INFORMATION

News

The Winners of the Solvias Ligand Contest 2004

The Solvias Ligand Contest is organized every year and invites researchers to submit new and improved applications of Solvias ligands. The jury has awarded the first prize jointly to three winners. Prof. Ben L. Feringa, Prof. John F. Hartwig and Dr. Yi Hsiao are honored in recognition of their significant contributions in the area of asymmetric catalysis and the application of Solvias Ligands.

Solvias honors *Ben L. Feringa* for his contribution "Coppercatalyzed asymmetric conjugate addition of Grignard reagents to cyclic and acyclic enones" in recognition of "the high synthetic potential of the first practical, generally applicable catalytic method for the enantioselective conjugate addition to cyclic and acyclic enones using Grignard rather than organozinc reagents". Ben L. Feringa is Jacobus H van't Hoff Professor for Molecular Sciences at the University of Groningen. His main scientific interest is focused on enantioselective catalysis, supramolecular chemistry and new functional materials.

John F. Hartwig is honored by Solvias for his contribution "Highly-reactive, long-lived and general catalysts for the palladium-catalyzed reactions of heteroaryl and aryl chlorides with primary nitrogen nucleophiles" in special recognition of "the very high potential for synthetic and industrial application of the palladium Josiphos catalysts with extraordinarily high turnover numbers for the amination of aryl and heteroaryl chlorides – a significant improvement over previously reported catalysts". John F. Hartwig is Professor of Organic Chemistry at Yale University, New Haven. His research is aimed at the discovery of fundamentally new transition metal chemistry and its development into practical, catalytic synthetic methods as well as obtaining insight from detailed mechanistic studies.

Yi Hsiao and the Merck Process Research Team are honored for their contribution "Highly efficient synthesis of β -amino acid derivatives *via* asymmetric hydrogenation of unprotected enamines". Special mention was made of "the very high potential for synthetic and industrial application of this unprecedented new methodology for the synthesis of β -amino acid esters and amides with no need to use protecting groups". Yi Hsiao is Senior Scientist in the Process Research Laboratories of Merck, Rahway, and develops industrial processes for the synthesis of active pharmaceutical ingredients.

The award ceremony and the presentation of the prize-winning contributions took place on January 28th, 2005 during the Solvias Science Day in Basel.

Solvias is a privately held company providing comprehensive chemistry support to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies with small-molecule drug development programs. Solvias' customers benefit from a wide range of experience in catalysis, asymmetric synthesis, custom synthesis, process R&D, polymorphism screening, and analytical method development.

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Honors/Ehrungen

Prof. em. *Dieter Seebach*, Laboratorium für Organische Chemie der ETH Zürich, received the Ryoji Noyori Prize 2004, sponsored by Takasago International Corporation and administered by the Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Japan (SSOCJ)

Prof. *Wilfred F. van Gunsteren*, Laboratorium für Physikalische Chemie der ETH Zürich, wurde vom Senat der Universität Wien zum Mitglied des Universitätsrates der Universität Wien gewählt Dr. *Marco Tomaselli*, Laboratorium für Physikalische Chemie der ETH Zürich, erhielt den Ruzicka-Preis 2004, einen der bedeutendsten Schweizer Preise für Nachwuchsförderung in der Chemie.

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Lectures

Département de Chimie Organique, Université de Genève

Sciences II, Auditoire A-100, 16h30 30, quai Ernest Ansermet, Genève http://www.unige.ch/sciences/chiorg/seminars.html

Jeudi 3 mars 2005	Prof. <i>Wolfgang P. Meier</i> Department of Chemistry, University of Basel 'Block Copolymer Membranes and Vesicles with Biological Function'
Vendredi 11 mars 2005	Prof. <i>Scott J. Miller</i> Chemistry Boston College, Boston, USA Title to be announced
Mercredi 16 mars 2005	Prof. <i>Yves Holl</i> University Louis Pasteur and Institute Charles Sadron (CNRS), Strasbourg, France

'New Insights in Latex Film Formation: Drying, Coalescence and Distribution of Small Molecules'

Mercredi 23 mars 2005 Prof. *Peter Belser* Department of Chemistry, Universiy of Fribourg 'Molecular Switches: On the Way to Molecular Electronics'

Novartis Chemistry Lectureship 2004/2005

Location: Novartis Pharma AG, Auditorium Horburg, WKL-430.3.20, Müllheimerstrasse 195, CH-4057 Basel Time: 10.30 am ('Get Together': 10.00 am)

March 16, 2005 Prof. *Siegfried Blechert* Technische Universität Berlin, Germany To be announced

Congresses – Conferences – Workshops

