

### Noyori Prize to A. Pfaltz

The Society of Organic Synthetic Chemistry of Japan has awarded the Ryoji Noyori Prize for 2008 to Andreas Pfaltz (University of Basel). He is recognized for his work on asymmetric catalysis, and in particular for the development of semi-corrins, bisoxazolines, and phosphinooxazolines as chiral ligands. He recently reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on chiral boron-bridged bisoxazoline ligands and the structure and reactivity of their palladium and copper complexes.<sup>[1a]</sup> In *Angewandte Chemie* he described the mass spectrometric screening of organo- and copper-catalyzed enantioselective Diels–Alder reactions.<sup>[1b]</sup>

Pfaltz studied at the ETH Zurich and completed his doctorate there in 1978 under the supervision of A. Eschenmoser. In 1978/79 he worked as postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University (New York) under G. Stork. From 1980 onwards he researched again at the ETH Zurich until he was appointed at the University of Basel in 1990, from where he moved to the Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung (Coal Research) in Mülheim in 1995 as Director. In 1999 he returned to the University of Basel. Pfaltz is a member of the Editorial Board of *Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis*.

### Humboldt Prize to J. Rebek

Julius Rebek, Jr. (Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA) was nominated by T. Carell (LMU Munich) and C. Schalley (FU Berlin) for the research prize of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The foundation recognizes him for his achievements in the area of molecular self-organization and replication. Along with the prize, Rebek is invited to carry out research in Germany. In 1990 he had already discussed molecular recognition<sup>[2a]</sup> in a Review in *Angewandte Chemie*, and in 2005 molecular capsules<sup>[2b]</sup> were the subject of a further Review. His latest Communication in this journal deals with gas behavior in self-assembled capsules.<sup>[2c]</sup>

Rebek was born in Hungary, and emigrated to the USA via Austria as a consequence of the Second World War. He studied at the University of Kansas and completed his PhD on peptide chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1970 under the supervision of D. S. Kemp. Between 1970 and 1976 he worked as Assistant Professor at the University of California in Los Angeles on reactive intermediates. He then moved to the University of Pittsburgh, where he was Professor of Chemistry and began working on molecular recognition. In 1989 he returned to MIT and carried out research on synthetic self-replicating molecules. Since 1996 he has worked at the Scripps Research Institute on molecular recogni-

tion and self-organization. Rebek is a member of the International Advisory Board of the *European Journal of Organic Chemistry*.

### Leibniz Prize to H. Braunschweig

One of the recipients of a Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation) in 2009 is Holger Braunschweig (University of Würzburg). He studied at the RWTH Aachen, and completed his doctorate there in 1990 under P. Paetzold on iminoboranes and carbene complexes of tantalum. He then worked in the group of M. F. Lappert at the University of Sussex in Brighton (United Kingdom). In 1997 he completed his habilitation at the RWTH on transition metal complexes of boron. In 2000 he took up a Senior Lectureship at Imperial College in London, where he was promoted to Reader in 2002. In the same year he accepted an offer to a chair for Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Würzburg, succeeding H. Werner.

The research carried out in his group involves the synthesis of organometallic compounds of main group elements, such as boron, or of transition metals with particular emphasis on borylene complexes and metallocenophanes. Investigations into their electronic structure and reactivity open up applications in organic synthesis and catalysis and in materials science. He recently reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the intramolecular activation of a disila[2]molybdenumocenophanedihydride for the synthesis of a [1], [1]metalloarenophane<sup>[3a]</sup> and in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on [2]borametallocenophanes of Group 4 metals.<sup>[3b]</sup>

- [1] a) V. Köhler, C. Mazet, A. Toussaint, K. Kulicke, D. Häussinger, M. Neuburger, S. Schaffner, S. Kaiser, A. Pfaltz, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2008**, *14*, 8530; b) A. Teichert, A. Pfaltz, *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, *120*, 3408; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 3360.
- [2] a) J. Rebek, Jr., *Angew. Chem.* **1990**, *102*, 261; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **1990**, *29*, 245; b) J. Rebek, Jr., *Angew. Chem.* **2005**, *117*, 2104; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2005**, *44*, 2068; c) D. Ajami, J. Rebek, Jr., *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, *120*, 6148; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 6059.
- [3] a) H. Braunschweig, M. Gross, K. Radacki, C. Rothgaengel, *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, *120*, 10127; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 9979; b) H. Braunschweig, M. Gross, K. Hammond, M. Friedrich, M. Kraft, A. Oechsner, K. Radacki, S. Stellwag, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2008**, *14*, 8972.

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#### Awarded



A. Pfaltz



J. Rebek



H. Braunschweig