Biographies of contributors to this issue of *Dalton Transactions*

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Professor Kyoko Nozaki is Professor of Chemistry and Biotechnology at the University of Tokyo since 2003. Her research interests include synthesis and isolation of new organometallic complexes and their application to homogeneous catalysis for organic synthesis and polymer synthesis, especially focusing on stereocontrolled synthesis.



Professor Anthony Hill has been Professor and Head of Inorganic Chemistry at the Australian National University Institute of Advanced Studies. A graduate of the Universities of Auckland (MSc) and Bayreuth (Dr Rer Nat), he spent a post-doctoral period at Bristol and held lectureships at the University of Warwick and Imperial College London where he became Professor of Synthetic Chemistry, before assuming his position in Canberra in 2001. His interests span most areas of synthetic inorganic and organometallic chemistry of the transition and main group elements. Particular foci include ligand design and the transformations of ligands featuring metal–carbon, carbon–phosphorus and carbon–chalcogenide multiple bonding.



Professor Chris Orvig is Professor of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. As he directs the Medicinal Inorganic Chemistry Group, his research studies the roles of inorganic chemistry in the therapy or diagnosis of disease.



Professor Mike Ward has been Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Sheffield since 2003, following 13 years at the University of Bristol. His research interests encompass all aspects of coordination chemistry, including self-assembly and host–guest chemistry of polyhedral cage complexes; redox, optical and spectroelectrochemical properties of polynuclear complexes, including properties such as non-linear optical activity and electrochromism; photophysical properties of metal complexes and their supramolecular assemblies, in particular d-block metal–polypyridine complexes and near-infrared luminescence from lanthanides. As well as being a member of Dalton Editorial Board, Prof. Ward is a member of the RSC's Dalton council and the Science and Technology board, and chairs the management committee of the EU-COST action D31.



Professor Han Vos is Professor of Inorganic Chemistry in Dublin City University. His research interests are in the design of supramolecular systems containing transition metal complexes. Of particular relevance are the synthesis, photophysical and electrochemical properties of dinuclear and polymeric ruthenium and osmium polypyridyl complexes both in solution and when immobilised on solid substrates. The application of these compounds as optical and electrochemical sensors and in molecular electronics are investigated.



Dr Andreja Bakac is a Senior Chemist at the Ames Laboratory and Adjunct Professor of Chemistry at Iowa State University. Her interests are in the kinetics and mechanisms of thermal and photochemical reactions of transition metal complexes, especially in the area of oxygen activation and catalysis.



Professor Cameron Jones was born in Perth, Western Australia and is currently Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at Cardiff University. Prior to moving to Cardiff he was a Lecturer at Swansea University (1994–1998) and postdoctoral fellow at Sussex University (1992–1994). He obtained his PhD from Griffith University, Brisbane in 1992. His research interests are wide ranging and include the low coordination chemistry of the heavier group 15 elements, the chemistry of the heavier group 13 hydrides and the low oxidation state chemistry of the group 13 metals. In these areas he has published more than 170 papers.



Professor Heinz Berke received his Diploma in Chemistry at the University of Erlangen in 1971 and his PhD at the University of Tübingen in 1974. From 1974–1988 he has been at the University of Konstanz with an intermediate stay in the Laboratory of R. Hoffmann, Cornell University, Ithaca, USA in 1977. In 1981 he finished his Habilitation and in 1983 he was awarded the Heisenberg fellowship from the "Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft" and the Dozentenpreis of the Fonds der Chemischen Industrie, Germany. In 1987 he was promoted to a C2 Professor at the University of Konstanz before he joined the University of Zürich in 1988 as a full professor of Inorganic Chemistry. H. Berke's fundamental research activities cover various fields of organometallic chemistry. Major efforts are devoted to the area of transition metal hydrides, which is related to homogeneous catalysis, as well. Metal–carbon oriented activities concern several catalyses of C–C coupling reactions mediated by transition metal centers for potential use as single-electron devices. Another research field deals with the archaeometry of ancient, man-made blue and purple pigments.



