



## Awarded...

### Rudinger Prize to Kessler and Mutter

The European Peptide Society presented their Josef Rudinger Memorial Lecture Award to Horst Kessler (Technische Universität (TU) Munich) and Manfred Mutter (Debiopharm, Martigny, Switzerland). They honor the researchers for their contributions to structure elucidation and the design and synthesis of peptides. Kessler has developed NMR spectroscopic methods for this purpose, and he recently reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on phosphorus NMR spectroscopy as a versatile method for screening substance libraries<sup>[1a]</sup> and in *ChemBioChem* on the rational design of highly active and selective ligands for the  $\alpha_5\beta_1$ -integrin receptor.<sup>[1b]</sup> Mutter is known for the template synthesis of proteins and the concept of “switch peptides” in protein folding. He recently reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the disruption of amyloid aggregates by a controlled induced transition from a  $\beta$  sheet to an  $\alpha$  helix structure<sup>[2a]</sup> and in *ChemBioChem* on superamyloid-forming host-guest peptides for the identification of anti-amyloid agents.<sup>[2b]</sup>



H. Kessler

**Horst Kessler** began his studies in chemistry in Leipzig and completed his doctorate in 1966 on copper-catalyzed reactions of diazomethane with aromatic compounds with E. Müller at the University of Tübingen. In 1969 he finished his habilita-

tion on NMR spectroscopy measurements of intramolecular mobility. In 1971 he was made professor of organic chemistry at the University of Frankfurt am Main, and in 1989 he moved to the TU Munich. He has been Carl von Linde emeritus professor there since 2008. Kessler is a member of the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and of the editorial board of *Angewandte Chemie*, of which he was chairman from 2001 to 2005. He is also a member of the editorial advisory board of *ChemBioChem*.

**Manfred Mutter** studied at the University of Basel and completed his doctoral degree in 1972 with E. Bayer at the University of Tübingen on the liquid-phase synthesis of proteins. Between 1974 and 1976 he worked with Nobel laureate P. J. Flory at Stanford University (CA, USA) on the conformational energy of linear polymers and polypeptides. He completed his habilitation in 1977 at the University of Tübingen, and in 1978 he was made professor at the University of Mainz. He then took up positions at the University of Basel (1984) and the Free University of Berlin (1988) before he moved to the Université de Lausanne. In 2001 he moved to the Ecole Fédérale Polytechnique there. Since 2008 he has been working as a consultant on peptide and bioorganic chemistry.



M. Mutter

### RSEQ Research Prize to P. Espinet

The Royal Spanish Chemical Society RSEQ presented their research prize and gold medal this year to Pablo Espinet (University of Valladolid). At the beginning of the year he had already received the Elhuyar Goldschmidt Prize, which is presented together with the German Chemical Society (GdCh, Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker). Espinet completed his doctorate in 1975 at the University of Zaragoza with R. Usón and worked as a postdoctoral fellow with P. Maitlis at the University of Sheffield. He then taught and

conducted research at the University of Zaragoza. In 1986 he took up a position at the University of Valladolid. Espinet is a member of the editorial board of the *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry*.

One of Espinet's interests is the mechanism of palladium-catalyzed couplings. He published a Review in *Angewandte Chemie* together with A. M. Echavarren in 2004 on the mechanisms of the Stille reaction,<sup>[3a]</sup> and he recently reported on the stability of three-coordinate palladium(II) species and their mechanistic impact in *Chemistry—A European Journal*.<sup>[3b]</sup> A further focus in his P. Espinet research group is organometallic liquid crystals (metallo-mesogenes). In 1993 he was able to synthesize the first metallomesogene with a cholesteric phase,<sup>[3c]</sup> and he recently reported on luminescent gold mesogenes.<sup>[3d]</sup>



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