

**Professor Pall Thordarson** *BSc (Iceland), PhD (Sydney), FRACI CChem, FRSC*  
Professor and Deputy Head of School of Chemistry  
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DOB: 6<sup>th</sup> June 1971, Vopnafjörður, Iceland.

### **Qualifications**

1<sup>st</sup> Jun 2001 PhD in Organic Chemistry, The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia  
3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1996 BSc. in Chemistry, The University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland.

### **Career Experience**

2017- Professor  
2013-2016 Associate Professor  
2007-2012 Senior Lecturer UNSW, Australia  
2006-2007 ARC Australian Research Fellow, The University of Sydney, Australia  
2003-2005 SESQUI Research Fellow, The University of Sydney, Australia  
2001-2003 Marie Curie Research Fellow, The University of Nijmegen, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

### **Management Roles (selected/recent)**

2020 Acting Head of School of Chemistry (February-April), The University of New South Wales  
2019- Assistant Director, Australian Centre for Astrobiology, The University of New South Wales  
2018- Deputy Head of School of Chemistry, The University of New South Wales  
2018-2023 Member, ARC Training Centre for Chemical Industries (ATCI) Management Committee  
2015-2018 Australian representative on the management committee of the European Cooperation COST Network Emergence and Evolution of Complex Chemical Systems  
2014- NSW representative board member, Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) Organic Division  
2014-2017 Director of Research, School of Chemistry, The University of New South Wales

### **Fellowships**

2012-2016 Australian Research Council (ARC) Future Fellowship  
2006-2010 Australian Research Council (ARC) Australian Research Fellowship  
2003-2005 The University of Sydney Sesquicentenary Research Fellow  
2001-2003 Marie Curie Research Fellow (European Union)

### **Awards (selected)**

Nov 2012 *Le Fèvre Memorial Prize* from the Australian Academy of Science for outstanding basic research in Chemistry by a Scientist under the age of 40  
July 2010 The International Society of Porphyrins and Phthalocyanines (SPP) / Journal of Porphyrins and Phthalocyanines (JPP): SPP/JPP *Young Investigator Award*  
Oct 2008 New South Wales *Young Tall Poppy Science Award*

### **Service to Discipline (selected/recent)**

2023 – 2024: President, Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) and board member.  
2021 – 2022: President Elect, Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) and board member.  
2014 – 2018 NSW Representative RACI Organic Division  
2019 – to date Treasurer, RACI Supramolecular Chemistry Group  
2016 – 2019 ARC College of Experts Member  
2014 Chair, Supramolecular Symposia at the 2014 RACI Congress in Adelaide  
2016 Co-chair 23<sup>rd</sup> IUPAC Conference on Physical Organic Chemistry (ICPOC23) in Sydney, July 2016. Plenaries included George Whitesides, Jan van Esch and Ariel Warshel (Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2013). Over 300 people attended from around the world  
2018-2020 Co-Chair Symposia on Chemical Complexity, Systems Chemistry and Actively-Driven Self-assembly, Pacificchem December 2020 (postponed to December 2021)  
2018-2022 Co-Chair for the 17<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Macrocyclic and Supramolecular Chemistry in Reykjavík, Iceland June 2022  
2008 – to date Associate Editor – *Australian Journal of Chemistry*

2018 – to date Founding Editorial Board Member, *ChemSystemsChem* – Wiley  
2019 – to date Founding Editorial Board Member, *Cell Physical Science* – Cell Press (Elsevier)

### **Honours and Memberships**

2017 Fellow Royal Australian Chemical Institute (*FRACI*)  
2017 Fellow Royal Society of Chemistry (*FRSC*)  
2013 Member, The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC, UK)  
2007 Member, American Chemical Society (ACS)  
2003 Member, Australian Microscopy and Microanalysis Society (AMMS)  
2001 Member, Royal Australian Chemical Institute (MRACI CChem)

### **Research Support Income**

As a Chief Investigator (CI) Thordarson has obtained \$39M in direct Australian Research Council funding, of which \$5.2M are from grants he was the first or sole CI on. This includes:

- ARC Discovery Projects x 5, all as first or sole Chief Investigator (CI) worth a total of \$1.9M
- ARC Future Fellowship (2012-2016) = \$822K
- ARC Linkage Projects: Thordarson is the first named on 2 out of the 5 on which Thordarson is a CI. For the 2 that Thordarson led, he received \$637K from the ARC. Total from all 5 = \$2.2M
- ARC Industrial Transformation Training Centre (2018-2023), \$3.3M. Polyzoz, A. et al., Thordarson is a CI for the ARC Training Centre for the Chemical Industries
- ARC Centre of Excellence (2014-2020): \$26M. Davis et al. Thordarson is a CI for the ARC Centre of Excellence in Convergent Bio-Nano Science and Technology (CBNS, [www.bionano.org.au](http://www.bionano.org.au))
- ARC LIEF: Thordarson was lead investigator for a LIEF worth \$368K for a thermodynamics & kinetics facility at UNSW and ANU (2019) and \$450K for a new AFM facility at UNSW and U. Sydney (2010). He was a CI on 7 other LIEF grants. Total from all 7 = \$5.2M

Note: The above does not include \$10M in matching cash from ARC Centre of Excellence, Industrial Transformation Training Centre and Linkage Project partners.

