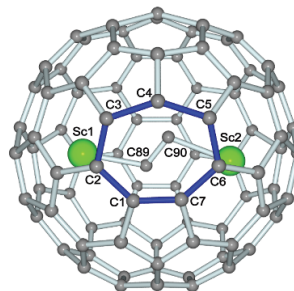


**Murdock College Science Research Conference, 2017**  
**Dr. Neal Thorpe Memorial Lecturer**



**Luis Echegoyen, Ph.D.**



**"Playing with Buckyball Maracas: Structure and Reactivity of Endohedral Fullerenes"**

Dr. Luis Echegoyen has been the Robert A. Welch Chair Professor of Chemistry at the University of Texas at El Paso since 2010. He was the Director of the Chemistry Division at the National Science Foundation (2006–2010) where he was instrumental in establishing new funding programs and research centers. He was simultaneously a Professor of Chemistry at Clemson University in South Carolina, where he maintained a very active research program with interests in fullerene electrochemistry, monolayer films, supramolecular chemistry, endohedral fullerene chemistry and electrochemistry; and carbon nanoions, synthesis, derivatization and fractionation. He served as Chair for the Department of Chemistry at Clemson from 2002 until his NSF appointment. Luis has published 398 research articles and 47 book chapters and his current h index is 74 (Google Scholar, 8-3-17). He was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2003 and has been the recipient of many awards, including the 1996 Florida ACS Award, the 1997 University of Miami Provost Award for Excellence in Research, the 2007 Herty Medal Award from the ACS Georgia Section, the 2007 Clemson University Presidential Award for Excellence in Research, and the 2007 University of Puerto Rico Distinguished Alumnus Award. He was also selected as an ACS Fellow in 2011 and was the first recipient of the ACS Award for Recognizing Underrepresented Minorities in Chemistry for Excellence in Research & Development, also in 2011. Dr. Echegoyan is a coveted speaker, given over 420 scientific invited lectures and presentations. He has been the editor in chief of the *Journal of Physical Organic Chemistry*, a Wiley publication, since 2010.

Luis was born in Habana, Cuba in 1951. His family moved to Puerto Rico in 1960, where he spent his formative years. He received a BS in Chemistry and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras. He was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a research scientist at Union Carbide Corporation in Bound Brook, New Jersey. He has held a number of other academic positions at the University of Puerto Rico, University of Miami, Clemson University, as well as an earlier stint as a program officer at the NSF. Dr. Echegoyan maintains active research collaborations with researchers in Spain, Italy, France, Germany, Switzerland, Poland and all across the US. He has been continuously funded since the start of his academic career, and is proud to have directed the research of a very large number of undergraduate and graduate students in Puerto Rico, Miami, Clemson and Texas, all of whom have gone on to successful academic, professional, and industrial careers.