

Académie des Sciences Prizes

The French Académie des Sciences presented several prizes in 2014. We feature the awardees in the field of chemistry, including **Serge Palacin** (Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique et aux Énergies Alternatives), who received the Prix Jaffé/Fondation de l'Institut de France (chimie), and has reported in *ChemSusChem* on metal-free nitrogen-containing carbon nanotubes.^[1]

Thierry Loiseau (Unité de Catalyse et de Chimie du Solide (UCCS), Lille) was awarded the Prix Constellium. Loiseau studied at the École Polytechnique de l'Université de Nantes and received his PhD in 1994 for work supervised by Gérard Férey and Francis Taulelle at the Université du Maine. After one year in the laboratory of Jacques Livage at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie (UPMC), Paris, he was made CNRS chargé de recherche at the Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin. Between 1999 and 2001, he undertook postdoctoral research stays in the group of Anthony K. Cheetham (University of California, Santa Barbara). He completed his habilitation in 2005, and was made directeur de recherche in 2006. He moved to Lille in 2009, and is now the leader of the group Chimie du Solide et matériaux du Nucléaire at the UCCS. Loiseau's current research interests involve the chemistry of the light actinoids (U, Th) and lanthanoids and their reactivity with O- and/or N-donor ligands, and the iodine uptake of metal-organic frameworks. He has reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on metal-organic frameworks containing tetravalent hexanuclear uranium motifs,^[2a] and in the *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry* on uranyl carboxylate coordination frameworks.^[2b]

Louis Fensterbank (UPMC) was the recipient of the Prix Clavel-Lespiau. Fensterbank studied at the École Supérieure de Chimie Industrielle de Lyon, and worked with Scott Sieburth at The State University of New York, Stony Brook, for his PhD (awarded in 1993). After a temporary lectureship at the UPMC (1994), he joined the CNRS in 1995 as a chargé de recherche in the group of Max Malacria. In 2004, he was made professor at the UPMC and in 2008, he was nominated to become a junior member of the Institut Universitaire de France. Fensterbank's research interests concern the discovery of new molecular transformations based on radical or organometallic processes, and their applications to the synthesis of species such as natural products, probes, and ligands. He is co-author of a report in *Angewandte Chemie* on triangular tripalladium cations,^[3a] and has reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on iron-catalyzed tandem C–H activation/arylation reactions.^[3b]

Anja Böckmann (Bases Moléculaires et Structurales des Systèmes Infectieux (BMSSI), Institut de

Biologie et Chimie des Protéines, Lyon) has been honored with the Prix Pierre Desnuelle. Böckmann studied at the Freie Universität Berlin, and worked with Eric Guittet at the Université Paris-Sud for her PhD (awarded in 1996). From 1996–1998, she was a postdoctoral researcher with Ann E. McDermott at Columbia University, New York, and in 1998 she joined the CNRS, and is currently directeur de recherche and leader (with François Penin) of the RMN et Virus de l'hépatite C group at the BMSSI. Böckmann's research concerns the application and further development of NMR methods for structural studies of proteins in the solid phase, including characterization of their dynamics and interactions. She has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on 3D structure determination by solid-state MAS NMR spectroscopy,^[4a] and on the 3D structure of amyloid fibrils bearing the Osaka mutation.^[4b]

Jean-François Carpentier (Université de Rennes) has been awarded the Prix Germaine et André Lequeux/Fondation de l'Institut de France. Carpentier was featured here when he won a CNRS silver medal.^[5]

And also in the News

Samir Zard (École Polytechnique, Palaiseau) has been awarded the 2015 Arthur Birch Lectureship by the Australian National University. Zard was featured here when he won the Grand prix J. Achille Le Bel.^[6]

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- [5] *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, 53, 7705; *Angew. Chem.* **2014**, 126, 7837.
- [6] *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, 51, 12162; *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, 124, 12328.

International Edition: DOI: 10.1002/anie.201501347

German Edition: DOI: 10.1002/ange.201501347

Awarded ...



T. Loiseau



L. Fensterbank



A. Böckmann



J.-F. Carpentier



S. Zard