

Prizes from the Real Sociedad Española de Química

Several outstanding scientists were honored by the Real Sociedad Española de Química (RSEQ; Spanish Royal Society of Chemistry) in 2011.

The “Premio a la Investigación y Medalla de al RSEQ” (Research Award and Gold Medal), the highest award of the RSEQ, was awarded to **Maria Vallet Regí**. Vallet Regí obtained her PhD in Chemistry with A. Mata at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM) in 1974. She was appointed as chair of inorganic chemistry at the UCM Faculty of Pharmacy in 1990. Vallet Regí is a Numerary Fellow of the Spanish Royal Academy of Engineering and a member of the Royal National Academy of Pharmacy. Her research interests include the production and study of bioceramic systems,^[1a] biocompatible nanoparticles and matrices for biotechnological applications, and silica-based ordered mesoporous materials as release systems of biologically active species.^[1b]

Feliu Maseras received the Bruker Prize in Physical Chemistry. Maseras obtained his PhD from the Universitat Autònoma of Barcelona (UAB) in 1991. After postdoctoral work with K. Morokuma at the Institute for Molecular Science in Japan (1991–1993), he worked as a research associate with O. Eisenstein in Montpellier (1996–1998). In 1998, Maseras was appointed assistant professor at the UAB (working with A. Lledós) and in 2004 he became a group leader at the Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia (ICIQ) in Tarragona. His research interests include the application of quantum- and molecular-mechanical methods to processes of practical interest, in particular the study of transition-metal-based molecular systems in homogeneous catalysis, as recently published in *ChemCatChem*.^[2]

The Bruker Prize in Inorganic Chemistry was awarded to **Antoni Llobet**, who obtained his PhD in 1985 at UAB under the supervision of F. Teixidor. He then moved to the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill for postdoctoral research with T. J. Meyer. After a short period at the UAB and at the University of Sussex/Dow Corning (UK), he worked as a scientific officer at the Commission of the European Communities (1990–1991) in Brussels. Llobet was a senior researcher at Texas A&M University (1992–1993), working with the groups of A. E. Martell and D. T. Sawyer. From 1993 to 2004 he worked at the Universitat de Girona, where he was appointed Professor Catedrático in 2000. He returned to the UAB as Professor Catedrático of Inorganic Chemistry at the end of 2004 and was appointed as a group leader at the ICIQ in Tarragona in 2006. Llobet's research interests include the development of transition-metal complexes as catalysts and

molecular chemistry related to new solar energy conversion schemes and artificial photosynthesis, including the catalytic processes related to CO₂ reduction and water oxidation, an example of which was recently published in *Angewandte Chemie*.^[3]

Hermenegildo García was awarded the Jansen–Cilag Prize in Organic Chemistry. García studied at the Universidad de Valencia and obtained his PhD in 1983 under the supervision of M. A. Miranda. In the same year, he became assistant professor at the Chemistry Department of the Technical University of Valencia, and became full professor in 1996. He has been a staff member of the Instituto de Tecnología Química, a joint center of the Technical University of Valencia and the Spanish National Research Council, since it was founded in 1991. García did postdoctoral research at the University of Reading with A. Gilbert (1987) and spent several sabbatical periods in the laser flash photolysis group of J. C. Scaiano at the University of Ottawa. García's research interests are in photochemistry and heterogeneous catalysis, and he has investigated materials including carbon nanotubes, diamond nanoparticles, and metal–organic frameworks. He recently reported the gold-catalyzed phosgene-free synthesis of polyurethane precursors in *Angewandte Chemie*.^[4]

The “Premios RSEQ–Sigma Aldrich a Investigadores Noveles” (RSEQ–Sigma Aldrich Emerging Investigators Awards) are awarded by the RSEQ to recognize the scientific contributions of its most promising members under 36 years of age. This year's awardees were Manuel Alcarazo, Eva Hevia, David González Rodríguez, and Aurelio Mateo-Alonso.

