

Technical University of Berlin Honors G. Ertl

Each year, TU Berlin and Schering honor an outstanding chemist with the Bohlmann Lecture, which is named after the natural product chemist Ferdinand Bohlmann (1921–1991). This year, the honor goes to Gerhard Ertl (Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society, Berlin), a Nobel laureate in 2007.^[1a] At the same time, the university, where Ertl has been an honorary professor since 1986, awarded him honorary membership. Ertl spoke about elementary steps in heterogeneous catalysis; he will also talk on this topic at the Symposium “Frontiers of Chemistry” on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the journals *ChemBioChem* and *ChemPhysChem* on May 21, 2010 in Paris.

Ertl studied physics at the University of Stuttgart and completed his doctorate in physical chemistry in 1965 at the Technical University of Munich under the supervision of Heinz Gerischer on electrochemistry. In 1968, he took up a professorial position in physical chemistry at the University of Hannover, and in 1973 he relocated to the Ludwig Maximilians University Munich; in 1986 he was made Director at the Fritz Haber Institute, as the successor to his doctoral supervisor. At the same time, he was made honorary professor at the Technical and the Free Universities of Berlin; in 1992, the Humboldt University Berlin also awarded him this title. Ertl is a member of the Editorial Boards of *ChemPhysChem* and *Chemistry—A European Journal* and is one of the editors of a multivolume handbook on heterogeneous catalysis.^[1b]

Novartis Awards M. Rueping and C. J. Chang

The Novartis Early Career Award in Organic Chemistry is awarded annually to outstanding up-and-coming researchers who have carried out independent research for at most ten years in organic or bioorganic chemistry. One prize goes to a researcher in Europe and one to North America.

Magnus Rueping (RWTH Aachen) studied at the Technical University of Berlin, Trinity College in Dublin, and the ETH Zürich, where he com-

pleted his doctorate in 2002 under the supervision of D. Seebach. He then carried out postdoctoral research in the group of D. A. Evans at Harvard University. In 2004 he was made Degussa Foundation professor in synthetic organic chemistry at the University of Frankfurt am Main; in 2008 he took up a position at RWTH Aachen. Research interests of his group are enantioselective metal and organo-catalysis; the jury made particular mention of his achievements in the use of chiral Brønsted acids in asymmetric electrocyclic reactions and enantioselective hydrogenations. He recently reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the synthesis of optically active diols by asymmetric hydrogenation using modular chiral metal catalysts^[2a] and on the synthesis of highly active dihydroquinazolinone drugs by asymmetric Brønsted acid catalysis.^[2b]

Christopher J. Chang (University of California, Berkeley) studied at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena and the Université Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg. He completed his doctorate in 2002 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) under the supervision of D. Nocera. Thereafter he carried out postdoctoral research in the group of S. Lippard at MIT. Since 2004, he has been at the University of California in Berkeley, currently as Associate Professor. The jury praised his creative use of organic methods in the synthesis of fluorescence probes that indicate hydrogen or metals such as copper in living cells selectively and in real time. He recently reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on a specific fluorescence sensor for mercury in water, cells, and tissue.^[3]

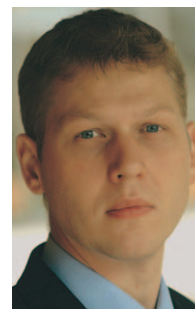
- [1] a) G. Ertl, *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, *120*, 3578; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 3524; b) *Handbook of Heterogeneous Catalysis*, (Eds. G. Ertl, H. Knözinger, F. Schüth, J. Weitkamp, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, **2008**.
[2] a) R. Kadyrov, R. M. Koenigs, C. Brinkmann, D. Voigtlaender, M. Rueping, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 7693; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 7556; b) M. Rueping, A. P. Antonchick, E. Sugiono, K. Grenader, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 925; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 908.
[3] S. Yoon, E. W. Miller, Q. He, P. H. Do, C. J. Chang, *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, *119*, 6778; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, *46*, 6658.

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Awarded...



G. Ertl



M. Rueping



C. J. Chang