

## The Michael Baird Lecture Series

The Michael Baird Lecture Series was established in 2017, the Golden Anniversary of Mike's arrival at Queen's, through generous donations from former students.

Mike was raised in Dundas, Ontario, and obtained an Hon. B.Sc. in Chemistry from McMaster University where he was also president of his senior year and won several OUAA and CIS intercollegiate track and field championships. He completed his Ph.D. within three years at the University of Toronto, and then spent two extremely productive postdoctoral years with Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson (1973 Nobel Prize) at Imperial College, London. He joined the faculty at Queen's in 1967.

Mike carried out research on many aspects of organometallic chemistry and catalysis, publishing over 275 papers and ten patents based largely on the research of about 90 graduate students and 25 postdoctoral fellows. He received almost every national award for scholarship in his field including the Alcan Lecture Award, the Catalysis Award and the Catalysis Lectureship Award of the Chemical Institute of Canada. He was elected to the McMaster University Sports Hall of Fame as well as to Fellowships of the Chemical Institute of Canada and the Royal Society of Canada, and received the Queen's University Prize for Excellence in Research in 1998, the McMaster University Distinguished Alumni Award in 2015.

Mike Baird was a highly respected teacher who taught thousands of undergraduate students, of whom about 350 were introduced to research in his laboratory. As a result, he received the Chemistry Department Student Council Prize for Excellence in Teaching five times.

The Baird Lecture Series represents a fine legacy to the lengthy Baird career, and the Department thanks former Baird group members Helen Ferkul (M.Sc. '81) and Will Rogers (Ph.D. '80) for organizing the funding drive.

## PREVIOUS BAIRD LECTURERS

2025 • *M. MacLachlan*

2024 • *J. Müller*

2021 • *C. Turro*

2020 • *D. J. Mindiola*

2019 • *D. W. Stephan*

2018 • *K. I. Goldberg*

2017 • *R. Schrock*

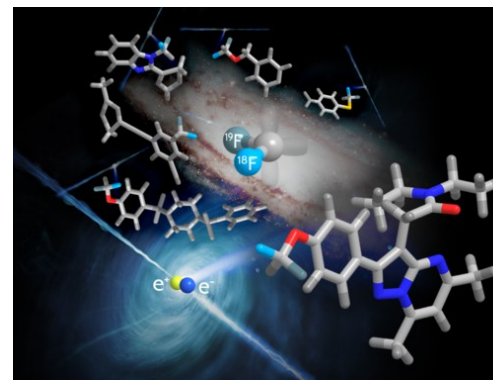


The Department of Chemistry,  
Queen's University

is honoured to host the  
2026 Dr. Michael Baird Lecture:

Véronique Gouverneur  
University of Oxford

"Fluorochemicals: The Future  
We Want"



Friday, March 27, 2026  
11:30 AM  
Chernoff Hall, Room 117

# DR. VÉRONIQUE GOUVERNEUR



Véronique Gouverneur  
University of Oxford

<https://gouverneurgroup.web.ox.ac.uk/about-veronique-0>

**Véronique Gouverneur** obtained a PhD in chemistry at the Université Catholique de Louvain (LLN, Belgium) under the supervision of Professor Léon Ghosez. In 1992, she moved to a postdoctoral position with Professor Richard Lerner at the Scripps Research Institute (California, USA). She accepted a position of Maître de Conférence at the University Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg (France); during this period, she worked with Dr Charles Mioskowski and was Associate Member of the “Institut de Science et d'Ingénierie Supramoléculaires” led by Professor Jean-Marie Lehn.

Véronique started her independent research career at the University of Oxford in 1998 in the Department of Chemistry and was promoted to Professor of Chemistry in 2008. From 1998 to 2002, she was the holder of a tutorial fellowship at Merton College, Oxford where she taught organic chemistry. In 2022, she became the Waynflete Professor of Chemistry.

Her research aims at developing new approaches to address long-standing problems in the synthesis of fluorinated molecules including pharmaceutical drugs and probes for molecular imaging (Positron Emission Tomography). To date, she has mentored and supervised the research projects of over 180 students (DPhil, MSc, PDRA). She has coordinated European ITN projects and received funding from numerous bodies, such as UKRI, ERC (ERC Advanced Grants 2019–2024 and 2024–2028) and EPSRC. She is the (co)author of > 250 peer-reviewed publications and > 15 patents.

Her research has been disseminated at numerous conferences and rewarded by multiple prizes and distinctions, including the 2015 ACS Award for Creative work in Fluorine Chemistry, the 2016 RSC Tilden Prize, the 2016 Tetrahedron Chair, the 2019 RSC Organic Stereochemistry Award, the 2019 Prelog Medal, the 2021 Henri Moissan Prize, the 2022 Arthur C. Cope Award, the 2022 EuChemS Female Organic Chemist of the Year Award, the 2024 Prous Institute - Overton and Meyer Award for New Technologies in Drug Discovery and the 2024 Davy Medal.

Véronique has also been elected Member of the European Academy of Sciences (EURASC) in 2017, Fellow of the Royal Society in 2019 and International Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2022 and Member of the US National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in 2025.

## SELECTED HONOURS & AWARDS

- **2025**, French Chemical Society French-Great-Britain Prize (France)
- **2025**, Elected Member of the US National Academy of Sciences (USA)
- **2024**, Davy Medal Royal Society (UK)
- **2024**, Wei-Yuan Huang Fluorine Chemistry Prize of the Chinese Chemical Society (China)
- **2024**, Prous Institute - Overton and Meyer Award for New Technologies in Drug Discovery (EFMC, EU) Wei-Yuan Huang Fluorine Chemistry Prize of Chinese Chemical Society (China)
- **2024**, Society of Chemical Industry Process Chemistry Award (UK)
- **2022**, EuChemS Female Organic Chemist of the Year Award (EuChemS)
- **2022**, ACS Arthur Cope C. Award (USA)
- **2021**, Prix Henri Moissan (France)
- **2019**, RSC Organic Stereochemistry Award (UK)
- **2019**, Prelog Medal, ETH Zurich (Switzerland)
- **2019**, Elected Fellow of the Royal Society (UK)
- **2015**, ACS Award for Creative Work in Fluorine Chemistry