Manuel Alcarazo studied chemistry at the Universidad de Sevilla. He then moved to the Instituto de Investigaciones Químicas (CSIC) where he obtained his PhD in 2005 under the direction of J. M. Lassaletta and R. Fernández. After a postdoctoral stay at the Max Planck Institute for Coal Research with A. Fürstner, in 2009 he obtained a position as a group leader at the same institution, where he is presently working toward his Habilitation. His research interests include ligand design and applications in catalysis,^[5] and activation of small molecules.

Eva Hevia studied chemistry at the Universidad de Oviedo and obtained her PhD in 2002 (with V. Riera and J. Pérez). After postdoctoral work at the University of Strathclyde (with R. E. Mulvey), she was awarded the Ramón y Cajal Senior Research Fellowship at the Universidad de Oviedo; in 2006, she was appointed as a Royal Society Research Fellow and lecturer at the University of Strathclyde. She was promoted to reader in 2011. Hevia's research interests target the design and application of polymetallic reagents that combine metals with



M. Vallet Regí



F. Maseras



A. Llobet



H. García



M. Alcarazo



E. Hevia



D. G. Rodríguez



A. Mateo-Alonso



C. Griesinger



D. Amabilino

distinct polarities and integrate them with different ligand sets into one molecule. Her most recent Communication in *Angewandte Chemie* described magnesium-mediated benzothiazole activation.^[6]

David González Rodríguez studied chemistry at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He then joined the research group of T. Torres at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, where he obtained his PhD in 2003. Between 2005 and 2008, González Rodríguez carried out postdoctoral work in the laboratories of E. W. Meijer at the Eindhoven University of Technology, and from 2011 he has led the Nanostructured Organic Materials group at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, where he is an associate professor. His research interests focus on the development of new, versatile strategies to improve or create novel functions in organic materials by rationally ordering molecules at the nanoscale through self-assembly, and he has recently reported the generation of triflate-subphthalocyanines in *Angewandte Chemie*.^[7]

Aurelio Mateo-Alonso studied at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. In 2003, he completed his PhD at Queen Mary College, University of London under the supervision of J. Utley and P. Wyatt. Between 2004 and 2009, he worked as a postdoctoral researcher in the group of M. Prato at Università di Trieste (Italy). He has led an independent research group at the School of Soft Matter Research of the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (Germany) since 2009. Mateo-Alonso's research interests focus on the chemistry and supramolecular chemistry of flat and curved aromatic molecules, such as fullerenes, carbon nanotubes and (aza)acenes,^[8] and on their implementation in molecular-scale devices and machines, charge-transfer dyes, and self-organizing organic/inorganic nanostructures.

The Elhúyar–Goldschmidt prize is awarded jointly by the RSEQ and the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh; German Chemical Society), and was presented to Christian Griesinger (awarded by the Spanish jury) and David Amabilino (awarded by the German jury).

Christian Griesinger studied chemistry and physics at the University of Frankfurt and completed his diploma (1984) and PhD thesis (1986) with H. Kessler. He then did postdoctoral studies with R. R. Ernst at the ETH Zürich. In 1990, Griesinger was appointed as a professor of organic chemistry at the University of Frankfurt, and in 1999 he became the Director of the Department of NMR-Based Structural Biology at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen,

focusing on technique development in liquid and solid-state NMR spectroscopy, and on applications that profit from the combination of these two techniques, including determination of the configuration of small molecules.^[9]

David Amabilino studied at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College (University of London), where he received his PhD in 1991 (with M. Grossel). After postdoctoral research at the University of Birmingham (with J. F. Stoddart), Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg (with J.-P. Sauvage), and CSIC (under J. Veciana), Amabilino was appointed as a tenured scientist at the CSIC in 1999 and has been a research professor since 2009. His current research interests are centered around supramolecular aspects and stereochemistry in molecular nanoscience and molecular materials, in particular the organization of molecular materials on surfaces and novel routes for the resolution of enantiomers, and he recently reported the magnetic properties of a liquid-crystalline phthalocyanine complex in *Angewandte Chemie*.^[10]

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