

Professor Peter J. Schoenmakers: Winner of the 2011 Chromatographic Society Martin Medal

Dr Paul Ferguson

Vice-President, The Chromatographic Society & Chair of the Society's Awards Panel

Professor Peter J. Schoenmakers of the Faculty of Science, van't Hoff Institute for Molecular Sciences at the University of Amsterdam has been awarded the 2011 Chromatographic Society Martin Medal.

The medal is named after Professor A.J.P. Martin who in 1978 gave permission for his name to be associated with this award. The 'Martin Medal' is the highest honour the Society confers and is awarded to scientists who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of separation science. Peter becomes only the second scientist to be awarded both The Chromatographic Society's medals having also received our Jubilee Medal in 1989.

While the committee acknowledged Peter's broad research interests, his pivotal work in the field of polymer analysis, gas chromatography and more recently his work in the area of comprehensive two-dimensional chromatography help provide a fundamental understanding of chromatographic science across a range of disciplines. Other areas in which he is active include molecular-topology fractionation, matrix-assisted laser-desorption/ionization mass spectrometry, monolithic columns, chip separations, data handling and chemometrics.

Peter received his Masters degree from the Technical University of Delft (The Netherlands) in the Department of Chemical Engineering in 1977. His Masters thesis was on "Possibilities for describing chromatographic selectivity using solubility parameters" and led to further research and the award of his PhD on "A systematic approach to mobile phase effects in reversed phase liquid chromatography" in 1981 at the same University. Peter then



undertook postdoctoral work at Boston's Northeastern University in the Institute of Chemical Analysis with another Martin Medal awardee, Professor Barry L. Karger.

Peter's next career moves were into industry, initially with Philips Research Laboratories in Eindhoven and then Shell in Amsterdam and Houston. During this period, he also had a part-time appointment in the polymer analysis group at the University of Amsterdam, which became a full time position in 2002. He was made Chair of Analytical Chemistry and Forensic Science at the university in 2009.

Peter is an enthusiastic ambassador and champion for the chromatographic sciences. In addition to having authored or co-authored over 180 peer-related papers, book chapters and books, Peter presides on a number of editorial boards including the Journal of Chromatography A, Chromatographia, the

Journal of Separation Science, the Chromatography Monograph series of the Royal Society of Chemistry, LCGC magazine and LCGC International. More recently he has helped promote separation science through the new web-based community publishing site 'Chromedia' and has become the educational director of COAST, a national initiative that promises to boost analytical sciences in The Netherlands.

Peter's promotion of separation science extends to the organisation of a number of scientific meetings and symposia. These include the series of International Symposia on the Separation and Characterization of Natural and Synthetic Macromolecules, (2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011). He was also a member of the Organising Committee of the 25th International Symposium on High-Performance Liquid-Phase Separations (HPLC 2001, Maastricht) and is now a member of the Permanent Scientific Committee for this series. His role on the HPLC organisation committee also extends to his energetic Chairing of the Poster Awards committee having taken over this role from Ron Majors in 2008. He will also be Chairman of the Organising Committee of HPLC 2013 in Amsterdam. Additionally, he was the Chairman of the Organising Committee for the "Hyphenated Techniques in Chromatography" meeting (HTC-11) in Bruges, Belgium, 2010.

It is anticipated that Professor Schoenmakers will be presented with the Martin Medal in June at HPLC 2011 in Budapest, Hungary.

Note: The Chromatographic Society will not be awarding the Jubilee Medal in 2011.