

Israel Chemical Society Awards to Doron Aurbach, David Cahen, and Ashraf Brik

The Israel Chemical Society (ICS) awarded its 2011 Prize of Excellence to Doron Aurbach (Bar-Ilan University) and David Cahen (Weizmann Institute of Science), and its 2011 Excellent Young Scientist Prize, which is awarded to a scientist not older than 40 years of age, to Ashraf Brik (Ben-Gurion University).

Doron Aurbach was honored for “his seminal research on non-aqueous chemistry, development of rechargeable magnesium batteries, and for the development of novel spectro-electrochemical tools for the studies of reactive electrochemical systems”. Aurbach’s research group also works on lithium-ion batteries, electronically conducting polymers, supercapacitors, and devices for energy storage and conversion. He has reported on a material for lithium-ion batteries in *Angewandte Chemie*,^[1a] and on the role of anion desorption in carbon micropores in *ChemPhysChem*.^[1b] Aurbach studied at Bar-Ilan University and received his PhD in physico-organic chemistry in 1983 (supervised by S. Hoz). After two years of postdoctoral research at Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, USA) with E. B. Yeager, he founded the electrochemistry group at Bar-Ilan University at the end of 1985. Aurbach’s other honors include the Electrochemical Society Battery Division Technology Award (2005). He has been a fellow of the Electrochemical Society since 2008 and the International Electrochemical Society since 2010.

David Cahen was awarded for “his seminal contributions to the chemistry and physics of photovoltaic materials and devices, such as solar cells, and for providing means for controlling their optical and electronic properties”. His current research interests are in materials chemistry, in particular the electronic properties of interfaces, and the use of biomolecules in optoelectronics. He has recently discussed the possibilities and limits for solar cells in *Advanced Materials*,^[2a] and has reported on electronic contact deposition onto organic monolayers in *Advanced Functional Materials*.^[2b] Cahen studied chemistry and physics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and earned his

PhD in chemistry and materials research at Northwestern University (Evanston, USA) in 1973 (with J. A. Ibers and J. B. Wagner, Jr.). He pursued postdoctoral research in biological photosynthesis at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (with I. Ohad) and at the Weizmann Institute of Science (with S. Malkin), which he joined as a faculty member in 1976. He was promoted to professor in 1998. Among other awards, Cahen received the Kolthoff Prize from the Technion–Israel Institute of Technology (2009).

Ashraf Brik was recognized for “the development of novel chemical methods that allow the synthesis of ubiquitinated peptides and proteins for various structural and functional studies”. Brik’s publications in *Angewandte Chemie* include a report on the labeling of ubiquitin chains^[3a] and a recent Communication on the synthesis of ubiquitinated peptides.^[3b]

Brik studied at Ben-Gurion University and at the Technion–Israel Institute of Technology, and was awarded his PhD in 2001 supervised jointly by E. Keinan (Technion) and P. Dawson (The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, USA). He moved to C.-H. Wong’s research group at The Scripps Research Institute as a postdoctoral associate in 2002, and was made senior research associate in 2004. He was appointed senior lecturer at Ben-Gurion University in 2007 and was promoted to associate professor in 2011.

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- [2] a) P. K. Nayak, J. Bisquert, D. Cahen, *Adv. Mater.* **2011**, *23*, 2870; b) H. Shpaisman, R. Har-Lavan, N. Stein, O. Yaffe, R. Korobko, O. Seitz, A. Vilan, D. Cahen, *Adv. Func. Mater.* **2010**, *20*, 2181.
- [3] a) C. A. Castañeda, L. Spasser, S. N. Bavikar, A. Brik, D. Fushman, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, *123*, 11406; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 11210; b) S. N. Bavikar, L. Spasser, M. Haj-Yahya, S. V. Karthikeyan, T. Moyal, K. S. Ajish Kumar, A. Brik, *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, *124*, 782; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 758.

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Awarded ...



D. Aurbach



D. Cahen



A. Brik