



# News Release

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## **AATCC Honors S. Kay Obendorf with its Highest Award for Her Achievements**

**RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C., USA, Friday, April 30, 2010—AATCC will honor Cornell University professor S. Kay Obendorf with the Olney Medal for outstanding achievements in the field of textile chemistry.**

Obendorf will receive the Olney Medal at an Awards Luncheon on May 19, during the Association's 2010 International Conference at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC) in Atlanta, Ga., USA. That morning at the conference, Obendorf will deliver the traditional Olney Medal Address on "Improving Personal Protection through Novel Materials."

A nationally and internationally renowned scholar, Obendorf is known as a dedicated educator and outstanding researcher of incredible breadth. Her scholarly work provided critical advances in textile chemistry and fiber science and contributed toward a better understanding of the surface chemistry of fibers and films and their performance. She made outstanding contributions in the areas of pesticide protective clothing, fiber morphology, detergency, and functional textiles.

She did ground-breaking work in the area of the underlying chemistry of soils and their interactions with fibers that furthered the basic understanding of the methods and processes of fabric care—because of Kay Obendorf's work, your clothes get cleaner and resist stains better today than they did before her discoveries. She also significantly contributed to the understanding of how textile fibers absorb odor and how odor is retained. She devised an analytical method to quantitatively measure the amount of odor-causing chemical compounds in apparel fabrics. Because of Obendorf's work, your clothes may smell fresher, for longer.

Obendorf joined AATCC in 1969. She is also a member of the International Textiles and Apparel Association, the American Association of Family and Consumer Science, the American Chemical Society and the American Oil Chemists' Society. She is a member of the Fiber Society and of Committees D13 and F23 of ASTM. She was inducted into the National Textile Center Circle of Excellence in 2005 and received the Outstanding Paper Award from the *Journal of Surfactants and Detergents* in 2000. In 1989, she was the Austin Lecturer at Iowa State University. She received the Distinguished Service Award from

Kansas State University in 1988, the Man-Made Fiber Award in 1986, and was the Fiber Society Lecturer from 1985 to 1986.

Established in 1944 in honor of Louis Atwell Olney, the founder and first president of AATCC, the Olney Medal recognizes outstanding achievement in textile or polymer chemistry or other fields of chemistry of major importance to textile science. The award consists of a gold medal, a scroll, and an honorarium.

AATCC's 2010 International Conference will be co-located with ATME-I MEGATEX 2010, which will run concurrently with Techtexil North America and SPESA Expo as part of the *Textile and Sewn Products Industry Week* May 18-20 at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC) in Atlanta. AATCC's conference theme is "Innovation and Sustainability Bring New Life to Textiles."

**ABOUT AATCC:** *AATCC is the world's leading not-for-profit association serving textile professionals since 1921. AATCC, headquartered in Research Triangle Park, N.C., USA, provides test method development, quality control materials, and professional networking for members in about 60 countries throughout the world.*

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**Obendorf Photo:**

[http://www.aatcc.org/media/pr/2010/images/Olney\\_Kay\\_Obendorf.pdf](http://www.aatcc.org/media/pr/2010/images/Olney_Kay_Obendorf.pdf)

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