

## International Biannual Belgian Polymer Group Award for Christopher Barner-Kowollik

Christopher Barner-Kowollik (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, KIT) is the winner of the 2012 International Biannual Belgian Polymer Group Award. This honor is given for contributions to polymer science and collaborations with Belgian polymer research groups, and previous winners include Ulrich S. Schubert (2010), James L. Hedrick (2008), and Klaus Müllen (2006). Barner-Kowollik studied at the Universities of Konstanz and Göttingen, and he received his PhD in 2000 for work supervised by Michael Buback at Göttingen. He subsequently joined the University of New South Wales as a research associate with Tom Davis, and started his independent career at the same institution in 2002. He was appointed Chair of Polymer Chemistry at the KIT in 2008. Barner-Kowollik's research interests include the synthesis of complex macromolecular architectures, fundamental investigations into polymerization mechanisms, and characterization and high-resolution imaging of macromolecular chain structures. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on photo-triggered Diels–Alder surface (bio)functionalization<sup>[1a]</sup> and (bio)molecular surface patterning.<sup>[1b]</sup> Barner-Kowollik is on the Executive Advisory Board of the Wiley-VCH *Macromolecular* journals.

reported in *Angewandte Chemie*.<sup>[2a]</sup> He recently wrote a Highlight on the stereoselective synthesis of spiroketals.<sup>[2b]</sup> Reissig was a member of the Editorial Board of *Liebigs Annalen* and subsequently the International Advisory Board of *European Journal of Organic Chemistry* from 1995–2008.

## Civic Medal First Class and Honorary Doctorate for Gerhard Bringmann

Gerhard Bringmann (University of Würzburg) has been awarded the Médaille du Mérite Civique Première Classe (Civic Medal First Class) of the Congolese People for his work in the foundation of an excellence scholarship program (Bourse d'Excellence Bringmann aux Universités Congolaises; BEBUC). This work, as well as his research on obtaining bioactive compounds from tropical plants, were also recognized by the Congolese Catholic University of Graben, which awarded him an honorary doctorate. Bringmann studied at the Universities of Giessen and Münster, and worked with Burchard Franck at Münster for his PhD (awarded in 1978). After postdoctoral work with Sir Derek H. R. Barton at Gif-sur-Yvette, Paris, from 1978–1979, he returned to the University of Münster, where he completed his habilitation in 1984. He joined the University of Würzburg in 1987. Bringmann's research is focused on organic synthesis and natural products chemistry. He has written an Essay in *Angewandte Chemie* on responsibility in science,<sup>[3a]</sup> and has reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on the isolation of axially chiral dimeric naphthylisoquinoline alkaloids.<sup>[3b]</sup> Bringmann was also recently elected to the European Academy of Sciences and Arts.

### Awarded ...



C. Barner-Kowollik



H.-U. Reissig



G. Bringmann

## Hans-Ulrich Reissig elected to the Bavarian Academy of Science and Humanities

The Bavarian Academy of Science and Humanities has elected Hans-Ulrich Reissig (Freie Universität Berlin) to be corresponding (i.e., external) member of the class for mathematics and natural sciences, in recognition of his achievements in organic chemistry. Reissig studied at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich and received his doctorate in 1978 after working with Rolf Huisgen on 1,3-dipolar cycloadditions. After postdoctoral work with Edward Piers at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, he began his independent scientific career at the University of Würzburg (mentored by Siegfried Hünig), receiving his habilitation in 1984. He was appointed professor at the Technical Universities of Darmstadt (in 1986) and of Dresden (in 1993), and he moved to the Freie Universität Berlin in 1999. Among other topics, Reissig's research involves donor–acceptor-substituted cyclopropanes, multicomponent reactions to form heterocycles, and samarium diiodide promoted cyclization reactions. The latter method was used in one of the shortest and most efficient reported synthesis of strychnine, which was

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- [2] a) C. Beemelmans, H.-U. Reissig, *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, *122*, 8195; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 8021; b) M. Wilsdorf, H.-U. Reissig, *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, *124*, 9624; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 9486.
- [3] a) H. Frank, L. Campanella, F. Dondi, J. Mehlich, E. Leitner, G. Rossi, K. Ndjoko Ioset, G. Bringmann, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, *123*, 8632; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 8482; b) C. Almeida, Y. Hemberger, S. M. Schmitt, S. Bouhired, L. Natesan, S. Kehraus, K. Dimas, M. Gütschow, G. Bringmann, G. M. König, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2010**, *16*, 4206.

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