

Awarded ...



M. Quack



S. Shaik



G. Meijer



F. Merkt



I. Marek

August Wilhelm von Hofmann Medal

The Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (CDCh; German Chemical Society) awards the August Wilhelm von Hofmann Medal biennially to recognize outstanding achievements in chemistry, in particular from scientists working outside Germany. Martin Quack (ETH Zurich) and Sason Shaik (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) are the winners of the 2012 award.

Martin Quack studied in Darmstadt, Grenoble, and Göttingen, and did his doctoral thesis at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne (EPFL) from 1972–1975 with Jürgen Troe. From 1976–1977, he was a Max Kade Fellow with William H. Miller at the University of California, Berkeley, and in 1978, he completed his Habilitation at the University of Göttingen. In 1982, he was appointed full professor at the University of Bonn, and in 1983, he joined the ETH Zurich. Quack receives the prize for his work on high-resolution spectroscopy leading to a fundamental description and understanding of molecular quantum dynamics. He has published in *Angewandte Chemie* on chirality and parity variation,^[1a] and is Co-editor of the *Handbook of High-Resolution Spectroscopy*.^[1b] Quack was on the Editorial Board of *Angewandte Chemie* from 2001–2009.

Sason Shaik was recently featured in this section when he received the Frontiers in Biological Chemistry Lectureship Award.^[2a] Shaik is honored for his work on the theoretical analysis of chemical and biochemical mechanisms, valence bond theory, and two-state reactivity, as well as his commitment to the Lise Meitner–Minerva Center for Computational Quantum Chemistry. He has recently published a Review in *Angewandte Chemie* on hydrogen-atom abstraction.^[2b]

Van't Hoff Prize

The Deutsche Bunsen-Gesellschaft für Physikalische Chemie (DBG; German Bunsen Society for Physical Chemistry) awards the Van't Hoff Prize triennially for outstanding work in the field of physical chemistry. The prize, which was established in 2008 by Gerhard Ertl to honor the first Nobel Prize winner in chemistry, comprises a silver medal, a certificate, and €20000. The 2012 prize was awarded to Gerard Meijer (Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society) and Frédéric Merkt (ETH Zurich).

Gerard Meijer studied at Radboud University, Nijmegen, and his PhD (awarded in 1988) was undertaken under the supervision of A. Dynamus and P. Andresen. From 1989–1990, he was a postdoctoral researcher with M. S. de Vries at the IBM Almaden Research Laboratory, San José, and

from 1991–1992, he was a Fellow of the Royal Dutch Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) with S. Stolte at the Free University of Amsterdam. In 1992, he started his independent career at Radboud University, and from 2000–2003, he was Director of the FOM Institute for Plasma Physics, Nieuwegein. He has been one of the Directors of the Fritz Haber Institute since 2003. Meijer was recognized for his work on using the Stark effect for the manipulation of dipolar molecules, in particular their deceleration for producing ultracold molecular species. He recently was co-author (with all the Directors of the Fritz Haber Institute) of a Review in *Angewandte Chemie* on CO oxidation,^[3a] and he has also been featured in an Author Profile.^[3b]

Frédéric Merkt studied at the ETH Zurich and was awarded his PhD (supervised by Timothy P. Softley) from the University of Cambridge in 1992. He subsequently carried out postdoctoral research at the Université Paris Sud, Orsay (1992) and Stanford University (1994), and was a junior research fellow at the Universität Oxford. In 1995, he returned to the ETH, where he is now full professor. Merkt was honored for his contributions to understanding the spectroscopy and dynamics of molecular Rydberg states and molecular ions, as well as controlling the movement of paramagnetic species for the production of ultracold systems through deceleration by using the Zeeman effect. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on Jahn–Teller effects in molecular cations,^[4] and is Co-editor of the *Handbook of High-Resolution Spectroscopy*.^[1b]

And also in the News ...

... **Ilan Marek** (Technion–Israel Institute of Technology) has been awarded the 2012 Janssen Pharmaceutica Prize for Creativity in Organic Synthesis. Marek was recently featured in this section when he received the RSC Organometallic Award.^[2a]

- [1] a) M. Quack, *Angew. Chem.* **2002**, *114*, 4812; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, *41*, 4618; b) *Handbook of High-Resolution Spectroscopy* (Eds.: M. Quack, F. Merkt), Wiley, Hoboken, **2011**.
- [2] a) *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, *124*, 602; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 582; b) W. Lai, C. Li, H. Chen, S. Shaik, *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, *124*, 5652; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 5556.
- [3] a) H.-J. Freund, G. Meijer, M. Scheffler, R. Schlögl, M. Wolf, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, *123*, 10242; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 10064; b) *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, DOI: DOI: 10.1002/ange.201203997; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, DOI: 10.1002/anie.201203997.
- [4] H. J. Wörner, F. Merkt, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 6524; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 6404.

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