



Macro Group UK Young Researchers Medal Winners 2010

This year's award was made jointly to **Dr Jon Weaver** and **Dr Oren Scherman**



Dr Jon Weaver

Jon's research activities span various aspects of synthetic polymer chemistry, polymer self-assembly mechanisms, (polymer) nanoparticle synthesis, colloidal chemistry, responsive materials and functional polymer-stabilised emulsions (see dedicated research pages for more details). An overarching aim is to understand the fundamental design rules and mechanisms operating in these systems to the point that it is possible to retrodesign high-level complexity and advanced function using simplified, generic and viable processes

Tragically in July 2012, Jon died after a short battle with cancer. This obituary was published in the Guardian online.

Jon Weaver, who has died of cancer aged 32, was one of the UK's leading young research chemists. I first met him in 1998, when I became his personal tutor at Sussex University. He subsequently joined my research group as a final-year undergraduate and studied for a PhD degree in chemistry under my supervision. Jon proved to be one of the best PhD students with whom I have worked. Five of the 11 scientific papers that we wrote together have been cited more than 100 times, which is a fine testimony to him.

Jon was born in Nottingham and was educated at Vyners school in Ickenham, Middlesex. In 2004 he left Sussex to join Unilever, where he worked on branched copolymers with Steve Rannard, Paul Findlay and Dave Duncalf. This led to a family of patent applications and Jon co-founded Hydra Polymers to commercialise this research. He then moved to Liverpool University, where he began to develop his new concept of "emulsion engineering". This involved combining his early studies at Sussex with his industrial experience at Unilever to produce some truly excellent new science that firmly established his intellectual independence. Jon's potential was recognised with the award of a prestigious five-year Royal Society fellowship in 2010. Around the same time, he accepted a lectureship at Imperial College London to work alongside Molly Stevens.

Jon's scientific achievements were deservedly recognised by the British polymer science community, who awarded him the 2010 Macro Group Young Investigator's medal. Jon was universally popular with his colleagues, who will miss him greatly. An international polymer

chemistry conference was held at Warwick University just a few days after Jon's death; four lectures were dedicated to his memory.

He is survived by his wife, Emma, whom he married in 2008, his daughter, Lily, and his parents, Mark and Anne.

(Steve Armes, July 2012)
