



Canadian Society for Chemistry | **For Our Future**
Société canadienne de chimie | **Pour notre avenir**

2021 CSC Director-at-Large Candidate – Saurabh S. Chitnis

Statement of Interest

I am interested in the Director-at-Large position because it will allow me to focus the CSC's attention on some of the unique challenges faced by emerging investigators. I believe that the CSC should buttress and bolster the causes of postdoctoral researchers and newly hired faculty in Canadian chemistry as these groups exist in a tumultuous space between trainees and professionals.

To that end I would seek to assess the most pressing concerns of this demographic and develop, in collaboration with the CSC, resources that attempt to ease this transition. I would also seek to involve the CSC in campaigns for improved funding for postdoctoral trainees and early career researchers. Such efforts will ensure that the organization remains an attractive and impactful society emerging chemists, which, in turn, will ensure its long term vibrancy.

Biography

I came to Canada as a teenager and completed my schooling in Toronto. My passion for chemistry bloomed during undergraduate summer research stints at McMaster University, where I completed a liberal arts education in 2010. I then enrolled in a PhD program under the supervision of Neil Burford at the University of Victoria. My doctoral research was funded by a *Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship* and recognized with a *Governor General's Gold medal* (2010–2015). I also participated in a 6-month exchange at TU-Dresden (Germany) in the group of Jan Weigand. Following doctoral training, I undertook postdoctoral work with Ian Manners (University of Bristol, UK) as a *Banting Fellow* (2015–2017) and Douglas Stephan at University of Toronto (2017–2018).

I joined Dalhousie (Canada) in July 2018 where my group is revealing new electronic structures and reactivity at heavy main group element centres. I am also the co-founder, and now the co-host, of the *Global Inorganic Discussion Weekend (GIDW)* - a monthly CIC-Virtual Inorganic Seminars series. In my free time, I enjoy discovering the coastal beauty of Atlantic Canada with my partner and pretending that I am a master chef, despite ample evidence to the contrary.