Fondation de la Maison de la Chimie

Press release
Paris, 28th September 2026

*The **2026 Grand Prix** of the Fondation de la Maison de la Chimie has been jointly awarded to*

- **Professor Christian AMATORE**, for his outstanding multidisciplinary work in the field of **electrochemistry**. Widely regarded as one of the scientists who profoundly reshaped modern molecular electrochemistry, he turned it into an essential tool in **organic and organometallic synthesis, catalysis, analytical chemistry, and biology**. His research has provided new conceptual and methodological frameworks that have become international benchmarks. His most striking and pioneering contribution lies in **the development of microelectrodes and nanoelectrodes**.

- **Professor Jean-Marie TARASCON**, for his pioneering research on **electrochemical energy storage**. Through the scope, originality, and impact of his work, he has profoundly influenced the fields of **materials chemistry and electrochemistry**, while helping to define new scientific and technological pathways for the energy transition (**high-voltage electrode materials, novel lithium reactivity mechanisms, interface chemistry, eco-efficient synthesis, and alternatives to conventional lithium-ion technologies—specifically sodium-ion, lithium-air, lithium-sulfur, and redox flow batteries**). He has also pioneered new concepts for smarter, multifunctional battery systems.

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Professor Christian Amatore is **CNRS Research Director Emeritus at the École Normale Supérieure (ENS Paris) and Distinguished Professor at Xiamen University (China).**

Christian Amatore studied at the ENS and obtained his doctorate in 1979. In 1982, he was appointed NSF-CNRS Assistant Professor at Indiana University, subsequently becoming a CNRS Research Director in 1984.

Widely recognized as the most influential electrochemist of his generation, his impact extends far beyond the realm of electrochemistry, reshaping fundamental concepts in fields such as organic synthesis, physical chemistry, cell biology, and nanomedicine. A defining feature of his career is his ability to bridge the gap between fundamental chemistry and biology. Far from merely making incremental improvements to existing techniques, Christian Amatore has consistently pioneered entirely new avenues of research. His work has transformed electrochemistry from a discipline primarily focused on electrode reactions into a versatile analytical science capable of exploring complex biological systems at the cellular and even subcellular levels—a truly innovative achievement.

His publications and methods have influenced generations of researchers in electrochemistry, analytical and bioanalytical chemistry, organic synthesis—notably through the elucidation of reaction mechanisms—as well as catalysis applications, physical chemistry, nanoscience, and neuroscience, with a particular focus on a deeper understanding of neurotransmission. Numerous laboratories worldwide now rely on concepts and techniques stemming from his work. Christian Amatore has authored around 500 articles in leading peer-reviewed journals.

He has received numerous highly prestigious awards in chemistry and electrochemistry, including the CNRS Silver Medal, the Faraday Medal, the Volta Medal, the Jaroslav Heyrovský Prize, the International Society of Electrochemistry Gold Medal, and the French Chemical Society's Lavoisier Medal.

He has also received honors from the French State (Legion of Honour, National Order of Merit, and the rank of Officer in the Order of Academic Palms) and has served on a vast number of national and international committees and councils, notably as a member of the scientific council advising UNESCO on the Basic Sciences Programme.
He is a member of the French Academy of Sciences, Academia Europaea, the Third World Academy of Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, the Portuguese Academy of Sciences and the Italian Academy of Sciences of Lombardia.

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Professor Jean-Marie Tarascon is a **professor at the Collège de France, holding the Chair of Solid-State Chemistry and Energy.**

In 1977, Jean-Marie Tarascon obtained a master's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Bordeaux I. In 1980, he defended his doctoral thesis in science—also at the University of Bordeaux I—under the supervision of Jean Étourneau and Paul Hagenmuller.
His scientific career began in 1981 in the United States with a postdoctoral position at Cornell University, focusing on high-critical-temperature superconducting materials. From 1982 to 1994, he worked as a researcher at Bell Labs and subsequently at Bellcore—the telecommunications-focused subsidiary—where he initially worked on superconductors before shifting his focus to energy storage. Between 1994 and 2013, he was a professor at the University of Picardie Jules Verne in Amiens, where he headed the Laboratory of Reactivity and Chemistry of Solids (LRCS) until 2007. In 2011, he founded the Electrochemical Energy Storage Network (RS2E) - a research and technology transfer network dedicated to batteries - which he co-directs with Patrice Simon from Paul Sabatier University. In 2014, he was appointed to the Chair of "Solid-State Chemistry and Energy" at the Collège de France.

Jean-Marie Tarascon embodies the perfect blend of scientific excellence, industrial impact, and societal commitment. His contributions have redefined the boundaries of electrochemical storage, structured a global scientific community, inspired generations of researchers, paved the way for revolutionary industrial applications, and placed sustainability at the heart of innovation.
His portfolio of 105 patents, combined with publications in prestigious journals such as Nature and Science, illustrates the exceptional scope of his scientific and technological contributions.

A member of the Institut Universitaire de France and the French Academy of Sciences, Professor Tarascon has received numerous distinctions, including the ENI Award for Environmental Protection, the Pierre Süe Grand Prize from the French Chemical Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry Centenary Prize, the Eric and Sheila Samson Prime Minister's Prize for Innovation in Alternative Fuels for Transportation, and the Balzan Prize in the field of "Environmental Challenges: Materials Science for Renewable Energy." He was made Doctor Honoris Causa of Hasselt University and has received the CNRS Innovation Medal, and the CNRS Gold Medal. He has also received honors from the French State (Officer of the Legion of Honour, Knight of the Legion of Honour, and Officer of the National Order of Merit).

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The 2026 Grand Prix, carrying a prize of €50,000 and a bronze medal, will be awarded to Professors Amatore and Tarascon during a formal ceremony on Wednesday, February 3, 2027, at the Maison de la Chimie in Paris, as part of a symposium organized by the Foundation.