



Dear ICS members,

It is my great pleasure to announce that the 2016 ICS Gold Medal will be awarded to **Prof. David Milstein** of the Weizmann Institute of Science for his worldwide leadership of organometallic chemistry and homogeneous catalysis and for inventing new ways to activate normally inert chemical bonds; and **Prof. Itamar Willner** of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for his seminal accomplishments in nanotechnology, materials science and bioelectronics, and for integrating biomaterials with chemical systems.

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Prof. David Milstein



Prof. Itamar Willner

David Milstein was born in Ulm, Germany (1947), obtained his PhD under Jochanan Blum from the Hebrew University (1976), was a postdoc at Colorado State Univ. under John Stille and in 1979 he joined the CR&D of DuPont in Wilmington as a Group Leader. In 1986 he joined the Weizmann Institute. His list of prizes includes the Kolthoff Prize, ICS Prize of Excellence, ACS Award in Organometallic Chemistry, RSC Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson Award, Humboldt Senior Award, Israel Prize, and ENI Prize for Protection of the Environment. He is a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and the German National Academy of Sciences - Leopoldina. Milstein is an internationally recognized leader in organometallic chemistry and homogeneous catalysis. His pioneering work on transition metal-mediated processes includes the activation and functionalization of normally inert chemical bonds, has provided fundamental insight into catalytic reaction mechanisms, and has enabled the design of novel chemical transformations of great synthetic importance. In recent years he invented a new mode of bond activation based on metal-ligand cooperation, which has led to a series of novel green synthetic reactions, which generate no waste and consume little energy, and to new approaches to sustainable energy, catalyzed by pincer-type complexes.

Itamar Willner was born in Romania (1947), received his BSc, MSc and PhD (1974-1978, under Mordecai Rabinovitz) from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He was a postdoc with Melvin Calvin at UC Berkeley (1978-1980) and in 1981 joined the Hebrew University. He has published over 750 research articles and is one of the most cited chemists worldwide (h-index 119). His list of awards includes the Israel Prize, the EMET prize and the Rothschild Prize. He is a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the German Academy of Sciences - Leopoldina, and the European Academy of Sciences and Arts. Willner's interdisciplinary research bridges chemistry, biology, physics, nanotechnology and materials science. He introduced new concepts to the areas of bioelectrochemistry and photobioelectrochemistry by the electrical wiring of redox proteins with electrodes, leading to electrochemical sensors, biofuel cells and photobiofuel cells. He has used nucleic acids as functional materials for sensing, catalysis, construction of biomolecular switches and machines, programmed organization of nanostructures, and the assembly of computing circuits. He also integrated nanomaterials with surfaces, resulting in interfaces exhibiting programmed electronic, photonic and wettability properties. His chemically modified nanomaterials lead to hybrid systems acting as optical sensors and stimuli-responsive drug carriers and materials.

It is an amazing coincidence that both medalists were classmates in Tamar (currently DeShalit) high school in Rehovot. The photo depicts Milstein (left) and Willner (right) standing in front of their classroom (1964).

The award ceremony will take place during the gala dinner of the 82nd ICS Annual Meeting in February 13, 2017.

Congratulations to David and Itamar for their achievements!

Ehud Keinan

