

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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Gagik Melikyan is a scientist, teacher, educator, writer, speaker, panelist, reviewer, publisher, expert, editor, and public advocate. He is a Professor of Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at California State University Northridge (CSUN) in Northridge, California. Dr. Melikyan is a highly cited author (SCI 626) and an expert in the field of radical chemistry. His research has culminated in numerous presentations (124) and research papers, reviews, and book chapters (84) on radical organic and organometallic chemistry, transition metal-mediated chemical transformations, computational chemistry, and natural product syntheses.

Over the last two decades, Dr. Melikyan has contributed to the underexplored field of the metal-mediated radical chemistry of pi-bonded organic molecules, transforming it into a highly potent and efficient synthetic area that provides access to a wide array of classes of organic compounds otherwise hardly accessible. While at CSUN, Dr. Melikyan has also discovered two new organometallic reactions – heterocycle-mediated, and spontaneous, generation and coupling of cobalt-complexed propargyl derivatives – that belong to the new research field coined an “unorthodox organometallic radical chemistry.”

A devoted educator who was awarded the *Polished Apple Award*, Dr. Melikyan has educated and trained a whole generation of professionals (ca. 5,500) working in the fields of chemistry, biology, and medicine. He is a recipient of the prestigious *Outstanding Faculty Award* (2008) and *Jerome Richfield Scholar Award* (2010), the highest distinctions given by the university in recognition of excellence in faculty research. His work has been widely covered in the media, including the Chemical and Engineering News, California Courier, The Valley Scribe, Northridge Magazine, Daily Sundial, various radio channels, as well as CBS, LATalkLive, and USArmenia TV channels. In 2008, he was elected a Foreign Member of the National Academy of Sciences, Armenia, along with a select group of distinguished scientists from all over the world. In 2015, Dr. Melikyan was awarded nationally recognized, highly prestigious *The Kennedy Center Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award*.

In 2010, Dr. Melikyan published a book entitled “Guilty Until Proven Innocent: Antioxidants, Foods, Supplements, and Cosmetics.” In laymen terms, he explains why – despite public beliefs – polyphenols, antioxidants, green tea, red wine, sunscreen lotions, hair colors, and food supplements can cause irreparable damage to vital body systems. The author arms the general public with critical knowledge and enables them to make the right choices when it comes to exposing their bodies to harmful chemical compounds. Dr. Melikyan also promotes two novel, groundbreaking concepts that, if adopted by us, as a society, will unrecognizably change the food industry and allow – for the first time in several millennia – for the transition to the science-based food consumption. Dr. Melikyan’s book has received awards in the “Science” category from *The 2011 USA Best Book Awards* and *The 2012 International Book Awards competitions*.

Dr. Melikyan is a publisher of the on-line educational newsletter that brings the latest news on health issues to the general public. For many years, as an expert, on behalf of the consumer protection groups, he was involved in protecting the American people from harmful chemicals and environmental pollutants, such as lead, cadmium, arsenic, phthalates, and diaminotoluenes.