

ACS Honors H. Yamamoto for Creative Syntheses

The American Chemical Society (ACS) presented the ACS award for creative work in synthetic organic chemistry to Hisashi Yamamoto (University of Chicago) at the ACS National Meeting. His research group investigates combined catalysis with Lewis and Brønsted acids as well as asymmetric esterification, amidation, and halogenation with tailored acid catalysts. They also develop asymmetric catalysts from silver complexes. He recently reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the vanadium-catalyzed enantioselective desymmetrization of allyl and homoallyl alcohols^[1a] and in *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* on benzylic bromination using Lewis acid catalysis.^[1b]

Yamamoto studied at Kyoto University under H. Nozaki and completed his doctorate in 1971 with E. J. Corey (Harvard University; Nobel Prize 1990). He then worked as a researcher at Toray Industries in the section led by J. Tsuji. In 1972 he returned to Kyoto University, where he was made lecturer in 1976. In 1977 he took up a position at the University of Hawaii, and in 1980 he moved back to Japan at Nagoya University. Since 2002 he has been professor at the University of Chicago. Yamamoto is a member of the advisory boards of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*, the *European Journal of Organic Chemistry*, *Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis*, and *Organic Syntheses*.

Schrödinger Medal to G. Frenking

Gernot Frenking (University of Marburg) was awarded the Schrödinger Medal by the World Association of Theoretical and Computational Chemists for his outstanding work in organometallic chemistry and the chemical bond. His group uses both quantum-chemical *ab initio* methods and density functional calculations together with effective potentials for heavy atoms. These methods are used to analyze the contributions of covalent and classical electrostatic interactions to the chemical bond throughout the periodic table and to explain metal–ligand interactions and reaction mechanisms. He recently discussed in *Angewandte Chemie* the possibility of synthesizing neutral noble-gas compounds with a bond between noble-gas atoms.^[3a] In *Chemistry—A European Journal*, he investigated the interaction between steric and electronic effects in S_N2 reactions.^[3b]

Frenking studied chemistry at the RWTH Aachen and then had a research stay with K. Fukui in Kyoto. He returned to Germany and was awarded his doctorate in 1979 under H. Goetz at the Technical University of Berlin for semiempirical calculations involving phosphorus(III) compounds. He completed his habilitation, which involved MO-SCF studies on the structure and reactivity of molecules in the gas phase, in 1984 with H. Schwarz in Berlin. In 1984 and 1985 he was a guest researcher with H. Schaefer III at the University of California in Berkeley. P. von R. Schleyer also made a significant impact on his career. Between 1985 and 1989 he investigated the structure–property relationships and molecular modeling of nonpeptidic opiates at the Stanford Research Institute. He has been professor at the University of Marburg since 1990. Frenking an editor of the *Journal of Computational Chemistry* and is a member of the editorial board of the *Zeitschrift für anorganische und allgemeine Chemie*.

Awarded...



H. Yamamoto



T. Aida



G. Frenking

ACS Award in Polymer Chemistry to T. Aida

Takuzo Aida (University of Tokyo) is this year's recipient of the ACS Award in Polymer Chemistry. The society thus recognizes him for his work in supramolecular chemistry and materials science. He recently reported in *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* on the unusual effect of side chains on the lifetimes of charge carriers in discotic liquid crystals,^[2a] and his contribution on an organic–inorganic polypseudorotaxane featured on the cover of *Angewandte Chemie*.^[2b]

Aida studied at Yokohama National University and at the University of Tokyo, where he completed his doctorate in 1984. He then took up a position there as assistant professor; in 1996 he was made professor. Aida is a member of the editorial board or advisory board of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*, the *Journal of Polymer Science Part A: Polymer Chemistry*, *Advanced Functional Materials*, *Small*, *Macromolecular Chemistry and Physics*, and *Macromolecular Rapid Communications*.

- [1] a) Z. Li, W. Zhang, H. Yamamoto, *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, 120, 7630; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, 47, 7520; b) K. Shibatomi, Y. Zhang, H. Yamamoto, *Chem. Asian J.* **2008**, 3, 1581.
- [2] a) J. Motoyanagi, Y. Yamamoto, A. Saeki, M. A. Alam, A. Kimoto, A. Kosaka, T. Fukushima, S. Seki, S. Tagawa, T. Aida, *Chem. Asian J.* **2009**, DOI: 10.1002/asia.200800481; b) M. A. Alam, Y.-S. Kim, S. Ogawa, A. Tsuda, N. Ishii, T. Aida, *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, 120, 2100; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, 47, 2070.
- [3] a) C. Ó. C. Jiménez-Halla, I. Fernández, G. Frenking, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, 121, 372; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, 48, 366; b) I. Fernández, G. Frenking, E. Uggerud, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2009**, 15, 2166.

DOI: 10.1002/anie.200901541