



# Omar Yaghi

James and Neeltje Tretter Chair Professor of chemistry, UC Berkeley

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**OMAR YAGHI**

James and Neeltje Tretter Chair Professor of chemistry, UC Berkeley

## Biography

Omar Yaghi, a native of Jordan received his B.S. from the State University of New York at Albany (1985) and Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1990). He started his independent career as an assistant professor in 1992 at Arizona State University, moved to University of Michigan at Ann Arbor as Robert W. Parry Professor of Chemistry in 1999, and then UCLA in 2006 as Christopher S. Foote Professor of Chemistry and Irving and Jean Stone Chair Professor in Physical Sciences. Since 2012, he has been in the College of Chemistry at UC Berkeley and a senior faculty scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He is the founding director of the Berkeley Global Science Institute and the co-director of the Kavli Energy NanoSciences Institute and the California Research Alliance by BASF. <http://yaghi.berkeley.edu/>

## Sessions as a Speaker


### LUNCH @UCBERKELEY WITH OMAR YAGHI – A REVOLUTIONARY NEW MATERIAL: MOFS

 29 OCTOBER 2017

 12:15 PM – 1:30 PM

#### CONTACT

2017 World Conference of Science Journalists  
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#### SOCIAL MEDIA



## World science journalists explore Berkeley's best

By **Will Kane** | OCTOBER 30, 2017



**A group of international journalists watch as UC Berkeley researchers show off the jumping Salto robot at the World Conference of Science Journalists on Sunday. (UC Berkeley photo by Will Kane)**

Almost 300 science writers and journalists from 70 countries spent Sunday getting to know UC Berkeley's best scientific minds as part of the five-day **World Conference of Science Journalists**, an annual gathering that came to the Bay Area for the first time this year.

The group had easy, intimate access to experts like psychology Professor **Alison Gopnik**, who studies the development of young children, radio astronomer **Aaron Parsons** and **Omar Yaghi**, who discovered a material that can pull liters of water out of thin air.

"This is way different than the reality in my country, this campus is beautiful," said Jonathan Montoya, a science writer for **Revista Periodismo Científico de EAFIT**, a Colombian science journal.

Montoya, who specializes in jungle biodiversity, said he listened to the lecture "When Itch Becomes Pain," by **Diana Bautista**, a professor of molecular and cell biology who studies chronic pain. "It isn't a kind of research I had thought about, but it was interesting to learn this is a field to research," he said.

Berkeley and UCSF co-hosted the influential conference, which brought top science writers from across the world to the two campuses. The group spent three days in downtown San Francisco hearing lectures from researchers like Berkeley Professor **Jennifer Doudna**, who co-invented the gene editing program CRISPR-Cas9.

On Sunday they visited Berkeley, where the school's leaders hoped to make the major public research university accessible and interesting to journalists.

"We think of Berkeley as a place of intellectual excitement and discovery," G. Steven Martin, the interim vice chancellor for research, told the crowd. "What you're going to hear about today is that Berkeley is a place where fundamental discoveries are made, and how those discoveries are translated into applications that benefit society."

The journalists listened to a panel of climate change experts, who said they remained optimistic that humanity could adapt and avoid global catastrophe by pushing research into renewable energy and expanding wetlands. And they visited the **Biomimetic Millisystems Lab**, where researchers are building tiny robots that can search through the rubble of collapsed buildings.



**A group of international journalists watch as UC Berkeley researchers show off the jumping Salto robot at the World Conference of Science Journalists on Sunday. (UC Berkeley photo by Will Kane)**

"These demonstrations are a source of ideas for sometime in the near future," said Jacpo Pasotti, a freelance science writer from Switzerland, after he watched a demonstration of the **jumping Salto robot**. "I think it is essential for journalists to touch; that's the best way to make a stable and lasting memory of what you saw."

The conference also gave journalists a chance to understand how colleagues across the world are covering scientific developments.

After listening to a presentation on climate change, Tarek Abd Elgalil Ibrahim, a senior writer for **Al-Fanar Media** in Egypt said he was more inspired to start writing articles on rising seas and warming temperatures.

"Very few people are talking about (climate change); we don't have the culture," he said. "I think I will go home and search for research happening in the Middle East or Egypt, to see who is thinking about this where I come from."

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