

Publisher's announcement

Tetrahedron Prize for Creativity in Organic Chemistry for 2004

Professor Koji Nakanishi
Tetrahedron Prize 2004

The Executive Board of Editors and the Publisher of Tetrahedron Publications are pleased to announce that the Tetrahedron Prize for Creativity in Organic Chemistry for 2004 has been awarded to Professor Koji Nakanishi, Columbia University, New York.

Professor Nakanishi was awarded the Tetrahedron Prize for his pioneering research in the use of spectroscopic and chemical methods in determining the chemical structure of natural products, research which has led to the characterisation of over 200 bioactive compounds, many of which are endogenous and/or the first member of a new class. His studies with retinal analogs and retinal proteins have made seminal contributions in understanding the structural and mechanistic basis of animal vision and phototaxis.

The Tetrahedron Prize will be presented to Professor Nakanishi at the Fall ACS National Meeting in Washington. The provisional date for the Prize Symposium and presentation of the Award is Monday, 29 August 2005.

Professor Koji Nakanishi was born in Hong Kong in 1925. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Nagoya University, Japan, in 1947 from Fujio Egami. Following two years of post-graduate work with Louis Fieser at Harvard University, he returned to Nagoya University where he completed his Ph.D. in 1954 with Yoshimasa Hirata. He was Assistant Professor at Nagoya until 1958 when he became Professor of Chemistry at Tokyo Kyoiku University. In 1963 he moved to Tohoku University in Sendai and remained there until 1969 when he joined the faculty of Columbia University, New York. Since 1980 he has held the title of Centennial Professor of Chemistry. He was a founding member and one of the six Directors of Research at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Kenya, 1969–1977. In 1978 he became the first Director of the Suntory Institute for Bioorganic Research (Sunbor), Osaka, and served until 1991. He served as director of the chemistry unit at Biosphere 2, Arizona, operated by Columbia University from April 2001 until its termination in December 2003.

Professor Nakanishi's research covers isolation, structural and bioorganic studies of bioactive compounds, retinal proteins, interaction between ligands and neuro-receptors, development of various spectroscopic methods, especially circular dichroic spectroscopy.

Professor Nakanishi has published ca.750 papers, and has authored, co-authored, or edited 9 books on spectroscopy and natural products. He has received awards from the USA, Japan, Bulgaria, China, the Czech Republic, Holland, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan and the UK. A Nakanishi Prize of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the Chemical Society of Japan (CSJ) started in 1996 and is awarded in alternate years in Japan and the USA.