

AstraZeneca Excellence in Chemistry Awards 2011

The AstraZeneca Excellence in Chemistry Awards are presented to talented young researchers for their achievements in synthetic, computational, mechanistic, or bio-organic chemistry. Each year, two awardees from each of North America, Europe, and Asia are presented with a \$50000 unrestricted research grant. We congratulate the 2011 award winners featured below, as well as Lutz Ackermann (University of Göttingen, Germany), who was honored for his work in ruthenium-catalyzed C–H functionalization protocols.

Govindasamy Mugesh (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore) was awarded for his work on the understanding of metalloproteins and methodologies for functionally mimicking their active sites. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the deiodination of thyroxine.^[1] Mugesh studied at Madras and Bharathidasan Universities, and obtained his PhD in 1998 from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay under the supervision of Harkesh B. Singh. From 2000–2001, he was an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow with Wolf-Walther du Mont at the Technical University of Braunschweig, and from 2001–2002, he was a Skaggs Postdoctoral Fellow with K. C. Nicolaou at the Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla. Mugesh joined the Indian Institute of Science in 2002. Mugesh is on the International Advisory Board of *ChemPlusChem*.

Shuli You (Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry; SIOC) received the award for his achievements in stereoselective C–H functionalization and catalytic asymmetric dearomatization reactions. You studied at Nankai University and obtained his PhD from the SIOC in 2001 (supervised by Lixin Dai), before undertaking postdoctoral work with Jeffery W. Kelly at The Scripps Research Institute. From 2004, he worked at the Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation as a principal investigator before returning to the SIOC in 2006. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on iridium-catalyzed allylic dearomatization and stereospecific migration.^[2]

Hon Wai Lam (University of Edinburgh, UK) was awarded for developing new methodology, in particular metal-catalyzed reactions that increase molecular complexity. Lam studied at the University of Oxford, and received his PhD in 2001 from the University of Nottingham, supervised by Gerald Pattenden. From 2002–2003, he was a

postdoctoral research associate with David A. Evans at Harvard University, and he was appointed lecturer at the University of Edinburgh in 2003. Lam's research interests are in the development of new reactions to convert simple starting materials into valuable products with control over relative and absolute configuration, and he has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the applications of the asymmetric dihydroxylation of enamides in natural product synthesis.^[3]

André M. Beauchemin (University of Ottawa) studied at Université Laval and was awarded his PhD in 2001 for work supervised by André B. Charette at the Université de Montréal. He worked as an NSERC postdoctoral fellow with David A. Evans from 2001–2004, and joined the faculty of the University of Ottawa in 2004. Beauchemin was recognized for his achievements in creating new methods for the synthesis of nitrogen-containing compounds, and he is particularly interested in developing metal-free amination reactions. His recent contributions in *Angewandte Chemie* include a report on the synthesis of pyridines and pyrazines.^[4]

Neil K. Garg (University of California, Los Angeles; UCLA) was awarded for developing new synthetic methodology that enables the synthesis of bioactive molecules. Garg studied at New York University and obtained his PhD under the direction of Brian Stoltz in 2005 from the California Institute of Technology. From 2005–2007, he was an NIH Postdoctoral Scholar with Larry Overman at the University of California, Irvine, and he started his independent career at UCLA in 2007. Garg's research interests include nickel-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions and methods for the preparation of functionalized heterocycles. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the nickel-catalyzed amination of aryl sulfamates.^[5]

- [1] D. Manna, G. Mugesh, *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, *122*, 9432; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 9246.
- [2] Q.-F. Wu, C. Zheng, S.-L. You, *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, *124*, 1712; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 1680.
- [3] B. Gourdet, H. W. Lam, *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, *122*, 8915; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 8733.
- [4] I. Dion, A. M. Beauchemin, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, *123*, 8383; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 8233.
- [5] S. D. Ramgren, A. L. Silberstein, Y. Yang, N. K. Garg, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, *123*, 2219; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 2171.

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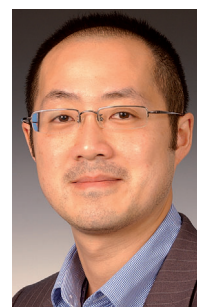
Awarded ...



G. Mugesh



S. You



H. W. Lam



A. M. Beauchemin



N. K. Garg