Grant Willson

Dr. C. Grant Willson is a Professor of Chemical Engineering and Chemistry at The University of Texas at Austin where he holds the Rashid Engineering Regent's Chair. He received both his B.S. and Ph.D. in organic chemistry from The University of California, Berkley and his M.S., in organic chemistry, from San Diego State University. He joined the faculty of The University of Texas at Austin in 1993. Prior to joining the university, Dr. Willson worked at IBM for 17 years as an IBM Fellow and Manager of the Polymer Science and Technology area at the IBM Almaden Research Center in San Jose, California. He joined IBM after serving on the faculties of California State University, Long Beach and the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Willson is the co-inventor of more than 40 issued U.S. patents and co-author of more than 400 publications. He has advised more than 75 PhD Candidates at the University of Texas.

Dr. Willson's research work is focused on the design and synthesis of functional organic materials with emphasis on organic materials for microelectronics. His work is supported by grants from both government and industry. His research group includes graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in both the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Departments. He was a co-founder of Molecular Imprints, Inc., an Austin firm that employed more than 100 people and was very recently acquired by Canon.

In addition to being an IBM Fellow, Dr. Willson is a Fellow of ACS, MRS, PMSE AND SPIE. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the ACS, APS, SPIE, SPE, AAAS, ASEE, ECS and Sigma Xi. He serves on the editorial boards of several journals and is associate editor of ACS Nano. Dr. Willson has received a number of awards for his research, including the Arthur Doolittle Award, the Chemistry of Materials Award, the Carothers Award, The Cooperative Research in Polymer Science and Engineering Award, and Applied Polymer Science Award and the Heroes in Chemistry Award from the American Chemical Society; the Alexander von Humboldt Senior Scientists Award from the Federal Republic of Germany, the Technical Excellence Award and Aristotle Award from SRC, the Malcolm E. Pruitt Award from the CRC, the Monie A. Ferst Award from Sigma Xi and the Billy and Claude R. Hocott Distinguished Centennial Engineering Research Award from Cockrell School of Engineering. He also received the National Academy of Sciences Award from Chemistry in Service to Society and he was the recipient of the Dehon Little Award form the AIChE, the Zernike Award from the SPIE, the SEMI North America Award and the Gordon Moore Medal from the ECS. He was presented with the National Medal for Technology and Innovation by the President of the United States and he shared the 2013 Japan Prize.