



Awarded...

A. Studer and F. D. Toste receive Novartis Awards

Since 2002, Novartis has been annually awarding its Young Investigator Award in Chemistry, which is endowed with USD 150 000, to scientists who have made outstanding achievements in the areas of organic and bioorganic chemistry. The prize is awarded both in the USA and in Europe: The recipients of the awards in 2006 were Armido Studer (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität (WWU) Münster; Germany) and F. Dean Toste (University of California, Berkeley, USA).

A. Studer was recognized for his contributions in the development of tin-free synthesis methods in radical chemistry. The interests of his research group include new procedures for controlled radical polymerizations, which have applications in the construction of new functional materials and in the modification of surfaces. He recently reported on stable reagents for the generation of N-centered radicals and the hydroamination on norbornene in *Angewandte Chemie*^[1a] and on titanium-(III) complexes and their application in pinacol coupling reactions in *Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis*.^[1b]

Studer studied at the ETH Zürich (Switzerland) and completed his PhD on stereoselective synthesis there in 1995 under the guidance of D. Seebach. During 1995–96, he carried out postdoctoral research in the group of D. P. Curran (fluorous-phase chemistry) at the University of Pittsburgh (USA). He then began his independent research work at the ETH Zürich and completed his



A. Studer

habilitation there in 2000 on the topic of silicon compounds in stereoselective radical reactions and new concepts in tin-free radical chemistry. He subsequently accepted a professorship at the Philipps-Universität Marburg. He has held his current position as a professor of organic chemistry at the WWU Münster since 2004.

F. D. Toste studied at the University of Toronto (Canada) and completed his PhD at Stanford University (USA) in 2000 under the guidance of B. M. Trost. He then joined R. H. Grubbs (Chemistry Nobel Prize 2005) at the California Institute of Technology (Pasadena) as a postdoctoral researcher (2001–02). He was appointed an assistant professor at the University of California in Berkeley and is currently Professor of Chemistry there.

The research interests of Toste's group are focused on three main topics: gold(I)-catalyzed C–C coupling reactions, metal-oxo-catalyzed reactions, and the application of new methods in natural products synthesis. He recently reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the gold(I)-catalyzed synthesis of functionalized cyclopentadiene derivatives^[2a] as well as on the gold(I)-catalyzed cyclizations of silyl enol ethers and their application to the synthesis of (+)-lycopoladine A.^[2b]



F. D. Toste

Research and Director Prizes for J. K. Barton

Jacqueline K. Barton (California Institute of Technology, Pasadena) has been awarded not just once but twice! She has been named the recipient of the 2007 F. A. Cotton Medal, which is awarded annually by the American Chemical Society (ACS) Texas A&M Section and the department of chemistry at Texas A&M University, in recognition of her outstanding contributions in the field of molecular biology and in particular for her innovative work on the application of transition-metal complexes to probe the recognition and reactions of double-stranded DNA.

Her Review discussing charge transfer through the DNA base stack is still highly cited.^[3a] She also co-authored a paper on the ultrafast dynamics of DNA-mediated electron transfers that appeared in *Angewandte Chemie*.^[3b]



J. K. Barton

Barton has also been named an Outstanding Director for 2006 by the Outstanding Directors Exchange (ODX), a forum for board members in which the Columbia Business School and Money Media publishers are involved, for her activities on the board of directors of Dow Chemical. She helped to create the post of Chief Technology Officer at Dow, arguing the need for someone who was less an administrator and more a practitioner of science.

Barton studied at Barnard College in New York City and completed her PhD in inorganic chemistry in 1979 under the guidance of S. J. Lippard at Columbia University (New York). She then carried out postdoctoral studies at Bell Laboratories (New Jersey) and Yale University (New Haven, Connecticut) with R. G. Shulman, before joining Hunter College in New York as an assistant professor. In 1983 she returned to Columbia University as a professor of chemistry and biology, and in 1989 she joined the faculty at Caltech. She holds eight honorary doctorates, the most recent of which was awarded by Yale University.

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- [2] a) S. T. Staben, J. J. Kennedy-Smith, D. Huang, B. K. Corkey, R. L. LaLonde, F. D. Toste, *Angew. Chem.* **2006**, *118*, 6137; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2006**, *45*, 5991; b) J. H. Lee, F. D. Toste, *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, *119*, 930; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, *46*, 912.
- [3] a) R. E. Holmlin, P. J. Dandliker, J. K. Barton, *Angew. Chem.* **1997**, *109*, 2830; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **1997**, *36*, 2714; b) M. A. O'Neill, H.-C. Becker, C. Wan, J. K. Barton, A. H. Zewail, *Angew. Chem.* **2003**, *115*, 6076; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2003**, *42*, 5896.

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