

## Awarded...

### US National Medal of Science to P. B. Dervan, T. J. Marks, and R. S. Langer

On July 27 the US National Medals of Science were presented at the White House in Washington. This accolade, established by US congress, has been awarded since 1959 and is administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF).



P. B. Dervan

Peter B. Dervan (California Institute of Technology, Pasadena) was presented the National Medal of Science in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the interface of organic chemistry and biology. Dervan completed his BSc in chemistry in 1967 at Boston College and received his PhD in physical organic chemistry in 1972 at Yale University with J. A. Berson. After one year as postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University with E. van Tamelen, he joined the California Institute of Technology in 1973 as assistant professor and is presently Bren Professor of Chemistry there in the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering.

Dervan and his group investigate the principles behind sequence-specific DNA recognition by small molecules using a combination of organic synthesis, physical chemistry, and biology. The end goal is the development of general chemical methods for the recognition of any desired DNA sequence and for the regulation for gene expression. Dervan will soon be reporting in *Angewandte Chemie* about recognition of mirror-image DNA<sup>[1a]</sup> and addressing single molecules on DNA nanostructures.<sup>[1b]</sup> Dervan has received

numerous scientific awards and is a member of the International Advisory Board of *Angewandte Chemie*.

Awards also went to Tobin J. Marks (Northwestern University; see the News item in Issue 31/2007), Robert S. Langer (Massachusetts Institute of Technology; see the News item in Issue 9/2007), and Marvin H. Caruthers (University of Boulder).

### Dowpharma Prize for M. J. Krische

Michael J. Krische (University of Texas at Austin) held the Dowpharma Lecture on C–C Bond Formation via Catalytic Hydrogenation at the conference “Modern Synthetic Methods and Chiral USA” (July 11–13), emphasizing the importance of catalytic coupling in hydroformulation and beyond. Krische and colleagues investigate new methods for natural product synthesis. They have developed a large range of catalytic C–C bond-making processes. Recently Krische reported in *Angewandte*



M. J. Krische

*Chemie* on branch-selective intermolecular hydroacylations (hydrogen-mediated coupling of anhydrides to styrenes and activated olefins)<sup>[2a]</sup> and on the self-assembly of aminopyrazolones mediated by hydrogen bonds.<sup>[2b]</sup>

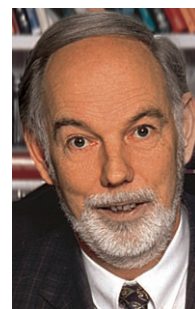
Krische studied at the University of California in Berkeley and received a Fulbright Fellowship at the University of Helsinki. He completed his PhD in 1996 at Stanford University under the supervision of B. M. Trost and then was postdoctoral fellow in J.-M. Lehn's group (Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1987) at the Université Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg. In 1999 he moved to the University of Texas at Austin, as assistant professor, where he has been full professor since 2004.

### K. Wieghardt Honorary Member of the Indian Chemical Society

Karl Wieghardt (Max Planck Institute for Bioinorganic Chemistry, Mülheim/Ruhr) has been named honorary

member of the Chemical Research Society of India. Wieghardt is thus recognized for his work on bioinorganic chemistry, and in particular metal ions in proteins, whose active centers he mimics in model compounds. Recently his group presented the cover article in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on the structure of the ground state of bis(dithiolato)-transition-metal complexes, as determined by X-ray structural analysis and density functional calculations.<sup>[3a]</sup>

Wieghardt studied chemistry in Hamburg and received his PhD in Heidelberg in 1969 with H. Siebert. Between 1972 and 1973 he worked with A. G. Sykes at the University of Leeds (UK). He completed his habilitation in Heidelberg in 1974 and in the following year started a position at the University of Hanover. In



K. Wieghardt

1981 he moved to the Ruhr University Bochum and then to the Max Planck Society in 1994. He was awarded the Wilhelm Klemm prize in 2000 from the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (German Chemical Society). Wieghardt is a member of the editorial board of *Chemistry—A European Journal* amongst others, and one of the editors of the Handbook of Metalloproteins.<sup>[3b]</sup>

- [1] a) C. Dose, D. Ho, H. E. Gaub, C. H. Albrecht, P. B. Dervan, *Angew. Chem.* DOI: 10.1002/ange.200703007; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* DOI: 10.1002/anie.200703007; b) J. D. Cohen, J. P. Sadowski, P. B. Dervan, *Angew. Chem.* DOI: 10.1002/ange.200702767; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* DOI: 10.1002/anie.200702767.
- [2] a) Y.-T. Hong, A. Barchuk, M. J. Krische, *Angew. Chem.* **2006**, *118*, 7039; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2006**, *45*, 6885; b) H. Gong, M. J. Krische, *Angew. Chem.* **2005**, *117*, 7231; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2005**, *44*, 7069.
- [3] a) K. Ray, S. DeBeer George, E. I. Solomon, K. Wieghardt, F. Neese, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2007**, *13*, 2783; b) *Handbook of Metalloproteins* (Eds.: A. Messerschmidt, R. Huber, T. Poulos, K. Wieghardt), Wiley, New York, **2001**.

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