



## Awarded...

### Burckhardt Helferich Award for J.-M. Lehn

The Institute for Organic Chemistry at the University of Leipzig has announced the third Burckhardt Helferich Award for Bioorganic Chemistry.<sup>[1]</sup> Jean-Marie



J.-M. Lehn

Lehn (Université L. Pasteur, Strasbourg) will receive the award for his pioneering works in supramolecular chemistry and molecular recognition, which play important roles in many biological processes. Lehn is responsible for numerous

initiatives for cooperation within the European chemical community, and together with A. R. Fersht is chairman of the Editorial Advisory Board of *ChemBioChem*.

Lehn completed his PhD in Strasbourg in 1963 under the guidance of G. Ourisson on the conformations and physical chemical properties of triterpenes. He then undertook postdoctoral research with R. B. Woodward (Harvard University) on the synthesis of vitamin B<sub>12</sub>. In 1966 he returned as a lecturer to the University of Strasbourg, where he was made associate professor in 1970. In 1979 he was offered a position at the Collège de France, and since then he has shared his time between Paris and Strasbourg. His research interests initially encompassed physical organic chemistry, neurochemistry, and artificial photosynthesis. These topics finally led him to the field that would earn him the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1987: molecular recogni-

tion and supramolecular chemistry with the long-term goal of creating molecules that can process signals and information.<sup>[2a]</sup> Recently he reported on the electrical-field modulation of component exchange in liquid crystals in *Angewandte Chemie*<sup>[2b]</sup> and on the self-assembly of double helicates in the solid state in *Chemistry—A European Journal*.<sup>[2c]</sup>

### Izatt–Christensen Award for D. A. Leigh

The Izatt–Christensen Award in Macrocyclic Chemistry for 2007 is awarded to David A. Leigh (University of Edinburgh) in recognition of his work on the design and synthesis of molecular motors and other molecular machines. He is the youngest recipient of the award to date. His recent review article in *Angewandte Chemie* covers these systems.<sup>[3a]</sup> His research group utilizes a



D. Leigh

simple method for the synthesis of catenanes with the aid of hydrogen bonds to produce also catalysts, intelligent materials, and biologically interesting compounds, as well as macrocycles.

Leigh studied at the University of Sheffield and received his PhD there in 1987 under the guidance of J. F. Stoddart. He undertook postdoctoral research with D. R. Bundle in the Division of Biological Science of the National Research Council of Canada and in 1989 returned to the UK as a lecturer in organic chemistry at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. In 1998 he took up a position at the University of Warwick, and since 2001 he has been a professor at the University of Edinburgh.

### Two Awards for M. Shibasaki

Masakatsu Shibasaki (University of Tokyo) is the recipient of the Shiokawa Prize 2007 of the Rare Earth Metal Society of Japan and the Sankyo Takamine Memorial Award 2006 sponsored by the Sankyo Foundation of Life Sci-

ence. These awards recognize his contributions to asymmetric catalysis with rare-earth metals and their use in the synthesis of medicinal compounds. He recently described the enantioselective synthesis of (+)-cylindricine C in *Angewandte Chemie*<sup>[4b]</sup> and the catalytic asymmetric epoxidation of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated esters with rare-earth-metal complexes in *Chemistry—A European Journal*.<sup>[4b]</sup>

Shibasaki received his PhD from the University of Tokyo in 1974 under the direction of Professor S.-i. Yamada before conducting

postdoctoral research with Professor E. J. Corey at Harvard University (Cambridge, USA). In 1977, he joined Teikyo University as an associate professor and then moved to Sagami Chemical Research Center as a group leader in 1983. In



M. Shibasaki

1986, he accepted a professorship at Hokkaido University and returned to the University of Tokyo in 1991. Shibasaki serves on the advisory boards of *Chemistry—A European Journal*, *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*, and *Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis*.

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