

Georg Thieme Verlag, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, and the Editors of *Synthesis*, *Synlett*, *Science of Synthesis*, and *Houben-Weyl* are pleased to announce the recipient of the

Thieme–IUPAC Prize in Synthetic Organic Chemistry 2000

Alois Fürstner

The Thieme–IUPAC Prize, consisting of DM 10 000, is awarded every two years on the occasion of the IUPAC International Conference on Organic Synthesis (ICOS) to a scientist under 40 years of age, whose research has had a major impact on the field of synthetic organic chemistry. We are pleased to announce that the fifth Thieme–IUPAC Prize will be presented to Alois Fürstner at an Award Lecture on July 3, 2000 at ICOS 13 in Warsaw, Poland.

Alois Fürstner was born on July 23, 1962 in Austria. He completed his Ph.D. in carbohydrate chemistry under the direction of H. Weidmann at the Technical University Graz, Austria, in 1987. After working as a postdoctoral fellow with W. Oppolzer on metallo–ene reactions at the University of Geneva, Switzerland (1990–1991), he returned to Graz to obtain his Habilitation on metal activation. In 1993, he joined the Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung, Mülheim, Germany, as head of a research group. Since 1998, he has held the position of Director at the institute and is an affiliated professor with the University of Dortmund.

Alois Fürstner's work is an excellent example of a fruitful interplay of basic research in organometallic chemistry and catalysis, and applications to natural product chemistry and the total synthesis of biologically relevant compounds.

Alois Fürstner was one of the first chemists to recognize the enormous potential of metathesis for the synthesis of macrocycles. With considerable insight into this reaction, Alois Fürstner has spelled out rules on how



to implement metathesis-based macrocycle formations in multistep syntheses, and has demonstrated the validity of his concepts by elegant applications to natural product total synthesis. Fürstner's syntheses of the macrolide (–)-gloeosporone, the terpene dactylool, the tripyrrole pigment nonylprodigiosin, and the complex glycolipids tricolorin A and G are highlights in this field.

Alois Fürstner's conceptually new approaches to the synthesis of olfac-

tory macrocycles (e.g., Exaltolide) indicate the enormous potential of olefin metathesis for fine chemical production. Additionally, he has opened up very promising new perspectives for preparative chemistry by introducing the first examples of ring-closing alkyne metathesis, as well as a mechanistically unprecedented enyne metathesis simply catalyzed by platinum(II) chloride. The latter transformation has already been employed in an efficient total synthesis of immunosuppressive alkaloids of the prodigiosin series.

Another major area of Alois Fürstner's work concerns metal-induced C–C bond formations. He has developed a versatile reductive indole synthesis and has pioneered a new branch of catalysis research by discovering McMurry-type reactions catalytic in titanium as well as Nozaki–Hiyama–Kishi reactions catalytic in chromium.

Alois Fürstner has achieved worldwide recognition for his highly innovative and creative independent research. He has received several awards, including the prestigious Leibniz Award (1999) from the German Science Foundation. The chemical community has already substantially profited from the methodologies developed by Alois Fürstner. A glance at his current work clearly promises further exciting chemistry in the future.

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