

## 2012 Royal Australian Chemical Institute National Awards

The Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) announced its national award winners in late 2012. We congratulate all the awardees and feature our authors and referees here.

**Sébastien Perrier** (The University of Sydney) is the winner of the Applied Research Award, which is presented for the development of applied research or industrial fields. Perrier studied at the École Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Montpellier, and undertook his PhD at the University of Warwick under the supervision of David M. Haddleton. He then spent one year as a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for Advanced Macromolecular Design (University of New South Wales; UNSW) under the supervision of Thomas P. Davis. He was appointed lecturer at the University of Leeds in 2002, and moved to The University of Sydney in 2007. Perrier's research interests are in polymer synthesis and characterization, and soft matter and materials chemistry. He has reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on self-assembling and self adjuvanting vaccines,<sup>[1a]</sup> and on polymeric nanotubes.<sup>[1b]</sup>

**Leone Spiccia** (Monash University) received the H. G. Smith Memorial Medal. This honor is awarded for contributions to a branch of chemical science, and Spiccia was recognized for his research in inorganic and materials chemistry, and his work in mentoring early-career researchers. Spiccia studied at The University of Western Australia (UWA), where he worked with Don W. Watts and Jack Harrowfield for his PhD, which was awarded in 1984. After postdoctoral work with Thomas W. Swaddle at the University of Calgary (1983–1984), Werner Marty at the Université de Neuchâtel (1984–1986), and Alan M. Sargeson at the Australian National University (1986–1987), he joined Monash University. Spiccia's research interests include biological and medicinal inorganic chemistry, water oxidation catalysts, and dye-sensitized solar cells, and has recently reported on the latter in both *Angewandte Chemie* and *ChemSusChem*.<sup>[2a,b]</sup>

**Pall Thordarson** (UNSW) was awarded the Le Fèvre Memorial Prize, which is given by the Australian Academy of Sciences for outstanding basic research in chemistry by a scientist not more than 40 years of age. Thordarson studied at the University of Iceland and then The University of Sydney, and was awarded his PhD in 2001 for work supervised by Maxwell Crossley. From 2001–2003, he was a Marie Curie Postdoctoral fellow with Roeland Nolte and Alan Rowan at the University of Nijmegen. He then returned to The University of Sydney as a Sesqui Research Fellow and an Australian Research Council (ARC) Australian Research Fellow before joining UNSW in 2007. He

obtained an ARC Future Fellowship in 2012. Thordarson's research interests are in the area of light-activated and redox-active bioconjugates, nonlinear binding in supramolecular chemistry, and the chemistry and applications of self-assembled gels. He is co-author of a Review in *Angewandte Chemie* on carbon nanomaterials in biosensors,<sup>[3a]</sup> and a Review that was featured on the cover of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* on the biomedical applications of self-assembled gels.<sup>[3b]</sup>

**Keith A. Stubbs** (UWA) is the winner of the Rennie Memorial Medal, which is awarded to scientists with less than eight years professional experience since their last qualification. Stubbs studied at UWA, and was awarded his PhD in 2005 for work supervised by Robert Stick. He subsequently worked at Epichem Pty Ltd. and then as a postdoctoral researcher (with David Vocablo) and lecturer at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby (2005–2007), and as an ARC Postdoctoral Research Fellow at UWA (2008–2011). He has held an ARC Future Fellowship at UWA since 2011. Stubbs' research is focused on carbohydrate chemistry and glycobiology. He has reported in *ChemPlusChem* on calixarene-based phospholipids,<sup>[4a]</sup> and in *ChemBioChem* on lacto-*N*-biosidase.<sup>[4b]</sup>

**Peter Rutledge** (The University of Sydney) is the recipient of the Pearson Education RACI Centenary of Federation Chemistry Educator Award, and was honored for his teaching leadership, including use of technology in teaching and outreach programs. Rutledge studied at The University of Auckland, and received his doctorate (supervised by Sir Jack E. Baldwin) from the University of Oxford in 1999. After postdoctoral and teaching positions in Oxford, he was made lecturer at University College Dublin in 2003, and moved to The University of Sydney in 2009. Rutledge and his research group are interested in molecular sensors, catalysis, biosynthesis, and enzyme mechanism. He has reported in the *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry* on a cyclam-triazole-dye ligand,<sup>[5a]</sup> and in *ChemBioChem* on a fluorescent allosteric scorpionand complex.<sup>[5b]</sup>

**Thomas Maschmeyer** (The University of Sydney) was honored with the Weickhardt Medal for his contributions to the research on sustainable energy sources. Maschmeyer was featured in this section when he won the 2011 Applied Research Medal.<sup>[6]</sup> He is on the International Advisory Boards of *ChemCatChem* and *ChemPlusChem*.

## Featured ...



S. Perrier



L. Spiccia



P. Thordarson



K. A. Stubbs



P. Rutledge



T. Maschmeyer



S. Grimme



B. Meunier



M. Brimble

## WATOC Schrödinger Medal for Stefan Grimme

The World Association of Theoretical and Computational Chemists awards the Schrödinger Medal annually to a theoretical or computational chemist who has been judged by the board to be outstanding. The 2013 winner is Stefan Grimme (University of Bonn), who was honored for his work on the application of ab initio and density functional methods to large molecules. Grimme studied at the Technische Universität Braunschweig and was awarded his PhD (supervised by Herbert Dreeskamp) in 1991. He completed his habilitation 1997 in the group of Sigrid Peyerimoff at the University of Bonn. In 2000, he was made Chair of Theoretical Organic Chemistry at the University of Münster, and in 2011, he accepted the Chair of Theoretical Chemistry in the newly founded Mulliken Center for Theoretical Chemistry at the University of Bonn. Grimme's research involves the development of quantum-chemical methods for large molecules and their application, density functional theory and electronic structure, theoretical electronic spectroscopy and thermochemistry, noncovalent interactions, and van der Waals complexes. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on transition-metal polyhydride complexes<sup>[7a]</sup> and carbon monoxide reduction.<sup>[7b]</sup> Grimme is on the Editorial Board of *Chemistry Open*.

## Bernard Meunier Elected Vice-President of the Académie des Sciences

The French Académie des sciences recently elected Bernard Meunier as Vice-President for 2013–2014. Meunier studied at the Université de Poitiers, and received his PhD from the Université de Montpellier (awarded in 1972) supervised by Robert J. Corriu, and a “Doctorat d'État” (awarded in 1977) supervised by Hugh Felkin at the Université Paris-Sud. After postdoctoral work with Keith Prout at the University of Oxford (1977–1978), he joined the Laboratoire de Chimie de Coordination du CNRS, Toulouse, in 1979. He is currently Emeritus Director of Research at the CNRS in Toulouse and Distinguished Professor at the Guangdong University of Technology. Meunier's recent research interests include the design and the mechanism of action of antimalarial and antischistosomal drugs, as well as developing specific copper chelators as potential anti-Alzheimer agents. He has published

an Essay in *Angewandte Chemie* on the role of chemistry in therapeutic innovations.<sup>[8]</sup> Meunier is on the International Advisory Board of *Angewandte Chemie* and was one first Co-Editors of the *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry* after the formation of ChemPubSoc Europe in 1998.

## And also in The News

**Margaret Brimble** (The University of Auckland) has been awarded the 2012 Rutherford Medal (for exceptional contributions to science in New Zealand), MacDiarmid Medal (for research with large human benefits), and Hector Medal (for outstanding work in chemical sciences) by the Royal Society of New Zealand. Brimble was featured here when she received the 2011 Adrien Albert Award.<sup>[6]</sup>

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DOI: 10.1002/anie.201301002