

# Biography



**Peter Mahaffey**

Peter Mahaffey is known for his deep commitment helping students, educators, scientists, and the general public see the intricate webs that connect chemistry and science to so many other aspects of life. He was born in East Africa, obtained his Ph.D. in Physical Organic Chemistry from Indiana University, and is now Professor of Chemistry at the King's University College in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and Codirector of the King's Centre for Visualization in Science. He carries out research in the areas of chemistry education, visualization in science, and organic chemistry - much of which is done with undergraduate student research collaborators.

Mahaffey chairs IUPAC's Committee on Chemistry Education (CCE), is a member of IUPAC's Bureau, and he led the IUPAC team that worked to obtain UN designation of 2011 as an International Year of Chemistry. His recent awards for contributions to chemistry and chemistry education include a Fellowship of the Chemical Institute of Canada (CIC); the CIC National Award for Chemistry Education; and Canada's highest teaching honour, the 3M National Teaching Fellowship. His work on IYC-2011 enables him to give further expression to his desire to see the tools of science used in concert with those of other disciplines to improve the human condition and the sustainable well-being of our planet.