

Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Awards

The British Royal Society recently announced 21 recipients of Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Awards, which are jointly funded by the Wolfson Foundation and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and provide support for universities to attract researchers from overseas and retain scientists working in the UK. We highlight some of the 2014 awardees here.

Sébastien Perrier (University of Warwick and Monash University) received the award for research on functional soft nanotubes from molecular engineering. Perrier was featured here when he won the RACI Applied Research Award.^[1]

Kosmas Prassides (University of Durham) was recognized for his work on the chemistry of functional molecular materials. Prassides studied at the University of Oxford, where he carried out his doctorate under the supervision of Peter Day. After a research fellowship at the same institution and collaborative work with Paul N. Schatz at the University of Virginia, he was made assistant professor at the University of Crete. In 1989, he joined the faculty at the University of Sussex, and in 2005, he was made Professor of Materials Chemistry at the University of Durham. Prassides and his research group are interested in superconducting and magnetic materials, including metal fullerides, iron-based pnictide and chalcogenide superconductors, and photoswitchable molecular materials. He has reported in *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* on the λ -Ti₃O₅ polymorph.^[2]

Peter J. Skabara (University of Strathclyde) received the award for work on substituted truxenes and related superstructures. Skabara studied at Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, and worked with Martin R. Bryce at the University of Durham for his PhD (awarded in 1994). From 1994–1995, he was a research fellow with Klaus Müllen at the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research, Mainz, and in 1995, he started his independent career at Sheffield Hallam University. He moved to the University of Manchester in 2000, and was made Professor of Materials Chemistry at the University of Strathclyde in 2005. Skabara's research interests are in the synthesis of organic semiconductors, including low-band-gap materials for solar cells, organic field-effect transistors, and highly emissive materials for displays. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* and *Advanced Functional Materials* on materials for organic photovoltaics and semiconductors.^[3a,b]

Reijn V. Ulijn (University of Strathclyde) received the award for work on adaptive molecular

technology through minimal biomimetics. Ulijn was featured here when he won the Norman Heatley Award. He has recently reported in *Small* on the formation of two-component core-shell nanofibers.^[4]

DECHEMA Early-Career Researcher Prize for Jeroen S. Dickschat

Jeroen S. Dickschat (University of Bonn) has received the DECHEMA-Nachwuchswissenschaftler-Preis (Early-Career Researcher Prize), which is awarded for outstanding work in the area of natural-product research by a scientist at the beginning of their career. Dickschat studied at the Technische Universität (TU) Braunschweig, where he worked with Stefan Schulz for his PhD (awarded in 2005). After postdoctoral work with Rolf Müller at the Universität des Saarlandes (2005–2006) and Peter Leadlay at the University of Cambridge (2006–2008), he started his independent career at the TU Braunschweig in 2008. He has recently been appointed Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Bonn. Dickschat's research interests include the synthesis of complex natural products, their biosynthesis and ecological function, and the development of highly sensitive analytical techniques for structural elucidation and investigation of biosynthetic pathways. His report on the pathogen responsible for the European ash dieback was highlighted as a Very Important Paper (VIP) in *Angewandte Chemie*,^[5a] and he has reported in *ChemBioChem* on the chemical characterization of bacterial terpene cyclases.^[5b]

Awarded ...



S. Perrier



K. Prassides



P. J. Skabara



R. V. Ulijn



J. S. Dickschat

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