

molecules into preclinical trials, with 13 of those advancing into human studies. That research contributed to his 275 scientific publications and 99 U.S. patents.

“The results of Bruce’s efforts are always outstanding and inspiring,” says William J. Greenlee, principal at MedChem Discovery Consulting and the former head of medicinal chemistry at Merck. “He has demonstrated an exceptional ability to direct the research of his group toward successful drug candidates.”

As Maryanoff approached retirement from J&J, he joined Scripps Research Institute in California as a visiting investigator, where he collaborates with M. Reza Ghadiri on research involving self-assembling molecular systems, protein-lipid interactions, and modulators of epigenetic pathways. After his retirement in 2010, he also took on roles at the Pennsylvania Drug Discovery Institute and at the Institute for Hepatitis & Virus Research.

In addition to expanding the panoply of potential treatments for serious disorders, Maryanoff has been a tireless contributor to the wider chemistry community. He currently serves as an associate editor for *ACS Medicinal Chemistry Letters* and has sat on the editorial boards of more than a dozen journals.

Maryanoff will present the award address before the ACS Division of Medicinal Chemistry.—LISA JARVIS



COURTESY OF BRUCE MARYANOFF

Maryanoff

Press International All-American and Gulf South Conference Defensive Player of the Year honors during his senior year in 1979. When not on the gridiron, he was using his scientific acumen to perform intricate chemistry in the lab.

Today, Robinson, who is 54, is praised for his tenacious intellectual approach to synthetic inorganic chemistry. He is being recognized with the Cotton Award for taking advantage of the stabilizing effects of N-heterocyclic carbene ligands, typically associated with transition-metal catalysts, to trap highly reactive main-group-element fragments.

“Robinson is an unusually imaginative and strikingly creative synthetic inorganic chemist,” says Georgia colleague R. Bruce King. “A hallmark of all of Greg Robinson’s papers is the elegant simplicity of his synthetic approach,” adds Philip P. Power of the University of California, Davis.

The Robinson group’s milestones include the synthesis of the first stable neutral diborene, $L:(H)B=B(H):L$, where L is an N-heterocyclic carbene. Robinson built on that discovery to prepare the first carbene-stabilized disilene, $L:Si=Si:L$. This compound, effectively a soluble allotrope of elemental silicon that acts like a transition metal, has accumulated accolades from leading inorganic chemists the world over.

This “impressive finding opens up new, unprecedented possibilities in organometallic chemistry,” notes Akira Sekiguchi of the University of Tsukuba, in Japan. “What baffles me is that this complex is a truly stable, ‘bottleable’ species, not just a molecule which is observed in a low-temperature matrix,” comments Gernot Frenking of Philipps University, in Marburg, Germany. “It represents a landmark in low-coordinate silicon chemistry,” says Guy Bertrand of UC San Diego.

Robinson’s other notable chemical exploits include carbene-stabilized aromatic gallium ring and cluster compounds—an

experimental realization of metalloaromaticity—and the synthesis of a provocative compound described as containing a gallium-gallium triple bond.

After earning a B.S. in chemistry in 1980 from Jacksonville State, Robinson received a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1984 from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, under the guidance of Jerry L. Atwood. During his final year at Alabama, he was selected Graduate Student of the Year. Robinson began his career at Clemson University, then joined the faculty at Georgia in 1995.

Robinson has served on the editorial boards of *Organometallics* (2004–07) and *C&EN* (2001–07) and currently serves on the editorial board of *Inorganic Chemistry*. He is a recipient of the Southern Chemist Award, presented by the ACS Memphis Section, and the 2004 Percy L. Julian Award, which is the highest honor bestowed by the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists & Chemical Engineers. Robinson also is a recipient of the Charles H. Herty Medal from the ACS Georgia Section (2008); the Lamar Dodd

Award, which is the highest research award presented by the University of Georgia (2010); and an Alexander von Humboldt Senior Scientist Award (2012).

“His synthetic and structural work has provided a much-needed basis and stimulus for main-group-element chemical research in general, a basis that goes beyond his personal research goals and provides textbook examples for new science,” notes organometallic chemist Marcetta Y. Darensbourg

of Texas A&M University. “And the reach of his chemistry continues to expand.”

Robinson will present the award address before the ACS Division of Inorganic Chemistry.—STEVE RITTER



COURTESY OF GREGORY ROBINSON/UNIV OF GEORGIA

Robinson

GEORGE C. PIMENTEL AWARD IN CHEMICAL EDUCATION

Sponsored by Cengage Learning and friends and colleagues of George and Jeanne Pimentel

During his long career, **Conrad L. Stanitski** has had a significant impact on the way chemistry is taught.

F. ALBERT COTTON AWARD IN SYNTHETIC INORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Sponsored by the F. Albert Cotton Endowment Fund

Gregory H. Robinson, Franklin Professor of Chemistry at the University of Georgia, tends to stand out in a crowd. His physical presence is more suggestive of a football player than a mild-mannered chemistry professor. Yet he has proven himself quite capable at being both.

As a linebacker at Jacksonville State University, Robinson once used his size, speed, and agility to put fear in opposing teams’ quarterbacks. He earned United