The Nature of Water

MARCH 6TH & 7TH, 2023
MLK JR. BUILDING, WEST PAULEY BALLROOM, 2ND FLOOR
2495 BANCROFT WAY, BERKELEY, CA 94720

PROFESSOR PERNILLA WITTUNG-STAFSHEDE

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BIOGRAPHY

Pernilla Wittung-Stafshede obtained a PhD in Physical Chemistry 1996 at Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden. During 1997–1998 she did a postdoc at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California. In 1999 she started her independent career as an assistant professor in Chemistry at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana. She received tenure and was promoted to associate professor in 2002. In 2004 she moved to Rice University, Houston, Texas, as associate professor with tenure in the Biochemistry and Cell Biology department.
After 5 years, in 2008, she returned to Sweden and became full professor in Chemistry at Umeå University in the north of Sweden. She spent 7 years there before moving to Chalmers in Gothenburg in 2015 to the then newly-founded Biology and Biological Engineering department; there acting as head of the Chemical Biology division for the first three years. Her research centers around protein folding/misfolding biophysics using an array of biophysical tools, with current focus on mechanisms of metal (copper) transport proteins and amyloid formation, as well as how these reactions relate to human disease.
In 2016, she was elected to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (chemistry class). In 2020, she was also elected to the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences.
Over the years, she has trained many young scientists including numerous women and minorities. Since 2019, she runs the 10-year gender equality initiative Genie (Gender Initiative for Excellence) at Chalmers (www.chalmers.se/genie) which aims to increase research excellence via faculty recruitments and academic cultural/systems changes. Wittung-Stafshede has published over 260 peer-reviewed articles and over 45 popular texts.

TALK TITLE

Protein folding in water is basis for life and death

QUOTE

"Equality, diversity and inclusion are essential factors for solving the world's many challenges. We need young people from all over the world as future scientists. I will talk about proteins, the workhorses of our bodies, that function and dysfunction surrounded by water."

Professor Pernilla Wittung-Stafshede

SPECIAL THANKS TO