



Gang Sun Receives the Olney Medal

Gang Sun is the 2016 recipient of the Olney Medal for his outstanding achievements and contributions to the field of textile chemistry. In particular, Sun has made significant research contributions on the relationship between polymer structure and single fiber mechanical properties in natural and manufactured fibers.

In 1982, Sun received a BS, and in 1984, an MS in Materials Science and Fiber Engineering, from China Textile University, now known as Donghua University. He was a lecturer/research associate at Donghua University from 1984 through 1989. In 1994, he received his PhD in Chemistry from Auburn University, and completed his post-doctorate in Textile Engineering at Auburn in July 1995. That same year, Sun became an Assistant Professor in the Division of Textiles and Clothing at the University of California, Davis. In 2000, he was promoted to Associate Professor, and became full professor in 2004.

Achievements

Sun's work is extensive. His research encompasses:

- functional modifications of polymers and fibers;
- protective clothing for professionals, including biological protection, chemical protection, fire and heat protection;
- functional and environmentally friendly textile materials and processes, including biosynthesis of colorants and functional chemicals; and
- personal-use pesticide colorimetric sensors.

Ian Hardin, Georgia Power Professor Emeritus at the University of Georgia, recognizes the tremendous impact Sun's research has had in creating products valuable to public health providers and military personnel. In particular, Hardin notes that Sun's research on halamine

chemistry "produced unique micro-biocidal compounds that have led to very novel biocidal polymers, fibers, and textiles." These fibers and textiles have "antibacterial functions that are permanent and capable of regeneration over many cycles." Third-world countries use Sun's halamine chemistry to create safe, clean drinking water. Sun's creative research encompasses pioneering natural and synthetic polymers to create nanofibers, and developing bio-based materials from agricultural waste.

Sun has published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers, 20 book chapters, two edited books, as well as numerous proceedings and presentations; he also has 16 US patents.

Honors and Awards

For his innovative research, Sun has received the National Science Foundation CAREER Award (1998-2003), as well as the Director's Award and Circle of Excellence from the US National Textile Center (2004-2005). He also was the 2007 AATCC J. W. Weaver Paper of the Year Award recipient.

Sun is currently the Chang Jiang Scholar Professor at Donghua University, China Ministry of Education.

Professional Societies

Sun joined AATCC in 1995. From 2008 through 2012, he was Member-At-Large for the Division of Cellular and Renewable Materials with the American Chemical Society; he was also a Governing Council Member with The Fiber Society. Since 2012, Sun has been a member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Industrial Textiles*, and *Textile Research Journal*. Since 2013, he has been an associate editor of the *AATCC Journal of Research*; and *Fashion and Textiles-International Journal of Interdisciplinary Research*.

The Olney Medal

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.

Presentation of the medal each year is a highlight of AATCC's International Conference. This year, the conference will be held at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside, Wilmington, NC, USA from March 28-30, 2017. The Association will present the Olney Medal at the Awards Luncheon on March 30, 2017.

Sun will deliver the traditional Olney Medal Address on March 26 at 8:15 a.m. The title of his talk is "Creating Novel Functions on Textiles by Applying Organic Chemistry."

For a complete list of our esteemed past award recipients, visit www.aatcc.org/abt/awards/olney/olney-medal-recipients