Alexander von Humboldt Research Awards for C. Cummins and K. Suzuki

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has recently granted awards that give the recipient the opportunity to spend time at research institutions in Germany.

C. C. Cummins

Christopher (Kit) Cummins[1a] studied undergraduate chemistry at Cornell University before completing his PhD in 1993 with R. R. Schrock at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He was then immediately appointed as assistant professor at MIT and promoted to professor in 1996. During his stay in Germany, he will be hosted by M. Scheer at the University of Regensburg. The collaborative research is to involve studies in the manipulation of Group 15 elements using transition-metal complexes. A particular focus is to be the use of the recently discovered AsP_3 molecule in synthetic investigations.[1b]

The main areas of interest of Cummins' own research group include reaction design for the manipulation of small elemental, atmospheric, and interstellar molecules (N_2, N_2O, NO, NO_2, CO_2, CO, H_2, P_2, P_4, As_4) by metal complexes, metal–ligand multiple bonds as related to atom-transfer reactions, and new reactions for next-generation chemical storage of solar energy. Previous honors include becoming an American Academy of Arts and Sciences Fellow (2008) as well as receiving the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Prize in the Physical Sciences (2007) and the American Chemical Society Albert F. Cotton Award in Synthetic Inorganic Chemistry (2007).

K. Suzuki

While in Germany, Keisuke Suzuki[2a] will be hosted by O. Reiser at the University of Regensburg and by C. Bolm at RWTH Aachen University.

Suzuki completed his undergraduate studies and doctorate (1983 with T. Mukaiyama) at the University of Tokyo. Following his PhD he was appointed a research associate to G.-i. Tsuchihashi at Keio University, where Suzuki was promoted through the ranks to eventually become professor in 1994. He spent a sabbatical year (1990) as a visiting professor at the ETH Zurich with D. Seebach. In 1996, he moved to his current appointment at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. His research interests involve the development of new strategies and tactics for the synthesis of complex natural products,[2b] and he recently reported on the preparation of hexaradialenes by successive ring-opening reactions.[2c] Previous honors include receiving the MEXT Award of the Japanese Government (2006) and the Chemical Society of Japan's Prize (2008).

Janssen Pharmaceutica Prize for Eric N. Jacobsen

At the recent Belgian Organic Synthesis Symposium (held in Namur, Belgium) the Janssen Pharmaceutica Prize for Creativity in Organic Synthesis was awarded to Eric Jacobsen (Harvard University). The award is given to a chemist under the age of 50 who has made a broad and significant contribution to the field of organic synthesis. The research carried out in Jacobsen's research group includes the development of new methods for organic synthesis, with emphasis on asymmetric catalysis and stereoselective synthesis of natural products.[3]

Jacobsen studied at New York University before moving to the University of California, Berkeley to undertake PhD studies with R. Bergman. After graduating in 1986 he relocated to MIT to join the research group of K. B. Sharpless (who is the inaugural winner of the Janssen Prize). In 1988 Jacobsen took up an assistant professorship at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he was promoted to associate professor in 1991. Then, in 1993 he moved to Harvard University, where he is now the Sheldon Emery Professor of Chemistry. Jacobsen is a member of the editorial board of *Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis* and of the editorial advisory board of *Chemistry-An Asian Journal*.

[1] a) *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 859; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 845; b) B. M. Cossairt, C. C. Cummins, *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, *122*, 1639; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 1595.

[2] a) *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 2673; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 2635; b) T. Yoshinari, K. Ohmori, M. G. Schrems, A. Pfaltz, K. Suzuki, *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, *122*, 893; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 881; c) S. Shinozaki, T. Hamura, Y. Ibusuki, K. Fujii, H. Uekusa, K. Suzuki, *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, *122*, 3090; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 3026.

[3] M. A. McGowan, C. P. Stevenson, M. A. Schiffler, E. N. Jacobsen, *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, *122*, 6283; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 6147.

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Awarded ...

C. Cummins

K. Suzuki

E. N. Jacobsen