Real Sociedad Española de Química
Prizes 2017

The Real Sociedad Española de Química (RSEQ; Spanish Royal Society of Chemistry) has honored several outstanding scientists in its 2017 prize scheme. We feature the winners of the main prizes here; the international prize winners will be highlighted in another issue.

Claudio Palomo (Universidad del País Vasco; UPV/EHU) is the winner of the “Medalla de Oro de la RSEQ”, which is the highest award that the society presents. Palomo studied at the Universitat de Barcelona, and worked with Ramón Mestres at the UPV/EHU for his PhD (completed in 1983). After two years of postdoctoral work at the same institution, he joined the faculty there and was made professor in 1989. Palomo and his group are interested in the development of strategies for enantioselective catalysis and their use in solving problems in organic synthesis. He has reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on stereoselective metal-free $\alpha$-functionalization reactions.\(^1\)

The “Premios a la Excelencia Investigadora RSEQ” are presented for outstanding research achievements. The winners of the 2017 prizes also include José María Asua González (EPV/EHU and POLYMAT).

María Elena Fernández (Universidad Rovira i Virgili) was featured here when she won the Award for Excellence in Organometallic Chemistry Research from the RSEQ Grupo Especializado de Química Organometálica.\(^2\) Fernández and her group are interested in the activation and reactivity of borane compounds. She has reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on the gem-silylborylation of carbonyl compounds.\(^3\)

Fernando Langa (Universidad Castilla-la Mancha; UCLM) received his PhD in 1981 for work supervised by Rafael Pérez-Alvarez-Ossorio and Carmen Fernández at Universidad Complutense de Madrid. From 1985–1987, he carried out postdoctoral research with William Horspool at the University of Dundee, and in 1991, he joined the UCLM, where he is currently professor. Langa’s research is focused on organic photovoltaics and chemistry of carbon nanostructures for electron-transfer processes. He has reported in *ChemPlusChem* on organic solar cells containing pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyrrole.\(^4\)

Antoni Riera (Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB) Barcelona) studied at the Universitat de Barcelona, where he completed his PhD (supervised by Félix Serratosa and Miquel A. Pericas) in 1987. After a postdoctoral fellowship with Amos B. Smith III at the University of Pennsylvania (1987–1988), he joined the faculty at the Universitat de Barcelona in 1988, and was made professor there in 2003. In addition, he has been group leader at the IRB Barcelona since 2005. Riera’s main research area is asymmetric synthesis, including synthetic methodology and the synthesis of biologically active products. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the enantioselective iridium-catalyzed hydrogenation of cyclic enamides.\(^5\)

Eliseo Ruiz (Universitat de Barcelona) studied at the Universitat de Barcelona, where he completed his PhD in 1993, subsequently joined the faculty, and was made professor in 2011. He was a postdoctoral or visiting researcher with Dennis R. Salahub at the Université de Montréal (1993–1994), Michel Verduguer at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris (1997–1998), and Jean-Marie Lehn at the Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg (2000–2001). Ruiz and his group are interested in molecular magnetism and transport properties in single-molecule devices, and the synthesis and characterization of molecules with magnetic or photochemical properties. He has reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on magnetic anisotropy in Co$^{11}$ complexes.\(^6\)

The “Premios de Reconocimiento a una Carrera Distinguida” are awarded to recognize researchers for their distinguished careers.

Gregorio Asensio (Universidad de Valencia) studied at the Universidad de Zaragoza, where he completed his PhD (supervised by Vicente Gomez-Aranda and José Barluenga) in 1973. He carried out postdoctoral work with George A. Olah at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, and subsequently joined José Barluenga’s group in Oviedo, where he was appointed to the faculty in 1977. In 1984, he was made Professor of Organic Chemistry at Universidad de Valencia. Asensio’s research interests mainly involve electrophilic reactions, in particular palladium and gold catalysis and C–H activation by oxygenation or metal-carbene insertion in supercritical CO$_2$. He has reported in *ChemCatChem* on the role of supercritical carbon dioxide in the functionalization of alkanes.\(^7\)

Joan Bosch (Universitat de Barcelona) studied at the Universidad de Barcelona, where he completed his PhD in 1973. He subsequently joined the faculty in Barcelona, where, apart from an appointment as Professor of Organic Chemistry at the Universidad de Valencia (1981) he spent the remainder of his career and became emeritus professor in 1997. He is co-author of a report in the *European Journal of Organic Chemistry* on facial selectivity in annihilation reactions.\(^8\)

The “Premios a Jóvenes Investigadores RSEQ” are presented to outstanding young researchers.

Jesús Campos (Universidad de Sevilla) studied at the Universidad de Sevilla, the University of...
Manchester, and the Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo, and worked with Ernesto Carmona in Seville for his PhD (completed in 2012). He carried out postdoctoral research with Carmona (2013), Robert H. Crabtree at Yale University (2013–2014), and Simon Aldridge at the University of Oxford (2014–2016). He returned to the Universidad de Sevilla in 2016 and is currently a tenured scientist there. Campos and his group are interested in combining fundamental concepts of organometallic catalysis, main-group chemistry, and molecular clusters to develop novel strategies in the field of cooperative catalysis. He is co-author of a report in Angewandte Chemie on differential aggregation in indium “metalloid” clusters.[9]

Anna Company (Universidad de Girona) was featured here when she won the Clara Immerwahr Award.[10] Company’s research interests include small-molecule activation and the design of catalysts for oxidation reactions. She has reported in Angewandte Chemie on the properties of a terminal copper–nitrene species.[9a]

Marek Grzelczak (CIC biomaGUNE, San Sebastián) studied at the Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, and worked with Luis M. Liz-Marzán at the Universidade de Vigo for his PhD (completed in 2008). He subsequently carried out postdoctoral research with Maurizio Prato at the Università degli Studi di Trieste (2008–2010) and with Markus Antonietti at the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces (2011–2012). After a research fellowship in Vigo (2011) he joined the CIC biomaGUNE in 2012 and is currently a research associate there. Grzelczak’s research is in the field of nanochemistry with particular emphasis on the bottom-up integration of inorganic nanoparticles and carbon-based materials into functional nanarchitectures. He is co-author of a report on gold nanowire forests for SERS detection that was featured on the cover of ChemistryOpen.[11]

Manuel Moliner (Instituto de Tecnología Química, Valencia) completed his PhD at the Universitat Politècnica de Valencia under the guidance of Avelino Corma and Maria J. Díaz in 2008. He subsequently carried out postdoctoral work with Mark Davis at the California Institute of Technology (2008–2010). In 2011, he joined the Instituto de Tecnología Química, where he has been a tenured scientist since 2015. Moliner’s research lies at the interface of heterogeneous catalysis and materials design, focusing on the molecular-level preparation of selective materials for their use as efficient catalysts in industrially relevant chemical processes. He has reported in ChemCatChem on an iron-containing zeolite for selective catalytic reduction reactions.[11]


In this section, we report on various awards for chemists who are closely connected with Angewandte Chemie and its sister journals as authors, referees, or board members.