Horst Pracejus Prize to H.-U. Blaser

Die Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh, German Chemical Society) has awarded Hans-Ulrich Blaser (Solvias AG, Basel) the Horst Pracejus Prize in recognition of his groundbreaking work enabling the industrial application of homogeneous and heterogeneous asymmetric catalysis processes. Particularly sensational was the development of an enantioselective catalytic process for the synthesis of the herbicide metolachlor. In terms of quantity, it is the most important organometallic asymmetric catalytic process. He recently reported in *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* and *Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis* (ASC) on new ligands for asymmetric catalysis.[1] Together with E. Schmidt he edited the book "Asymmetric Catalysis on Industrial Scale" (Wiley-VCH, 2003). Blaser is a member of the industrial board of ASC and the editorial board of the new journal *ChemCatChem*.

Blaser studied chemistry at the ETH Zurich, completed his doctorate in 1971 under A. Eschenmoser, and then spent three years as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Chicago with J. Halpern and at Harvard University with J. A. Osborn. His career in industry began in 1975 with Monsanto in Zurich, and a year later he moved to Ciba–Geigy in Basel. There he rose from research chemist to director of catalysis research. In the newly founded Novartis, he was Co-Head of Catalysis & Synthesis Services for a short time until in 1999 he took up a leadership role at Solvias, a spinoff company from Novartis. Today he is Chief Technology Officer there.

Awarded...

H.-U. Blaser

D. Scheschkewitz

Carl Duisberg Memorial Prize to D. Scheschkewitz

The GDCh awarded David Scheschkewitz (Imperial College, London) the Carl Duisberg Memorial Prize at the German Congress of Chemistry Lecturers in Göttingen for his work on conjugated systems with silicon–silicon and silicon–carbon double bonds. He is particularly interested in improvements to the optoelectronic properties of conducting polymers. He recently discussed anionic reagents with silicon-containing double bonds in *Chemistry—A European Journal*.[2a] In *Angewandte Chemie* he reported on a phenylene bridge between two silicon–silicon double bonds.[2b]

Scheschkewitz studied chemistry at the University of Oldenburg and completed his doctorate in 1999 under A. Berndt at the University of Marburg on a five-membered ring with three negative charges as well as syntheses of and with 1,2,4-triboracyclopentanes. He was a postdoctoral fellow with G. Bertrand at the Université P. Sabatier in Toulouse and with H. Grützmacher at the ETH Zurich. He then moved to the University of Würzburg to carry out his habilitation; he has been a Senior Lecturer at Imperial College since May 2008.

ADUC Prizes 2009

The Working Group of German University Professors of Chemistry (ADUC) of the GDCh has presented its prizes to up-and-coming researchers for this year:

- Markus R. Heinrich (TU München) for his work on organic radical and photochemistry,[3a]
- Jens Bredenbeck (University of Frankfurt) for his investigations into biophysical problems using ultrafast spectroscopic methods,[3b] and
- Johannes Neugebauer (ETH Zurich, now at the University of Leiden) for his theoretical investigations of functional molecular aggregates and Raman spectroscopy.[3c]

[1] M. Kesselgruber, M. Lotz, P. Martin, G. Melone, M. Müller, B. Pugin, F. Naud, F. Spindler, M. Thommen, P. Zbinden, H.-U. Blaser, *Chem. Asian J.* **2008**, 3, 1384; X. Feng, B. Pugin, E. Küsters, G. Sedelmeier, H.-U. Blaser, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2007**, *349*, 1803.

[2] a) D. Scheschkewitz, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2009**, *15*, 2476, b) I. Bejan, D. Scheschkewitz, *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, *119*, 5885; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, *46*, 5783.

[3] a) M. R. Heinrich, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2009**, *15*, 820; b) J. Bredenbeck, J. Helbing, C. Kolano, P. Hamm, *ChemPhysChem* **2007**, *8*, 1747; c) J. Neugebauer, *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, *119*, 7884; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* *46*, **2007**, 7738.

DOI: 10.1002/anie.200901407