



## Awarded ...

### National Medal of Science for T. J. Marks



T. J. Marks

Among the recently announced recipients of the 2005 National Medal of Science of the USA is the chemist Tobin J. Marks (Northwestern University, Evanston, IL). The work of the Marks group focuses of four main points: 1) organo-metallic complexes of early transition metals and main group reagents as electrophilic polymerization catalysts, 2) photonic materials for OLEDs and nonlinear optics, 3) metal-organic precursors for chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD), and 4) molecular electronics with organic conductors and semiconductors. Marks recently reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on new molecular precursors for  $\text{Cu}_2\text{S}$  formation.<sup>[1]</sup>

Marks studied at the University of Maryland and received his PhD in 1970 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology under the guidance of F. A. Cotton. He then took up the position of assistant professor at Northwestern University, where he remains to this day. He is currently a Professor of Chemistry as well as of Materials Science and Engineering. He is a member of the National Academy of Science (USA) and recipient of the Karl Ziegler Medal of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (German Chemical Society, 2003).

### C. T. Walsh receives Goodman Memorial Prize

Christopher T. Walsh (Harvard University) is the first recipient of the Murray

Goodman Memorial Award, sponsored by the journal *Biopolymers* (Wiley), for his seminal contributions to the understanding of the catalytic activity of biopolymers of profound physiological significance. Walsh studied biology at



C. T. Walsh

Harvard College (Cambridge, USA) and completed his PhD in the research group of F. Lipmann at the Rockefeller University in New York. He carried out post-doctoral research from 1970 to 1972 with R. H. Abeles, then took up a position at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT, Cambridge, USA) to study enzymatic reactions. Focal points of his research included the design of inhibitors and enzymatic catalysis of the Baeyer–Villiger oxidation.<sup>[2a]</sup> After 15 years he left MIT to become Professor of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at Harvard Medical School. There he investigates enzymes of therapeutic relevance and the mechanism of action of antibiotics, such as vancomycin. He recently discussed the chemistry of proteome diversification in *Angewandte Chemie*<sup>[2b]</sup> and reported in *ChemBioChem*, for which he also serves on the editorial board, on the enzymatic dichlorination and bromination of a threonyl-S-carrier protein.<sup>[2c]</sup>

## ... and announced

### H. Schwarz will become president of the Humboldt Foundation

On January 1, 2008, Helmut Schwarz (Technische Universität Berlin, TUB) will become president of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, initially for a term of five years. The Humboldt Foundation was established by the Federal Republic of Germany to promote international research cooperation. The first president of the Foundation, from 1953 until 1975, was Nobel laureate W. Heisenberg. Schwarz is the successor to German studies specialist W. Frühwald. He will remain vice-chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fonds der

Chemischen Industrie, which supports fundamental research, scientific development, and chemistry studies, but will step down as vice-president of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation).

After training as a chemical technician, Schwarz remained true to TUB despite numerous visiting appointments in Great Britain, Switzerland, Israel, France, Japan, and Australia. He earned his doctorate and habilitation



H. Schwarz

under the guidance of natural-products chemist F. Bohlmann and is currently a professor of Organic Chemistry. Schwarz is a member of several scientific academies and holds honorary doctorates from the Universities of Jerusalem and Haifa. He has received many awards, including the Otto Hahn Award for Chemistry and Physics (2003). His research is inextricably linked to mass spectrometry and gas-phase chemistry. As a physical organic chemist, he is interested in the activation of C–C and C–H bonds and the role of metals in catalysis.<sup>[3a]</sup> He recently discussed gas-phase catalysis with atomic and cluster metal ions in a review article in *Angewandte Chemie*.<sup>[3b]</sup>

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- [2] a) C. T. Walsh, Y.-C. J. Chen, *Angew. Chem.* **1988**, *100*, 342; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **1988**, *27*, 333; b) C. T. Walsh, S. Garneau-Tsodikova, G. J. Gatto Jr., *Angew. Chem.* **2005**, *117*, 7508; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2005**, *44*, 7342; c) F. H. Vaillancourt, D. A. Vosburg, C. T. Walsh, *ChemBioChem* **2006**, *7*, 748.
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