

THE CAMILLE AND HENRY DREYFUS FOUNDATION, INC.

Dedicated to the Advancement of the Chemical Sciences

February 2009

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2008: The Year in Review

New Dreyfus Prize Launched – Announcement Slated for Spring 2009

In September 2008, the Foundation announced the establishment of the Dreyfus Prize in the Chemical Sciences to recognize an individual for exceptional and original research in a selected area of chemistry that has advanced the field in a major way. This prize will bring widespread attention to accomplishments in areas of chemistry research that will likely have a far-reaching and beneficial impact on society. The biennial prize of \$250,000 is the one of the largest awards dedicated to the chemical sciences in the United States.

The first prize, to be awarded in the field of materials chemistry, will be announced in April 2009. The inaugural prize honors the accomplishments of the Dreyfus brothers, Camille and Henry. Born and educated in Switzerland in the nineteenth century, the Dreyfus brothers developed the first commercially successful system for the production of cellulose acetate fiber, which contributed significantly to the evolution of the modern textile industry.

October Symposium on Environmental Chemistry

The Dreyfus Foundation initiated the Postdoctoral Program in Environmental Chemistry in 1996 in recognition of the central role of chemistry research in addressing matters of environmental importance. The program has supported the research of more than 100 noted scientists and, through their postdoctoral mentoring, contributed significantly to creating the next generation of leadership in environmental chemistry research.

On October 24, 2008, the Foundation sponsored *Climate, Energy, and the Changing Environment: A Dreyfus Symposium on Environmental Chemistry Research* to assess the evolution and current status of the field. Held at the New York Academy of Sciences, the symposium featured presentations by eight distinguished chemists who participated as mentors in the program: James Anderson (Harvard), Kimberly Prather (U. of California, San Diego), Dianne Newman (MIT), Paul Anastas (Yale), Eric Jacobsen (Harvard), Nathan Lewis (CalTech), Daniel Nocera (MIT), and Ralph Cicerone (National Academy of Sciences).

In attendance were more than 100 chemists and chemical engineers, many of whom have also served as mentors in the program. A series of perspectives by the speakers will be published in the journal *ChemSusChem* later this year. Streaming video of the symposium is currently available on the Foundation's Web site, <http://www.dreyfus.org>.

Grant Activities

The Dreyfus Foundation's awards and operating costs are derived solely from its endowment, which has suffered as a result of the dramatic downturn in the financial markets. In order to ensure the Foundation's future, the Board acted to suspend the grant programs that support new faculty and senior scientists. It is anticipated that programs will be restored as the endowment recovers.

The Foundation, however, continues to strongly support the Postdoctoral Program in Environmental Chemistry, both the Camille Dreyfus and the Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar programs, the Special Grant Program, the two Dreyfus-sponsored ACS awards, and the Jean Dreyfus Boissevain Undergraduate Scholarships. Some of the highlights in the Special Grant Program in 2008 were awards focused on enhancing the public's interest in and understanding of chemistry:

- The Museum of Science, Boston for a multimedia exhibit that will address human energy requirements and the chemistry of possible solutions
- The American Institute of Physics for promoting important discoveries in contemporary chemistry to local television news
- The Science Television Workshop for a "Science and Art" television project that will feature the forensic chemistry of art
- The Nobel Web Education Fund for the development of simple explanations and illustrations of the history of organic chemistry through the pioneering work of Nobel Prize winners
- West Texas A&M University for exhibits at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum that highlight chemistry of regional relevance
- The University of Texas at El Paso for production and dissemination of a weekly radio program, "Science Studio," that conducts interviews with notable chemists

The Board of Directors and Advisors

Dr. Richard N. Zare, the Marguerite Blake Wilbur Professor in Natural Science at Stanford University, was named an Advisor to the Foundation in January 2008. Dr. Zare, recipient of numerous international prizes and awards, is renowned for his research in analytical and laser chemistry.

The Foundation was saddened by the passing of Dr. Joshua Lederberg on February 2, 2008. Dr. Lederberg had been a member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation since 1983. He also served as founding Chairman of the Foundation's Scientific Affairs Committee, which is charged with developing and overseeing the scientific programs of the Foundation. We are grateful for Josh's wise and caring counsel which helped to guide the Dreyfus Foundation for almost 25 years.

In October 2008, H. Scott Walter was elected to the Foundation's Board of Directors.