



# European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry

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## Prous Award in New Technologies in Drug Discovery

The "Prous Award in New Technologies in Drug Discovery" was established by Prous Institute for Biomedical Research, to encourage innovation and investigation in technological developments related to drug discovery. The 2006 recipient is Professor Dario Neri, Professor of Biological Macromolecules at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zürich, Switzerland, for his pioneering work establishing synthetic antibody libraries which are obtained by employing phage display technology.

Professor Dario Neri, through his multi-disciplinary research effort, has been responsible for pioneering the use of synthetic antibody libraries obtained employing phage display technology. His work on these libraries has led to the discovery of many specific antibodies against various antigens, a recent example of which is the ETH-2-gold synthetic antibody phage display library. He has developed a very elegant method for the screening of DNA-bound low molecular weight (LMW) fragments, which self assemble into libraries of  $N \times N$  potential binding or inhibitory entities ( $N$  = number of LMW fragments; "Encoded self-assembling libraries" or "ESACHEL"). Although this technology is still in its early stages, it holds significant potential for the discovery of new LMW binders to variety of protein targets. Professor Neri is co-founder of a spin-off company and, apart from the many scientific achievements, Dr. Neri is also currently head of the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the ETH. Because of his outstanding and innovative scientific achievements in the field of drug discovery and development, and his broader managerial responsibilities, he has been awarded the 2006 Prous Award.

The prize which consists of a diploma and a cheque for 7500 Euros will be presented on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2006 at the XIX<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Medicinal Chemistry in Istanbul, Turkey.

Professor Neri obtained a Masters degree in Chemistry from the Scuola Normale Superiore and the University of Pisa in 1987. He was then awarded a PhD from ETH in Zurich in 1992 for his research under the guidance of Professor Kurt Wuethrich and completed a 4 years as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Cambridge Centre for Protein Engineering with Sir Gregory Winter FRS before joining there faculty at ETH as an Assistant Professor in 1996. He currently holds the Chair of Biomacromolecules in the Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences in the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich (ETH).

Professor Neri has published over 260 scientific papers and has been the recipient of several awards, including the Abbott Prize, jointly with Luciano Zardi of the International Society Oncodevelopmental Biology and Medicine (ISOBM)

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