



**2012 IOTA SIGMA PI CENTENNIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING  
Dr. Tammy Dwyer, University of San Diego**

Dr. Tammy Dwyer is the **2012 recipient of the Iota Sigma Pi Centennial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching**. This award is given for excellence in teaching chemistry, biochemistry, or a chemistry-related field at an undergraduate institution that does not offer a graduate program in that field.

Tammy Dwyer was born and raised in San Diego, California and received a B.S. in Chemistry from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo in 1983, a Ph.D. in physical-organic chemistry from the University of California, San Diego in 1988, and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, Berkeley from 1990-1992. Following two years on the faculty at California State University, San Marcos Tammy moved to the University of San Diego (USD) in fall 1994 where she is Professor of Chemistry. She teaches a wide variety of courses and was awarded the Davies Award for Teaching Excellence at USD in 2000. She is currently co-authoring a digital-first textbook in General Chemistry for W.H. Freeman along with Professor Charles Grisham at the University of Virginia.

Tammy maintains an active undergraduate research program using NMR spectroscopy and molecular dynamics to investigate the structural features of DNA duplexes and drug:DNA complexes containing non-natural nucleobases. She has published 30 papers

in peer-reviewed journals, including 11 with USD undergraduate co-authors and 2 in the *Journal of Chemical Education*.

Tammy served as Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at USD from 2001-2009 providing leadership and oversight of the chemistry and biochemistry curricula serving 2000 students per year; in 2008 she and her colleagues were awarded a prestigious Department Development Award from Research Corporation that provided over \$1.1 million to build capacity and infrastructure in support of undergraduate research at USD. Tammy was awarded a USD University Professorship for outstanding scholarly achievements in teaching and research in 1999, a University Professorship for outstanding contributions to USD in 2012 and she was selected as USD Administrator of the Year in 2004.

Tammy is an active member of the San Diego section of the American Chemical Society, serving as Chair (2000, 2001), Councilor (1997-1999), and Chair of the Education Committee (1995-2000). She was awarded the section's Outstanding Service Award in 1997.

In her spare time, Tammy enjoys traveling, reading and gardening with her husband Brian and spending time with daughter Anne, son Nick, son-in-law Cameron and granddaughter Natalie Clare.