Due to the enthusiastic response to the organic/bioorganic lectures, the Chemistry Committee decided to introduce a corresponding lectureship in inorganic/organometallic chemistry for the spring semester. Thus, as is presently the case, the organic/bioorganic lecture will be offered in the fall semester and the spring lectureship will focus on inorganic/organometallic chemistry.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

THE 20TH BIANNUAL

Eisch Lectureship in Organic Chemistry

Friday, October 17, 2025, 4 p.m.
Smart Energy Building, Fountain Room

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

25-230

Professor John J. Eisch

A native of Milwaukee, Wis., John J. Eisch received a BS from Marquette University (*summa cum laude*, 1952), and a PhD from Iowa State University in chemistry (1956). He won a Union Carbide Postdoctoral Fellowship to work with Karl Ziegler at the Max Planck Institute in Mulheim, Germany (1956), and at European Research Associates in Brussels (1957). In his early career, Eisch was a faculty member at St. Louis University, University of Michigan and Catholic University. Eisch was hired at Binghamton University (then called SUNY Binghamton) in 1972 as chairman of the Chemistry Department, and became distinguished professor in 1983. Over his 40+ -year career, he graduated 50 PhD students, trained scores of other students, published 400 scientific articles, and also served as expert witness in patent litigations and as an industrial consultant. Eisch was a demanding teacher but took pride in students who performed well. In his personal life, he was extremely sharp-witted and humorous, much to the delight of his close family members. He enjoyed reading, languages (particularly German) and, earlier in life, walking and travel. Until his death at age 88, he remained an active supporter of the Chemistry Department at Binghamton University. He is survived by his wife, Joan, four children and two grandchildren.

Professor John J. Eisch (1930–2019)

Tomislav Rovis

Samuel Latham Mitchill Professor of Chemistry
Department of Chemistry
Columbia University

Tomislav Rovis was born in Zagreb in the former Yugoslavia but was largely raised in Southern Ontario, Canada. Following his undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto, he earned his PhD degree at the same institution in 1998, under the direction of Professor Mark Lautens working on the asymmetric hydroalumination of oxabicyclic alkenes. From 1998–2000, he was an NSERC postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University with Professor David A. Evans investigating asymmetric Cu(II) catalyzed Mukaiyama Michael reactions. In 2000, he began his independent career at Colorado State University and was promoted in 2005 to associate professor and in 2008, to professor and John K. Stille Chair in Chemistry. His research interests cover C-H activation, cross-coupling, asymmetric catalysis, organocatalysis, artificial metalloenzymes and photoredox catalysis.

His group's accomplishments have been recognized by several awards, including an NSF CAREER and a Roche Excellence in Chemistry award. He has been named a GlaxoSmithKline Scholar, Amgen Young Investigator, Eli Lilly Grantee, Alfred P. Sloan Fellow, Monfort Professor at Colorado State University, Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Katritzky Young Investigator in Heterocyclic Chemistry and an Arthur C. Cope Scholar. In 2016, he moved to Columbia University where he is currently the Samuel Latham Mitchill Professor of Chemistry.

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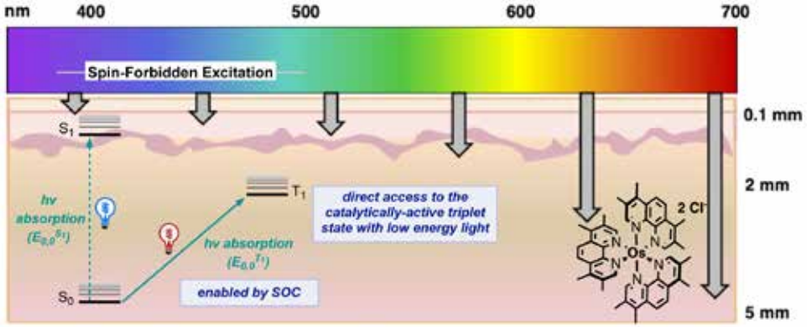
Redshifting Photoredox Catalysis

Visible light irradiation covers a range of wavelengths that corresponds to 40-70 kcal/mol of energy. While blue and purple light are most common and enabling, the use of these wavelengths has limitations with respect to substrate scope and material penetration. We have developed a suite of Os-based catalysts that undergo spin forbidden excitation directly to the triplet state in the deep red (DR) and near infrared (NIR) range, facilitating low energy excitation for photoredox catalysis. Catalyst discovery, synthetic applications and biological imaging will be discussed.



Previous Recipients

2012
Stephen L. Buchwald
MIT

2013
David W. C. MacMillan
Princeton University

2014
Brian M. Stoltz
California Institute of Technology

2015
Eric N. Jacobsen
Harvard University

2016
Bob Crabtree
Yale University

Phil Baran
Scripps Research Institute

2017
Stephen J. Lippard
MIT

Daniel A. Singleton
Texas A&M

2018
Clifford P. Kubiak
University of California, San Diego

Scott E. Denmark
Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

2019
John F. Hartwig
University of California, Berkeley

Gregory C. Fu
California Institute of Technology

2020
Vern L. Schramm
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

2022
Karen Goldberg
University of Pennsylvania

2023
Kendall N. Houk
University of California, Los Angeles

Polly L. Arnold
University of California, Berkeley

2024
Gregory H. Robinson
University of Georgia

2025
Melanie Sanford
University of Michigan

T. Don Tilley
University of California, Berkeley