



## Awarded...

### Priestley Medal to G. Somorjai

The American Chemical Society (ACS) presented its highest award, the Priestley Medal, this year to Gabor A. Somorjai (University of California, Berkeley).



G. Somorjai

He was thus recognized for his work on surface chemistry and catalysis. Somorjai developed vacuum systems for the investigation of surfaces of catalytically active solids, such as platinum, and worked out the significance of defects in catalysis. In 1977, Somorjai summarized the state of research into chemical bonds on surfaces in *Angewandte Chemie*.<sup>[1a]</sup> His group currently investigates reaction dynamics of materials with large surface areas at high pressures and temperatures by using tunneling microscopic and vibrational spectroscopic methods. He recently reported on the morphological control of catalytically active platinum nanocrystals<sup>[1b]</sup> and on catalytic nanodiodes.<sup>[1c]</sup>

Somorjai studied at the Technical University of Budapest and emigrated to the USA in 1956. He received his PhD in 1960 at Berkeley, worked for four years at IBM in Yorktown Heights (NY), and then returned to Berkeley as an Assistant Professor, where he was made professor in 1972. He also led a group at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

### J. F. Stoddart Receives the A. C. Cope Award

J. Fraser Stoddart (Northwestern University, Evanston, IL) has received the A. C. Cope Award for his ground-breaking work in the area of molecular recognition and self-assembly, in particular, with catenanes (formed from two or more molecules joined together like chain links) and rotaxanes (dumbbell-shaped molecules with at least one ring around them, like in an abacus). He recently reported on the shuttle mechanism for a photo-switchable bistable multiple-component rotaxane<sup>[2a]</sup> and on the one-pot synthesis of asymmetric rotaxanes.<sup>[2b]</sup>



J. F. Stoddart

Stoddart received his PhD in 1966 under the supervision of E. Hirst and D. Anderson at the University of Edinburgh. He was a postdoctoral fellow with J. Jones at Queen's University in Kingston (Canada) and W. Ollis (University of Sheffield). Between 1970 and 1990 he was a lecturer at the University of Sheffield. In 1980 he obtained a DSc with a paper on "Some Adventures in Stereochemistry". In 1990 he was made professor at the University of Birmingham, and in 1997 he moved to UCLA. He now teaches and researches in Evanston, near Chicago. Stoddart is a member of the International Advisory Board of *Angewandte Chemie* and of the Advisory Board of *Chemistry—A European Journal*.

### ACS Award in Organic Synthesis for M. Shibasaki

Masakatsu Shibasaki (University of Tokyo) receives the ACS Award for Creative Work in Synthetic Organic Chemistry. He is recognized for his outstanding work on asymmetric catalysis, and in particular on difunctional reactions of chiral heterodimetal complexes which are both Lewis acids and Brønsted bases. He recently discussed

synthetic strategies for oseltamivirphosphate<sup>[3a]</sup> and reported on a Schiff base heterodimetal complex for *anti*-selective asymmetric nitroaldol reactions.<sup>[3b]</sup>

Shibasaki received his PhD in 1974 under the supervision of S.-i. Yamada at the University of Tokyo and subsequently worked as a postdoctoral fellow with E. J. Corey at the Harvard University (Cambridge, USA). In 1977 he moved to the Teikyo University, a private university in Tokyo, and in 1983 he was made group leader at the Chemical Research Center in Sagami. In 1986 he took up a position at the University of Hokkaido. Since 1991, M. Shibasaki



M. Shibasaki

he has been Professor of Chemistry at the University of Tokyo. Shibasaki is a member of the Advisory Board of, among others, *Chemistry—A European Journal*, *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* and *Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis*.

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