

## Israel Chemical Society Prizes 2014

The Israel Chemical Society (ICS) recently awarded its 2014 prizes at the 80th ICS Annual Meeting. We congratulate all the awardees featured here, as well as **Eliezer Gileadi** and **Abraham Nitzan** (both from Tel Aviv University; ICS Medal), and **Arnon Shani** (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev; Honorable Member of the ICS).

**Arie Zaban** (Bar-Ilan University) and **Ronny Neumann** (Weizmann Institute of Science) are the winners of the ICS Prize of Excellence.

**Arie Zaban** studied at Bar-Ilan University, where he received his PhD (supervised by Doron Aurbach) in 1995. From 1995–1997, he was a postdoctoral researcher with Arthur J. Nozik at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Colorado, and in 1997, he joined the faculty at Bar-Ilan University, where he was made professor in 2006. Zaban's research is focused on organic–inorganic perovskite solar cells and new oxide materials for photovoltaics. He has published a Review in *ChemPhysChem* on quantum-dot-sensitized solar cells,<sup>[1a]</sup> and has reported in *Advanced Energy Materials* on thin-film  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4/\text{TiO}_2$  heterojunction solar cells.<sup>[1b]</sup> Zaban is on the Editorial Board of the *Israel Journal of Chemistry*.

**Ronny Neumann** studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he was awarded his PhD in 1985 for work supervised by Yoel Sasson. After postdoctoral work with John T. Groves at Princeton University, he started his independent career at the Hebrew University in 1988. In 1999, he moved to the Weizmann Institute of Science, where he was made professor in 2002 and has been Chair of the Department of Chemistry since 2005. Neumann's research program involves liquid-phase, homogeneous oxidation catalysis with emphasis on the activation and use of molecular oxygen. He has reported in *ChemPlusChem* on asymmetric epoxidation reactions with manganese(III) salen catalysts,<sup>[2a]</sup> and in the *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry* on polyoxometalate-based supramolecular assemblies.<sup>[2b]</sup>

**Efrat Lifshitz** (Technion–Israel Institute of Technology) was awarded the Tenne Family Prize in memory of Lea Tenne for Nanoscale Sciences. Lifshitz studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and worked with Antony Francis at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, for her PhD (awarded in 1984). After postdoctoral research with Zeev Luz at the Weizmann Institute of Science (1984–1985) and a period as research associate at the University of Michigan (1986–1990), she joined the Schulich Faculty of Chemistry at the Technion, where she was made Gunsbuorh Academic Chair in 2009. Lifshitz is interested in the synthesis of semiconductors and magnetic materials and the study of their optical and electronic properties. She

has reported in *ChemPhysChem* on the preparation of nanocrystalline thin films.<sup>[3]</sup>

**Shlomo Magdassi** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) is the winner of the ICS–ICL Prize for Technological Innovation. Magdassi studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he worked with Nissim Garti for his PhD (awarded in 1984). From 1984–1986, he carried out postdoctoral work with Sylvan G. Frank at The Ohio State University, and he subsequently returned to the Hebrew University to start his independent career. Magdassi's research focuses on colloid science, in particular the formation and formulation of nanomaterials, including silver and copper nanoparticles and carbon nanotubes for use in delivery systems, functional 3D printing, and coatings. He has reported in *ChemMedChem* on nano-formulated phenolato titanium(IV) complexes,<sup>[4a]</sup> and his report on the welding of nanoparticles and nanosheets to form photoactive nanocrystals was featured on a cover of *ChemSusChem*.<sup>[4b]</sup>

**Dmitri Gelman** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and **Edvardas Narevicius** (Weizmann Institute of Science) received the ICS Excellent Young Scientist Prize.

