

## Hansen Family Award for Stefan W. Hell

The Bayer Science & Education Foundation has presented the 2011 Hansen Family Award to Stefan Hell (Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen and the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg). The award comes with an endowment of €75,000 and is one of Germany's most prestigious scientific accolades. Hell is recognized for breakthroughs in the field of light microscopy (featured on the cover of *Small*).<sup>[1]</sup> His invention and development of Stimulated Emission Depletion (STED) microscopy has revolutionized fluorescence microscopy.

Hell studied physics at Heidelberg University and earned his PhD in 1990 under S. Hunklinger. Then he did postdoctoral work at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg (1991–1993) before working at Turku University in Finland, where he developed STED microscopy. In 1996, he received his habilitation in physics from Heidelberg University. In the same year, Hell started his own research group in Göttingen, where he has led the Department of NanoBiophotonics since 2002. Hell is head of the Department of Optical Nanoscopy at the German Cancer Research Center (since 2003) and adjunct professor of physics at Heidelberg University. Hell is on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Biophotonics*. Other honors include the Otto Hahn Award for physics (2009).

## Innovation Prize for Klaus Meerholz

The 2010 Innovation Prize of North Rhine-Westphalia was awarded to Klaus Meerholz (University of Cologne). He receives €100,000 for his research on organic light-emitting diodes, which are making a big impact on the world of technology. His work has helped to develop a new class of materials that allows for production of extremely small pixels, and in turn should lead the way to a new generation of cheaper screens for display applications.

Meerholz studied chemistry at the Universities of Bielefeld and Freiburg and received his Ph.D. in 1991 under J. Heinze. He was a postdoctoral fellow at SUNY Buffalo (USA) and an assistant research scientist at the University of Arizona (1993–1995). In 1995, Meerholz moved to the University of Munich, where he finished his habilitation in 1998. He holds a Chair of Physical Chemistry at the University of Cologne (since 2001). His other research interests involve: organic solar cells for photovoltaics, organic nonlinear optics, smart sensors for high throughput screening, and organic electrochemistry.<sup>[2]</sup> Meerholz is on the International Advisory Board of *Macromolecular Chemis-*

*try and Physics*. Other honors include the Society of Information Display Award (2010).

## Paul H. Emmett Award for Bert M. Weckhuysen

The 2011 recipient of the Paul H. Emmett Award in Fundamental Catalysis is Bert Weckhuysen (Utrecht University, The Netherlands). Weckhuysen is being recognized for his pioneering development and use of in-situ spectroscopic methods to probe solids at the micrometer and nanometer scale. These studies have led to fundamental insights into the distribution of active sites and the mechanism of molecular diffusion and deactivation phenomena in zeolite and Fischer–Tropsch catalysts (featured on the cover of *Angewandte Chemie*).<sup>[3a]</sup> His other research interests include: catalytic conversion of biomass into fuels and bulk chemicals<sup>[3b]</sup> as well as synthesis of ordered (micro-) porous materials with catalytic potential.<sup>[3c]</sup>

Weckhuysen studied chemical and agricultural engineering at Leuven University (Belgium) and earned his PhD there in 1995 under R. A. Schoonheydt. He then moved to the USA and did postdoctoral work with I. E. Wachs at Lehigh University and J. H. Lunsford at Texas A&M University. From 1997 until 2000 he was a research fellow of the Belgian National Science Foundation and in October 2000 Weckhuysen was appointed as full professor of inorganic chemistry and catalysis at Utrecht University. Weckhuysen is the co-chairman of the Editorial Board of *ChemCatChem*. Other honors include The Netherlands Catalysis and Chemistry Award from the Royal Dutch Chemical Society (2009).

## Awarded ...



S. W. Hell



K. Meerholz



B. M. Weckhuysen

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DOI: 10.1002/anie.201100898