

## A. Müller Holds Centenary Lectures

Achim Müller (University of Bielefeld), whose large metal clusters always attract attention, was awarded the Centenary Medal of the Royal Society of Chemistry, its highest honor for foreign scientists. In connection with the award, he held lectures at several British universities on the multifunctionality and aesthetics of nanoporous capsules. In a contribution featured on the cover of *Chemistry—A European Journal*, he recently reported on the structure of water in functionalized porous capsules,<sup>[1a]</sup> and in *Angewandte Chemie* he described the synthesis of giant concave polyoxotungstate species including spherical Keplerates.<sup>[1b]</sup>

Müller completed his doctoral degree on thermochemistry in 1965 under O. Glemser at the University of Göttingen and remained there for his habilitation, which dealt with vibrational spectroscopy. In 1971 he was named associate professor at the University of Dortmund; he moved to the University of Bielefeld as professor in 1977. His research focuses on transition-metal chemistry, and especially inorganic supramolecular chemistry and bioinorganic chemistry in synthesis, spectroscopy, and theory. In early 2004, Wiley-VCH published the book “The Chemistry of Nanomaterials”, edited by A. Müller, C. N. R. Rao, and A. K. Cheetham.

## Van't Hoff Prize for M. Kappes

Manfred M. Kappes (University of Karlsruhe) received the first Van't Hoff Prize, which was established by G. Ertl (Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2007), from the German Bunsen Society for Physical Chemistry. He was honored for his work on the characteristics of clusters and their reaction dynamics, on electron-transfer reactions through collisions between different clusters or between clusters and molecules, and on cluster materials. His research group uses, among other things, mass spectrometry and optical spectroscopy as well as surface-analytical methods. He recently reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the transition from planar to cylindrical structures in boron cluster cations<sup>[2a]</sup> and in the *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry* on the synthesis, characterization, and quantum-mechanical calculations of a gold-selenium cluster.<sup>[2b]</sup>

Kappes studied at Concordia University in Montreal and received his PhD in 1981 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology under R. Staley for work on the gas-phase chemistry of transition-metal cations. He then joined the group of E. Schumacher at the University of Bern, where he completed his habilitation in 1987. He then moved to Northwestern University in Evanston

(Illinois) as assistant professor, where he was made associate professor in 1989. He joined the faculty of the University of Karlsruhe in 1991. Since 2008 he has also directed, together with H. Hahn and J.-M. Lehn (Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1987), the Institute of Nanotechnology at the Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe.

## Bunsen Society Honors J. Troe and J. Küpper

The German Bunsen Society for Physical Chemistry has awarded honorary membership to **Jürgen Troe** (University of Göttingen und Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry). Troe received his doctorate in 1965 at the University of Göttingen and completed his habilitation there in 1968. In 1971 he was named professor at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne; in 1975 he returned to Göttingen as a faculty member. Since 1990 he has also been director at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry. His research investigates reaction kinetics, photochemistry and laser chemistry, spectroscopy, and atmospheric and combustion chemistry. In 1999 and 2000, Troe was chairman of the Bunsen Society.

**Jochen Küpper** (Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society, FHI) received the Nernst-Haber-Bodenstein prize of the Bunsen Society. Küpper used electrical fields to decelerate neutral molecules and to maintain them in the gas phase at extremely low temperatures. This method can be used to separate different conformers and investigate them spectroscopically. He received his doctorate in 2000 at the University of Düsseldorf under K. Kleinermanns for work on rotationally resolved laser spectroscopy and the structure and internal dynamics of molecules. He then worked at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill (USA). He has been at the FHI since 2002, with the exception of a research stay at the FOM Institute for Plasma Physics “Rijnhuizen” in the Netherlands.

- [1] a) T. Mitra, P. Miró, A.-R. Tomsa, A. Merca, H. Bögge, J. Bonet Ávalos, J. M. Poblet, C. Bo, A. Müller, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2009**, *15*, 1844; b) C. Schäffer, A. Merca, H. Bögge, A. M. Todea, M. L. Kistler, T. Liu, R. Thouvenot, P. Gouzerh, A. Müller, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 155; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 149.
- [2] a) E. Oger, N. R. M. Crawford, R. Kelting, P. Weis, M. M. Kappes, R. Ahlrichs, *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, *119*, 8656; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, *46*, 8503; b) P. Seviliano, O. Fuhr, O. Hampe, S. Lebedkin, C. Neiss, R. Ahlrichs, D. Fenske, M. M. Kappes, *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.* **2007**, 5163.

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## Awarded...



A. Müller



M. Kappes