

R. H. Grubbs Receives ACS Prize for Creativity

At its Spring 2009 National Meeting, the American Chemical Society (ACS) honored Robert H. Grubbs (California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA) with the ACS Award for Creative Invention for his breakthroughs in metathesis. Grubbs is known in particular for the development of a series of olefin metathesis catalysts. Together with R. Schrock and Y. Chauvin, he received the 2005 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for this work.^[1a] He recently reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on the structure of ruthenium olefin complexes^[1b] and on ruthenium metathesis catalysts with asymmetric N-heterocyclic carbene ligands.^[1c]

Grubbs completed his Ph.D. in 1968 at Columbia University in New York under the supervision of R. Breslow. In 1968 and 1969 he worked as a postdoctoral fellow in J. P. Collman's group (Stanford University, CA, USA). He then became Assistant and later Associate Professor at the Michigan State University in East Lansing, near Detroit (USA). He has been Professor at the California Institute of Technology since 1978. He is the editor of the "Handbook of Metathesis", which was published in 2003 by Wiley-VCH, and is a member of the International Advisory Boards of *ChemSusChem* and *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* and the Academic Advisory Board of *Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis*.

made Professor of Chemistry in 1990. In 1997 he took up a position at MIT; he was named W. M. Keck Professor of Chemistry there in 2002. Nocera is one of the chairmen of the Editorial Board of *ChemSusChem*.^[2c]

Cope Award to M. T. Reetz

Manfred T. Reetz (Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung, Mülheim) is the first German and one of the few scientists active outside the USA to receive the Arthur C. Cope Award of the ACS. The society thus recognizes his outstanding work in organic chemistry, and in particular in the area of "evolution in a test tube", and on chiral ligands for asymmetric and supramolecular transition-metal catalysis. He recently reported in *ChemBioChem* on the construction and analysis of the fitness landscape of an experimental evolutionary process,^[3a] and in a Review in *Angewandte Chemie*, he discussed combinatorial transition-metal catalysis using mixtures of monodentate ligands for the control of enantio-, diastereo-, and regioselectivity.^[3b]

Reetz studied at Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor (USA). He completed his doctorate at the University of Göttingen in 1969 under the supervision of U. Schöllkopf and held a postdoctoral position with R. W. Hoffmann at the University of Marburg, where he completed his habilitation in 1974. He was named Professor at the University of Bonn in 1978, and in 1980 he returned to the University of Marburg. In 1991 he was made Director of the Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung. He is a member of the Academic Advisory Board of *Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis* and of the Editorial Board of *Angewandte Chemie*.

- [1] a) R. H. Grubbs, *Angew. Chem.* **2006**, *118*, 3845; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2006**, *45*, 3760; b) D. R. Anderson, D. J. O'Leary, R. H. Grubbs, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2008**, *14*, 7536; c) G. C. Vougioukalakis, R. H. Grubbs, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2008**, *14*, 7545.
- [2] a) J. Y. Yang, S.-Y. Liu, I. V. Korendovych, E. V. Rybak-Akimova, D. G. Nocera, *ChemSusChem* **2008**, *1*, 941; b) D. G. Nocera, B. M. Bartlett, D. Grohol, D. Papoutsakis, M. P. Shores, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2004**, *10*, 3850; c) D. G. Nocera, *ChemSusChem* **2008**, *1*, 8.
- [3] a) M. T. Reetz, J. Sanchis, *ChemBioChem* **2008**, *9*, 2260; b) M. T. Reetz, *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, *120*, 2592; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 2556.

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Awarded...



R. H. Grubbs



D. G. Nocera



M. T. Reetz

ACS Prize for Inorganic Chemistry to D. G. Nocera

The ACS Award in Inorganic Chemistry goes to Daniel G. Nocera (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA). The ACS thus recognizes his outstanding work on sustainable energy conversion, and in particular on the light-induced splitting of water. Using static and time-resolved laser spectroscopy, he studied model compounds that range from supramolecular organic and inorganic complexes to organometallic species to layered compounds. Particular attention is given to proton-coupled electron transfer. Nocera and co-workers recently reported in *ChemSusChem* on salen ligands with two rigid dibenzofuran units and carboxylic acid groups, the metal oxo complexes of which should be suitable for water splitting.^[2a] In *Chemistry—A European Journal*, they discussed spin frustration in two-dimensional Kagomé lattices.^[2b]

Nocera studied chemistry at Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ), and completed his doctorate in 1984 at the California Institute of Technology (Pasadena) under the supervision of H. B. Gray. In 1983 he moved as Assistant Professor to Michigan State University (East Lansing), where he was