

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, YAKWAZULU-NATALI ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

The School of Chemistry and Physics

Invites you to a

PUBLIC LECTURE

The Joy of Discovery

Professor Ben L.Feringa

Nobel Laureate (2016)

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Date:

Thursday, 7 November 2024

Time:

11h00 - 12h00

Venue:

Senate Chamber, Westville Campus





19

About the Speaker

Professor Feringa, Nobel Laureate (2016), conducts pioneering research in catalysis and synthetic chemistry, leveraging nature's principles. His expertise encompasses dynamic molecular systems, nanoscience and novel asymmetric catalysis techniques, with chirality as a unifying theme. His research group possesses cutting-edge expertise in fundamental stereochemical phenomena.

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Abstract:

Exploring across the current frontiers of chemical sciences there is vast uncharted territory to experience the joy of discovery. Far beyond Nature's design, the creative power of synthetic chemistry provides unlimited opportunities to realize our own molecular world as we experience every day with products ranging from drugs to displays that sustain modern society. In their practice of the art of building small, chemists have shown amazing success in the past decades. Moving from molecules to dynamic molecular systems the fundamental challenge is how to control and exploit motion at the nanoscale.

In this presentation the focus is on my journey in the world of molecular switches and motors, the process of discovery and my personal experiences through my scientific career. In particular, I will address how fundamental questions and molecular beauty have guided me on this journey.