

Karl Scheel Prize for Emad F. Aziz

The Physical Society of Berlin has presented the Karl Scheel Prize to Emad Aziz (Free University of Berlin and the Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin for Materials and Energy) for “recent methodological developments for investigating the structure and dynamics of functional materials in solution”. The prize consists of a bronze medal and a €5,000 endowment.

Aziz studied chemistry at Ain Shams University (Cairo, Egypt) and then did his MSc at the Free University of Berlin. He completed his PhD in 2007 at the then Berlin Electron Storage Ring Company for Synchrotron Radiation (Bessy) under W. Eberhardt. He spent a further 12 months at Bessy before being awarded a fellowship to work with M. Chergui at the EPFL in Lausanne to use the “Swiss Light Source”. The Aziz research group studies the structure and dynamics of biochemical systems in solution. They use soft X-ray spectroscopy combined with traditional methods like FTIR and UV/Vis. Aziz was recently awarded a European Research Council grant (€1.5 million) to developing methods for investigating the structure and the ultra-fast dynamics of materials in bulk solutions and at interfaces. His forthcoming Communication in *Angewandte Chemie* reports on the complex nature of hydrogen bond networks using X-ray absorption and X-ray emission spectroscopy.^[1a]

Tetrahedron Young Investigator Awards for Benjamin G. Davis and Zhang-Jie Shi

The 2012 Tetrahedron Young Investigator Award for Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemistry goes to Benjamin Davis (University of Oxford, UK). Meanwhile, the Award for Organic Synthesis goes to Zhang-Jie Shi (Peking University, China). These prizes will be presented at the 13th Tetrahedron Symposium in Amsterdam (The Netherlands).

Ben Davis studied at the University of Oxford and was awarded his D.Phil. in 1996 under the supervision of G. W. J. Fleet. He spent two years as a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of J. B. Jones at the University of Toronto. In 2001, he moved from the University of Durham to the Dyson Perrins Laboratory, University of Oxford. Davis is Professor of Chemistry, Fellow, and Tutor in Organic Chemistry at Pembroke College, Oxford. His team investigates the chemistry, chemical biology, and biotechnology of carbohydrates and proteins including biocatalysis, enzyme mechanism, protein engineering, and drug delivery. His most recent paper in *Angewandte Chemie* described the preparation of glycoconjugate vaccines.^[2a] Davis has been featured in our Author Profile section.^[2b]

Zhang-Jie Shi studied chemistry at East China Normal University in Shanghai (China) and was awarded his PhD in 2001 under S.-M. Ma from the Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences. He then moved to Harvard University to do a one year NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship with G. L. Verdine, and from 2002 to 2004 he was a research associate at the University of Chicago with C. He. In 2004, Shi was appointed to Peking University and was promoted to professor in 2008. His group strives to develop efficient and economic synthetic methods. They also contribute to the field of C–O and C–H activation. His latest Communication in *Angewandte Chemie* described a new approach to Suzuki–Miyaura coupling.^[3a] Look out for his upcoming Author Profile in *Angewandte Chemie*.^[3b]

Priestley Medal for Robert S. Langer

The Priestley Medal is the highest honor given by the American Chemical Society. Past winners include George M. Whitesides, Ahmed H. Zewail, and Richard Zare. The 2012 recipient is Robert Langer (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA). He is honored for his “cutting-edge research that helped create the controlled-release drug industry and the field of tissue engineering”.

Langer studied chemical engineering at Cornell University (USA) and was awarded a doctorate in 1974 from MIT under C. K. Colton. He then joined J. Folkman at the Children’s Hospital in Boston as a postdoctoral researcher, before returning to MIT, where he rose through the ranks and was appointed David H. Koch Institute Professor in 2005. His research centers on polymeric materials and in particular drug transport, biomaterials, and stem cell research. In 2008, he discussed in a Minireview for *Angewandte Chemie* the use of substrate topography to control cell function.^[4a] Langer is the most cited engineer in history and is the 5th most cited living chemist in the world. He has received several honorary doctorates, for example, from the ETH Zurich (Switzerland) and Uppsala University (Sweden). He was the youngest scientist to have been elected to all three US National Academies (Science, Engineering, and Institute of Medicine; at age 43). Langer is a board member of several journals including *Angewandte Chemie*. Photo: Bachrach Photography.

Humboldt Research Fellowship for Anja-Verena Mudring

Anja-Verena Mudring (Ruhr University Bochum) has been awarded a Humboldt Fellowship through joint cooperation of the Foundation for Polish Science and the Humboldt Foundation. This fellowship is awarded annually and helps to promote

Awarded ...



E. F. Aziz



B. G. Davis



Z.-J. Shi



R. S. Langer



A.-V. Mudring

long-term cooperation between Polish and German scientists. During her six-month stay at the University of Wrocław in Poland she will collaborate with her colleague Eugeniusz Zych to study the optical properties of energy conversion phosphors—which have potential use in energy-saving devices such as compact fluorescent lamps, plasma display panels, and solar cells.

Mudring studied chemistry at the University of Bonn (Germany), was awarded her doctorate in 2001 under M. Jansen at the Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research in Stuttgart, and then worked as a Feodor Lynen Postdoctoral Fellow at the Ames Laboratory (Iowa, USA) until 2003. She then returned to Germany as a Liebig Fellow to start her independent research career at the University of Cologne and completed her habilitation in 2006. Mudring then took up a professorship at the Ruhr University Bochum. She is also an adjunct professor at the University of Alabama (USA). Her research interests include the investigation of relativistic effects in chemistry, the application of ionic liquids in materials chemistry, and luminescent materials. Her most recent contribution in

Angewandte Chemie described the synthesis of nanoparticles based on physical vapor deposition.^[5a]

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