BIOSKETCH –DAVID G. WHITTEN

David Whitten received his A.B., M.A. and Ph. D. degrees from the Johns Hopkins University. After completing his Ph. D. with Alsoph Corwin in 1963 he spent a tour of duty as a US Army officer assigned to NASA doing research at the Caltech Jet Propulsion Laboratory (1963-1965). Following a postdoctoral stay in the Chemistry Department at Caltech with George Hammond (1965-1966), he joined the chemistry faculty of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1966). He rose through the ranks to become M.A. Smith Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1980. While at UNC he received an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellowship and a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Award. He moved to the University of Rochester as C. E. Kenneth Mees Professor of Chemistry in 1983. While at Rochester he was twice Department Chair and Founding Director of the NSF Center for Photoinduced Charge Transfer (1989), a pioneering multidisciplinary research center promoting university-industrial collaborative research. He was more recently (1997-2000) a member of the technical staff at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He was Co-Founder and Chief Science Officer of QTL Biosystems, a company developing biosensing and bioassay technology in Santa Fe, NM. from 2000-2005. During the time he was at QTL Biosystems he was also Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Arizona State University (part time basis). He is currently Research Professor and Interim Director of the Center for Biomedical Engineering at the University of New Mexico. He also serves as Editor-in-Chief of Langmuir, the American Chemical Society's journal on colloids and surfaces. During the period of his editorship (1998-present) Langmuir has gone from ~1400 annual submissions to over 4900 submissions in 2009. He has received a number of awards including an Alexander von Humboldt Award (1975), the American Chemical Society Award in Colloid and Surface Chemistry (1992), the Interamerican Photochemical Society Award in Photochemistry (1998, a National Science Foundation Pioneer Award (2001) and in 2009 the "Special Award" of the Japanese Photochemical Association.

Whitten has authored more than 330 papers in peer reviewed journals as well as a number of patents. The research of Whitten and his co-workers has included pioneering and advanced work in understanding photoinduced electron transfer reactions and their applications for chemical conversions and energy storage processes. He and his students have also carried out fundamental studies of molecular aggregation processes in solutions, colloids and at interfaces and their applications to biosensing. His most recent work has focused on conjugated polyelectrolytes and their applications in sensing and as antimicrobials.