SPSJ International Award for E. W. Meijer, André Persoons, and David A. Tirrell

The Society for Polymer Science, Japan (SPSJ) International Award was established in 1994, and is the highest honor that the society gives to international scientists over the age of 55 for their contributions to the field and international activities related to the SPSJ. The 2011 International Award winners are Bert Meijer, David A. Tirrell, and André Persoons, who has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on strongly coupled oscillators.[1]

Bert Meijer (Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands) studied at the University of Groningen and received his PhD in 1982 for work supervised by H. Wynberg. From 1982–1989, he worked at the Philips Research Laboratories, and from 1989–1992, he was Head of the New Materials Department at DSM Research. Meijer joined the Eindhoven University of Technology in 1992, and is currently Distinguished Professor of Molecular Sciences and Scientific Director of the Institute for Complex Molecular Systems. Meijer's research interests are in the design, synthesis, characterization, and application of supramolecular architectures. His recent contributions to *Angewandte Chemie* include a Minireview on dendritic structures for biomedical applications[2a] and a report on single-chain polymeric nanoparticles.[2b] Meijer is on the International Advisory Board of *Angewandte Chemie* and the Advisory Board of *Advanced Materials*, and he is one of the Editors of the *Journal of Polymer Science Part A*.

David A. Tirrell (California Institute of Technology, Caltech) completed his bachelor's degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was awarded his PhD (supervised by Otto Vogl) from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1978. After working with Takeo Saegusa at Kyoto University, he joined the faculty at Carnegie Mellon University in 1978. In 1984, Tirrell returned to the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and in 1998, he moved to Caltech, where he is Ross McCollum–William H. Corcoran Professor and Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. Tirrell's research interests are in the construction of macromolecular systems with controlled architectures and novel functions. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on high-throughput screening for methionyl-tRNA synthetases[3a] and in *ChemBioChem* on a BODIPY–cyclooctyne for protein imaging.[3b] Tirrell is on the Editorial Advisory Board of *ChemBioChem*.

SPSJ Honorary Membership for Helmut Ringsdorf

Helmut Ringsdorf (emeritus professor, University of Mainz) has been awarded Honorary Membership of the SPSJ. This accolade is presented to a researcher over the age of 65 in recognition of their achievements in polymer science and technology and their contribution to SPSJ activities. Other Honorary Members include Robert H. Grubbs and Gerhard Wegner. Ringsdorf studied at the Universities of Frankfurt, Darmstadt, and Freiburg, and completed his PhD in Freiburg in 1958 under the direction of Hermann Staudinger. From 1960–1962, he was a postdoctoral fellow with Charles G. Overberger and Herman F. Mark at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. He was on the faculties of the University of Marburg from 1962–1970 and the University of Mainz from 1971 until his retirement in 1994. Ringsdorf's research interests are in bridging the gap between chemistry, materials science and life science, including functional liquid-crystalline polymers and polymerization in oriented systems. In 2004, he published an Essay in *Angewandte Chemie* on Hermann Staudinger,[4a] and his Review on molecular architecture and function of polymeric oriented systems, which was published in the centennial issue of *Angewandte Chemie*,[4b] has received more than 1000 citations.

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Awarded ...

E. W. Meijer

D. A. Tirrell

H. Ringsdorf