

In 2010 the Société Chimique de France (SCF) honored the following chemists for their distinguished contribution to their respective fields of research.

Blaise Pascal Medal in Chemistry for Henri B. Kagan

Henri B. Kagan, who is professor emeritus at the Université Paris-Sud in Orsay, has received the Blaise Pascal Medal in Chemistry to honor his outstanding and pioneering contributions in asymmetric catalysis and organic synthesis.

Kagan studied at the Sorbonne and the École Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Paris, and was awarded his PhD under J. Jacques at the Collège de France (1960). He then worked as a research associate with A. Horeau to investigate problems related to the determination of chirality, and he also worked at the University of Texas with T. Marby. In 1968, Kagan joined the Université Paris-Sud (Orsay), where in 1999 he became emeritus professor. He has broad research interests, including: asymmetric synthesis, asymmetric catalysis, and in particular nonlinear effects in asymmetric catalysis.^[1] Kagan is an honorary board member of *ChemCatChem*. Other more recent awards include the Grand Prize of the Fondation de la Maison de la Chimie (shared with Hisashi Yamamoto, 2002), the Ryoji Noyori Prize (2002), and the Horst-Pracejus Prize (GDCh, 2007).

Le Bel Prize for Guy Bertrand

Guy Bertrand (University of California, Riverside) has received the Le Bel Prize for his significant contributions to organic chemistry. He shares this prize with Marie-Claire Hennion (ESPCI Paris Tech).

Bertrand completed his PhD at the Paul Sabatier University in Toulouse under P. Mazerolles (1979). After postdoctoral work in industry (at Sanofi), he returned to Toulouse as a CNRS researcher. In 1988, he moved to the Laboratoire de Chimie de Coordination (LCC) in Toulouse, and from 1998 to 2001 was a Director at the Paul Sabatier University. Since 2001, he has been the Director of the UCR-CNRS Joint Research Laboratory at the University of California, Riverside. His research focuses on the stabilization of highly reactive species,^[2a] particularly carbenes, and their uses in organometallic chemistry and catalysis.^[2b] Bertrand is also well known for his work on main group elements, especially phosphorus.^[2c] Bertrand is a member of the French Academy of Sciences (since 2004) and the International Advisory Board of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*.

Süe Prize for Bruno Chaudret

Bruno Chaudret (CNRS Research Director, Toulouse) was awarded the Süe Prize for his important contributions to organometallic chemistry and nanochemistry.

Chaudret graduated from École Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Paris in 1975. He received his PhD from Imperial College (London) in 1977 under the guidance of G. Wilkinson and then returned to France to do another doctoral thesis in Toulouse with R. Poilblanc (1979). Following this he became a research fellow at the CNRS, and was made director of research in 1988. Chaudret's research involves the synthesis of coordination compounds rich in hydrogen. More recently, he has developed an organometallic method for the synthesis of metal or metal oxide nanoparticles that enables control over the particle size and surface characteristics.^[3a] The most promising applications of these nanoparticles are found in devices for microelectronics, among which gas sensors have lead to practical industrial applications.^[3b] Other honors include the Silver Medal of the CNRS (1997), the Gay-Lussac Humboldt Prize (2006), and the Wilkinson Lectureship of the RSC (2008). Chaudret is a member of the French Academy of Sciences (since 2005) and the Editorial Advisory Board of *Small*.

Franco–German Prize for Markus Antonietti

Markus Antonietti (Director of the Max Planck Institute for Colloids and Interfaces, Golm/Potsdam) is the recent recipient of the Franco–German Prize for his outstanding work in the fields of sustainable and materials chemistry and for his continued collaborations with the French community. Past winners of this prize include Carsten Bolm (2006), Lutz Tietze (2002), and Alois Fürstner (2000).

Antonietti studied at the University of Mainz and earned his PhD under H. Sillescu in 1985. He then worked as an assistant professor and completed his habilitation at the same university in 1990. In 1991, Antonietti took a position as full professor at the Philipps University of Marburg, but in 1993 he moved to the MPI for Colloids and Interfaces. He is also a professor at the University of Potsdam. His scientific interests include: the synthesis of novel polymers and sol-gel materials,^[4a] energy materials,^[4b] and artificial photosynthesis.^[4c] Antonietti is on the Executive Advisory Board of all *Macromolecular Journals* published by Wiley-VCH and is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Small*. Other honors include the Gold Medal of the Royal Society of Chemistry for Lifetime Achievements in Polymer Science (2009).

Awarded ...



H. B. Kagan



G. Bertrand



B. Chaudret



M. Antonietti



R. Poli

Coordination Chemistry Prize for Rinaldo Poli

Rinaldo Poli (ENSIACET Professor, Institut universitaire de France) has received the Senior Coordination Chemistry Prize from the SCF. His research explores the reactivity of organometallic species, hydrides and dihydrogen complexes,^[5a] controlled radical polymerization,^[5b] aqueous organometallic chemistry, and homogeneous catalysis.^[5c]

Poli was educated at the University of Pisa and earned his PhD there under F. Calderazzo in 1985. As part of his studies, he spent two years in London working with G. Wilkinson. Later he worked for two years as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas A & M with F. A. Cotton before starting his independent research career at the University of Maryland in 1987, where he climbed the ranks to become a full professor in 1995. In 1996, Poli moved to the University of Burgundy, where he remained for seven years before being seconded to the Laboratoire de Chimie de Coordination in Toulouse as Research Director in 2003 and was appointed Professor at the National Polytechnic Institute of Toulouse in 2005. Other honors include an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship (2008) and receiving the Interdivisional Organometallic Chemistry Award of the Italian Chemical Society (2010). Poli was Chairman of the Editorial Board of the *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry* from 2008 to 2010.

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