

SPSJ International Award

Awarded ...



G. Decher



C. Höbartner



Y. Jung



S. Park

The Society of Polymer Science, Japan (SPSJ) International Award is the highest honor of the society and is awarded to international scientists over the age of 55 years for both contributions to the field and collaborative activities with Japanese groups. The winners of the 2013 award are **Gero Decher** (Université de Strasbourg), who has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on covalent layer-by-layer assembly,^[1a] and spray-on organic/inorganic films,^[1b] **Richard M. Laine** (University of Michigan), **Christopher K. Ober** (Cornell University), and **Françoise Winnik** (Université de Montréal). Decher studied at the University of Marburg, and completed his PhD (supervised by Helmut Ringsdorf) at the University of Mainz in 1986. From 1986–1988, he was a postdoctoral researcher with Bernd Tieke at Ciba Geigy, Fribourg, and from 1988–1994, he completed his habilitation in the group of Helmuth Möhwald at the University of Mainz. From 1994–1995, he was visiting professor at the Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, and he was made full professor there in 1995, and distinguished professor in 2006. Decher's research interests include layer-by-layer assembly, macromolecules at surfaces, and composite biomaterials.

Hellmut Brederick Foundation Prize for Claudia Höbartner

Claudia Höbartner (Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen) has been awarded the 2013 Hellmut Brederick Foundation Prize by the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh; German Chemical Society) for her work in the area of nucleic acid chemistry. Höbartner studied at the Technische Universität Wien and the ETH Zurich, and carried out her PhD (awarded in 2004) with Ronald Micura at the University of Innsbruck. After postdoctoral work with Scott K. Silverman at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she returned to the University of Innsbruck in 2007. She was made Group Leader at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in 2008. Höbartner's research interests are focused on the chemistry and biochemistry of natural and artificial nucleic acids, with particular emphasis on functional and structural properties of catalytic DNA and modified RNA. She has recently reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the mutagenesis of functional DNA.^[2]

Wiley–KCS Young Chemist Award

The Wiley–Korean Chemical Society (KCS) Young Chemist Award was established in 2001 in order to

honour one or two individuals for their achievements. The winners of the 2013 award are Yousung Jung (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology; KAIST) and Soojin Park (Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology; UNIST).

Yousung Jung studied at Seoul National University and Iowa State University, and carried out his PhD (awarded in 2005) with Martin Head-Gordon at the University of California, Berkeley. From 2005–2009, he was a research fellow with Rudolph A. Marcus at the California Institute of Technology, and he joined the faculty at KAIST in 2009. Jung's research interests involve the use of electronic structure methods for the computational screening of catalyst and energy-storage materials. He has reported in *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* on intramolecular aromatic carbenoid insertion reactions,^[3a] and in *Advanced Functional Materials* on cathodes for rechargeable batteries.^[3b]

Soojin Park studied at Kyung Hee University and Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH) and received his PhD (supervised by Taihyun Chang) from the latter institution in 2003. After working at Samsung Electronics (2004–2005), he carried out postdoctoral research with Taihyun Chang at POSTECH (2005–2006), and with Thomas P. Russell at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (2006–2009). He was made associate professor at UNIST in 2009. Park's research is focused on the development of macroscopic block copolymer arrays with applications such as data storage, solar cell devices, and lithium ion batteries. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on silicon-based nanoporous materials,^[4a] and in *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* on CuO nanotube electrodes.^[4b]

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