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2018 Charles Thom Awardee



Ben Shen – The Scripps Research Institute

Born and raised in China, Ben received B.Sc. in chemistry from Hangzhou University (1982) and M.S. in plant natural products from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (under the late Prof. Chutsin Liu, 1984). Ben came to the U.S. in 1986 to pursue graduate education in natural product biosynthesis, received Ph.D. in organic chemistry and biochemistry from Oregon State University (under Prof. Steven J. Gould, 1991), and carried out postdoctoral research in molecular biology and biochemistry at University of Wisconsin-Madison (under the late Prof. C. Richard Hutchinson, 1991-1995). Ben served on the faculty at the University of California, Davis (Department of Chemistry, 1995-2001) and University of Wisconsin-Madison (School of Pharmacy and Department of Chemistry, 2001-2010) before joining The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) in 2011. Currently, Ben is Professor of Chemistry and Molecular Medicine and serves as the

Chair of the Department of Chemistry for the TSRI Jupiter campus and Director of Natural Products Library Initiative at TSRI. Current research in the Shen Lab includes chemistry, biochemistry, and genetics of natural product biosynthesis and engineering in actinomycetes, natural product discovery from underexplored microorganisms, and natural product-based anticancer and anti-infective drug discovery. The Shen lab has authored >250 publications and 11 published patents www.scripps.edu/research/faculty/shen.

About the Charles Thom Award

SIMB developed this Award, named for Charles Thom, a pioneer in industrial microbiology and mycology, to honor researchers for their exceptional merit in industrial microbiology and biotechnology, and their independent of thought and originality that added appreciably to scientific knowledge.

Attendance at the Annual Meeting award session is required to receive the award. The award consists of an honorarium of \$1000 for the lecture (if provided), a one year membership in SIMB and an appropriately inscribed plaque, all of which are presented at the Annual Meeting by the SIMB President. The SIMB will reimburse the awardee for travel such as coach airfare, meeting registration, special activities, meals and annual meeting hotel expenses.

Qualifications

As evidenced by their CV and current list of publications, recipients should have made outstanding research contributions in industrial microbiology and/or biotechnology. While activities such as journal editing, organizing and chairing conferences, and serving scientific societies in official capacities may also be considered when judging their contributions towards research, the most important and overriding factor in selecting nominees for this Award is research accomplishments.

Nominations process

Any current member of SIMB may submit a nomination and the nomination must be seconded by another current SIMB member in writing/email. The nomination packet should list in detail the nominee's service to SIMB and contain the supporting member's written seconding note and submitted to the Awards and Honors Committee (Committee). The Committee will review the information for completeness and whether the nominee meets the aforementioned criteria. The Committee will review all nomination packages and vote to select the candidate deemed to best fulfill the requirements of the Porter Award for a positive recommendation. The Committee chair will provide the selected candidate's name and supportive information plus the non-selected candidate(s) information to the SIMB President and the BOD for approval.

Charles Thom Awardees

2017 – Kristala Jones Prather

2016 – Huimin Zhao

2015 – Richard Baltz

2014 – Gregg Whited

2013 – William Bentley

2012 – Sang Yup Lee

2011 – C. Herb Ward

2010 – Michael Adams

2009 – David H. Sherman

2008 – James Liao

2007 – Gregory Stephanopoulos

2006 – Richard Monaghan

2005 – Claire M. Fraser

2004 – Geoffrey Michael Gadd

2003 – J. Gregory Zeikus

2002 – Michael H. Gold

2001 – Mervyn Bibb

2000 – Leonard Katz

1999 – Akira Kimura

1998 – C. Richard Hutchinson

1997 – Rita T. Colwell

1996 – Simon Silver

1995 – Teruhiko Beppu

1994 – Paul A.

1993 – Julian Davies

1992 – Allen I. Laskin

1991 – Satoshi Ōmura

1990 – Charles L. Hershberger

1989 – Edward Katz

1988 – William E. Sandine

1987 – Graham G. Stewart

1986 – Shukuo Kinoshita

1985 – Leo C. Vining

1984 – Richard P. Elander

1983 – Arthur E. Humphrey

1982 – Hubert &

1980 – Clifford W. Hesseltine

1979 – David Perlman

1978 – Arnold L. Demain

1977 – Robert H. Burris

1976 – Robert L. Starkey

1974 – Warren P. Iverson

1973 – H. Boyd Woodruff

1971 – Leland A. Underkofler

1970 – Arthur M. Kaplan

1967 – Kenneth B. Raper

Lemke

Mary Lechevalier

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