



N. Burford

## Neil Burford

<b>Date of birth:</b>	April 29, 1958
<b>Position:</b>	Professor and Chair, Department of Chemistry, University of Victoria
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<b>Education:</b>	1979 BSc, University College Cardiff 1983 PhD with Tristram Chivers, University of Calgary 1983–1984 Postdoctoral fellow with Ronald Cavell, University of Alberta 1984–1986 Postdoctoral fellow with Jack Passmore, University of New Brunswick
<b>Awards:</b>	<b>1996, 2008, 2014</b> Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship; <b>2001–2011</b> Tier I Canada Research Chair, Dalhousie University; <b>2003–2005</b> Killam Fellowship, Canada Council for the Arts; <b>2006</b> Alcan Lecture Award, Canadian Society for Chemistry
<b>Research:</b>	p-Block-element chemistry; synthesis; molecular structure; spectroscopy; bonding
<b>Hobbies:</b>	Golf, walking with my wife, watching sport, jogging, (formerly) squash

The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** in *Angewandte Chemie* in the last 10 years:

“Reductive Catenation of Phosphine Antimony Complexes”: S. S. Chitnis, N. Burford, J. J. Weigand, R. McDonald, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, 54, 7828; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, 127, 7939.

**My favorite food is** eggs benedict.

**My favorite song is** *Comfortably Numb* (Pink Floyd).

**If I won the lottery, I would** buy a BMW Z4 M.

**When I'm frustrated, I** shoot a bucket of golf balls.

**My favorite place on earth is** Victoria, with Regensburg a close second.

**My secret passion is** jigsaw puzzles.

**If I were not a scientist, I would be** a poor professional golfer.

**My favorite saying is** “Health and safety first”.

**My greatest achievement has been** my two sons, Richard and Matthew.

**I chose chemistry as a career because** of my high school chemistry teacher in 1974, John McIntyre.

**The most exciting thing about my research is** mentoring of successful research students and coworkers.

**Guaranteed to make me laugh is** my wife, H  l  ne.

**I can never resist** a beer.

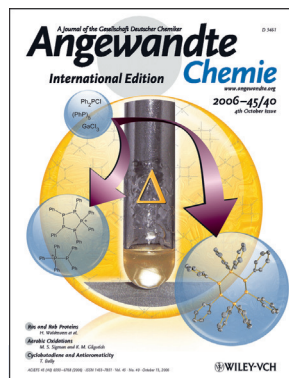
**I celebrate success by** having a beer.

### My 5 top papers:

1. “Reductive Catenation of Phosphine Antimony Complexes”: S. S. Chitnis, N. Burford, J. J. Weigand, R. McDonald, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, 54, 7828; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, 127, 7939. (Realization of the versatile redox behavior of highly charged phosphine–antimony complexes ... and the preceding article is co-authored by my son.)
2. “Influence of Charge and Coordination Number on Bond Dissociation Energies, Distances, and Vibrational Frequencies for the Phosphorus–Phosphorus Bond”: S. S. Chitnis, J. M. Whalen, N. Burford, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2014**, 136, 12498. (Answering questions that I have been asking for 20 years.)
3. “Coordination Complexes of  $\text{Ph}_3\text{Sb}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Ph}_3\text{Bi}^{2+}$ : Beyond Pnictonium Cations”: A. P. M. Robertson, N. Burford, R. McDonald, M. J. Ferguson, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, 53, 3480; *Angew. Chem.* **2014**, 126, 3548. (Potential for p-block centers to behave as Lewis acceptors with high oxidation state and molecular charge.)
4. “Interpnictogen Cations: Exploring New Vistas in Coordination Chemistry”: A. P. M. Robertson, P. A. Gray, N. Burford, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, 53, 6050; *Angew. Chem.* **2014**, 126, 6162. (Summarizes much of my thinking regarding coordination chemistry of the pnictogen elements.)
5. “2,2-Bipyridine Complexes of Antimony: Sequential Fluoride Ion Abstraction from  $\text{SbF}_3$  by Exploiting the Fluoride-Ion-Affinity of  $\text{Me}_3\text{Si}^+$ ”: S. S. Chitnis, N. Burford, M. J. Ferguson, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, 52, 2042; *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, 125, 2096. (Pnictogen-centered analogues of classical transition-metal complexes.)

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The work of N. Burford has been featured on the cover of *Angewandte Chemie*: “A Melt Approach to the Synthesis of catena-Phosphorus Dications To Access Derivatives of  $[\text{P}_6\text{Ph}_4\text{R}_4]^{2+}$ ”: J. J. Weigand, N. Burford, M. D. Lumsden, A. Decken, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2006**, 45, 6733; *Angew. Chem.* **2006**, 118, 6885.