



## News Release

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Awards from the Bayer Science & Education Foundation:

### **Bayer Early Excellence in Science Award 2010: EUR 30,000 for young research scientists**

- Dr. Oliver Daumke (Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in Berlin) wins in the “Biology” category
- Prof. Nicolai Cramer (École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland) takes the “Chemistry” award
- Dr. Andreas Walther (Aalto University, Helsinki, Finland) awarded prize in the “Materials” field

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**Leverkusen, November 22, 2010** – The winners of the Bayer Early Excellence in Science Award 2010 have been announced. The prizes, each worth EUR 10,000, have been awarded by an independent scientific committee of the Bayer Science & Education Foundation. The Bayer foundation presents the Bayer Early Excellence in Science Award to talented young scientists in the early stages of their academic careers. This is the second year the award has been made.

“Research, sustainability and education play a central role for the inventor company Bayer. I am delighted that these prizes give us the opportunity to support and motivate young scientists,” said Dr. Wolfgang Plischke, member of the Board of Management of Bayer AG responsible for Innovation, Technology and Environment, and member of the Board of Directors of the foundation. “Bayer’s innovation strategy has long focused on intensive exchange with colleges and universities. The targeted funding of young scientists is just one element of our program – cooperation and strategic partnerships are essential for successful industrial research,” continued Plischke.

This new international prize was first presented in 2009. It is awarded annually in the three categories biology, chemistry and materials. To be eligible for the Bayer Early Excellence in Science Award, candidates must have completed their doctorate within the

last five years. The selection is made on the basis of the originality and quality of candidates' research and the significance of this work for the respective award category.

### **Biomimetics: Tailor-made solutions from the world of biology for technical challenges**

Dr. Andreas Walther from Aalto University in Helsinki / Finland receives the Bayer Early Excellence in Science Award 2010 in the materials category for the development of innovative, pearlescent biomimetic materials that exhibit impressive properties in terms of their mechanical stability and flame retardance. This makes them very interesting for use in maritime, aviation and aerospace applications. A new production process enables the cost-effective manufacture of hybrid materials thanks to the self-organizing properties of the individual components.

### **Organometallic catalysis: A precise and efficient tool for preventing by-products**

To produce complex products such as natural and active substances, it is often necessary to activate carbon atoms and trigger specific chemical transformations. Prof. Nicolai Cramer from École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland receives the Bayer Early Excellence in Science Award 2010 in the chemistry category for his in-depth developments and research into new catalytic organometallic reactions for activation of carbon-hydrogen and carbon-carbon bonds.

### **G proteins: New strategies for treating diseases and illnesses such as cancer and flu**

Dr. Oliver Daumke from the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in Berlin receives the Bayer Early Excellence in Science Award 2010 in the biology category for his contributions to the understanding of the structure and function of GTP-binding (G) proteins. G proteins can act as molecular switches that control growth signals in biological cells. Other G proteins function as molecular motors that deform cellular membranes. The group headed by Dr. Daumke investigates the differences and similarities between these two classes of G proteins.

The prizes are awarded by the Bayer Science & Education Foundation. The primary objectives of the foundation are the recognition of outstanding research achievements, the promotion of talented scientists and support for important school science projects. In

content terms, the sponsorship activities focus on technology, natural sciences and medicine. For many years, the foundation has honored outstanding research work with the Hansen Family Award and the Otto Bayer Award in alternate years, each of which carries a purse of EUR 75,000. Since 2008, the foundation has also presented the Bayer Climate Award worth EUR 50,000, which is awarded for outstanding work in the interdisciplinary field of climate and climate impact research.

Note to editors:

*Photos are available for download at [www.press.bayer.com](http://www.press.bayer.com).*

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**Forward-Looking Statements**

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