

## Takita Sumter

**Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, and Professor of Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, Physics, Geology & the Environment  
Winthrop University**

### Webpage

### Statement of Interest

I began my academic career as an independent faculty member at Winthrop University, where I established a research program investigating the molecular mechanisms of High Mobility Group A proteins in oncogenic transformation. This work was central to supporting the next generation of molecular life scientists and depended heavily on undergraduates. Through teaching, mentorship, and service, I have remained committed to advancing the mission of the ASBMB, particularly in promoting inclusivity and excellence in the molecular life sciences.

My service to ASBMB has included two terms on the Council, during which I worked collaboratively with society leadership through key transitions, including the establishment of an independent national meeting and the onboarding of two executive directors. I also served as Chair of the ASBMB Minority Affairs Committee, where I led efforts to investigate barriers in grant resubmission processes for scientists from historically marginalized backgrounds. This work culminated in the IMAGE program, developed with Drs. Marion Sewer, Sonia Flores, and Squire Booker.

In addition, I contributed to elevating the visibility of students and faculty at PUIs by directing the Southeast Region of the Undergraduate Affiliate Network, serving as a judge for the annual Undergraduate Poster Competition, and working on several small BMB education meetings. As the perceived roles of basic science, innovation, and equity become increasingly dynamic, ASBMB must remain a leader in these conversations. I am deeply committed to this work and would be honored to serve as Secretary to help guide the Society through this critical juncture.

### Education and Training

- BS, Chemistry, University of South Carolina (1997)
- PhD, Biochemistry, University of South Carolina (2002)
- NIH Postdoctoral fellow, Molecular Biology, Johns Hopkins SOM (2002-2004)

### Awards and Honors

- National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Initiation Grant 2006 to 2010
- Joe B. Davis Award for Outstanding Teaching and Service to Winthrop's student body (2009)
- NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award 2009 to 2012
- 2010 Sydney McNairy Mentoring Award Nominee
- 2011 NSF Grant to Investigate Barriers to Securing External Funding (PI for ASBMB)
- 2019, NSF Biological Science Advisory Board
- 2021, ASBMB Inaugural Class of Fellows

### Relevant Experience

- 2014 NSF Committee of Visitors
- 2006-2016 ASBMB Minority Affairs Committee (served as both Chair and Deputy Chair)

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## ASBMB 2025 Election: Secretary Candidate

- 2017-2023 ASBMB Council Member
- Served on several NSF grant review panels and coordinated several ASBMB sessions
- Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Winthrop University (2018)
- Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, Winthrop University (2019-present)