

The Technical University of Munich and the Catalysis Research Center cordially invite you to

## The Dr. Karl Wamsler Innovation Award Symposium 2023 – Advancing Catalysis Science

On Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 2:00 pm

in the Auditorium of the TUM Institute for Advanced Study  
Lichtenbergstraße 2a, 85747 Garching bei München

The symposium honors the recipients of the  
Dr. Karl Wamsler Innovation Award 2022 and 2023

**Matthew J. Gaunt** (University of Cambridge, UK)

and

**Veronique van Speybroeck** (Ghent University, Belgium)

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### Program

**Gerhard Kramer, TUM Senior Vice President Research & Innovation**  
Opening of the Symposium

**Marvin Estenfelder, Global Head of Research and Development, Clariant AG**  
Lecture “*Catalyzing the transition towards a sustainable world*”

**Matthew J. Gaunt, 2022 Awardee**  
Lecture “*New Catalytic Reactions for Synthesis and Biology*”  
Laudatio by Thorsten Bach

**Veronique van Speybroeck, 2023 Awardee**  
Lecture “*New Frontiers in Modeling Nanoporous Materials for Catalysis, Diffusion and Adsorption*”  
Laudatio by Christopher J. Stein

**Dr. Karl M. F. Wamsler (1928–2016)** studied chemistry and business administration in Munich and Chicago and earned his doctorate in chemistry with *magna cum laude* in 1955. He first worked for Shell and joined Süd-Chemie in Munich in 1962. In his career there and also as family legacy shareholder, he built up Süd-Chemie from a small regional company into an international corporation, always with an emphasis on innovation, specifically in the area of catalysis. On behalf of his dedication to the TUM University Foundation, TUM awarded Karl Wamsler the rank of Honorary Senator in 2015. Already in 2011 Clariant AG, a sustainability-focused specialty chemistry company based in Pratteln, Switzerland, acquired Süd-Chemie, and in 2017 established the “Dr. Karl Wamsler Innovation Award”. With this Award, Clariant is proud to support catalysis research at TUM and promote excellence in the field of catalysis. Clariant is especially proud to sponsor this award and thereby recognize the world leading researchers and their performance in this essential field of chemistry.

**Matthew J. Gaunt** is holder of the Yusuf Hamied 1702 Chair of Chemistry at the University of Cambridge, and additionally, he is the Chair of the Synthetic Chemistry Research Interest Group and Director of the SynTech Centre for Doctoral Training. He graduated in 1995 and obtained his PhD degree from the University of Cambridge in 1999. Gaunt’s research focuses on the development of new chemical reactivity enabled by catalysts and is driven by programs centered on metal-catalyzed C–H bond activation, photoredox catalysis and selective chemical modification of biomolecules. He has been awarded with numerous prizes, most notably both an ERC Starting (2011) and Advanced Grant (2022).

Gaunt receives the 2022 Dr. Karl Wamsler Innovation Award “*for his contributions to the field of synthetic organic chemistry and homogeneous catalysis, especially visible light-mediated photoredox catalysis and photochemistry*”.

**Veronique van Speybroeck** is full professor at Ghent University and director/co-founder of the Center for Molecular Modeling. She graduated as engineer in physics at the Ghent University in 1997 and obtained her PhD in 2001 on a subject dealing with theoretical simulations of chemical reactions. Van Speybroeck’s research interests lie in the field of computational modeling of nanoporous materials such as zeolites, metal-organic frameworks and covalent organic frameworks for catalysis and adsorption. She has been the recipient of numerous scientific prizes, awards and grants, such as an ERC Starting (2010) and Consolidator Grant (2014).

Van Speybroeck receives the 2023 Dr. Karl Wamsler Innovation Award “*for her contributions to modeling nanoporous materials for catalysis and simulating complex chemical transformations at operating conditions*”.