Professor Guo-Xin Jin received his PhD from Nanjing University in 1987, after a post-doctoral work at University of Bayreuth, Germany, he joined Changchun Institute of Applied Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1996 as a professor. In 2001 he moved to Shanghai and held the Chair Professor (CheungKong Scholarship) of Inorganic Chemistry at Fudan University. His research interests are in Organometallic Chemistry, particularly of metal cluster complexes with carborane dichalcogenolato ligands, Half-sandwich metal chalcogenide complexes and the catalysts for olefin polymerization.



Professor David Cole-Hamilton obtained his degrees from Edinburgh University before spending four years as a Postdoc with Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson (1974–1978). After a Lectureship and Senior Lectureship in Liverpool, he was appointed, in 1986, to the Irvine Chair of Chemistry in the University of St. Andrews, which he still holds. His research interests are in the applications of Organometallic Chemistry to problems in Materials Science and Homogeneous Catalysis. In recent years he has especially been concerned with carbonylation reactions, new approaches to catalyst separation and the synthesis of nanoparticles. He was Scientific Editor of *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* and Chairman of the Dalton Editorial Board from 2000–2003 and is now a member of the International Editorial Advisory Board.



Professor Christine McKenzie, Department of Chemistry of the University of Southern Denmark (USD). Christine gained her PhD from the University of Melbourne, Australia in 1989. A post doctoral position at Odense University (now USD) evolved through the intermediates of Assistant and Associate Professorships, and in 2005 she was appointed to a full Professorship. Synthetic coordination chemistry and ligand design is central to her work with a focus on discovery of bioinspired compounds and materials capable of mimicking important biological functions such as the activation of water, dioxygen and other substrates. She has prepared new chelating and multinucleating acyclic and macrocyclic ligands, characterised small metal clusters, including mixed-metal and mixed-valence compounds as models for dimetallic hydrolase enzymes and high valent iron and manganese complexes with auxilliary oxide, hydroxide and peroxide ligands as models for the non-heme metalloenzymes and the oxygen evolving centre in photosynthesis.



Professor Roland A. Fischer studied at the Technical University Munich (TUM). After post-doctoral work at UCLA and TUM, he joined the chemistry faculty at Heidelberg in 1996. At present, he is full professor for Inorganic Chemistry at the Ruhr-University Bochum. His research interests focus on materials chemistry in particular precursors for thin films of electronic materials (MOCVD), chemistry and physics of nano-particles imbedded in porous matrices, non-aqueous metal and alloy colloids for catalytic applications and last, but not least, he studies the coordination chemistry of low valent group-13 compounds at transition metals.



Professor Hansjorg Grützmacher was born 24 March 1959 in Hamburg, Germany. After his studies at the University of Göttingen, (supervisor Prof. Dr H. W. Roesky) he worked with Prof. Dr G. Bertrand (C.N.R.S. Toulouse). He received his habilitation in 1992 (Heidelberg), joined the University of Freiburg in 1995, and then moved to the ETH Zürich where he became full professor in 2001. The research of the Grützmacher group focuses on: (a) the synthesis of paramagnetic transition metal complexes; (b) ligand design, and c) generally the development of new synthetic methods in main group element chemistry (emphasis phosphorus radicals).



Professor Yi Xie is now a joint professor of School of Chemical & Material Engineering, Southern Yangtze University and Department of Nanomaterials and Nanochemistry, Hefei National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at Microscale, University of Science and Technology of China. She is also a recipient of many awards, including the Prize for Young Scientist of China. Her research interests are in solid state and materials chemistry.



Associate Professor Penny Brothers has been at the University of Auckland, New Zealand since 1988. She grew up in Auckland and did BSc and MSc degrees there before going as a Fulbright scholar to Stanford University where she completed her PhD in 1985. Her research interests are in organometallic and coordination chemistry. Recently she has focussed on porphyrin complexes containing boron and other main group elements.



