

Franklin Medals for Whitesides and Benkovic

The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia has awarded 2009 Benjamin Franklin Medals to George M. Whitesides (Harvard University; for chemistry) and Stephen J. Benkovic (Pennsylvania State University; for life science).

Benkovic studied at Lehigh University (Bethlehem, Pennsylvania) and received his Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1963 under T. C. Bruice. From 1964 to 1965 he worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California in Santa Barbara. He then moved to Pennsylvania State University as assistant professor, where he has been professor since 1970. He received the Franklin medal for his ground-breaking work on the mechanisms of enzymes and the elucidation of the complexity of enzymes, which plays a role in DNA replication. He recently reported in the journal *ChemBioChem*, for which he is a member of the editorial advisory board, on the genetic selection of cyclic peptides as inhibitors of DAM methyltransferase^[1a] and in *Angewandte Chemie* on the AICAR transformylase homodimerization.^[1b]

Whitesides was honored for his exceptional contributions to the field of molecular self-assembly and for the development of fast, inexpensive techniques to produce small building blocks for practical applications. He recently reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the dynamic contact electrification of a metal sphere rolling over an electrically insulating plate.^[2a] In a Review, he discussed electrostatic charging through separation of ions at interfaces.^[2b] Whitesides received his Ph.D. in 1964 from the California Institute of Technology (Pasadena) under J. D. Roberts. He then accepted a faculty position at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before moving to Harvard University in 1982 (both in Cambridge, USA). Whitesides is a member of the international advisory boards of *Angewandte Chemie*, *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*, and *ChemSusChem* and an honorary member of the editorial advisory board of *Small*.

Priestley Medal for M. F. Hawthorne

In recognition of his outstanding life work, the American Chemical Society (ACS) has awarded M. Frederick Hawthorne (University of Missouri, Columbia) its highest honor, the Priestley Medal. Hawthorne is a pioneer of boron chemistry, especially in the field of boranes, carboranes, and metallocarboranes, which he synthesized and refined for applications such as imaging, drug delivery, neutron capture therapy^[3a], catalysis, and nanotechnology. He recently reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on alkoxy derivatives of dodecaborates as discrete ions with tuneable pseudo-metallic properties^[3b] and in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on rod-shaped carborane derivatives (“carborarods”).^[3c]

Hawthorne received his Ph.D. in 1953 at the University of California in Los Angeles with D. J. Cram. He then moved to Iowa State University in Ames as a postdoctoral associate with G. S. Hammond. From 1954 to 1961 he worked for Rohm and Haas in Huntsville and Philadelphia. In 1962 he joined the faculty of the University of California, Riverside, and moved to Los Angeles in 1969. He has led the International Institute of Nano and Molecular Medicine (I²NM²) at the University of Missouri in Columbia since 2006.

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- [2] a) S. W. Thomas III, S. J. Vella, G. K. Kaufman, G. M. Whitesides, *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, 120, 6756; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, 47, 6654; b) L. S. McCarty, G. M. Whitesides, *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, 120, 2218; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, 47, 2188.
- [3] a) M. F. Hawthorne, *Angew. Chem.* **1993**, 105, 997; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **1993**, 32, 950; b) M. W. Lee, O. K. Farha, M. F. Hawthorne, C. H. Hansch, *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, 119, 3078; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, 46, 3018; c) A. Herzog, S. S. Jalisatgi, C. B. Knobler, T. J. Wedge, M. F. Hawthorne, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2005**, 11, 7155.

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Awarded...



G. M. Whitesides



S. J. Benkovic



M. F. Hawthorne