awards.

Dr. Grassian has been the recipient of many awards throughout her exemplary career. Most recently, she was a recipient of the IUPAC Distinguished Woman in Chemistry Award and will be honored in Paris this summer. She also recently received the 2019 William H. Nichols Medal Award from ACS for her contributions to the chemistry of environmental interfaces.

Dr. Grassian earned her BS degree at the State University of New York-Albany and an MS degree at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She received her PhD from the University of California-Berkeley and conducted postdoctoral research at Colorado State University and Berkeley. She began her independent academic career at the University of Iowa and rose through the academic ranks. In 2010 she was named the F. Wendell Miller Professor of Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry with appointments in the Departments of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering and Occupational and Environmental Health.

**IOTA SIGMA PI** is a national honor society for women in chemistry. Its major objectives are to promote interest in chemistry among women students, to foster mutual advancement in academic, business, and social life; and to stimulate personal accomplishment in chemical fields. IOTA SIGMA PI serves to promote the advancement of women in chemistry by granting recognition to women who have demonstrated superior scholastic achievement and high professional competence by election into IOTA SIGMA PI. [www.iotasigmapi.info](http://www.iotasigmapi.info)