Professor Paul H. Walton is Professor and Head of department at the University of York Chemistry department. He joined York in 1993, following a period at the University of California at Berkeley. His research interests lie in bioinorganic chemistry, including synthetic model complexes of metalloenzyme active sites and bio-inspired catalysts. He also has interests in polymer imprinting and in high stability chelating agents.



Professor Harry Gray is Arnold O. Beckman Professor of Chemistry and Founding Director of the Beckman Institute at the California Institute of Technology. After graduate (Northwestern, 1957–1960) and postdoctoral (Copenhagen, 1960–1961) studies, he joined the chemistry faculty at Columbia University, where his interests centered on inorganic spectroscopy and reaction chemistry. At Caltech since 1966, he has made many contributions to inorganic chemistry, biophysics, and biological inorganic chemistry, including experiments that established that electrons can tunnel long distances through proteins. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences; the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; the American Philosophical Society; a foreign member of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters; the Royal Swedish Academy of Science (1986); the Linderstrom–Lang Prize (1991); the Priestley Medal (1991); the Gibbs Medal (1994); the NAS Award in Chemical Sciences (2003); the Benjamin Franklin Medal (2004); and the Wolf Prize (2004).



Professor Mitsuo Kira is Professor of Chemistry, Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University (Sendai, Japan). He graduated Kyoto University (1967) and received his PhD from Tohoku University (1994). His research interests are in organosilicon and related heavier group-14 element chemistry, particularly synthesis and properties of novel silicon unsaturated compounds such as stable silicon divalent compounds (silylene) and silicon–silicon doubly-bonded compounds (disilenes). He is recipient of The Chemical Society of Japan Award (2004) and Wacker Silicone Award (2005).



Professor Lisa Berreau received her PhD from Iowa State University and performed postdoctoral research at the University of Minnesota. She is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Utah State University, which she joined in 1998. Her research interests are in synthetic bioinorganic chemistry. Her laboratory uses novel ligand systems incorporating hydrogen bond donors and/or hydrophobic substituents to investigate reaction pathways relevant to metalloenzymes.



Professor Lutz Gade holds a chair of inorganic chemistry at the University of Heidelberg and is the director of the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry. After completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Bonn and the Technische Universität München, he went to Cambridge (United Kingdom) to work for his PhD with Jack Lewis. Having returned to Germany after defending his doctoral thesis in 1991, he joined the Chemistry Department at the University of Würzburg, were he finished his habilitation in 1996 and where he subsequently worked as a lecturer. In 1998 he moved to the Université Louis Pasteur (Strasbourg, France) to take up a full professorship in inorganic chemistry and to become the Head of the Laboratory of Organometallic Chemistry and Catalysis. He moved to his present position in Heidelberg in October 2003 where he is also Vice-Chairman of the interdisciplinary research centre (SFB 623) on molecular catalysis. He is the author of *ca.* 150 research publications and one book.



Professor John Arnold hails from Chorley, England. His formal training in chemistry began with O.N.C. (1977) then H.N.C. (1979) studies while working as a student technologist at Storey Brothers in Lancaster. He then received a BSc in Applied Chemistry from Salford University in 1982 and his PhD in Chemistry under the direction of Professor T. Don Tilley, from the University of California, San Diego in 1986. After postdoctoral work with the late Professor Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson, and a brief appointment as a Royal Society Research Fellow at Imperial College, he moved to the University of California, Berkeley in 1989. His current interests lie in the areas of organometallic chemistry, catalysis, and nanomaterials.



Professor Anna Trzeciak, FRSC, is Professor and Head of Inorganic Chemistry Department at the Faculty of Chemistry University of Wrocław. Her research interests are: coordination and organometallic chemistry, homogeneous and heterogenized catalysis with metal complexes and metal colloids.



Professor C. N. R. Rao obtained his PhD degree from Purdue University and DSc degree from the University of Mysore. He is the Linus Pauling Research Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) and Honorary Professor at the Indian Institute of Science (both at Bangalore). His research interests are in the chemistry of materials. He has authored nearly 1000 research papers and edited or written 30 books in materials chemistry. A member of several academies including the Royal Society and the US National Academy of Sciences, he is the recipient of the Einstein Gold Medal of UNESCO, Hughes Medal of the Royal Society, and the Somiya Award of the International Union of Materials Research Societies (IUMRS). In 2005, he received the Dan David Prize for materials research from Israel and the first India Science Prize.



