**BIOSKETCH**

George Christou was born on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, and grew up in London, England. He obtained his BSc and PhD degrees at Exeter University. His PhD was in organic chemistry, under the supervision of H. N. Rydon, and involved the synthesis by classical methods of cysteine-glycine polypeptides and their use as ligands to iron-sulfur clusters to model the ferredoxin proteins.

After a postdoctoral fellowship with C. D. Garner at the University of Manchester and a NATO Postdoctoral Fellowship with R. H. Holm at Stanford and Harvard Universities, both in bioinorganic chemistry targeted at the Mo/Fe/S cluster of the nitrogenase enzyme, he took up his first faculty position at Imperial College, London, in 1982, and initiated his interest in manganese chemistry that continues to this day. Two years later he moved to Indiana University, Bloomington, where he rose through the ranks to Blough Professor. In 2001, he moved to the University of Florida to take up his present position as the inaugural holder of the Drago Chair of Chemistry and was subsequently also promoted to University Distinguished Professor.

His research interests are in synthetic and physical-inorganic chemistry of the transition metals. He is particularly interested in 3d metal-oxo coordination cluster chemistry and its applications to fields such as bioinorganic chemistry, supramolecular chemistry and nanoscale magnetic materials. In the latter area, he was a pioneer in the new magnetic phenomenon of single-molecule magnetism, the ability of individual molecules to function as nanoscale magnets. These have potential applications in ultra-high-density information storage, quantum computing, spintronics, and other specialized areas. In bioinorganic chemistry, he has long been fascinated by the Mn4Ca oxygen-evolving complex (OEC) that carries out water oxidation to oxygen gas during photosynthesis in plants and cyanobacteria, the origin of almost all the oxygen gas on this planet, and has reported several generations of model complexes of the OEC over the years. In more recent years, he has also worked in a variety of other areas, such as supramolecular chemistry of magnetic molecules and their resulting quantum physics properties (such as exchange-biased quantum tunneling of the magnetization vector, and quantum superposition and entanglement states). Most recently, he has applied his synthetic skills to new directions involving the synthesis as molecular clusters of ultra-small nanoparticles of important metal oxides, specifically concentrating on: (i) the AMnO3 manganites with the perovskite structure that include important multiferroics such as BiMnO3; (ii) CeO2, a material with numerous applications as a catalyst in areas ranging from industrial and environmental catalysis to medicine, and (ii) new thrusts in Bi2O3, Mn2O3, and Fe2O3. As part of his various research projects over his career, he has collaborated with many types of spectroscopists and physicists, including quantum physicists. His work has led to over 600 peer-reviewed publications, of which 71 papers are in the physics literature.

He has received a variety of awards and honors over the years, including the 2000 *Award for Chemistry and Electrochemistry of Transition Metals* from the RSC, selection to the *Highly Cited Researchers 2014* and *2015* lists for Chemistry, the 2016 *Nyholm Prize for Inorganic Chemistry* from the RSC, and the 2019 *ACS Award for Inorganic Chemistry*, among others.

He is also a highly committed educator and conference organizer. He founded the *Florida Inorganic and Materials Symposium* (FIMS) student meetings in Gainesville every year, which have grown to encompass 14 Florida universities and colleges. He also co-founded and co-organizes every year two alternating biennial workshops, the specialized *Current Trends in Molecular and Nanoscale Magnetism* (CTMNM) workshops spanning chemistry and physics, and the broad *North America-Greece-Cyprus Workshop on Paramagnetic Materials* (NAGC) spanning chemistry, physics, biochemistry, medicine, and materials science. Most recently (2019) he founded the annual *Molecular Magnetism in North America* (MAGNA) workshop to bring together the North American community into a cohesive network. All these workshops strongly emphasize broad programs and inclusion of many talks from junior people (PhD students and postdocs).