

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Joseph Francisco

PERSON

Francisco, Joseph Salvadore

**Alternative Names:** Francisco, Joseph, 1955-;

**Life Dates:** March 26, 1955-

**Place of Birth:** New Orleans, Louisiana

**Residence:** West Lafayette, Indiana

**Occupations:** Chemical Physicist

## Biographical Note

Chemical physicist Joseph Salvadore Francisco was born on March 26, 1955 in New Orleans, Louisiana. He was raised by his grandparents, Merlin and Sarah Walker in Beaumont, Texas. He graduated from Forest Park High School in 1973. After earning his B.S. degree in chemistry from the University of Texas at Austin in 1977, Francisco went on to receive his Ph.D. degree in chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1983. Francisco worked as a research fellow at Cambridge University in England from 1983 to 1985, and then returned to MIT where he served as a provost postdoctoral fellow.

In 1986, Francisco was appointed as an assistant professor of chemistry at Wayne State University. He then served at California Institute of Technology as a visiting associate in the Planetary Science Division in 1991, and as a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow in the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in 1993. In 1995, Francisco was appointed as a full professor at Purdue University; and, in 2005, he became the William E. Moore Distinguished Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and Chemistry. In addition, Francisco served as a senior visiting fellow in the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of

Bologna; as a Professeur Invité at the Université de Paris; as a visiting professor at Uppsala Universitet in Sweden; and was chosen as an honorary international chair and professor by National Taipei University in Taiwan.

Francisco co-authored the textbook 'Chemical Kinetics and Dynamics' published by Prentice-Hall and translated later in Japanese. He has also published over 475 peer reviewed publications in the fields of atmospheric chemistry, chemical kinetics, quantum chemistry, laser photochemistry and spectroscopy. Francisco served as editor of the atmospheric and ocean science section of 'Pure and Applied Geophysics', and on the editorial advisory boards of 'Spectrochimica Acta Part A', 'Journal of Molecular Structure: THEOCHEM', and 'Theoretical Chemistry Accounts', and the 'Journal of Physical Chemistry'.

From 1994 to 1996, Francisco was appointed to the Naval Research Advisory Committee for the Department of Navy. He served as president and board member of the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers and the American Chemical Society. President Barack Obama appointed Francisco as a member of the President's Committee on the National Medal of Science from 2010 to 2012. He also served as a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and is an honorary life member of the Israel Chemical Society.

Francisco was elected as a fellow of the American Chemical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Physical Society, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Francisco received the Percy L. Julian Award for Pure and Applied Research, the McCoy Award, the Edward W. Morley Medal, and the Alexander von Humboldt Award. He also received Honorary Doctorate of Science Degrees from Tuskegee University, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the University of South Florida, and Knox College.

Chemical physicist Joeseoph Salvadore Francisco was interviewed by 'The HistoryMakers' on June 28, 2013.

## Related Entries

**Francisco, Sr., Joe** [CHILD OF]  
Father

**Francisco, Lucinda** [CHILD OF]  
Mother

**Walker, Sarah** [GRANDCHILD OF]  
Grandmother (M)

**Francisco, Priya** [SPOUSE OF]

**Wife**

**Francisco, Joseph** [GRANDCHILD**OF**]  
**Grandfather (P)**

**Lang, Edward** [GRANDCHILD**OF**]  
**Grandfather (M)**

**Walker, Merlin** [GRANDCHILD**OF**]  
**Step-grandfather (M)**

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology** [STUDENT**OF**]  
[from ? to ?]

**Postdoctoral Fellow**

**The University of Cambridge** [STUDENT**OF**]  
[from ? to ?]

**Postdoctoral Fellow**

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology** [STUDENT**OF**]  
[from ? to 1983-02-01]

**Ph.D.**

**University of Texas at Austin** [STUDENT**OF**]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.S.**

**Forest Park High School** [STUDENT**OF**]  
[from ? to ?]

**Purdue University** [EMPLOYEE**OF**]  
[from ? to ?]

**William E. Moore Distinguished Professor of Earth and Atmospheric  
Sciences and Chemistry**

**Wayne State University** [EMPLOYEE**OF**]  
[from ? to ?]

**National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black  
Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCCChE)** [MEMBER**OF**]  
**President**

**President's Committee on the National Medal of Science** [MEMBER**OF**]  
**Advisory Board**

**American Chemical Society (ACS)** [MEMBER**OF**]

**President**