The Suning Wang Lecture Series

Being among the first students permitted to travel from China to the United States for graduate studies, Prof. Suning Wang obtained her PhD from Yale University in 1986. She then pursued a postdoctoral fellowship at Texas A&M University between 1986 and 1989. After working briefly in industry, she became a faculty member at the University of Windsor in 1991, eventually joining the Department of Chemistry at Queen's University in1996. Here, she rose to the position of Distinguished University Professor and Research Chair before her untimely passing in 2020.

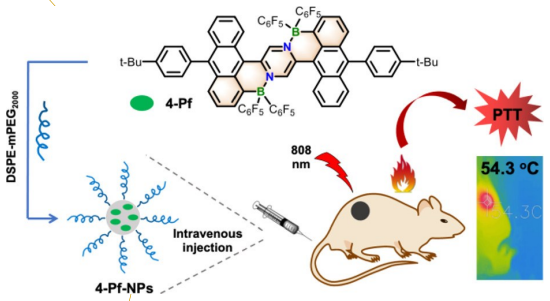
Prof. Wang's outstanding achievements in the fields of organometallic chemistry and luminescent materials include contributions to organic photovoltaics, nanoparticles, OLEDs, and the discovery of a light-triggered method of growing graphene-like sheets. In recognition of her accomplished career, resulting in over 300 co-authored publications and several patents, Prof. Wang was among the first group of Distinguished University Professors awarded by Queen's University in 2019. During her career, she was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Rutherford Memorial Medal (2002), CRC Alcan Award (2007), Queen's Excellence in Teaching Award (2011), and Killam Research Fellowship (2012–14). In addition to being a fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada and the Royal Society of Chemistry, in 2015 Prof. Wang was elected fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Prof. Wang supervised more than 70 graduate students, many of whom would become well-known scientists and faculty members. As a result of her excellence in working with students, in 2018 she received the inaugural Award for Outstanding Graduate Mentorship (now the "Dr. Suning Wang Award for Outstanding Graduate Mentorship") from the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies. Described by her students as supportive and encouraging, and by her colleagues as brilliant and "a joyful warrior", Prof. Wang was treasured by her fellow members of the Department of Chemistry. Even after her success in applications-driven research, she is remembered as a fundamental scientist who never forgot the joy of discovery for its own sake.

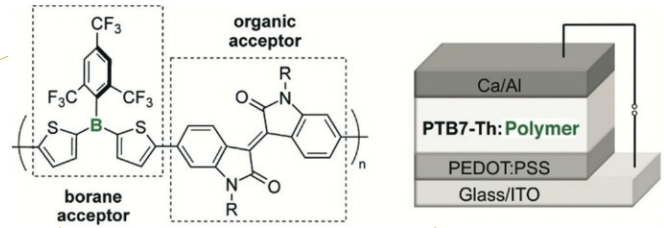
This named seminar series was established by friends, supporters, and the department to honour Prof. Wang's contributions to chemistry, her community, and the success of her students. In reflection of her own legacy of research, the Wang Lecturer is selected for their expertise on topics within the fields of organoboron, organometallic chemistry, or materials chemistry.

SELECTED RECENT PUBLICATIONS

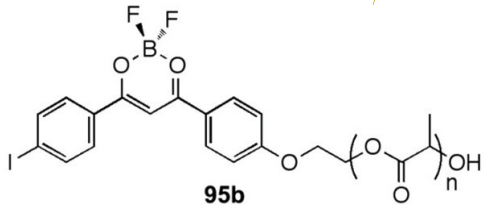
- "Near-Infrared-Absorbing B–N Lewis Pair-Functionalized Anthracenes: Electronic Structure Tuning, Conformational Isomerism, and Applications in Photothermal Cancer Therapy", *Journal of the American Chemical Society* **2022**, *144* 18908–18917.



- "Functional Polymeric Materials Based on Main-Group Elements", *Angewandte Chemie International Edition* **2019**, *58*, 5846–5870.



- "Advances in the Synthesis of Organoborane Polymers for Optical, Electronic, and Sensory Applications", *Chemical Reviews* **2010**, *110*, 3985–4022.



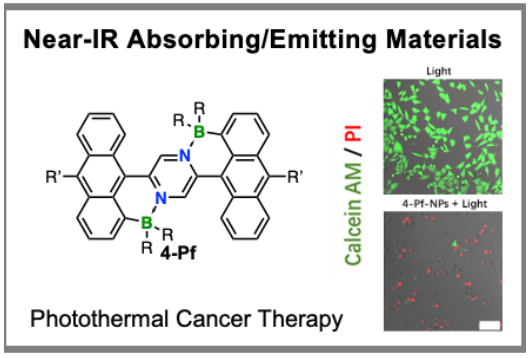
Queen's Chemistry

The Department of Chemistry, Queen's University

is honoured to host the Inaugural Suning Wang Lecture:

Frieder Jäkle
Rutgers University-Newark

"Borane Building Blocks In the Design of Innovative Molecular and Polymeric Materials"



Friday, March 13, 2026
11:30 AM
Chernoff Hall, Room 117

DR. FRIEDER JÄKLE

Frieder Jäkle
Department of Chemistry
Rutgers University-Newark
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Frieder Jäkle is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the Newark Campus of Rutgers University. He received his Diploma in 1994 and Ph.D. in 1997 from TU München, Germany, under the direction of Prof. Wagner. After a postdoctoral stint with Prof. Manners at the University of Toronto he joined Rutgers University in 2000. From 2018-2025 he served as the Chair of the Chemistry Department at Rutgers University - Newark. His research interests revolve around main group chemistry as applied to materials and catalysis, encompassing projects on organoborane Lewis acids, conjugated hybrid materials, luminescent materials for optoelectronic and sensory applications, stimuli-responsive and supramolecular polymers. He is the recipient of an NSF CAREER award (2004), Alfred P. Sloan fellowship (2006), Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Award of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (2009), ACS Akron Section Award (2012), Boron Americas Award (2012), and Board of Trustees Research Award of Rutgers University (2017). In 2019 he was named a Fellow of the American Chemical Society, in 2024 an Ambassador to the French CNRS, and in 2026 an awardee of the Zen-ichi Yoshida lectureship by IOCF (Kyoto, Japan).

SELECTED HONOURS & AWARDS

- Zen-ichi Yoshida Lectureship (2026, Japan)
- Pro-Bono Award by the New Jersey ACS Section (2025)
- Ambassador to CNRS (2024)
- ACS Fellow (2019)
- Rutgers University Board of Trustees Award for Excellence in Research (2017)
- ACS Akron Section Award (2012)
- Boron Americas Award (2012)
- Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Prize (2009)
- Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship (2006-2008)
- National Science Foundation CAREER Award (2004-2008)