*Other significant external funding includes (all as first CI):*

2016: Innovation Connections Programme (Australian Government) \$100,000, 2 grants for 1 year  
2012 Enterprise Connect – Research in Business (Australian Government) \$63,000, 2 grants for 1 year  
2009 NSW Cancer Institute Research Innovation Grant \$50,000 for 1 year

*Further to this, Thordarson has supported and collaborated with the following successful fellowship candidates:*

2016 Dr Adam Martin – NHMRC-ARC Dementia Research Development Fellowship, \$594,644 over 4 years  
2010 Dr Patchara Punyamoonwongsa - Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Research Fellowship for a 6-month stay in the laboratory of Thordarson  
2008 Dr Sabrina Dehn – Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) fellow for a 2-year stay in the laboratory of Thordarson

### **Invited presentations (selected)**

Thordarson is regularly invited to present seminars about his work on synthesis, self-assembly and bioconjugation at significant international conferences. This includes talks at three International Symposia on Macrocyclic and Supramolecular Chemistry (ISMSC) meetings (ISMSC-6-, Brighton, ISMSC-7, Dunedin, 2012, ISMSC-9, Shanghai, 2014); EUROBIC 2020 in Iceland, SysChem 2015 in the Netherlands); the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology (AMN-6, Auckland, 2013 & AMN-8, Queenstown, 2017) conferences; Heron7 in 2016 and Heron8 in 2019 (Heron Island, reactive intermediates); the 5<sup>th</sup> Nano Today Conference, Hawaii, USA, 2017; a plenary award lecture at the 6th International Conference on Porphyrins and Phthalocyanines (ICPP-6, New Mexico, USA, 2010); and an invitation to speak at Pacificchem 2015 in Hawaii, USA.

### **Industry Related Activities**

- Thordarson has a strong record in industry collaboration, which includes five (two as lead CI) ARC Linkage grants worth over **\$2.2M in funding** from the ARC with \$1M matching funds from industry partners
- Thordarson has worked with several companies, ranging from Australian start-up technological

companies (Fluorosol industries, Algae Enterprises, Lleaf), food & health products companies (Ettason, Neptune Bio-Innovations), advanced technology companies (Memjet) to multinational giants (Intel Corporation)

- He has published one patent and in addition to the ARC Linkage Program grants above, obtained > \$600k in direct industry support from Memjet, Algae Enterprise, Ettason, Fluorosol Industries and Neptune Bio-Innovations. Thordarson is a CI on the ARC Industrial Transformation Training Centre (ITTC) for the Chemical Industries, which was awarded \$3.2M in 2017 for the next 5 years

### Outreach Activities

- Thordarson has developed a popular *open access* website – <http://supramolecular.org> – allowing people to use his binding models which has received > 55,000 visits (215 citations – Scopus) from around the world. This project has received in 2019 \$360K from a larger \$1.9M consortium funded by the Australian Research Data Commons (NCRIS)
- Thordarson is active within the chemistry community on Twitter (>18000 followers) with *Chemical & Engineering News* (24/4/2019) highlighting him amongst 8 other “*silo breaker*” in chemistry worldwide on Twitter. He has also published several *YouTube* videos on experimental techniques in chemistry and nanomedicine with combined >42,000 views. The most popular of these YouTube videos, “IC50 or cell viability experiment”, currently has 27,000 views
- Thordarson’s work has been highlighted in *Nature*, *Chemistry in Australia* and *Chemistry World*. He has been interviewed by *The Australian* and *The Age / Sun Herald* about his work and career and on *ABC Radio* (Science Friction 23/9 2017) on the social impact on nanomedicine and related disciplines
- In March and April 2020 Thordarson’s ability to explain how soap destroys the coronavirus had a worldwide impact. He was interviewed on numerous media channels including *BBC World News*, *BBC World Radio Service*, *SBS News* and *ABC 24 News*. His work was also featured in print and online including in the *New York Times*, *Guardian UK*, *The Times of India* and *Le Monde*. Further, a YouTube video from the *TED-Ed* organisation that he co-edited called “Which is better: Soap or hand sanitizer? - Alex Rosenthal and Pall Thordarson” realised on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 had > 3.7 Million views as of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

### Research Student Supervision and Mentoring

- Thordarson has to date supervised 27 PhD students (19 completed) and 34 BSc. Honours students. This includes two University Medal winners and the winner of the 2013 Royal Australian Chemical Institute *Cornforth Medal* for best PhD in Chemistry in Australia
- Thordarson’s recent students have gone to place such as Stanford, Imperial College, Montpellier and Eindhoven to undertake post-doctoral training. Thordarson has mentored and supervised 9 post-doctoral researchers, funded through ARC Discovery, Centre of Excellence and Linkage Project grants, industry contracts and NSW Cancer Institute Funding
- Thordarson has been very active in mentoring early career academic staff at the School of Chemistry, most recently ARC DECRA Fellow and now ARC Future Fellow Dr Vinh Nguyen. In 2013 he was responsible for recruiting to UNSW and mentoring the now ARC Future Fellow Jonathon Beves. 2017 he was instrumental in the part-time hire of Prof. Fraser Stoddart at UNSW with the associated full-time appointments of Dr Dong Jun Kim and Dr Albert Fahrenbach who both started at UNSW in 2018

### Summary of Publications

- Publications in highly ranked journals include: *Nature* (1), *Nature Nanotechnology* (3), *Nature Communications* (1), *Journal of the American Chemical Society* (8), *Angewandte Chemie International Edition* (7), *Chemical Society Reviews* (3), *Chemical Science* (3) and *Chemical Communication* (5)
- **Number of publications since 2011:** 102 (3 book chapters, 99 journal papers)
- **Number of publications (career):** 141 (7 book chapters, 134 journal papers)
- **Total number of citations (Google Scholar):** 9600), *h*-index = 38