

Hermann Staudinger Prize for Axel H. E. Müller

The German Chemical Society (Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker, GDCh) awards the Hermann Staudinger Prize in intervals of at least two years for work in the area of macromolecular chemistry. The prize takes the form of a gold medal and a sum of money, and previous winners include W. Kern and G. V. Schulz (1971), H. Ringsdorf (1985), and G. Wegner (1990). The 2012 prize was awarded to Axel H. E. Müller (University of Bayreuth, Germany) for his contributions to the development of polymer synthesis and the formation of complex nanoscale polymer architectures.

Müller studied at the University of Mainz (Germany) and received his PhD there in 1977 supervised by G. V. Schulz. He subsequently remained at the University of Mainz and was appointed professor in 1997. He moved to the University of Bayreuth as Professor of Macromolecular Chemistry in 1999. Müller's research interests are in the design of well-defined polymer structures, polymerization mechanisms, and polymer characterization. He has reported in *Advanced Functional Materials* on magnetic nanoparticle/polymer brush hybrids,^[1a] and in *Macromolecular Rapid Communications* on mussel adhesive inspired anchors.^[1b]

Ryoji Noyori Prize for Hisashi Yamamoto

The Ryoji Noyori Prize is awarded annually by The Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Japan, (SSOCJ) for outstanding contributions in the field of asymmetric synthetic chemistry. This award, which was established in 2002 to commemorate Ryoji Noyori receiving the 2001 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, and the 60th anniversary of the SSOCJ, consists of a certificate, a medal, and \$10000. Past winners include H. B. Kagan (2002), G. Stork (2003), and D. Seebach (2004). The winner for 2011 is Hisashi Yamamoto (The University of Chicago, USA), who was honored for pioneering the use of binaphthol as a ligand for chiral Lewis acid catalysts, his work on combined Brønsted and Lewis acid catalysts and super Brønsted acid catalysts, and use of V, Zr, Hf, and Fe catalysts in asymmetric oxidation. He is also interested in the synthesis of polyketides, and has reported some of his recent results in this area in *Angewandte Chemie*.^[2]

Yamamoto studied at Kyoto University (Japan) and received his PhD (supervised by E. J. Corey) from Harvard University (USA) in 1971. He returned to Kyoto University in 1972 and was appointed associate professor at the University of Hawaii (USA) in 1977. He moved to Nagoya University (Japan) in 1980, and was made professor at the University of Chicago in 2002. He is currently Editor-in-Chief of *The Chemical Record* and is on the International Advisory Board of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*. He was on the International Advisory Board of *The European Journal of Organic Chemistry* from 1999–2010 and the Advisory Board of *Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis* from 2001–2011.

And also in the News ...

... **Andreas Pfaltz** (University of Basel, Switzerland) was awarded the 2011 Yamada-Koga Prize for his contributions to the field of asymmetric synthesis. This prize, which is valued at 500 000 Yen, is awarded annually by the Japan Research Foundation for Optically Active Compounds to a scientist who has made a major contribution in this area. Other winners include A. Hoveyda (2010), E. Jacobsen (2008), and E.-i. Negishi (2007). Pfaltz's other achievements were recently highlighted in the News section.^[3]

... **Manfred T. Reetz** (University of Marburg, Germany) received an honorary doctorate from the University of Frankfurt (Germany) in 2011 in recognition of his achievements throughout his career, which has covered a particularly broad range of areas, including asymmetric catalysis and molecular biology. Reetz was also recently featured in this section.^[4]

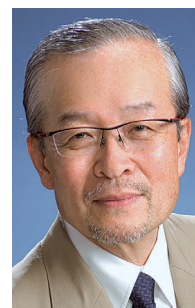
- [1] a) Y. Xu, J. Yuan, B. Fang, M. Drechsler, M. Müllner, S. Bolisetti, M. Ballauff, A. H. E. Müller, *Adv. Func. Mater.* **2010**, 20, 4182; b) A. S. Goldmann, C. Schödel, A. Walther, J. Yuan, K. Loos, A. H. E. Müller, *Macromol. Rapid Commun.* **2010**, 31, 1608.
- [2] a) P. B. Brady, H. Yamamoto, *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, DOI: 10.1002/ange.201108325; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, DOI: 10.1002/anie.201108325; b) B. J. Albert, Y. Yamaoka, H. Yamamoto, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, 123, 2658; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, 50, 2610.
- [3] *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, 123, 8619; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, 50, 8469
- [4] *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, 123, 10194; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, 50, 10018.

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Awarded ...



A. H. E. Müller



H. Yamamoto



A. Pfaltz



M. T. Reetz