Professor Andrew Barron is the Charles W. Duncan, Jr.-Welch Chair of Chemistry and a Professor of Materials Science at Rice University. Research in the Barron Group focuses on the chemistry and materials science of the nanoscale materials in particular with relevance to medical and energy applications. He received his BSc and PhD degrees from the Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, and served as a post-doctoral research associate at the University of Texas. His PhD was under the direction of Nobel Laureate Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson. After spending eight years on the faculty at Harvard University, Barron moved to Rice in 1995. Prof. Barron is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, the first recipient of the Welch Foundation Norman Hackerman Award in Chemical Research (2002), and was a 1997 recipient of the Humboldt Senior Service Award. From the Royal Society of Chemistry he has received the Corday Morgan and Meldola Medals. Prof. Barron was the initiator and developer of a series of entrepreneurial management courses for science and engineering students at Rice University-the first courses to be cross registered between the Schools of Science, Engineering and Management. He is also actively involved with educational programs in collaboration with the Rice section of the Society of Automotive Engineers. His main hobby is driving his (and other peoples) race cars. He has competed at both the amateur and professional levels on both sides of the Atlantic.



Professor Geoffrey Coates obtained a BA degree in chemistry from Wabash College in 1989 and a PhD in organic chemistry from Stanford University in 1994. He was an NSF Postdoctoral Fellow with Robert H. Grubbs at the California Institute of Technology. In 1997 he joined the faculty of Cornell University as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2001, and to Professor in 2002. He became Associate Chair of Chemistry in 2004. His main research interest is the development of catalysts for organic and polymer synthesis.



Professor Liliane Hubert-Pfalzgraf is currently Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Lyon. She spent most of her career at the University of Nice after studies at the University Louis Pasteur of Strasbourg. After carrying out fundamental studies on early transition metals and phosphorus coordination chemistry, her present research fields are at the interface of inorganic and material science chemistry. They concern the design of molecular precursors of oxide and non-oxide materials and understanding of their transformations *via* solutions or MOCVD routes for applications in electronics, catalysis and nanotechnologies. She is a Fellow of the Royal Chemical Society.



Professor C. David Garner FRS is Professor of Biological Inorganic Chemistry at Nottingham University. A graduate of Nottingham University (BSc and PhD), he undertook post-doctoral research with Professor H. B. Gray at Caltech and as an ICI Fellow at Nottingham and was at Manchester University from 1968 to 1999. His research is concerned with the chemistry of d-transition metals in biological systems and he was the founding President of the Society of Biological Inorganic Chemistry (1996–1998).



Professor Piet van Leeuwen is Professor of Homogeneous Catalysis at the University of Amsterdam since 1989 and group leader at the Catalonian Institute for Chemical Research in Tarragona, Spain, since 2004. From 1968 until 1994 he worked with Shell in Amsterdam where he has been in charge of activities in homogeneous catalysis and organometallic chemistry. His research interests include the design and development of new catalysts for a wide range of reactions catalysed by organometallic complexes with an emphasis on ligand design.



Dr Ebbe Nordlander was born in Uppsala, Sweden, and obtained his primary and secondary education in Örebro, Sweden. He received his BSc in Chemistry from Beloit College, Wisconsin, USA, in 1986 and carried out his postgraduate studies at Cambridge University under the supervision of Brian F. G. Johnson and Jack Lewis. After obtaining his PhD degree in 1990, he carried out postdoctoral research for two years with Richard H. Holm at Harvard University. In 1992, he took up a position at Lund University, Sweden, where he is now a Senior Lecturer in Inorganic Chemistry. His research interests concern both bioinorganic (bio-coordination) chemistry and organometallic chemistry, with a focus on catalysis.