Awarded ...

R. Hoffmann

K. Gademann

J.-Q. Yu

Basolo Medal for Roald Hoffmann

The Fred Basolo Medal for 2010 has been awarded to Roald Hoffmann (Frank H. T. Rhodes Professor Emeritus of Humane Letters at Cornell University) for his contributions to inorganic chemistry. In 1981 Hoffmann shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Kenichi Fukui. His name is also synonymous with the Woodward–Hoffmann rules that are used to predict the stereochemical outcome of pericyclic organic reactions.

Hoffmann studied chemistry at Columbia University and in 1962 received his PhD from Harvard University under W. N. Lipscomb and M. P. Gouterman. He then took up a Junior Fellowship in the Society of Fellows at Harvard (1962–65). In 1965 he moved to Cornell University and has been there ever since. Hoffmann's research interests are in the electronic structure of stable and unstable molecules across the periodic table, and of transition states in reactions.[1] He applies a variety of quantum chemical computational methods as well as qualitative arguments to problems of structure and reactivity of both organic and inorganic molecules of medium size and to extended systems in one, two, and three dimensions. Photo by Gary Hodges.

Novartis Early Career Award for Karl Gademann and Jin-Quan Yu

The 2010 recipients of the Novartis Early Career Award in Organic Chemistry, Karl Gademann (University of Basel, Switzerland) and Jin-Quan Yu (The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, USA), have each received an unrestricted grant to support their research.

Gademann earned his PhD in 2000 from the ETH Zurich under the guidance of D. Seebach. After completing postdoctoral studies at Givaudan Fragrance Research and in the group of E. N. Jacobsen at Harvard University, he started his independent research career at the ETH Zurich in 2002 (habilitation with E. M. Carreira). In 2006 he moved to EPFL Lausanne and in 2010 moved to the University of Basel. His research interests are at the interface of chemistry and biology, and focus on the total synthesis of natural products, their isolation from natural sources (bioprospecting), and carrying out in vivo biological investigations.[2] Other awards include the Ruzicka Prize and Medal (2009) and the Liebig Lectureship of the German Chemical Society (2009).

Yu studied chemistry at the East China Normal University and the Guangzhou Institute of Chemistry. He received his PhD in 2000 from the University of Cambridge working with J. B. Spencer. Following time as a junior research fellow at Cambridge, Yu joined the group of E. J. Corey at Harvard University as a postdoctoral fellow. In 2003 he started his independent research career at the University of Cambridge, before moving to Brandeis University in 2004 and finally to The Scripps Research Institute in 2007. Since this time he has emerged as a leader in the field of transition-metal-catalyzed C–H activation and has had a significant impact on how we envision assembling molecules.[3] Other awards include the Hirata Memorial Gold Medal (2010) and the Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship (2008).

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