

## OMCOS Award for Zhang-Jie Shi

The OMCOS award is presented at the biennial OMCOS (IUPAC International Symposium on Organometallic Chemistry Directed Towards Organic Synthesis) meeting to a scientist under the age of 40 who has made meritorious contributions to the field of organometallic chemistry and organic synthesis. The winner of the 2013 award (presented at OMCOS 17) is Zhang-Jie Shi (Peking University), who was honored for his work on transition-metal-catalyzed C–H functionalization reactions. Shi was featured here when he won the Tetrahedron Award.<sup>[1a]</sup> His recent contributions to *Angewandte Chemie* include reports on directed rhodium catalysis,<sup>[1b]</sup> and on rhodium-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions.<sup>[1c]</sup>

## EFMC Prize for Young Medicinal Chemists in Academia

The European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC) Prize is awarded to recognize researchers who are less than 35 years old and work in academia in Europe. Gonçalo J. L. Bernardes (Universities of Cambridge and Lisbon) was awarded the main prize, and Chris de Graaf (VU University Amsterdam) and Frank J. Dekker (University of Groningen) were announced as runners-up.

**Gonçalo J. L. Bernardes** studied at the University of Lisbon and carried out his doctorate (awarded in 2008) with Benjamin G. Davis at the University of Oxford. After postdoctoral work supported by a Marie Curie Fellowship with Peter H. Seeberger at the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces, Potsdam-Golm, he returned to Portugal to work at Alfama Inc. From 2010–2012, he was an EMBO Fellow in the group of Dario Neri at the ETH Zurich, and in 2012, he was awarded a Royal Society Research Fellowship to work at the University of Cambridge. He is also Director of the Chemical Biology and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology Unit at the Instituto de Medicina Molecular in Lisbon. Bernardes and his research group are interested in developing chemoselective methods for protein–ligand labeling. His work published in *Angewandte Chemie* includes reports on antibody–drug conjugates,<sup>[2a]</sup> and on selenenylsulfide-linked homogeneous glycopeptides and glycoproteins.<sup>[2b]</sup>

**Chris de Graaf** (who was also a runner-up for the 2012 prize) studied at the University of Amsterdam, and was awarded his PhD in 2006 for work supervised by Nico P. E. Vermeulen at the VU University Amsterdam. From 2006–2008, he carried out postdoctoral work with Didier Rognon at the Université de Strasbourg, and in 2009, he moved to the VU University Amsterdam. Research in the de Graaf group involves the use

of in silico methods for the discovery of bioactive compounds. He has reported in *ChemMedChem* on the elucidation of the binding modes between G-protein coupled receptors and ligands.<sup>[3]</sup>

**Frank J. Dekker** studied at Utrecht University, where he worked with Rob M. J. Liskamp and Nico J. de Mol for his PhD (awarded in 2000). He carried out postdoctoral research with Herbert Waldmann at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Physiology, Dortmund, from 2000–2004, and subsequently joined the University of Groningen. Dekker's research interests are in detection methods and small-molecule inhibitors for cellular enzymes. He has reported in *ChemBioChem* on the detection of protein tyrosine nitration,<sup>[4a]</sup> and in *ChemCatChem* on the use of an engineered variant of methylaspartate ammonia lyase in the enantioselective synthesis of aspartic acids.<sup>[4b]</sup>

## Deutsche Bunsen-Gesellschaft Awards

The Deutsche Bunsen-Gesellschaft für Physikalische Chemie (DBG; German Bunsen Society for Physical Chemistry) recently honored four outstanding scientists at its annual meeting.

**Hans Jakob Wörner** (ETH Zurich) received the Nernst Haber Bodenstein Prize, which is awarded to researchers under 40 years old. Wörner studied at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne and the ETH Zurich, and received his PhD from the latter institution in 2007 for work supervised by Frédéric Merkt. He was a postdoctoral researcher with Christian Jungen at the Laboratoire Aimé Cotton, Orsay (2007), and with Paul B. Corkum at the Joint Laboratory for Attosecond Science, Ottawa (2007–2010). He started his independent career at the ETH Zurich and the National Centre of Competence in Research Molecular Ultrafast Science and Technology (NCCR MUST) in 2010. Wörner was honored for his work on the observation of time-dependent quantum dynamics of electronic motion in molecules on the sub-femtosecond scale. He is particularly interested in the development of new forms of spectroscopy that rely on the coherent process of attosecond pulse generation. He has reported in *ChemPhysChem* on attosecond nuclear dynamics.<sup>[5]</sup>

**Horst Stegemeyer** (University of Paderborn) was presented with the Bunsen Medal. This award is given to individuals for their contributions to the field of physical chemistry, and Stegemeyer was honored for his diverse work in the area of liquid crystals and his commitment to the DBG and the Deutsche Flüssigkristall-Gesellschaft (DFKG; German Liquid Crystal Society). Stegemeyer studied at the Technische Hochschule Hannover and the Technische Universität Berlin, and worked with Rudolf Suhrmann at the former institution for his PhD, which was awarded in 1961. He remained at

## Awarded ...



Z.-J. Shi



G. J. L. Bernardes



C. de Graaf



F. J. Dekker



H. J. Wörner



H. Stegemeyer



E. Neher



B. Sakmann



F. H. Arnold

the Technische Hochschule Hannover until 1965, when he moved to the Technische Universität Berlin, where he completed his habilitation in 1967 and subsequently joined the faculty. In 1974, he was made Chair of Physical Chemistry at the University of Paderborn, where he remained until his retirement in 1996. Stegemeyer's research interests include both chiral and ferroelectric liquid crystals, the structures of cubic blue phases, and liquid-crystalline nanofilms.

**Erwin Neher** (Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen) and **Bert Sakmann** (Max Planck Institute for Neurobiology, and Institute of Neuroscience, Technische Universität München) were made honorary members of the DBG. Neher and Sakmann were awarded the 1991 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine "for their discoveries concerning the function of single ion channels in cells".<sup>[6]</sup>

### And also in the News

**Frances H. Arnold** (California Institute of Technology) has been awarded the 2013 Emanuel Merck Lectureship, which is awarded jointly by the Merck company and the Technische Universität Darmstadt to internationally recognized scientists. Arnold was recently featured here when she received the National Medal of Technology and Innovation.<sup>[7]</sup>

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