

Awarded ...



R. van Grondelle



H. S. Overkleeft



G. H. Robinson



O. Steinbock



M. E. Thompson

Humboldt and Bessel Research Awards

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation promotes academic cooperation between German scientists and researchers from abroad. Every year it grants up to 100 Humboldt Research Awards, which are given to researchers from abroad in recognition of work that has had a significant impact on their own discipline. The awards are valued at €60 000 and allow the winners to spend up to one year cooperating on a long-term research project at a host institution in Germany. The Foundation also grants up to 25 Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Awards, which are worth €45 000 and are given to researchers who are within 18 years of completing their doctorate. We feature some of this year's awardees in chemistry here (Table 1).

Rienck van Grondelle studied at the Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam and completed his PhD in 1978 at the University of Leiden under the supervision of Lou Duysens. After postdoctoral work with Owen T. G. Jones at the University of Bristol from 1978–1979, and with Lou Duysens from 1979–1982, he returned to the VU Amsterdam, where is currently Head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Van Grondelle's research interests are in studying the primary processes in photosynthesis by using laser and other spectroscopic techniques.^[2]

Herman S. Overkleeft completed his PhD (directed by Upendra K. Pandit) from the University of Amsterdam in 1997. He was a postdoctoral

fellow with Jacques H. van Boom and Gijs A. van der Marel at Leiden University from 1997–1999, and with Hidde L. Ploegh at the Harvard Medical School from 1999–2001. He was appointed Professor of Bioorganic Chemistry at Leiden University in 2001. Overkleeft's research is focused on the design and synthesis of enzyme inhibitors and activity-based probes.^[3]

Gregory H. Robinson studied at Jacksonville State University, Alabama, and was awarded his PhD in 1984 for work supervised by Jerry L. Atwood at The University of Alabama. In 1985, he started his independent career at Clemson University, South Carolina, and in 1995, he moved to the University of Georgia, where his currently Franklin Professor. Robinson's research group is interested in the synthesis and structure analysis of organometallic–inorganic compounds.^[4]

Oliver Steinbock studied at the University of Göttingen and completed his PhD in 1993 at the University of Göttingen and the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Physiology, Dortmund, under the supervision of Stefan C. Müller. He worked at West Virginia University as postdoctoral researcher with Kenneth Showalter (1993–1994) and visiting assistant professor (1994–1995), and was visiting assistant professor at Florida State University from 1995–1996. After two years as a research scientist at the University of Magdeburg, he rejoined Florida State University, where he is currently Cottrell Professor of Chemistry. Steinbock's research aims to discover and analyze complexity in spatially distributed, non-equilibrium systems.^[5]

Mark E. Thompson studied at the University of California, Berkeley, and worked with John E. Bercaw at the California Institute of Technology for his PhD (awarded in 1985). From 1985–1987, he was a postdoctoral research fellow with Malcolm L. H. Green at the University of Oxford, and in 1987, he joined the faculty at Princeton University. In 1995, he moved to the University of Southern California. Thompson's research interests are in materials for organic photovoltaics and organic light-emitting diodes.^[6]

Geoffrey Thornton completed his doctorate (under the guidance of Tony F. Orchard and Alan Jacobson) at the University of Oxford in 1976. He was an 1851 Research Fellow at the University of Oxford and the University of California, Berkeley (working with David A. Shirley) from 1976–1979, and joined the University of Manchester in 1979. He was made Professor of Physical Chemistry at University College London in 2003. Thornton's research is focused on the structure–property relationships of metal oxide surfaces and nanostructures.^[7]

Israel Wachs received bachelor's and master's degrees from the City College of New York and

Table 1: 2012 Humboldt and Bessel Award winners in chemistry.

Awardee	Host
Rink van Grondelle (VU Amsterdam)	Andreas Buchleitner (University of Freiburg)
Eugenia Kumacheva ^[1] (University of Toronto)	Axel H. E. Müller (University of Bayreuth)
Herman S. Overkleeft (Leiden University)	Roderich Süsmuth (Technische Universität Berlin)
Gregory Robinson (University of Georgia)	Thomas Müller (University of Oldenburg) and Matthias Driß Technische Universität Berlin)
Oliver Steinbock (Florida State University)	Eberhard Bodenschatz (MPI for Dynamics and Self-Organization, Göttingen)
Mark Thompson (University of Southern California)	Luisa de Cola (University of Münster)
Geoffrey Thornton (University College London)	Thomas Risse (Freie Universität Berlin)
Israel Wachs (Lehigh University)	Robert Schlögl (Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society)

Stanford University, respectively, and received his PhD from Stanford University in 1977. He is currently G. Whitney Snyder Professor and Professor of Chemical Engineering at Lehigh University, Philadelphia. Wachs' research involves the use of optical spectroscopy to investigate the properties of surface oxides.^[8]

Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Awards

The Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Awards Program provides an unrestricted research grant of \$75 000 for faculty in the early stages in their careers who have distinguished themselves in their independent research and in their commitment to education. We congratulate all the awardees featured here, as well as **Sarah E. Reisman** (California Institute of Technology), who was recently featured in this section when she was awarded the Boehringer Ingelheim New Faculty Grant.^[9]

Joshua S. Figueroa (University of California, San Diego) studied at the University of Delaware and was awarded his PhD (supervised by Christopher C. Cummins) in 2005 by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). After postdoctoral work with Gerard Parkin at Columbia University, New York, he was appointed assistant professor at the University of California, San Diego, in 2007. Figueroa's research interests are in the design and synthesis of transition-metal complexes for applications such as small-molecule activation and synthetic organic chemistry. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the preparation of a zero-valent nickel tris-isocyanide.^[10]

Shi-Yuan Liu (University of Oregon, Eugene) studied at the Vienna University of Technology and was awarded his PhD from MIT in 2003 for work supervised by Gregory C. Fu. From 2003–2006, he carried out postdoctoral work with Daniel G. Nocera at the same institution, and in 2006, he started his independent career at the University of Oregon. Liu's research program is focused on the synthesis and applications of B–N heterocycles. His contributions to *Angewandte Chemie* include a report on nucleophilic addition to 1,2-dihydro-1,2-azaborine,^[11a] and a recently published Review outlining recent advances in azaborine chemistry.^[11b] Liu was the winner of the 2012 Journal of Physical Organic Chemistry Award for Early Excellence.

Steven R. Little (University of Pittsburgh) studied at Youngstown State University and worked with Robert S. Langer at MIT for his PhD, which was awarded in 2005. In 2006, he joined the University of Pittsburgh, where he is currently Chair of the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, associate professor, and Bicentennial Alumni Faculty Fellow. Little's research interests are in the design and development of

controlled-release devices, in particular biomimetic systems. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on patchy, anisotropic microspheres,^[12a] and has recently published a Review in *Advanced Materials* on biomimetic delivery with micro- and nanoparticles.^[12b]

Seth Herzon (Yale University) studied at Temple University, Pennsylvania, and carried out his PhD (awarded in 2006) with Andrew G. Myers at Harvard University. After postdoctoral work with John F. Hartwig at the University of Illinois, he joined the faculty at Yale University in 2008. Herzon's research group is interested in the synthesis and study of complex natural products and the development of new reactions and strategies for organic synthesis. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the enantioselective total synthesis of a series of hasubanan alkaloids.^[13]

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G. Thornton



I. Wachs



J. S. Figueroa



S.-Y. Liu



S. R. Little



S. Herzon