



**NORTHEASTERN SECTION  
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
THE GUSTAVUS JOHN ESSELEN AWARD COMMITTEE**

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July 15, 2011

TO: Section and Division Chairs, Editors of Newsletters, Research Directors, and Chairs of Academic Departments

FROM: Howard Mayne, 2012 Chair of the Esselen Award Committee

SUBJECT: Request for Nominations for the 2012 Esselen Award for Chemistry in the Public Interest

The Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society is pleased to invite nominations of worthy candidates for the Gustavus John Esselen Award for Chemistry in the Public Interest. This award recognizes a chemist for outstanding achievement in scientific and technical work that contributes to the public well-being. The award consists of a \$5000 prize and a medal of recognition. The presentation takes place at an award ceremony in April at Harvard University, followed by a formal address by the awardee. The tentative date for this ceremony is April 19, 2012.

The award was established in 1987 to honor the memory of Gustavus John Esselen, a distinguished member of the Northeastern Section. The first awardees were F. Sherwood Rowland and Mario J. Molina, who subsequently received the Nobel Prize. Several other recipients of the Esselen Award have also been Nobel awardees.

As can be seen by the list of past awardees on the enclosed announcement, any field of chemistry or affiliation is appropriate as long as the scientific work has been an important contribution to the public well-being and its significant value to society has become apparent within the last five years.

The announcement details the nature of the award and the criteria and procedure for nominations. Further information is available at [www.nesacs.org/awards\\_esselen.html](http://www.nesacs.org/awards_esselen.html). This letter is to seek nominations of colleagues whose work meets the criteria and purpose of the award.

The deadline for nominations is October 15, 2011.

We would appreciate your posting the award notice and distributing copies as appropriate. Thank you in advance for your interest.

Enclosure



**NOMINATIONS SOUGHT**

**GUSTAVUS JOHN ESSELEN AWARD**  
**FOR**  
**CHEMISTRY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST**

The Esselen Award for Chemistry in the public interest is a very prestigious honor provided by the Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society. The award annually recognizes a chemist whose scientific and technical work has contributed to the public well-being, and has thereby communicated positive values of the chemical profession. The Awardee should be a living resident of the United States or Canada at the time of nomination, and the significance of this work should have become apparent within the five years preceding nomination.

The Esselen Award has no limitations with respect to the chemical field in which the nominees are active. It differs from many other awards in that it is for chemical activities whose importance to the public has been demonstrated. Since its inception, the award has been given to the chemists listed on the reverse side.

**THE AWARD CONSISTS OF A MEDAL AND A CHECK FOR \$5,000.** Travel expenses incidental to the conferring of this award will be reimbursed. The award will usually be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts at the April meeting of the Northeastern Section. The Awardee will deliver an address on the subject of the work for which the honor is being conferred, or for work in progress which is also directed to chemistry in the public interest. The award address should be at a level where it would be of interest to an audience that does not have knowledge of the specific field.

Nominations shall include: 1) a letter signed by the primary sponsor with a description of the nominee's work recognized as making a major contribution to the public welfare and as communicating positive values of the chemical profession, plus the names of two co-sponsors; 2) short supporting co-sponsor statements; 3) the nominee's professional biography including a list of no more than ten of the nominee's publications selected for their pertinence to the work nominated for recognition; and 4) copies of popular and technical press news or feature articles indicative of public benefit and interest. Inquiries should be directed to Dr. Howard Mayne, c/o Karen Piper, 19 Mill Road, Harvard, MA 01451. All nomination material must be consolidated into a single electronic pdf file and emailed to [howard.mayne@unh.edu](mailto:howard.mayne@unh.edu) with a copy to [piper281@verizon.net](mailto:piper281@verizon.net). The due date is Oct. 15, 2011. Joint nominations are acceptable. The Committee will review the nominations and the award recipient will be notified by the first of February.

## PAST AWARDEES AND TITLES OF AWARD ADDRESSES

- 1987: **F. Sherwood Rowland** and **Mario J. Molina**, University of California at Irvine. *Discovery of the Influence of Chlorofluorocarbons on the Ozone Layer.*
- 1988: **Alfred P. Wolf** and **Joanna S. Fowler**, Brookhaven National Laboratories. *Chemical Procedures to Make Positron Emission Tomography a Practical Method in Medical Diagnosis.*
- 1989: **Carl Djerassi**, Stanford University. *Synthesis and Promotion of the First and Most Common Birth Control Hormone.*
- 1990: **Thomas J. Dougherty**, Roswell Park Cancer Institute. *The Development of Photodynamic Therapy for the Treatment of Malignant Disease.*
- 1991: **Jerrold Meinwald** and **Thomas Eisner**, Cornell University. *Chemical Responses in the Insect and Plant World.*
- 1992: **Bruce N. Ames**, University of California at Berkeley. *Detection of Carcinogens and Causes of Aging and Cancer.*
- 1993: **James G. Anderson**, Harvard University. *Experimental Methods for Measuring Global Ozone Loss.*
- 1994: **Kary B. Mullis**, *The Discovery of Polymerase Chain Reactions (PCR) for the Replication of DNA Molecules.*
- 1995: **Howard J. Schaeffer**, Burroughs Wellcome Company. *The Discovery of Acyclovir (Zovirax<sup>®</sup>).*
- 1996: **Roy G. Gordon**, Harvard University. *Low Emissivity Glass; Energy Conserving Windows.*
- 1997: **Rangaswamy Srinivasan**, UVTech Associates. *The Widely Used Laser Methodology of Tiny Focused Ablative Photodecomposition.*
- 1998: **Kyriacos C. Nicolaou**, Scripps Research Institute. *Chemical Synthesis and Chemical Biology of Natural Substances.*
- 1999: **Robert S. Langer**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. *Development of Unique Polymers for Medical Applications.*
- 2000: **William A. Pryor**, Louisiana State University. *Vitamin E and the Prevention of Heart Disease.*
- 2001: **Joseph M. DeSimone**, University of North Carolina and North Carolina State University. *Green Chemistry for Sustainable Economic Development.*
- 2002: **Ronald Breslow**, Columbia University. *Chemistry Lessons from Biology and vice versa.*
- 2003: **Bruce D. Roth**, Pfizer Global Research & Development. *The Discovery and Development of Lipitor<sup>®</sup>.*
- 2004: **James W. Jorgenson**, University of North Carolina. *The Magic of Capillaries in Chemical Separations and Analysis.*
- 2005: **Jean M. J. Fréchet**, University of California at Berkeley. *Functional Macromolecules: From Design and Synthesis to Applications.*
- 2006: **Richard D. DiMarchi**, University of Indiana. *Chemical Biotechnology as a Means to Optimal Protein Therapeutics.*
- 2007: **Michael A. Marletta**, University of California at Berkeley. *Nitric Oxide in Biology: From Discovery to Therapeutics.*
- 2008: **John A. Katzenellenbogen**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. *Estrogens and Estrogen Receptors in Health and Disease.*
- 2009: **Chad A. Mirkin**, Northwestern University. *Nanostructures in Chemistry, Biology and Medicine.*
- 2010: **Stephen L. Buchwald**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. *Palladium- and Copper-Catalyzed Processes for the Synthesis of Pharmaceutically-Relevant Molecules.*
- 2011: **Arthur J. Nozik**, National Renewable Energy Laboratory. *Prospects and Novel Approaches for the Low Cost Power Conversion of Solar Photons to Electricity and Solar Fuels.*



## THE GUSTAVUS JOHN ESSELEN AWARD FOR CHEMISTRY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

AWARDED BY THE  
NORTHEASTERN SECTION  
OF THE  
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY