

Royal Society of Chemistry release

Swiss chemist wins prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry Award

Professor Urs Baltensperger, from the Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland, is the Royal Society of Chemistry *Spiers Memorial Award* winner for 2016. He was born and raised in Bülach.

Urs, who has previously won other prestigious awards such as the Fuchs Memorial Award of the International Aerosol Research Assembly (2014), works on reducing aerosol particles in the atmosphere. These are tiny solid or liquid particles, which are emitted by many man-made and natural activities, such as combustion processes and sea spray. They can have adverse health effects, so it is important to understand how they are formed and where they come from, so that their impact can be reduced in future. Urs' work addresses the issue through a combination of laboratory and field experiments complemented by modelling.

The Spiers Memorial Award is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to a field of chemistry relevant to a Faraday Discussion. The Faraday Discussions are unique international discussion meetings that focus on rapidly developing areas of chemistry and its interfaces with other scientific disciplines. The Spiers Memorial Award is presented annually to the introductory lecturers who are likely to provide the most stimulating and wide-ranging introduction to the discussion.

Urs receives £2000, a medal and a certificate, which will be presented at the conference dinner of the Faraday Discussion in which he will be speaking. This award is to commemorate Frederick S Spiers, born 21 October 1875, best known for his work as Secretary of the Faraday Society, which he helped to found in 1902.

An illustrious list of 47 previous winners of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Awards have gone on to win Nobel Prizes for their pioneering work, including Harry Kroto, Fred Sanger and Linus Pauling.

Professor Baltensperger said: *"I am deeply honoured and truly excited to receive this highly prestigious award, which has even been presented to Nobel Prize winners in the past. I am also very pleased to receive this award in the context of the Faraday Discussion on Chemistry in the Urban Atmosphere: Urban air pollution is a long standing problem, which despite the advances of the past 60 years, requires continued attention in order to further improve the air quality in our cities."*

Dr Robert Parker, chief executive of the Royal Society of Chemistry said: *"It is an honour to recognise the illustrious achievements of our prize and award winners in our 175th anniversary year."*

"We were founded in 1841 by a group of academics, industrialists and doctors who understood the power of the chemical sciences to change our world for the better. Our winners share that vision and are advancing excellence in their fields, whether through innovative research or inspirational teaching and outreach."

"We are proud to celebrate and support the work of inspiring and influential individuals, whose work has the potential to improve so many lives."

Award winners are evaluated for the originality and impact of their research, as well as the quality of the results which can be shown in publications, patents, or even software. The awards also recognise the importance of teamwork across the chemical sciences, and the abilities of individuals to develop successful collaborations.

Notes for editors

Rewarding Excellence and Gaining Recognition

The Royal Society of Chemistry's Prizes and Awards recognise achievements by individuals, teams and organisations in advancing the chemical sciences. We want to reward those undertaking excellent work in the chemical sciences from across the world.

There are over 60 Prizes and Awards available in the main portfolio, covering all areas of the chemical sciences. So whether you work in research, business, industry or education, recognition is open to everyone.

The Royal Society of Chemistry

We are the oldest chemical society in the world and in 2016 we're celebrating 175 years of progress and people in the chemical sciences. Throughout the year, we're sharing the stories of how our members past and present have helped to change the world with chemistry.

With over 50,000 members and a knowledge business that spans the globe, we are the UK's professional body for chemical scientists; a not-for-profit organisation with 175 years of history and an international vision of the future.

We promote, support and celebrate chemistry. We work to shape the future of the chemical sciences – for the benefit of science and humanity.

More information on Royal Society of Chemistry Prizes and Awards

<http://www.rsc.org/awards-funding/awards>