

————— • Biography of • —————  
**DR. ALAA S. ABD-EL-AZIZ**



Dr. Abd-El-Aziz is the Provost at the University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus in Kelowna, BC. Born in Cairo, Egypt, he moved to Canada in February 1985. He is married to Valerie Abd-El-Aziz (BSN, RN) from Swift Current, Saskatchewan. They have two sons, Ahmad who is in his final year of medical biochemistry at UBC's Okanagan campus, and Kareem, who is a grade nine student.

When he joined UBC Okanagan in 2006, Dr. Abd-El-Aziz was the Associate Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer, Academic and Research. In 2007, he was named UBC Okanagan's first Provost. Throughout his administrative career, he has remained actively engaged as a professor of chemistry and has made significant contributions to research and teaching in his field.

His many administrative contributions to UBC over the past four years include leading the development of the Okanagan campus' first Strategic Research and Strategic Action Plans, and contributing to UBC's Aboriginal Strategic Plan and Sustainability Academic Strategy. Dr. Abd-El-Aziz's contributions also span fundraising, student engagement, and faculty development.

In 2010, he supported and helped develop the First Year Experience Program, an early intervention project aimed at engaging first-year students, enhancing their success, and ensuring they have a career plan. Most recently, he supported the development of a new centre for scholarly communication, a two-year pilot initiative that provides graduate students with opportunities to learn advanced writing skills and supports students in sharing and presenting their research findings. In addition to the development of several new student-focused programs, Dr. Abd-El-Aziz instituted a new faculty mentorship program to support faculty during the tenure and promotion process.

Dedicated to working with the local community, he recently initiated the development of an exciting new partnership between UBC's Okanagan Campus and the City of Kelowna to build a sustainable community development model within the city. With the support of a new academic grant program, faculty, staff, students and members of the community will work collaboratively to develop a "living laboratory for sustainability" in Kelowna's Glenmore neighborhood.

Dr. Abd-El-Aziz received his BSc and MSc degrees from Ain Shams University in Cairo. After receiving his PhD in 1989 from the University of Saskatchewan and completing an NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Toronto, he was appointed as an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Winnipeg in 1990. In 1997, he moved to the rank of full professor. His previous appointments at the University of Winnipeg include: Chair, Department of Chemistry; Dean of Science; Associate Vice-President (Research and Graduate Studies); and Vice-President (Research, International & External Affairs).

His current research interest is in the synthesis and characterization of metal-containing polymers, which include the development of new synthetic methodologies for organic and organometallic polymers; electrochemical studies of organometallic oligomeric and polymeric materials; investigation of structural variations on the thermal properties of polymers; and the degradation of organic contaminants.

He is a prolific researcher with 117 refereed articles, 14 conference proceedings, three patents, nine book chapters, and 136 national and international conference presentations to his credit. He has also authored and edited 14 books in the field of polymer chemistry and has given 47 invited lectures at national and international universities. Dr. Abd-El-Aziz is one of two editors of the *Journal of Inorganic and Organometallic Polymers and Materials*. He also serves as a member of numerous editorial boards of chemistry journals. He is on the Board of Directors of both Composite Research Network and WestLink Innovation Network Ltd as well as on the Pacific Advisory Committee, Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC).

He is currently supervising three doctoral and six master's students, and one fourth-year honour project student. Dr. Abd-El-Aziz's research has been supported by numerous granting agents such as NSERC, Canada Foundation for Innovation, American Chemical Society-Petroleum Research Funds, and Manitoba Hydro and Western Economic Diversification. The total funds received for the support of his research and collaborative projects exceed \$10 million.

In light of Dr. Abd-El-Aziz's teaching and research achievements, he has been recognized by a number of awards, including the Clifford J. Robinson Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching (1992), the Erica & Arnold Rogers Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship (1994), Fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada (1997) and the Manitoba Outstanding Chemist Award (Chemical Institute of Canada, 2000).

**Additional information can be located online at the following web addresses:**

ACADEMIC: <http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/provost/welcome.html>

RESEARCH: <http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/provost-research/welcome.html>

CHEMISTRY: <http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/chem/faculty/aziz.html>