Rhodia Pierre-Gilles de Gennes Prize for Science and Industry for Avelino Corma

Avelino Corma (CSIC-Polytechnical University of Valencia, Spain) has received the 2010 Rhodia Pierre-Gilles de Gennes Prize for his "outstanding contribution in the field of heterogeneous catalysis applied to fine chemicals synthesis, petroleum refining, renewable energy sources, and protection of the environment". This international prize is awarded every two years by the French chemical company Rhodia, and is worth a total of €200,000.

Corma studied chemistry at the University of Valencia and in 1976, he earned his PhD at the CSIC under A. Cortes Arroyo. After this he spent two years doing postdoctoral research at Queen's University in Canada before returning to the CSIC in 1979 where he became a research professor in 1987. Corma's research group focuses on the molecular design of solid catalysts by introducing well-defined single or multiple active sites in micro- and mesoporous structured materials. He is an internationally recognized expert in solid acid and bifunctional catalysts for oil refining, petrochemistry, and chemical process, especially in the synthesis and application of zeolite catalysts.[1] Corma is a member of the Editorial Board of *ChemSusChem* and of the International Advisory Board of *ChemCatChem*.

Dirac Medal for Leticia González

The World Association of Theoretical and Computational Chemists have awarded its prestigious Dirac Medal for 2011 to Leticia González (Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, Germany). This prize is given annually to an outstanding computational chemist under the age of 40 and was awarded to González for "outstanding contributions to the combination of accurate quantum chemical methods for electronic excited states with quantum reaction dynamics to control chemical reactions."

González studied chemistry at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) and at King's College in London with M. A. Robb. She earned her PhD in 1998 at UAM under the guidance of M. Yáñez and O. Mó. Between 1999 and 2007, González worked at the Free University in Berlin as an assistant professor and Heisenberg Fellow, and was awarded her habilitation in 2004. In 2007, she was appointed professor for physical and theoretical chemistry at Jena. Her research exploits the use of ab initio quantum chemical methods together with the development of molecular dynamics methods, which ultimately leads to follow the time-evolution of chemical reactions. Recently, her team has developed a mixed quantum-classical dynamics formalism to treat not only singlets but also triplet states, as well as weak interactions.[2] In this way they are poised to now investigate optical materials and biological systems.

L'Oreal Unesco Award for Vivian W.-W Yam

The 2011 L'Oreal Unesco Awards were announced in Paris late last year. The aim of the award is to honor the services of female researchers and to support women in science. This year the US$100,000 award for the Asia-Pacific region went to Chinese chemist Vivian W.-W Yam (University of Hong Kong). Yam was honored for her "pioneering contributions in the molecular design of photo-active materials that are particularly relevant to solar energy conversion".

In 1988, Yam received her PhD from the University of Hong Kong under C.-M. Che and then taught at the City Polytechnic of Hong Kong (now the City University of Hong Kong) before joining the University of Hong Kong as a faculty member in 1990. She has served as the Chair Professor of Chemistry since 1999 and Head of the Chemistry Department there for two terms from 2000 to 2005. Her research interests include the photophysics and photochemistry of transition-metal complexes and clusters, supramolecular chemistry, and metal-based molecular functional materials for luminescence sensing, optoelectronics, optical memory, and solar energy conversion.[3] Other honors include the RSC Centenary Medal (2005) and the inaugural Japanese Photochemistry Association (JPA) Lectureship Award (Eikohsha Award, 2006).

[1] a) A. Corma, O. de la Torre, M. Renz, N. Villandier, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, *123*, 2423; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 2375; b) J. Jiang, J. Yu, A. Corma, *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, *122*, 3186; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 3120.

[2] a) J. González-Vázquez, L. González, *ChemPhysChem* **2010**, *11*, 3617.

[3] a) V. K.-M. Au, K. M.-C. Wong, N. Zhu V. W.-W. Yam, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2011**, *17*, 130.

DOI: 10.1002/anie.201103257

Awarded ...

A. Corma

L. González

V. W.-W. Yam