

## Honorary Membership of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker

The Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh; German Chemical Society) has awarded honorary membership to **Gunter S. Fischer** (Max Planck Research Unit for Enzymology of Protein Folding, Halle) and **Ekkehard Winterfeldt** (emeritus professor at the Leibniz-Universität Hannover) in recognition of their services to the GDCh. Both were on the Board of the GDCh from 1996–1999, and were President (Winterfeldt) and Vice-President (Fischer) from 1996–1997.

Gunter S. Fischer studied at the University of Halle, where he received his PhD (supervised by Alfred Schellenberger) in 1971, completed his habilitation in 1979, and remained there as a lecturer until 1987. After a year working at the GERMED Pharmaceutical Company, Berlin, he returned to the University of Halle, where he was made full professor in 1992. In the same year, he also joined the Max Planck Research Group “Enzymology of the Peptide Bond” as Group Leader. He was made Managing Director of the Max Planck Research Unit for Enzymology of Protein Folding in 1997. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on discrimination by a cyclosporin derivative,<sup>[1a]</sup> and in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on the electronic properties of peptide bonds.<sup>[1b]</sup>

Ekkehard Winterfeldt studied at the Technische Hochschule Braunschweig (now the Technische Universität Braunschweig), where he received his PhD (supervised by Ferdinand Bohlmann) in 1958. After spending a year at Bayer AG in Leverkusen, he moved to the Technische Universität Berlin, and in 1979, he joined the Technische Universität Hannover (now Leibniz-Universität Hannover). Highlights of his research have included the synthesis of ansasteroid compounds, and the synthesis of enantiomerically pure building blocks by using cyclopentadienes as chiral templates in Diels–Alder reactions.<sup>[2]</sup> Winterfeldt was one of the Editors of *Chemische Berichte* from 1981–1990.

## Liebig Lectureship for Grzegorz Mloston

The Liebig Association (Organic Chemistry Division) of the GDCh has awarded the Liebig Lectureship annually since 1999 to outstanding researchers in organic chemistry from outside Germany. Previous winners include Veronique Gouverneur (2011), Valentin Ananikov (2010), and Karl Gademann (2009). The 2012 Liebig Lecturer is Grzegorz Mloston (University of Łódź, Poland), who will give six lectures at German institutions in late 2012. Mloston studied at the University of Łódź, where he worked with Romuald Bartnik for his PhD (awarded in 1982)

and received his habilitation in 1991. He was a research fellow with Rolf Huisgen at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich (1983–1985 and 1987–1988), Heinz Heimgartner at the University of Zurich (1995), and George A. Olah at the Loker Hydrocarbon Institute, University of Southern California (1996–1997). He was made professor at the University of Łódź in 1998. Mloston’s research interests are in heterocyclic systems, sulfur compounds, fluorine-containing organic compounds, reactive intermediates, and asymmetric catalysis. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on a carbon–sulfur triple bond,<sup>[3a]</sup> and in the *European Journal of Organic Chemistry* on 1,2,4-trithiolane-S-oxides.<sup>[3b]</sup>

## Innovation Prize in Medicinal/Pharmaceutical Chemistry for Christian Ottmann

Christian Ottmann (Eindhoven University of Technology) has been awarded the Innovation Prize in Medicinal/Pharmaceutical Chemistry by the Medicinal Chemistry Group of the GDCh and the Pharmaceutical/Medicinal Chemistry Group of the German Pharmaceutical Society. Ottmann was recognized for his work on the development of small-molecule stabilizers of protein–protein interactions. Ottmann studied at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, and worked with Claudia Oecking at the University of Tübingen for his PhD (awarded in 2003). After postdoctoral work at the same institution (2003–2004) and with Alfred Wittinghofer at the University of Dortmund and the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Physiology (2005–2006), he was appointed group leader at the Chemical Genomics Centre of the Max Planck Society in 2006. He moved to the Eindhoven University of Technology in 2012 and is currently associate professor in the group of Luc Brunsveld. Ottmann’s research involves the targeted pharmaceutical modulation of protein–protein interactions. His contributions to *Angewandte Chemie* include a Minireview on protein–protein interactions,<sup>[4a]</sup> and a report on a probe for glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenases.<sup>[4b]</sup>

## Raimund Stadler Award for Andreas Walther

The Macromolecular Chemistry Division of the GDCh presents the Raimund Stadler award biannually to honor a young researcher in the early stages of their career. The 2012 awardee is Andreas Walther (RWTH Aachen). Walther studied at the University of Bayreuth, where he received his PhD (supervised by Axel H. E. Müller) in 2008. From 2008–2010, he was a postdoctoral researcher with Olli Ikkala at Helsinki University of Technology



G. S. Fischer



E. Winterfeldt



G. Mloston



C. Ottmann



A. Walther



X. Duan



J. Seibel



E. W. Meijer



P. Schwill



M. Mann

(now Aalto University), and in 2011, he joined the RWTH Aachen as research group leader. Walther was recognized for his work on the use of hierarchical self-assembly processes to produce structured and functional biomimetic nanocomposite materials, and his research also involves the programmable self-assembly of complex particles. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on nacre-mimetic paper,<sup>[5a]</sup> and the genetic engineering of biomimetic nanocomposites.<sup>[5b]</sup>

### DuPont Young Professor Grants

The DuPont Young Professor grants provide funding for a three-year period to young untenured faculty members. The 2012 awardees are **Xiangfeng Duan** (University of California, Los Angeles; UCLA), **Jürgen Seibel** (University of Würzburg; both featured here), **Christopher Ellison** (University of Texas at Austin), **David Gresham** (New York University), **Aaron Lorenz** (University of Nebraska, Lincoln), **Andrew Murkin** (University at Buffalo, SUNY), **Sarah E. Reisman** (California Institute of Technology),<sup>[6]</sup> **Joel Rosenthal** (University of Delaware), and **Jeffrey Ross-Ibarra** (University of California, Davis).

Xiangfeng Duan received his bachelor's degree from the University of Science and Technology of China and his master's degree and PhD (in 2002) from Harvard University. From 2002–2008, he worked at Nanosys, and in 2008, he joined UCLA. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on graphene-supported hemin,<sup>[7a]</sup> and in *ChemSusChem* on a high-capacity silicon–air battery.<sup>[7b]</sup>

Jürgen Seibel studied at the University of Göttingen and carried out his PhD with Lutz F. Tietze. From 2000–2002, he was a postdoctoral researcher with Christopher Schofield at the University of Oxford, and in 2002 he started his independent career at the University of Braunschweig, where he completed his habilitation in 2006. He moved to the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research in 2007 and joined the University of Würzburg in 2009. Seibel's research interests include the development of chemical and enzymatic syntheses, biocatalysis, protein engineering, drug delivery, and glycosciences. He has reported in *ChemBioChem* on site-directed mutagenesis.<sup>[8]</sup>

### And also in the News ...

... **E. W. "Bert" Meijer** (Eindhoven University of Technology) and **Petra Schwill** (Max Planck

Institute of Biochemistry, Martinsried), who were both recently featured in this section,<sup>[9]</sup> are among the 13 new members recently elected to the Deutsche Akademie der Technikwissenschaften (National Academy of Science and Engineering).

... **Matthias Mann** (Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry, Martinsried) has been awarded the Körber Science Prize 2012 for his work on the proteome. Mann was recently highlighted in the News section when he won the Ernst Schering, Louis Jeantet, and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prizes.<sup>[10]</sup>

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