As part of the "For Women in Science" program, five L'Oréal–UNESCO Prizes are awarded annually to leading international female scientists; this year they are given in the field of materials science. Three of the prizewinners are presented below.

A. Kobayashi

Akiko Kobayashi (Nihon University, Tokyo) is awarded for her work on molecular conductors and single-component molecular metals. She is also interested in porous molecular crystals. She recently reported in the *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry* on single-component selenium-based molecular conductors with high conductivities[1a] and in *Angewandte Chemie* on a porous crystalline coordination polymer that contains chains of water molecules and shows a host-induced lattice deformation and a dielectric anomaly.[1b]

Kobayashi studied chemistry at the University of Tokyo and completed her doctorate there in 1972 on the absolute configuration of metal complexes under the supervision of Y. Saito. She then carried out research at the same university in the group of Y. Sasaki. In 1993 she was made professor, and from 1999 she worked as professor at the research center for spectrochemistry there. She reached emeritus status in 2006, and since then she has been professor at Nihon University.

E. Kumacheva

Eugenia Kumacheva (University of Toronto) is recognized for the development of new materials with diverse applications, such as in targeted drug delivery and for high-density optical storage devices. She is particularly interested in polymers (also on surfaces and at interfaces), non-equilibrium phenomena in complex liquids, and the morphology of multicomponent polymer systems. She has a current contribution in *Angewandte Chemie* on a microfluidic approach to the chemical formation of colloidal particles at a gas–liquid interface.[2]

Kumacheva studied at the Technical University in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), worked at a company producing coatings in Moscow, and then completed her doctorate in 1985 on electrochemical deposition from polymer–oligomer dispersions under the supervision of L. A. Sukhareva at the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in Moscow, where she remained until 1990. After conducting research at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, she moved to the University of Toronto in 1995, where she has been professor since 2001. She has been a visiting professor at Harvard University, the University of Oxford, and the Université Louis Pasteur (Strasbourg).

T. Nyokong

Tebello Nyokong (Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa) is honored for her work on the use of light in cancer therapy. Her other research interests are biosensors and enzyme-like catalysts and photocatalysts. She recently reported in the *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry* on the synthesis and photophysical and photochemical properties of poly(oxyethylene)-substituted phthalocyaninato oxotitananium(IV) complexes[3a] and in *Electroanalysis* on the electrochemical characterization of self-organizing monolayers of a tetrabenzylthio-substituted manganese phthalocyanine and its use in nitrite oxidation.[3b]

Nyokong studied chemistry at the University of Lesotho and at McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario). She completed her doctorate in 1987 at the University of Western Ontario (London, Canada) under the supervision of M. Stillman. She then returned to the University of Lesotho as a lecturer. She has been at Rhodes University since 1992; she is currently professor for medicinal chemistry and nanotechnology and directs the DST/Mintek Nanotechnology Innovation Centre for Sensors.

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[2] J. I. Park, Z. Nie, A. Kumachev, A. I. Abdelrahman, B. P. Binks, H. A. Stone, E. Kumacheva, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, DOI: 10.1002/ange.200805204; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, DOI: 10.1002/anie.200805204.

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Awarded...

A. Kobayashi

E. Kumacheva

T. Nyokong