

THE ALAN SARGESON LECTURESHIP

Division of Inorganic Chemistry,
Royal Australian Chemical Institute

The Alan Sargeson Lectureship is a prestigious early career researcher award in the form of a lectureship that acknowledges significant and innovative individual contributions to the field by researchers within ten years of the award of their PhD.



Alan McLeod Sargeson FAA FRS
October 30, 1930 - December 29, 2008

Alan Sargeson was born in Armidale, New South Wales, Australia. He was educated at the University of Sydney and received his Ph.D. under Francis P. Dwyer - also at the University of Sydney in 1956. He subsequently took up a lectureship at the University of Adelaide, but in 1958 he re-joined Frank Dwyer in accepting a research fellowship within the autonomous Biological Inorganic Chemistry Unit of the John Curtin School of Medical Research at the Australian National University (ANU). Following Dwyer's premature death in 1962, Alan maintained the Unit until 1967 when he moved to the newly-established Research School of Chemistry at ANU.

He was fascinated by the roles of metals in biology and some of his significant early work involved the development and study of "biomimetic" metal complexes – work which led to a vastly improved understanding of the way many of Nature's remarkable catalysts, metalloenzymes in particular, produce their effects. That work was driven by pioneering research studies on the fundamentals of chemical reaction rates and mechanisms that involve metal ions, and research on the detailed structures that coordination compounds adopted.

A doyen of Australian and international inorganic chemistry in the last half of the 20th and early years of the 21st Century, Alan was primarily a coordination chemist and his research group investigated the reactions of coordinated amines, culminating in the synthesis of the clathrochelates called sepulchrates. Perhaps his best known achievements were in such 'cage' chemistry, where he conducted research into the unexpected chemical reactions of metal ions trapped inside a chemical cage and how to release the ions from the cage. This work resulted in several patents in the medical area.

Alan Sargeson made an enthusiastic and substantial contribution to the chemistry community, and he was an inspiring teacher and a collaborative and supportive colleague. He worked on many committees, panels and reviews, and published more than 400 articles.

Career Highlights

1978–1995: Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, Research School of Chemistry (ANU)
1996–2008: University Fellow and Emeritus Professor Research School of Chemistry (ANU)
1986–1988: Dean of School, Research School of Chemistry (ANU)

1972: Fellow, Royal Australian Chemical Institute
1975: Inaugural Burrows Award for Inorganic Chemistry, Royal Australian Chemical Institute
1976: Fellow, Australian Academy of Science
1976: Foreign Member, Royal Danish Academy of Science
1978: H.G. Smith Medal, Royal Australian Chemical Institute 1978;
1980: American Chemical Society Award for Inorganic Chemistry
1980: Bailar Medal, University of Illinois, USA
1983: Fellow, Royal Society
1983: Nyholm Medal, The Royal Society of Chemistry, UK
1985: Dwyer Medal, University of New South Wales
1992: Centenary Medal, The Royal Society of Chemistry, UK
1995: Sammet Award, University of Frankfurt
1996: Foreign Associate, US National Academy of Sciences
1996: International Izatt-Christensen Award for Macrocyclic Chemistry
1989-1997: Chairman, IUPAC Commission on Nomenclature of Inorganic Chemistry
2000: AE Leighton Award, Royal Australian Chemical Institute
2002: Matthew Flinders Medal, Australian Academy of Science

WINNERS OF THE ALAN SARGESON LECTURESHIP

2006 – **Cameron Kepert**
(University of Sydney)



2008 – **Paul Donnelly**
(University of Melbourne)



2010 – **Andreas Stasch**
(Monash University)



2013 – **Colette Boskovic**
(University of Melbourne)



2014 - **James Crowley**
(University of Otago)



2016 - **Jason Dutton**
(La Trobe University)



2017 - **Deanna D'Alessandro**
(University of Sydney)



2018 - **Suzanne Neville**
(University of New South Wales)



2019 - **Elizabeth New**
(University of Sydney)



2020 - **Alex Bissember**
(University of Tasmania)

