

Humboldt and Bessel Research Awards

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation awards both Humboldt and Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Awards annually to researchers from abroad in order to support long-term research projects with German host institutions. We feature some of the most recent awardees here.

Martin Albrecht (University College Dublin; hosted by Ekkehardt Hahn at the University of Münster) studied at the University of Bern, and carried out his PhD (awarded in 2000) with Gerard van Koten at Utrecht University. He subsequently undertook postdoctoral research with Robert H. Crabtree at Yale University (2001–2002) and at Ciba in Basel (2002–2003), and was made Alfred Werner Assistant Professor at the University of Fribourg in 2003. He moved to University College Dublin in 2009, and is currently Professor of Inorganic Chemistry and Vice Principal of Research and Innovation. Albrecht's research is focused on the tailoring of metal centers in a well-defined environment (in particular with N-heterocyclic carbene ligands) for synthetic, catalytic, biomimetic, and spintronic applications. He has reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on electronic communication between ruthenium centers,^[1a] and in the *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry* on transfer hydrogenation catalysis by an N-heterocyclic carbene iridium complex.^[1b]

Stephen P. Cramer (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of California, Davis; hosted by Emad Flear Aziz, Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie) studied at Williams College, and was awarded his PhD in 1977 for work supervised by Bruce Hudson and Keith Hodgson at Stanford University. After postdoctoral work with Harry B. Gray at the California Institute of Technology (1977–1978), he worked at Exxon Research, Annandale (1978–1986), Schlumberger-Doll Research (1986–1988), and the National Synchrotron Light Source (1988–1990). He has been Senior Faculty Scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Advanced Light Source Professor at the University of California, Davis since 1991. Cramer's research group are interested in the development and application of spectroscopic techniques (primarily using synchrotron radiation) for the characterization of biological systems, in particular nitrogenases and hydrogenases. His report on the use of nuclear resonance vibrational spectroscopy to study the active site of [NiFe] hydrogenase was featured on the cover of *Angewandte Chemie*.^[2]

Mir Wais Hosseini (Université de Strasbourg; hosted by Stefan Bräse at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology) was featured here when he was

honored by the Société Chimique de France.^[3a] He has recently reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on zinc helicates assembled through silver– π interactions.^[3b]

Jing Li (Rutgers University; hosted by Christoph Janiak, University of Dusseldorf) studied at Huazhong Normal University, and worked with Roald Hoffmann at Cornell University for her PhD (completed in 1990). After postdoctoral work at the same institution, she joined the faculty at Rutgers University in 1991, and is currently Distinguished Professor of Chemistry. Li's research program includes topics such as inorganic–organic semiconductors, microporous metal–organic frameworks, and metal chalcogenides. Her report on carbon dioxide adsorption by a coordination network was featured on a cover of *Angewandte Chemie*.^[4]

Masahiro Murakami (Kyoto University; hosted by Lutz Ackermann, University of Göttingen) studied at the University of Tokyo, where he received his PhD in 1984 for work supervised by Teruaki Mukaiyama. He was subsequently made assistant professor in the same group (1984–1987) and subsequently with Yoshihiko Ito at Kyoto University (1987–1993), as well as spending ten months as a postdoctoral researcher with Albert Eschenmoser at the ETH Zurich (1991–1992). He was made professor at Kyoto University in 2002. Murakami's research is focused on new organic transformations, including photoreaction-based organic synthesis. His most recent contribution to *Angewandte Chemie* is a report on selective rhodium catalysis.^[5] Murakami is on the International Advisory Board of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*.

Awarded ...



M. Albrecht



S. P. Cramer



M. W. Hosseini



J. Li



M. Murakami

- [1] a) M. Nussbaum, O. Schuster, M. Albrecht, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2013**, *19*, 17517; b) G. Modugno, A. Monney, M. Bonchio, M. Albrecht, M. Carraro, *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.* **2014**, DOI: 10.1002/ejic.201402020.
- [2] S. Kamali, H. Wang, D. Mitra, H. Ogata, W. Lubitz, B. C. Manor, T. B. Rauchfuss, D. Byrne, V. Bonnefoy, F. E. Jenney, Jr., M. W. W. Adams, Y. Yoda, E. Alp, J. Zhao, S. P. Cramer, *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, *125*, 752; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 724.
- [3] a) *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, *124*, 12328; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 12162; b) H. Ruffin, S. A. Baudron, D. Salazar-Mendoza, M. W. Hosseini, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2014**, *20*, 2449.
- [4] A. M. Plonka, D. Banerjee, W. R. Woerner, Z. Zhang, N. Nijem, Y. J. Chabal, J. Li, J. B. Parise, *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, *125*, 1736; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 1692.
- [5] N. Ishida, Y. Nakanishi, M. Murakami, *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, *125*, 12091; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 11875.

DOI: 10.1002/anie.201401120