

Royal Australian Chemical Institute Awards

Awarded ...



A. O'Mullane



B. J. Smith



M. G. Banwell



R. J. Payne

The Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) recently presented several awards, including its National Awards 2014. We congratulate all the winners and feature those who are associated with *Angewandte Chemie* and its sister journals as authors or referees.

Anthony O'Mullane and Brian Smith received the RACI Citation, which is awarded for significant contributions to the field of chemistry and the chemistry profession.

Anthony O'Mullane (Queensland University of Technology) studied at University College Cork, where he completed his PhD (supervised by Declan Burke) in 2001. He subsequently undertook postdoctoral research with Heinz von Seggern at the Technische Universität Darmstadt (2001–2002), Patrick Unwin at the University of Warwick (2002–2004), and Alan Bond at Monash University (2004–2007). He worked briefly as a research scientist at CSIRO before joining RMIT University in 2008. In 2012, he was awarded an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship, which he transferred to Queensland University of Technology, where he is also senior lecturer, in 2013. O'Mullane's research involves the electrochemical synthesis and characterization of nanostructured materials, (electro)catalysis, organic semiconductors, metal oxides, lithium batteries, and in particular the application of electrochemical methods to various aspects of physical, chemical, and biological sciences. He has reported in *ChemElectroChem* on electroless silver deposition,^[1a] and in *ChemPlus-Chem* on electropolymerization from ionic liquids.^[1b]

Brian J. Smith carried out his PhD (awarded in 1987) with Colin Marsden at The University of Melbourne. He subsequently took up a postdoctoral position with Leo Radom at the Australian National University. In 1991, he joined the Biomolecular Research Institute in Melbourne and later moved to the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research. In 2011, he was appointed inaugural LIMS Principal Research Fellow at the La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science. He will take up the position as the inaugural Head of the Department of Chemistry and Physics at La Trobe University in 2015. Smith's research is directed toward the understanding of biochemical processes, drug discovery, and the development of new treatments for diseases of global importance. He has reported in *ChemBioChem* on the rational design of peptide foldamers.^[2]

Martin G. Banwell (Australian National University) has been awarded the H. G. Smith Memorial Medal. Banwell completed his PhD in 1979 at the Victoria University of Wellington, where he

worked under the supervision of Brian Halton. After postdoctoral research with Leo Paquette at Ohio State University, he took up a Senior Teaching Fellowship at the University of Adelaide. In 1982, he joined the faculty at the University of Auckland, and moved to The University of Melbourne in 1986. In 1995, he joined the Research School of Chemistry (RSC) at the Australian National University, where he was appointed Professor of Chemistry in 1999, and served as Director of the RSC from 2008–2013. Banwell's research interests are in synthetic organic chemistry, in particular the development of new methods and their application to the total synthesis of biologically active natural products. His report on the synthesis of (+)-prezizanol, (+)-prezizaene, and the *ent*- β -isopipitazol framework was featured on the cover of the *Asian Journal of Organic Chemistry*,^[3a] and he has reported in *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* on the total synthesis of (–)-platencin.^[3b] Banwell is on the advisory boards of the *Asian Journal of Organic Chemistry* and *ChemistryOpen*.

Richard J. Payne (University of Sydney) was the winner of the LeFèvre Memorial Prize, which is awarded jointly by the Australian Academy of Science and the RACI. Payne, who was featured here when he won the Rennie Memorial Medal,^[4a] has recently reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the synthesis of a library of hirudin P6 proteins.^[4b]

Deanna M. D'Alessandro (University of Sydney) was awarded the Rennie Memorial Medal. D'Alessandro studied at James Cook University, where she worked with Richard Keene for her PhD (awarded in 2006). After postdoctoral work with Jeffrey Reimers, Noel Hush, and Maxwell Crossley at the University of Sydney (2006–2007), and with Jeffrey R. Long at the University of California, Berkeley (2007–2009), she returned to Sydney as a University of Sydney Postdoctoral Research Fellow and a L'Oreal Australia for Women in Science Fellow. She was made an Australian Research Council QEII Fellow in 2010. D'Alessandro's research involves the development of redox-active microporous materials based on radical ligands and mixed-valence clusters. She is co-author of a report in *Angewandte Chemie* on a mixed-spin molecular square,^[5a] and has reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on donor–acceptor ligands for metal–organic frameworks.^[5b]

Curt Wentrup was honored with the A. J. Birch Medal by the RACI Organic Division. Wentrup studied at the University of Copenhagen and worked with Wilfred D. Crow at the Australian National University for his PhD (awarded in 1969). After postdoctoral work with Hans Dahn (Université de Lausanne), William M. Jones (University of Florida), and Maitland Jones, Jr. (Princeton University), he held academic positions at the

Université de Lausanne, and a professorship at the University of Marburg (1976–1985), before returning to Australia in 1985 as Professor and Chair of Organic Chemistry and Head of the Organic Chemistry Section at the University of Queensland, where he is now emeritus professor. Wentrup's research interests involve experimental and theoretical investigations of reactive intermediates (carbenes, nitrenes, cumulenes, nitrile imines, nitrile ylides, etc.) using photochemistry, flash vacuum thermolysis, and microwave-induced chemical reactions. He has reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on new reactions of *N*-tert-butylimines,^[6a] and in the *European Journal of Organic Chemistry* on the formation of pyrrolopyridines and naphthyridines by flash vacuum thermolysis.^[6b] Wentrup was a founding member of the Editorial Board of *Chemistry—A European Journal*.

Swiss Chemical Society Awards 2015

The Swiss Chemical Society recently announced its 2015 award winners. We feature two of our authors here.

Gilles Gasser (Universität Zürich) is the winner of the Werner Prize, which comprises CHF 10000 and a bronze medal. Gasser studied at the Université de Neuchâtel, where he carried out his PhD (awarded in 2004) with Helen Stoeckli-Evans. He subsequently was a postdoctoral researcher with Leone Spiccia at Monash University (2004–2007), Holger Stephan at the Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf (2006), and Nils Metzler-Nolte at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum (2007–2009). In 2010, he joined the Universität Zürich, where he was made Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) Assistant Professor in 2011. Gasser and his research group are interested in the use of metal complexes for medicinal and biological purposes. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the anticancer action of a ruthenium(II) complex,^[7a] and in *ChemMedChem* on the anticancer profile of gold(III) complexes.^[7b]

Natalie Banerji (Université de Fribourg) is the winner of the Grammatikakis–Neumann Prize, which is worth CHF 5000. Banerji obtained her PhD (supervised by Eric Vauthey) in 2009 from the Université de Genève; the resulting work on bimolecular electron transfer was featured on the cover of *Angewandte Chemie*.^[8a] From 2009–2011, she was a postdoctoral researcher with Alan J. Heeger at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and outlined the physical process that occur in bulk-heterojunction solar cells in *Advanced Functional Materials*.^[8b] In 2012, she

established a junior research group at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, funded by an Ambizione Fellowship from the SNF. In 2014 she obtained a Stipend Professorship from the SNF at the Université de Fribourg, and was nominated to become a tenured associate professor there in September 2015. Banerji is interested in processes that occur on ultrashort timescales and ultrascale length scales in organic and hybrid materials in order to induce macroscopic function in electronic devices.



D. M. D'Alessandro



C. Wentrup



G. Gasser



N. Banerji

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In this section, we report on various awards for chemists who are closely connected with *Angewandte Chemie* and its sister journals as authors, referees, or board members.