Welcome to the online interchapters for the 4th Edition of *General Chemistry*. We have chosen to place these interchapters online for several reasons: Foremost was the desire to break up the chapters on descriptive and organic chemistry typically found at the back of a general chemistry text into more concise units to enhance the integration of this material. Second, placing this material online enabled us to reduce the cost and size of the text. Third, because these are online they can be used in whatever order best suits the instructor’s needs. Finally, the electronic format permits timely updates and allows for the creation of additional interchapters without the need to bring out a new edition of the text. We hope that these will be viewed as benefits to the instructor and students alike!

In writing these interchapters we have sought to keep the level at that of our text, the length brief, and the information presented complementary to that found in the main chapters. While they may be used in any order, we have included margin notes within the body of the text referencing specific interchapters where it enhances the topic at hand. The topics of the interchapters include: descriptive chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry, polymer chemistry, radiochemistry, and various specialized topics such as elemental etymology, a brief history of the periodic table, the world energy supply, and batteries. Most interchapters include a short set of questions at the end.

Finally, in designing the text we chose to make the main chapter frontispieces historically relevant and the interchapter frontispieces chemically relevant. Some of the most striking photos in the book can be found among the interchapter frontispieces.

We hope you enjoy reading the interchapters as much as we did creating them!

*Ethan B. Gallogly*