

Citation for Chemical Breakthrough Award

Sir Derek HR Barton
Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson

Presented by the Division of the History of Chemistry (American Chemical Society)

Tuesday, May 5th 2009
04:00 pm
Pippard Lecture Theatre
Sherfield Building, Level 5

Programme

- 4:00 *Introduction* - Prof AGM Barrett (Head of Synthesis Section)
4:05 *Awards Introduction* - Dr Jeffrey I. Seeman (University of Richmond, Virginia)
4:15 *The Chemistry of Professor Sir Derek HR Barton*
Professor W.B. Motherwell (University College London)
4:45 *The Chemistry of Professor Geoffrey Wilkinson*
Professor M. Green (University of Oxford)
5:15 *The Discovery of the Wilkinson Catalyst* - Dr Fred Jardine
5:30 *Geoffrey Wilkinson – A Video Vignette* - Dr David Scheschkewitz
5:45 *Derek Barton – A Video Vignette* - Dr Jeffrey I. Seeman
6:00 ***Presentation of the Awards*** - Dr Jeffrey I. Seeman
6:15 *Vote of thanks* – Prof T Welton (Head of Department)
6.30 Drinks Reception – Post Graduate Common Room (Chemistry Room 231)

Commemorative plaques will be unveiled at the Department of Chemistry of Imperial College London to raise public awareness of two chemical breakthroughs that each in its own way have changed the way Organic and Inorganic Chemists see the world: 1) the conceptualization of conformational analysis by Sir Derek HR Barton (1918-1998) with his paper on the conformation of the steroid nucleus and 2) the discovery of tris(triphenylphosphine) rhodium(I)chloride by Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson (1921-1996) that had revolutionised the field of homogenous catalysis. Professor Barton was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1969 (shared with Odd Hassel), Professor Wilkinson in 1973 (shared with Ernst Otto Fischer).

With the *Citation for Chemical Breakthrough Award*, two of most respected scientist of the 20th century and their close affiliation to Imperial College will be honoured by the American Chemical Society's Division of the History of Chemistry. Both, Professor Wilkinson and Professor Barton pursued their undergraduate studies in the very institution where they would return later as Full Professors. Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson held the Chair in Inorganic Chemistry at Imperial College from 1955 and until his retirement in 1988; Sir Derek Barton the Chair in Organic Chemistry from 1957 until 1978. The award will be presented by Dr Jeffrey I Seeman (University of Richmond, Virginia, USA).

For any enquiries please contact Katie Mertens (PA to Prof. Barrett)
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