



2016 MOLECULES AWARDS

As Editor-in-Chief of *Molecules*, I am pleased to announce the winners of the 2016 Tu Youyou Award and Travel Awards sponsored by *Molecules*:

The **2016 TU YOUYOU AWARD** has been awarded to **Dr. KENNETH A. JACOBSON**, of the Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry (LBC) at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK); part of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD, USA. As the awardee, Dr. Jacobsen will receive an honorarium of 3000 CHF and an engraved plaque.

Described by his peers as a world-leading medicinal chemist, who has produced a remarkable number of selective agonists and antagonists, as well as radioligands and photoaffinity labels for both P1 (adenosine) and P2Y (ATP, UTP and UDP) G protein-coupled receptor (GPCR) subtypes, new drugs discovered by his team are currently being developed not only for therapeutic applications, for example cancer and autoimmune inflammatory diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis and psoriasis, but also for important unmet medical needs, such as chronic neuropathic pain, which affects a large fraction of the population. In addition, over three dozen chemical probes introduced by the Jacobson lab are available commercially as research tools and are used widely for the study of purine receptors, other GPCRs and ion channels.

The **2016 TRAVEL AWARDS** have been granted to **Dr. PENG WANG**, a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA and **Dr. STEFANO D'ERRICO**, a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Pharmacy, University of Naples Federico II, Naples 80131, Italy.

Dr. Peng Wang's research involves biosynthetic engineering of marine natural products to generate new anticancer agents. Dr. Stefano D'Errico's research activities focus mainly on the field of synthetic organic chemistry, particularly in the development of innovative synthetic methodologies for the preparation of novel bioactive modified nucleosides and nucleotides.

The awards consist of 800 Swiss Francs each to attend any academic conference in 2017.

Dr. Derek J. McPhee
Editor-in-Chief of *Molecules*