



The 2025 Ojima Distinguished Lectureship Award in Chemistry

HONORING

VÉRONIQUE GOUVERNEUR

Friday, April 25, 2025

Presented by the Department of Chemistry and ICB&DD



Established in 2020 to commemorate Iwao Ojima's 75th birthday, the Ojima Distinguished Lectureship Award in Chemistry is based on an endowment from the Ojima family to ensure that eminent scholars can continue to enrich the Department of Chemistry and Stony Brook University.



Iwao Ojima

*Distinguished Professor
Director, Institute of Chemical Biology
and Drug Discovery*

Iwao Ojima has a wide range of research interests in synthetic organic and medicinal chemistry, as well as in chemical biology, including the discovery and development of anti-cancer agents, antimicrobials and targeted drug delivery systems. His pioneering and innovative works on organometallic chemistry, homogeneous catalysis, catalytic asymmetric synthesis, new and efficient synthetic methods and methodologies are well-recognized worldwide. He holds more than 160 issued patents, including 48 U.S. patents.

Ojima received his BS, MS, and PhD degrees from The University of Tokyo, Japan. He joined the Sagami Institute of Chemical Research, where

he held the position of senior research fellow until 1983, at which time he joined Stony Brook University's Department of Chemistry as an associate professor. In 1984 he was appointed professor, then leading professor in 1991 and distinguished professor in 1995. Ojima was the department chair from 1997 to 2003; since 2003, he has been serving as the founding director for the Institute of Chemical Biology and Drug Discovery, and as president of the Stony Brook University chapter of the National Academy of Inventors since 2016.

In recognition of his seminal contributions to chemical sciences, Ojima has received numerous honors. They include four prestigious National Awards (highest honors) in four subdisciplines from the American Chemical Society:

- Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award
- E.B. Hershberg Award for Important Discoveries of Medicinally Active Substances
- ACS Award for Creative Work in Fluorine Chemistry
- E. Guenther Award in the Chemistry of Natural Products

Ojima's other honors include being inducted to the Medicinal Chemistry Hall of Fame and the American Chemical Society, and receiving the Chemical Society of Japan Award and Outstanding Inventor Award from the Research Foundation of the State University of New York.

He is an elected fellow of J. S. Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the New York Academy of Sciences, the American Chemical Society, the National Academy of Inventors, and the European Academy of Sciences.

2025 AWARD RECIPIENT



Véronique Gouverneur

*Waynflete Professor of Chemistry
University of Oxford*

Véronique Gouverneur's research has focused on the design and invention of new strategies for the synthesis of fluorine-containing molecules, an area of research that can directly benefit numerous sectors in the life sciences and materials science, most notably, Positron Emission Tomography (PET) imaging. Along with her colleagues, she launched the Oxford Molecular Imaging Epicentre (OXIME) initiative, a state-of-the-art equipped research hub that aims at inventing the next generation of PET radiotracers to investigate cancer biology, brain and heart function, and to support diagnostic and drug discovery campaigns. More recently, Gouverneur has been working on developing sustainable and safe synthetic methods for the production of fluorides, as well as applications of various approaches to the direct production of fluorochemicals. The global challenges of decarbonization and resource conservation led her, in 2022, to create FluoRok, a deep-tech start-

HONORS AND AWARDS

2024

Davy Medal, Royal Society of London

Overton and Meyer Award for
New Technologies in Drug Discovery

2022

Foreign Member of American
Academy of Arts and Sciences

ACS Arthur C. Cope Award

Henri Moissan Prize

2019

Prelog Medal, ETH-Zurich

Fellow of Royal Society

Royal Society of Chemistry,
Organic Stereochemistry Award

2017

Fellow of European Academy of Sciences

2016

Royal Society of Chemistry Tilden Prize

2010-2015

American Chemical Society Award for
Creative Work in Fluorine Chemistry

American Chemical Society
Distinguished Woman in Chemistry Award

Fellow of Royal Society of Chemistry Prize

up company developing revolutionary processes to access fluorochemicals in an efficient, safe, clean and sustainable way, as co-founder.

Gouverneur received her BA, MS and PhD from Universite Catholique de Louvain, Belgium. She did her postdoctoral research at The Scripps Research Institute, and joined Universite Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France in 1994. Gouverneur moved to the University of Oxford, UK as university lecturer in organic chemistry in 1998, was promoted to reader in organic chemistry in 2006, to titular professor in chemistry in 2008, and to Waynflete professor of chemistry in 2022.