

2011 Nozoe Memorial Lecture by Peter Bäuerle

At this year's International Symposium on Novel Aromatic Compounds held in Oregon (USA), Peter Bäuerle (University of Ulm, Germany) gave the 2011 Nozoe Lecture. His lecture topic was "Functional Thiophene-Based Nanomaterials: Synthesis, Characterization, and Application". This lecture is given annually as a memorial to the Japanese chemist Tetsuo Nozoe (1902–1996).

Bäuerle earned his doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of Stuttgart in 1985 under F. Effenberger. This was followed by one year of postdoctoral study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA) with M. S. Wrighton before moving back to Stuttgart to carry out independent research and earn his habilitation (1987–1994). In 1994–1995, he was Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Würzburg. Bäuerle moved to Ulm in 1996 and is Director of the Institute of Organic Chemistry II and Advanced Materials. His research group is interested in developing novel organic materials^[1a] and electronic devices, in particular, organic solar cells (see his forthcoming Review on the topic in *Angewandte Chemie*).^[1b]

Nagoya Gold Medal for Eric N. Jacobsen

The recipients of the Gold and Silver Medals in 2011 will deliver the Nagoya Medal Award Lectures on November 14th, at Nagoya University in Nagoya (Japan). The Nagoya Gold Medal is awarded to an organic chemist who has made significant original contributions to the field, in its broadest sense. This year's winner is Eric N. Jacobsen (Harvard University, USA), who is honored for his work on "The Hydrolytic Kinetic Resolution Reaction" and "Asymmetric Catalysis with Chiral Hydrogen-Bond Donors".

Jacobsen studied at New York University before moving to the University of California, Berkeley to do his PhD with R. G. Bergman. After graduating in 1986 he relocated to MIT to join the research group of K. B. Sharpless. In 1988, Jacobsen took up an assistant professorship at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he was promoted to associate professor in 1991. Then, in 1993 he moved to Harvard University, where he is now the Sheldon Emery Professor of Chemistry. His research interests include the development of new methods for organic synthesis, with emphasis on asymmetric catalysis and stereoselective synthesis of natural products.^[2] Another recent award for Jacobsen is the Ryoji Noyori Prize (2010). He is a member of the editorial board of *Advanced*

Synthesis & Catalysis and of the international advisory board of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*.

Nagoya Silver Medal for Keiji Tanino

The Nagoya Silver Medal is presented to a young Japanese scientist whose research has had a major impact on the field of synthetic organic chemistry. This year's winner is Keiji Tanino (Hokkaido University, Japan), who is honored for his work on "Design, Tactics, and Findings in Natural Product Synthesis".

Tanino studied chemistry at the Tokyo Institute of Technology and graduated in 1994 with a PhD under I. Kuwajima. During his doctoral studies, he was appointed as an assistant professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology (1989–1998). He has been at Hokkaido University since 1998 and was promoted through the ranks to become professor in 2006. His research focuses on the synthesis of natural products, and he has recently published papers on zoanthamine alkaloids in *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*^[3a] and *Angewandte Chemie*.^[3b] Other honors include the Incentive Award in Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Japan (2000) and the Mukaiyama Award (2007).

And also in the news ...

... Gabor A. Somorjai (University of California, Berkeley) has been awarded the "New Frontiers of Hydrocarbons Prize" consisting of €300,000 and a gold medal. This prize is given to scientists in the areas of energy and the environment and is sponsored by the Italian energy company Eni. Somorjai was cited for "Fundamental research into the process of cracking to produce higher performance and better quality fuels". His academic achievements have been recently reported in our News section.^[4]

- [1] a) F. Zhang, G. Götz, H. D. F. Winkler, C. A. Schalley, P. Bäuerle, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 6758; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 6632; b) A. Mishra, P. Bäuerle, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, DOI: 10.1002/ange.201102326; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, DOI: 10.1002/anie.201102326.
- [2] M. A. McGowan, C. P. Stevenson, M. A. Schiffler, E. N. Jacobsen, *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, *122*, 6283; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 6147.
- [3] a) F. Yoshimura, Y. Takahashi, K. Tanino, M. Miyashita, *Chem. Asian J.* **2011**, *6*, 922; b) Y. Takahashi, F. Yoshimura, K. Tanino, M. Miyashita, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 9067; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 8905.
- [4] *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, *123*, 6329; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 6205.

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Awarded ...



P. Bäuerle



E. N. Jacobsen



K. Tanino



G. A. Somorjai