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Professor Kim obtained his B. S. and M. S. in Chemistry at Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea, in 1960 and 1962, respectively, and Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1966. After holding a position as a postdoctoral fellow and then as a Senior Research Scientist in the Biology Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he was

appointed as a member of the faculty in the Department of Biochemistry at Duke University School of Medicine, first as an Assistant Professor in 1972, and then as an Associate Professor in 1974. Since 1978, he has been at the University of California, Berkeley, as a Professor in the Department of Chemistry with a joint appointment as a Senior Faculty Scientist at LBNL.

He was a Fulbright Fellow (1962), a Guggenheim Fellow (1985-1986), and a Visiting Professor at Beijing University (1982) and at the University of Paris (1986). In 1994 he was elected as a member of the U. S. National Academy of Sciences, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. On a more practical side, he has been active in applying his expertise to improve human health and well-being. He co-founded a drug discovery company, Plexxikon, Inc., Berkeley, CA, which has developed two drug candidates that are, at present, in clinical trials.