

“The Keys to Success...Are Somewhere at the Bottom of My Purse”



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Gordon Research Conferences
Kingston, Rhode Island

Abstract: The title of this presentation should suggest that I am clearly not an expert on the keys to success. Nevertheless, the presentation highlights my circuitous career path, a few of the “lessons” I have learned over the past 30 years, and the “things I know now” but “wish I’d known then.”

Nancy Ryan Gray is the current President and Chief Executive Officer of the Gordon Research Conferences. Nancy received her B.S. degree in chemistry from the University of Notre Dame in 1981 and her Ph.D. in Fuel Chemistry from The Pennsylvania State University in 1985. Prior to joining GRC, Nancy served as the Director of Membership at the American Chemical Society and as a Research Specialist in Organic Chemistry at Exxon Production Research Company (now Exxon/Mobile). Nancy has served on the Board of Directors of Ligand Pharmaceuticals since August 2017. Ligand is a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing or acquiring technologies that help pharmaceutical companies in drug discovery, early-stage drug development, and product reformulation. She is also the recipient of the 2013 Providence Business News Industry Leader Award for Non-Profit Organizations. Nancy is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the American Chemical Society. Nancy received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Colby-Sawyer College in 2019 for her leadership and commitment she has offered to Gordon Research Conferences and the scientific community.