

Due to the enthusiastic response to the organic/bioorganic lectures, the Chemistry Committee decided to introduce a corresponding lectureship in inorganic/organometallic chemistry for the spring semester. Thus, as is presently the case, the organic/bioorganic lecture will be offered in the fall semester and the spring lectureship will focus on inorganic/organometallic chemistry.

THE 18TH BIENNIAL
**Eisch Lectureship
in Organic Chemistry**

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 4 p.m.
Smart Energy Building, Fountain Room

Professor John J. Eisch

A native of Milwaukee, Wis., John J. Eisch received a BS from Marquette University (*summa cum laude*, 1952), and a PhD from Iowa State University in chemistry (1956). He won a Union Carbide Postdoctoral Fellowship to work with Karl Ziegler at the Max Planck Institute in Mulheim, Germany (1956), and at European Research Associates in Brussels (1957). In his early career, Eisch was a faculty member at St. Louis University, University of Michigan and Catholic University. Eisch was hired at Binghamton University (then called SUNY Binghamton) in 1972 as chairman of the Chemistry Department, and became distinguished professor in 1983. Over his 40+ -year career, he graduated 50 PhD students, trained scores of other students, published 400 scientific articles, and also served as expert witness in patent litigations and as an industrial consultant. Eisch was a demanding teacher but took pride in students who performed well. In his personal life, he was extremely sharp-witted and humorous, much to the delight of his close family members. He enjoyed reading, languages (particularly German) and, earlier in life, walking and travel. Until his death at age 88, he remained an active supporter of the Chemistry Department at Binghamton University. He is survived by his wife, Joan, four children and two grandchildren.



**Professor John J. Eisch
(1930–2019)**

Melanie Sanford

Moses Gomberg Distinguished
University Professor of Chemistry
and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor
Department of Chemistry
University of Michigan



Melanie S. Sanford is currently the Moses Gomberg Distinguished University Professor of Chemistry and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Chemistry at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She received her BS and MS degrees at Yale University in 1996, where she carried out undergraduate research in the laboratory of Professor Robert Crabtree. She pursued graduate studies at the California Institute of Technology, working with Professor Robert Grubbs. Following postdoctoral work at Princeton University with Professor John Groves, she joined the faculty at the University of Michigan in the summer of 2003 as an assistant professor of chemistry. She was promoted to associate professor in 2007, to full professor in 2010, to Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Chemistry in 2011, and to Moses Gomberg Distinguished University Professor of Chemistry in 2016.

Professor Sanford has won a number of awards, including the ACS Award in Pure Chemistry, the Sackler Prize, the Blavatnik Award, a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, and the ACS Award in Organometallic Chemistry. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a Fellow of the ACS. She has trained close to 100 graduate students and post-docs.

Research in the Sanford group aims to develop new chemical reactions that enable the production of pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and fuels in a more efficient and environmentally friendly manner. For example, her research focuses on converting simple and readily available starting materials (e.g. carbon-hydrogen bonds, carboxylic acid derivatives) into much more complex products using transition metal catalysis.

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Eisch Lectureship in Organic Chemistry

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Development of Metal- Catalyzed Reactions for Introducing Fluorine Into Organic Molecules

This presentation will describe our group's recent advances in developing metal-mediated/catalyzed methods for introducing fluorine into organic molecules. Our efforts into this area are guided by detailed fundamental studies of stoichiometric organometallic bond-forming reactions. These fundamental studies will be described in detail, and their translation to practical applications (particularly in the context of the synthesis of PET imaging agents) will be discussed.

Previous Lectureship Recipients

- 2012
Stephen L. Buchwald
MIT
- 2013
David W. C. MacMillan
Princeton University
- 2014
Brian M. Stoltz
California Institute of Technology
- 2015
Eric N. Jacobsen
Harvard University
- 2016
Bob Crabtree
Yale University
- Phil Baran**
Scripps Research Institute
- 2017
Stephen J. Lippard
MIT
- Daniel A. Singleton**
Texas A&M
- 2018
Clifford P. Kubiak
University of California, San Diego
- Scott E. Denmark**
Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2019
John F. Hartwig
University of California, Berkeley
- Gregory C. Fu**
California Institute of Technology
- 2020
Vern L. Schramm
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- 2022
Karen Goldberg
University of Pennsylvania
- 2023
Kendall N. Houk
University of California, Los Angeles
- Polly L. Arnold**
University of California, Berkeley
- 2024
Gregory H. Robinson
University of Georgia