

CNRS Gold Medal for Gérard Férey

France's highest distinction in scientific research has been awarded this year to Gérard Férey, who is Vice-President of the Société Chimique de France (SCF) and professor emeritus at the Université de Versailles (UVSQ). Férey is a specialist in solid-state chemistry and materials science. By combining physics and chemistry, he has become a pioneer in the rational design of new porous inorganic solids and organic–inorganic hybrid compounds.^[1] These porous solids have a wide range of useful properties and potential applications in energy conversion, sustainable development, and healthcare.

Férey studied at the Université de Caen and completed his doctorate in 1977 at the Université du Maine (Le Mans) under R. de Pape. In 1981, he was made Professor at the Université du Maine, and from 1988 to 1992 he was deputy director of the chemistry department of the CNRS in Paris. Between 1996 and 2009 he was a professor at the Université de Versailles. Other more recent awards include the Grand Prix of the Fondation de la Maison de la Chimie (2010; jointly with Jean M. J. Frechet) and the ENI Award (2009).

Otto Röhm Foundation Award for Dariush Hinderberger

The Otto Röhm Foundation has given its prize to Dariush Hinderberger (MPI in Polymer Research, Mainz). The Hinderberger research group uses electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectroscopy as its main research tool to study soft matter, particularly complex biomedical questions (e.g. disordered protein arrangements) and applications (e.g. smart systems for drug delivery).^[2]

Hinderberger studied chemistry at the University of Heidelberg, the University of Washington/Seattle (Bruce H. Robinson and Larry R. Dalton), and the Technische Universität (TU) Berlin. His doctoral and initial postdoctoral work were carried out under H. W. Spiess and G. Jeschke at the MPI in Mainz (2001–2004). He then moved to the ETH Zurich to do a postdoc with A. Schweiger (2004–2006). Since 2006 he has been a group leader in the polymer spectroscopy department at the MPI in Mainz, and earlier this year he submitted his habilitation thesis.

Tilden Prize for David Leigh

The RSC has announced the recipients of the Tilden Prizes and among those honored is David A. Leigh (University of Edinburgh). The other winners were Kosmas Prassides and Duncan Bruce. Leigh receives this prize for supramolecular chemistry with emphasis on molecular devices.

Leigh's research interests include the development of new strategies for interlocked molecule synthesis and the design and construction of artificial molecular motors and machines.^[3a,b] The latest article from his group will be featured on the cover of issue 1/2011 of *Angewandte Chemie*.^[3c] Leigh studied at the University of Sheffield and received his PhD there in 1987 under the guidance of J. F. Stoddart. He undertook postdoctoral research with D. R. Bundle in the Division of Biological Science of the National Research Council of Canada and in 1989 returned to the UK as a lecturer in organic chemistry at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. In 1998 he took up a position at the University of Warwick, and since 2001 he has been the Forbes Chair of Organic Chemistry at the University of Edinburgh. Previous honors include the Izatt-Christensen Award for Macrocyclic Chemistry (2007) and the Feynman Prize for Nanotechnology (2007). He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2009.

Paul J. Flory Research Prize for Hans Wolfgang Spiess

Hans Wolfgang Spiess (Director at the Max Planck Institute in Polymer Research, Mainz) is the 2010 winner of the Paul J. Flory Prize for polymer science. Spiess received the award for his pioneering work in nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) to analyze the structure and dynamics of polymers.^[4]

Spiess studied at the University of Frankfurt and was awarded his PhD there in 1968. He worked as a postdoctoral fellow with R. K. Sheline at Florida State University (1968–1970), K. H. Hausser at the MPI in Medical Research, Heidelberg (1970–1975), and H. Sillescu at the University of Mainz (1975–1983, including habilitation). He has held professorships at the University of Münster and the University of Bayreuth. In 1984, he was appointed a director of the newly founded Max Planck Institute in Polymer Research in Mainz. Spiess has served as chairman of the European Polymer Federation (1991–1992) and as chairman of the Capital Investment Committee of the German Science Foundation (1994–1996). He is on the executive advisory board of all *Macromolecular Journals* published by Wiley-VCH. Previous honors include the Zavoisky Prize (2010) and the Liebig Medal of the German Chemical Society (2002).

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Awarded ...



G. Férey



D. Hinderberger



D. Leigh



H. W. Spiess

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