2008 Paul Karrer Medalist

Professor Albert Eschenmoser
ETH Zurich, Laboratory of Organic Chemistry

Naturstoffstrukturen hinterfragen

Award Lecture:
October 15, 2008, 17:15
Aula - UZH Main Building, Rämistrasse 71

professor in 1960, and full professor of Organic Chemistry in 1965.

Professor Eschenmoser has made many substantial research contributions in organic and bioorganic chemistry. His research on terpenes and his proposal of squalene cyclization to form lanosterol improved insights into steriod biosynthesis. In the early 1960's, he began work on what was the most complex natural product synthesized to date – Vitamin B12. In general, his many years working on the elucidation of natural products, stereochemistry and mechanism of bioorganic reactions, development of new synthetic methods, and chemical etiology of nucleic acid structure, have delineated several landmarks in the history of organic chemistry.

Professor Eschenmoser is a member of the German Academy Leopoldina, Academia Europaea and Pontifical Academy. He is foreign member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, U.S. National Academy of Sciences, Royal Society, Academy of Science in Göttingen, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Order Pour le mérite für Wissenschaften und Künste, Österreichisches Ehrenzeichen für Wissenschaft und Kunst, honorary member of the Royal Society of Chemistry, Gesellschaft Österreichischer Chemiker, and Pharmaceutical Society of Japan. Albert holds honorary degrees from Universities of Fribourg, Chicago, Edinburgh, Bologna, Frankfurt, Strasbourg, Harvard, and The Scripps Research Institute. Included among his many awards is the recent 2008 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Chemistry.

Albert Eschenmoser was born in Erstfeld (Uri), Switzerland, and received his Dipl.sc.nat. and D.Sci. from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), where he became lecturer in Organic Chemistry in 1956, associate

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