

National Academy of Sciences Award for Tobin J. Marks

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Award in Chemical Sciences, which is supported by the Merck Foundation, is presented for “innovative research in the chemical sciences that in the broadest sense contributes to a better understanding of the natural sciences and to the benefit of humanity”. The winner of the 2012 award is Tobin J. Marks (Northwestern University), who was honored for his “groundbreaking contributions to understanding structure and function of catalysts”. Marks studied at the University of Maryland, and completed his PhD (supervised by F. Albert Cotton) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1970. He then joined the faculty at Northwestern University, where he remains to this day. Marks’ research interests are in organometallic chemistry, molecular photonics, transparent oxides, and molecular electronics. He has reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on bimetallic polymerization catalysts.^[1]

Richard C. Tolman Award for Karl O. Christe

The Southern California Section of the American Chemical Society has given the Richard C. Tolman Award annually since 1960 for outstanding contributions to chemistry in Southern California. Previous awardees include Jacqueline K. Barton (1994), Ahmed Zewail (1997), and Robert H. Grubbs (2002). The recipient of the 2011 award is Karl O. Christe (Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute of the University of Southern California; USC). Christe studied at the Technische Universität Stuttgart, where he received his PhD in 1961 for work supervised by Josef Goubeau. In 1962, he joined the Stauffer Chemical Research Center in Richmond, California, and in 1967, he moved to Rocketdyne in Canoga Park, California. In 1994, he accepted a position split between the Air Force Research Laboratory, Edwards, California, and the USC. In 2005, he moved to a full-time post at the USC, where he is currently Research Professor. Christe’s research interests include high-energy-density materials, main-group compounds, polyazide chemistry, and nitramine chemistry, as well as carbocations and fluorocarbon compounds. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on binary Group 13 azides.^[2] Christe is a former Editorial Board member of the *Zeitschrift für Anorganische und Allgemeine Chemie*.

Florida Award for Weihong Tan

Weihong Tan (University of Florida) has received the 2012 Florida Award, which is presented annu-

ally to a researcher in the southeastern United States by the ACS Florida Section in order to “recognize leadership and contributions toward the advancement of the profession of chemistry”. Tan studied at Hunan Normal University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and received his PhD (supervised by Raoul Kopelman) from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 1993. From 1994–1995, he was a postdoctoral researcher with Edward S. Yeung at the Ames Laboratory, US Department of Energy, and in 1996, he joined the University of Florida, where he is currently V. T. and Louise Jackson Professor of Chemistry. Tan’s research interests involve chemical biology and bioanalytical chemistry, in particular aptamers. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on a light-driven DNA walking device.^[3]

Heinrich Emanuel Merck Prize for Aaron R. Wheeler

Aaron R. Wheeler (University of Toronto) has been announced as the winner of the 2012 Heinrich Emanuel Merck Prize for his work in developing digital microfluidic methods for the extraction and quantification of estrogen. The prize, which is worth €15000, is awarded to scientists who are less than 45 years old. He is also honored with the 2012 Joseph Black Award from the Royal Society of Chemistry for his work on microfluidic techniques for clinical sample analysis. Wheeler studied at Furman University and worked for his PhD (awarded in 2003) with Richard N. Zare at Stanford University. From 2003–2005, he was a postdoctoral researcher with Robin Garrell at the University of California, Los Angeles, and in 2005, he started his independent career at the University of Toronto. Wheeler’s research group are interested in using digital microfluidics in applications such as integrated systems for in situ cell culture and analysis, clinical sample preparation techniques for rapid evaluation by mass spectrometry, and combinatorial multistep chemical synthesis and catalysis. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the application of digital microfluidics to the synthesis of peptide-based macrocycles.^[4]

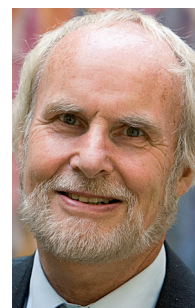
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Awarded ...



T. J. Marks



K. O. Christe



W. Tan



A. R. Wheeler