

## Alwin Mittasch Prize for J. Weitkamp and J. Nørskov

The Alwin Mittasch Prize for 2009 from the German Society for Chemical Technology and Biotechnology (DECHEMA) was shared by Jens Weitkamp (University of Stuttgart) and Jens K. Nørskov (Technical University of Denmark in Lyngby near Copenhagen; DTU). The prize, valued at €10 000, is awarded to researchers who have made fundamental contributions to catalysis and also demonstrated exemplary applications in industry. Some of Weitkamp's interests include the isomerization and hydrocracking of alkanes and the hydrogenation of aromatic compounds using zeolite catalysts. Nørskov developed theoretical models that were decisive in the elucidation of catalytic processes.

**Weitkamp** studied chemistry at the University of Karlsruhe and the Free University of Berlin. After completing his doctorate in 1971 under H. Pichler and his habilitation in 1981, he was professor from 1986 to 1988 at the University of Oldenburg. He was then made director of the Institute for Technical Chemistry at the University of Stuttgart; he retired in October 2008. Weitkamp is a member of the Editorial Board of *Chemie Ingenieur Technik* and the International Advisory Board of *ChemCatChem*; furthermore, he was vice-chairman and member of the board of DECHEMA. The fact that diffusion plays a major role in numerous processes was shown again in a recent publication on the concentration of guest molecules in nanoporous hosts in *Angewandte Chemie*<sup>[1a]</sup> and in a contribution on ensemble measurements of diffusion that was featured on the inside cover of *ChemPhysChem*.<sup>[1b]</sup>

**Nørskov** studied chemistry and physics at Aarhus University and completed his doctorate there in 1979 in theoretical physics under B. I. Lundqvist. He then worked as a postdoctoral fellow at Aarhus University, with IBM in Yorktown Heights (NY, USA), and with the Danish catalyst manufacturer Haldor Topsøe. In 1987 he was made research professor at the DTU, and since 1992 he has been professor of theoretical physics there. He has been a visiting professor in the USA many times, including stays at the University of California in Santa Barbara and the University of Wisconsin in Madison. In *Angewandte Chemie*, Nør-

skov recently described trends in catalytic CO oxidation on nanoparticles<sup>[2a]</sup> and the significance of surface modification of palladium catalysts for selective acetylene hydrogenation.<sup>[2b]</sup>

## Otto Roelen Medal to M. Buchmeiser

Michael Buchmeiser (University of Stuttgart) has received the Otto Roelen Medal for 2010. With this prize, the DECHEMA recognizes his outstanding achievements in polymer catalysis. Buchmeiser's area of interest is metathesis polymerization, including as a solid-state reaction. He recently reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on monolithic polymers as carriers for cell cultivation, cell differentiation, and tissue engineering<sup>[3a]</sup> and in *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* on isocyanate- and isothiocyanate-based Grubbs–Hoveyda ruthenium alkylidene complexes.<sup>[3b]</sup>

Buchmeiser studied and completed his doctorate at the University of Innsbruck. In 1998 he completed his habilitation, and in 2000 he was made visiting professor at the TU Graz. From 2004 onwards he was professor for the technical chemistry of polymers at the University of Leipzig, and in 2005 he took on the additional role of acting director of the Leibniz Institute for Surface Modification in Leipzig. Since December 2009 he has led the Institute for Polymer Chemistry at the University of Stuttgart.

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## Awarded...



J. Weitkamp



J. Nørskov



M. Buchmeiser