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# Meet the New 2021 Society Officers

To cite this article: 2021 Electrochem. Soc. Interface 30 8

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# Meet the New 2021 Society Officers

On June 11, the newly elected officers of The Electrochemical Society assumed their posts. We are pleased to welcome Eric D. Wachsman as President and Colm O'Dwyer as 3rd Vice President, joining Executive Committee members Turgut Gür, Senior Vice President; Gerardine Botte, 2nd Vice President; Marca Doeff, Secretary; and Gessie Brisard, Treasurer.

# 2021-2022



Eric D. Wachsman, ECS President



*Eric and Natalie at the neighborhood Easter Egg Roll, hosted at the White House by the Obamas.* Photo: Eric D. Wachsman



Natalie and David Wachsman during a family tour of Venice. Photo: Eric D. Wachsman

## Eric D. Wachsman

**ERIC D. WACHSMAN** received his PhD in Materials Science from Stanford University in 1990, and MS and BS degrees in Chemical Engineering from Stanford and the University of California at Berkeley, respectively. Currently, he is Director of the Maryland Energy Innovation Institute and Crentz Centennial Chair in Energy Research with appointments in both the Materials Science and Chemical Engineering Departments at the University of Maryland. He contributed to the next generation of electrochemists by graduating 34 PhD and 30 MS students, supervising 38 postdocs and research scientists, and mentoring several junior faculty, three of whom went on to receive ECS awards. His research focuses on solid ion-conducting materials and electrolysis cells, ion-transport membranes, and solid state gas sensors, with over 270 publications and 35 patents/patent applications. To date, three companies have been founded based on these technologies.

Eric joined ECS as a graduate student in 1989 to present a paper in the first International Symposia on Solid Oxide Fuel Cells (SOFC-I). He became active quickly in ECS, organizing 16 symposia (he is currently lead organizer for SOFC-XVII, July 2021), and serving on numerous ECS committees. Eric served on the ECS Board of Directors in 2006-2007, then continuously from 2013 through today. A Fellow of The Electrochemical Society (2008), he received the ECS High-Temperature Energy, Materials, & Processes Division Outstanding Achievement Award (2012) and Carl Wagner Memorial Award (2017).

When not engaged in his myriad professional and academic pursuits, you can find Eric doing what he loves and does best: spending time with his wife Nelpe, children David and Natalie, and friends whenever and wherever he can, whether it's right in the neighborhood or anywhere around the world!

As President, Eric will work to not only advance the science and technologies to which he has devoted his professional life, but also to expand the Society's participation in addressing major societal issues. As he mentioned in his candidate's statement, "We need to not only *Free the Science*, but partner with our sister societies to *Stand Up for Science*. We are not policymakers, but we should make every effort to ensure that policymakers base their decisions utilizing the best available science." With his experience and passion, Eric will no doubt make contributions to ECS and its community that have positive impact far beyond his term as President!



*Time for friends and family during PRiME 2016.* Photo: Eric D. Wachsman



*Colm O'Dwyer, 3rd Vice President* 

### **Colm O'Dwyer**

**COLM O'DWYER** is Professor of Chemical Energy in the School of Chemistry at University College Cork (UCC), Ireland, and Principal Investigator at Tyndall National Institute, the Environmental Research Institute, and Advanced Materials and BioEngineering Research Centre. He received his PhD with Prof. D. Noel Buckley in 2003 on semiconductor electrochemistry and physics. His postdoctoral research was conducted on ultra-cold atom cooling and surface science in Toulouse, France. Colm has been a Science Foundation Ireland Stokes Lecturer on Nanomaterials since 2008. His multidisciplinary research group, founded at UCC in 2012, develops 3D printed batteries, energy storage materials, optoelectronic materials and processes, and photonic structures.

Over the years, with talented students, postdocs, and collaborators, Colm has coauthored over 230 peer-reviewed articles (27 in JES and JSS), numerous book chapters, and 60 *ECS Transactions* articles, covering most of the Society's technical interest areas.

An active ECS member since 2001, Colm has served ECS continuously in many roles. He organized or co-organized over 35 ECS symposia on electrochemical and solid state topics since 2007, and through the Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Subcommittee, helped deliver new mega symposia across several ECS divisions. An Executive Committee Member of the Electronics and Photonics Division for over 12 years, he was recently named 1st Vice Chair and then Division Chair. He served on several key ECS committees and as a member of the Board of Directors. An award-winning advocate of open access publication, he guest edited four special Focus Issues for JES and JSS on semiconductor electrochemistry, thermoelectrics, and 2D materials and devices.

In his personal life, Colm is an avid climber and outdoorsman who can be found trekking the globe in search of adventure and the chance to, as he puts it, "pare things down to bare essentials for several weeks in amazing parts of the world."

The view from Colm's high camp, Ama Dablam, Nepal. Photo: Colm O'Dwyer

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*Colm hiking in the Vacas Valley, Aconcagua, Argentina.* Photo: Colm O'Dwyer



With the pandemic, the O'Dwyers find adventure exploring the great indoors and demonstrate sheltering in place in style! From left to right: Aaron, Gillian, Caera, and Colm O'Dwyer. Photo: Colm O'Dwyer



*Exploring the universe from the comfort of home during the pandemic, the O'Dwyers rediscover M81 and M82, galaxies over 12 million light years away.* Photo: Colm O'Dwyer