



V. Percec Receives ACS Award in Polymer Chemistry

Virgil Percec, born in 1946, completed his PhD in polymer chemistry at the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry in Iasi (Romania) in 1976, then continued his research there



V. Percec

on *cis* poly(phenylacetylene)s. He moved to the Institut für Makromolekulare Chemie at the Universität Freiburg in 1981, and the following year moved to the University of Akron (Ohio, USA). In 1982 he became assistant professor at the Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland (Ohio, USA), where he taught and carried out research until 1999, from 1986 as Professor of Macromolecular Science. Since 1999 he has been the Roy and Diana Vagelos Professor of Chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia (USA).

Percec has been recognized by the American Chemical Society (ACS) for his work on the synthesis of covalent and supramolecular polymers, liquid-crystalline polymers, and dendrimers. Whereas his research was once concentrated on poly(aryl acetylene)s, metal-catalyzed ion-radical arylations, polymerizations under phase-transfer catalysis, and living radical polymerizations, its focus has increasingly shifted toward supramolecular chemistry. His latest Communication in *Angewandte Chemie* on the transformation of supramolecular dendrimers mediated by the

fluorophobic effect was the cover-picture article in issue 36/2003.^[1]

G. K. S. Prakash Receives Award for Fluorine Chemistry

Surya Prakash, professor at the University of Southern California, has been recognized by the ACS for his creative work in the field of fluorine chemistry. His work on trifluoromethyltrimethylsilane as a nucleophile for the introduction of CF_3 was ground-breaking. However,



G. K. Surya Prakash

this is just one of many fluoroalkylation reagents developed in his laboratory. In his most recent Communication in *Angewandte Chemie* he describes difluoromethyl phenyl sulfone as a selective difluoromethylene dianion equivalent and the stereoselective one-pot synthesis of *anti*-2,2-difluoropropane-1,3-diols.^[2] In addition to synthetic chemistry, he carries out mechanistic studies of reactive electrophilic intermediates in strongly acidic, nonnucleophilic media by broad-band NMR spectroscopy and other techniques. His research group also investigates the use of hydrocarbons in fuel cells.

Prakash was born in Bangalore (India) and studied chemistry at Bangalore University and at the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras. He completed his PhD in 1978 under the guidance of the later Nobel Laureate George Olah at the University of Southern California, where he now holds the George A. and Judith A. Olah Nobel Laureate Chair in Hydrocarbon Chemistry and is scientific co-director of the Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute.

N. Turro Receives ACS Award in Chemical Education

The ACS has recognized Nicholas Turro with the George C. Pimentel Award in

Chemical Education, for bringing together teams of faculty members and students to develop new computer tools for teaching. At the beginning of the 1990s, while the World Wide Web was still in its infancy, he and Leonard Fine developed an interactive program termed "IR Tutor" for the teaching or self-learning of IR spectroscopy. The program found application as a supplement to textbooks and as a tutorial for IR spectrometers. During the years 1995–98, in workshops with staff and students, he further developed the use of computers and networks in teaching, later with the involvement of faculty members from the humanities and social sciences.



N. Turro

Turro studied chemistry at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT (USA) and completed his PhD in 1963 under the supervision of George Hammond at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena (USA). After a postdoctoral year, Turro joined the faculty at Columbia University in New York, where he still teaches today, both as Professor of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry and Professor of Earth and Environmental Engineering, and where he undertakes research in photochemistry and electron spin resonance spectroscopy.^[3] He has also authored articles on the philosophy of science, including an Essay on the distinction between revolutionary and pathological science.^[4]

[1] V. Percec, M. Glodde, G. Johansson, V. S. K. Balagurusamy, P. A. Heiney, *Angew. Chem.* **2003**, *115*, 4474; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2003**, *42*, 4338.

[2] G. K. S. Prakash, J. Hu, T. Mathew, G. A. Olah, *Angew. Chem.* **2003**, *115*, 5374; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2003**, *42*, 5216.

[3] N. J. Turro, M. H. Kleinman, E. Karatekin, *Angew. Chem.* **2000**, *112*, 4608; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2000**, *39*, 4436.

[4] N. J. Turro, *Angew. Chem.* **2000**, *112*, 2343; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2000**, *39*, 2255