**Dmitri Gelman** studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he completed his PhD (supervised by Jochanan Blum) in 2002. From 2002–2004, he carried out postdoctoral research with Stephen L. Buchwald at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and in 2004, he joined the faculty at the Hebrew University. Gelman's research involves the design of catalytic systems for organic synthesis, in particular practical catalysts capable of activation and functionalization of inert C–H and C–C bonds by hydrogen transfer reactions. He has reported in *Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis* on dehydrogenative cross-coupling reactions,<sup>[5a]</sup> and in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on ligand–metal cooperating catalysts.<sup>[5b]</sup>

**Edvardas Narevicius** studied at the Technion–Israel Institute of Technology and worked with Nimrod Moiseyov for his PhD (awarded in 2002). From 2002–2005, he worked at OpTun, and from 2005–2008, he was a postdoctoral fellow with Mark G. Raizen at the University of Texas at Austin. He was made senior scientist at the Weizmann Institute of Science in 2008. Narevicius is interested in low-temperature physics and chemistry.

## Ars legendi-Fakultätenpreis for Dietmar Stalke

The Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft, the Deutsche Mathematiker-Vereinigung, the Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft, die Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh; German Chemical Society), and the Verband für Biologie,



A. Zaban



R. Neumann



E. Lifshitz



S. Magdassi

Biowissenschaften und Biomedizin in Deutschland (German Life Sciences Association) award the *Ars legendi-Fakultätenpreis* annually to university teachers in the categories of biosciences, chemistry, mathematics, and physics. The winner of the 2015 prize in chemistry is Dietmar Stalke (University of Göttingen). Stalke studied at the Universities of Braunschweig and Göttingen, and carried out his doctorate (completed in 1987) with Uwe Klingebiel in Göttingen, where he carried out his habilitation (mentored by George M. Sheldrick) from 1987–1993, and subsequently held a lecturer position. He was also a postdoctoral researcher with Paul von Ragué Schleyer at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (1989) and Paul R. Raithby and Ron Snaith at the University of Cambridge (1991). In 1996, he was made professor at the University of Würzburg, and in 2004, he returned to Göttingen as professor. Stalke's research interests include high-energy organolithium compounds, as well as the design of silicon-, phosphorus-, and sulfur-centered ligands. His latest contributions to *Angewandte Chemie* include a report on the characterization of a multicomponent lithium lithiate,<sup>[6a]</sup> and he has reported in the *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry* on asymmetrically substituted hydrogen tetraimido sulfate complexes of lithium.<sup>[6b]</sup>

### Rutherford Medal for Peter A. Schwerdtfeger

Peter A. Schwerdtfeger (Massey University, Auckland) has been awarded the Rutherford Medal, which is the highest honor of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Schwerdtfeger studied at the Universities of Aalen and Stuttgart, and carried out his PhD (awarded in 1986) with Heinz-Werner Preuss in Stuttgart. After postdoctoral research with Martin A. Bennett at the University of Auckland (1987–1989) and research fellowships at Auckland (1989) and The Australian National University (1989–1991), he joined the faculty at the University of Auckland in 1991. In 2004, he moved to Massey University, where he was made Distinguished Professor of Theoretical Chemistry in 2012. He has also been honorary professor at the University of Marburg (where he completed his habilitation mentored by Gernot Frenking) since 1995. Schwerdtfeger and his research group are interested in fundamental aspects of quantum chemistry and physics and its applications, especially in the fields of relativistic quantum theory, quantum electrodynamics, and electroweak interactions. His most recent contributions to *Angewandte Chemie* are reports on simulations of high-pressure melting,<sup>[7a]</sup> and on chiral separation using functionalized nanoporous graphene.<sup>[7b]</sup>

### Stephen L. Buchwald Honored

Stephen L. Buchwald (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) has been honored with the 2014 BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award in Basic Sciences. The BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Awards are presented annually to recipients in seven categories, and each award comprises €400 000. Buchwald was honored “for the development of catalytic routes based on palladium and copper to construct carbon–nitrogen and carbon–carbon bonds”. He is also the recipient of the Ulysses Medal, which is the highest honor awarded by University College Dublin (UCD). Previous recipients include Barry M. Trost, Richard A. Lerner, Richard R. Ernst, and Robert H. Grubbs. Buchwald was featured here when he won the Linus Pauling Medal.<sup>[8a]</sup> His latest contribution to *Angewandte Chemie* is a report on the copper-catalyzed hydroamination of vinylsilanes.<sup>[8b]</sup> Buchwald is on the Editorial Board of *Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis* and the International Advisory Board of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*.



D. Gelman



E. Narevicius



D. Stalke



P. A. Schwerdtfeger



S. L. Buchwald

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