

## Biography Kara Bren



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Kara Bren is the Richard S. Eisenberg Professor in Chemistry and Department Chair at the University of Rochester, NY, USA. She earned her B.A. in Chemistry at Carleton College in Minnesota, USA, and then continued her studies in chemistry at Caltech, Pasadena, CA, where she earned her Ph.D. working with Harry Gray. During her PhD studies, she also worked as a Visiting Student in the lab of Ivano Bertini in Florence, Italy. She next pursued an NIH Postdoc with Gerd LaMar at the University of California at Davis, and in 1997 she started her independent academic career at the University of Rochester. Her research has included investigations of heme protein folding and dynamics, studies of heme electronic structure, the study of engineered biomolecular catalysts for proton and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, and the development of bioinorganic systems for artificial photosynthesis. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a Kavli Fellow of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. In 2023 she won the American Institute of

Chemists' Chemical Pioneer Award and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Kara has served the chemistry community as Chair of the Bioinorganic Subdivision and an alternate councilor for the American Chemical Society Division of Inorganic Chemistry, a member of the advisory boards of the *Journal of Biological Inorganic Chemistry*, *Inorganic Chemistry*, *Accounts of Chemical Research*, *Comments in Inorganic Chemistry*, and the *Bulletin of the Korean Chemical Society*. She was Chair of the Metals in Biology Gordon Research Conference in 2023 and she serves as Associate Editor for the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* (2014-2023). She led her institution's NIH Chemistry-Biology Interface Training Program from 2017-2022. Kara believes that science is strengthened when traditional barriers are broken down to diversify ideas and stimulate creativity. She chose bioinorganic chemistry as her field because its highly interdisciplinary nature presents a wide range of opportunities to move science in new and unexpected directions. She also feels science is strengthened by engaging internationally and is particularly excited about the opportunity to communicate widely with the international community of bioinorganic chemists as SBIC Secretary, if elected.