

**AWARDS****► Phil Baran wins Blavatnik Award**

**Phil Baran**, professor and Darlene Shiley Chair in Chemistry at Scripps Research Institute, California, has been named the 2016 Blavatnik Laureate in Chemistry. He is among three winners of the 2016 Blavatnik National Awards from the Blavatnik Family Foundation and the New York Academy of Sciences.

The awards honor exceptional young scientists and engineers, and each winner receives an unrestricted cash prize of \$250,000.

Baran is being honored for his transformative research in the field of natural product synthesis and his development of a new synthetic methodology that enables chemists to design scalable, efficient, and economically viable synthetic routes to potential new drugs. One of the recent successes in the Baran laboratory is the synthesis of the plant-derived ingenol, derivatives of which have been approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration to treat skin cancer.

The other two Blavatnik awardees are Harvard University astronomer David Charbonneau and University of California, Berkeley, molecular biologist Michael Rape. The award ceremony will take place in New York City on Sept. 12.

**► Jherian Mitchell-Jones is WCC Overcoming Challenges Awardee**

**Jherian Mitchell-Jones**, an undergraduate at the College of Saint Benedict is the recipient of the American Chemical Society Women Chemists Committee's 2016 Overcoming Challenges Award. The award is given to undergraduate

female chemistry students who have overcome significant obstacles in their pursuit



of success in the field of chemistry.

As a child, Mitchell-Jones suffered from multiple forms of abuse and developed posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and depression from these experiences, which made it difficult to concentrate in school. Through hard work, therapy, and support from family, she managed her symptoms and was able to succeed in school. She hopes to do research in green energy and fuels as well as in astrochemistry.

**► Sigal Postdoctoral Fellowship to Lisa Olshansky**

**Lisa Olshansky** is the recipient of the 2016–18 Irving S. Sigal Postdoctoral Fellowship of the American Chemical Society.

The fellowship stipend is currently \$55,000 a year for two years, and it is awarded to a Ph.D. candidate who is pursuing research at the interface of chemistry and biology.

Olshansky earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2015. She will begin a postdoc at the University of California, Irvine, where she will investigate how nature controls the reactivity of metallocofactor intermediates for the oxidation of strong chemical bonds.

The fellowship is named for Irving S. Sigal, a chemist who applied site-directed mutagenesis to study the structure and function of enzymes and proteins.

**► Kay Brummond honored for diversity efforts**

**Kay Brummond**, chair of the department of chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh, is the recipient of the 2016 Diversity Catalyst Lecturer award, presented by the Open Chemistry Collaborative in Diversity Equity (OXIDE) initiative.

Brummond has revamped the diversity climate within her department by spearheading the introduction of inclusive policies, procedures, and actions.

OXIDE aims to change the academic chemistry infrastructure from the top down

by working with the chairs of leading research-active chemistry departments to reduce inequitable policies and practices that have historically led to disproportionate representation on academic faculties with respect to gender, race and ethnicity, disabilities, and sexual orientation.

**► Nominations sought for the 2017 Roy W. Tess Award in Coatings**

Nominations are being sought for the 2017 Roy W. Tess Award in Coatings, presented by the ACS Division of Polymeric Materials: Science & Engineering. The \$3,000 award recognizes outstanding individual achievements and noteworthy contributions to coatings science, technology, and engineering, and it will be presented during the fall 2017 ACS national meeting in Washington, D.C.

Scientists from all sectors of industry, government, and academia are eligible to apply and should forward nominations to Theodore Provder, Tess Award Chairman, 5645A Emerald Ridge Pkwy., Solon, OH 44139. Nominations are due on Sept. 1. For more information, contact Provder at (440) 914-0611 or tprovder@att.net.

**► Call for nominations for Esselen award**

The ACS Northeastern Section seeks nominations for the Gustavus John Esselen Award for Chemistry in the Public Interest. The award is given annually to a chemical scientist whose scientific and technical work has contributed to the public well-being and has communicated the positive values of the chemical profession.

The award, consisting of a bronze medal and \$5,000, will be presented at the section's April 2017 meeting. Nominations should be submitted as a single pdf file and should include a letter signed by the primary sponsor, short supporting statements from two cosponsors, a biography of the nominee, and copies of pertinent articles and popular news and feature articles indicative of public interest.

For more information, visit nesacs.org/awards\_esselen.html. Nominations are due by Oct. 15 to karl@amgen.com. Copy jpipergrady@gmail.com on the e-mail.

Announcements of awards may be sent to l\_wang@acs.org.