

William R. Wiley

EMSL In Brief

Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory

Parkin Receives Prestigious American Chemical Society Award

Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory user Professor Gerard F. R. Parkin received the 2008 American Chemical Society Award in Organometallic Chemistry. This award, established in 1983, recognizes recent achievements in the study of compounds that contain bonds between carbon and a metal (compounds that are important in both industrial catalysts and human enzymes).

A chemistry professor at Columbia University, Parkin is known for his work on the development of models for the active sites of zinc enzymes. Because of the critical role zinc plays in biology – zinc is the second most abundant trace element in humans after iron, Parkin's models provide a deeper understanding of the structures and mechanisms of these important proteins.

As part of his efforts, he collaborated with the Ellis group within Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's Biological Sciences Division utilizing EMSL's unique low-temperature solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy methods, as well as the supercomputer for advanced modeling and simulations. This collaborative effort using metalloproteins is just one example of Parkin's outstanding research program.

Beyond his scientific studies, Parkin is recognized for his intense passion for chemistry. His creativity, rigor, and insight are seen in his laboratory as well as in his many publications. Further, his ability to communicate the often complex nature of organometallic chemistry to his students and peers with ease and humor is noted.

For more information, contact Mary Ann Showalter (509-376-5751).



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