AstraZeneca Award for Excellence in Chemistry

Two very talented researchers, Tobias Ritter (Harvard University) and Christopher Vanderwal (University of California, Irvine), have received US$50,000 toward their research as part of the AstraZeneca Award for Excellence in Chemistry.

Ritter studied chemistry in Braunschweig (Germany), Bordeaux (France), Lausanne (Switzerland), and Stanford (USA; with B. M. Trost). In 2004, he received his PhD from the ETH Zurich under the guidance of E. M. Carreira. This was followed by postdoctoral research with R. H. Grubbs at the California Institute of Technology. In 2006, Ritter was appointed as assistant professor at Harvard University and promoted to associate professor in 2010. The Ritter group focuses on synthetic organic and organometallic chemistry, complex molecule synthesis, and mechanistic studies to develop practical access to molecules of interest in catalysis, medicine, and materials.[1] Other recent honors include an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship (2010) and an Amgen Young Investigator Award (2010).

Vanderwal studied biochemistry and chemistry at the University of Ottawa (Canada). He then moved to The Scripps Research Institute for doctoral studies in the group of E. J. Sorensen. After obtaining his PhD in 2003, Vanderwal joined the group of E. N. Jacobsen at Harvard University as Jane Coffin Childs Postdoctoral Fellow. In 2005, Vanderwal began his independent research career at the University of California (Irvine), where he is an assistant professor of chemistry. His research group focuses its efforts on the synthesis of natural products, including polychlorinated compounds, alkaloids, and terpenes.[2] Other recent honors include an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship (2010–2012) and an NSF Career Award (2009).

Inchon Prize for Jinwoo Cheon

The winner of the 24th Inchon Prize in the category of science is Jinwoo Cheon (Yonsei University, Seoul). This prize is one of the top honors given in South Korea and it honors the memory of Seong-Soo Kim, former vice president of Korea and the founder of Korea University and the *Dong-A Ilbo* newspaper.

Cheon graduated from Yonsei University in Seoul and in 1993 he received his PhD from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign under G. S. Girolami. After postdoctoral training at U.C. Berkeley (with J. Arnold) and also at UCLA (with J. Zink), he joined the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) where he was an assistant and then associate professor. In 2002, he returned to Yonsei University and since 2008 is the Horace G. Underwood Professor of Chemistry. Cheon is the director of the Convergence Nanomaterials National Research Laboratory and the head of the Nanomaterials Division of the Nano-Medical National Core Research Center of Korea. His research interests include the development of functional inorganic nanoparticles and their biomedical and energy-related applications.[3] Other awards include the Creative Research Grand Prize from KISTI (2010), the Yonsei Research Award (2008), and the Korean Chemical Society Wiley Young Chemist Award (2001).

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Awarded ...

T. Ritter

C. D. Vanderwal

J. Cheon