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Royal Society of Chemistry Interdisciplinary Award presented to Professor John Goodby at a Symposium on 11 March 2009 in York, United Kingdom

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Report

Royal Society of Chemistry Interdisciplinary Award presented to Professor John Goodby at a Symposium on 11 March 2009 in York, United Kingdom

There was a super turnout for the half-day meeting on 11 March to mark the award by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) of its 2006 Interdisciplinary Award to Professor John Goodby for his significant contributions in the field of 'Liquid Crystals and Self-Assembled Systems', one of only two awards presented that year. The RSC Interdisciplinary Awards were established to promote interdisciplinary research between chemists and researchers from other disciplines, as well as public engagement, and the nomination of Professor Goodby was supported by the Committee of the British Liquid Crystal Society (BLCS).



Professor John Goodby (middle) with the other speakers of the award symposium, Professors Harry Anderson (left) and Takashi Kato (right).

In the first part of the afternoon, the audience was treated to a feast of great science from Professors Takashi Kato from Tokyo (*Nanostructured Liquid Crystals Exhibiting Photonic, Electronic, and Ionic Functions*) and Harry Anderson from Oxford (*Porphyrin Wires for Nanoelectronics and Medicine*). After the coffee break, John Goodby (*Soft Materials—Exotic States of Matter and their Unusual Applications*) charted the development of chiral smectic C materials from the early recognition of

ferroelectricity in these phases through to present-day applications in fast-switching microdisplays. He then described his discovery of materials with the twist-grain boundary phase (TGBA*), which completed a link, predicted by the late Nobel Laureate Pierre Gilles de Gennes, of formal analogies between hard- and soft-matter phases, the TGBA* phase being the liquid crystalline equivalent of the Abrikosov flux lattice phase of a type II superconductor in an external magnetic field.



Professor Dave Garner (left), presenting John Goodby (right) with the Royal Society of Chemistry Interdisciplinary Award.

At the end of the afternoon, John was presented with his award by the President of the Royal Society of Chemistry, Professor Dave Garner FRS, before everyone congregated for a wine reception.

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