

PREVIOUS WINNERS

- 1995 – Kenneth Eilertson and Drazen Raucher
- 1996 – Randal Ketchem
- 1997 – Priya Subramony
- 1998 – Goran Periz
- 1999 – Genfa Zhou
- 2000 – Bishow Adhikari
- 2001 – Junfeng Wang
- 2002 – Meredith Newby

Previous Kasha Award Seminar Speakers

- 1995 – Dr. Linda Nicholson
- 1996 – Dr. Teresa E. Strzelecka
- 1997 – Dr. Steven Pascal
- 1998 – Dr. Anthony Nicholls
- 1999 – Dr. Kenneth Eilertsen
- 2000 – Dr. Ronald Milligan
- 2001 – Drs. Glenn Crosby, Alexander Demchenko, Mostafa El-Sayed, Robin Hochstrasser, Joseph Lakowicz, Klaus Schulten
- 2002 – Dr. Tom Eads

The 2004 Kasha Award Seminar and Ceremony

**The Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida**

**Molecular Biophysics
Graduate Program**

Speaker:

Dr. Drazen Raucher

**1995 Graduate
Ph.D. Program in Molecular Biophysics
Florida State University**

**April 13, 2004
11:15 AM
Room 112, KLB**

THE KASHA AWARD

The Kasha Award is given annually to recognize and stimulate research and to promote quality scientific writing. The award is named after Dr. Michael Kasha, Distinguished University Professor and founder of the Institute of Molecular Biophysics. All MOB students who are primary authors on a published paper in the past two years are eligible to be nominated by their major professor. Winners are selected by a committee.

WELCOMING REMARKS and INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Dr. Timothy M. Logan
Associate Professor of Chemistry
Director, MOB Graduate Program

SPEAKER

Drazen Raucher, Ph.D.

“Application of Thermally Sensitive Genetically
Engineered Elastin-like Polypeptides
in Drug Delivery”

PRESENTATION OF AWARD

Dr. Michael Kasha
R. O. Lawton Distinguished Professor
and University Professor

CO-RECIPIENTS

Ms. Rumana Rashid
Current Student
Prof. Hong Li's Lab

Dr. Pamela D. Twigg
2001 Graduate
Prof. Donald Caspar's Lab

THE SPEAKER

Drazen Raucher earned his B.S. in Mathematics and Physics at the University of Osijek, Osijek, Croatia (1988). He worked with IQuatro, Integrated Information Engineering in Osijek until he entered the Molecular Biophysics Graduate Program at Florida State University. He earned his Ph.D. under the guidance of Prof. Piotr Fajer (1995). He was also co-recipient of the Kasha Award in 1995, the year it was first established.

Dr. Raucher did postdoctoral work at Duke University (1995-1999), and then held the position of Assistant Research Professor in the Departments of Cell Biology (1999-2000) and Biomedical Engineering (2001-2002). In 2002, he became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry, University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Dr. Raucher's current research focuses on three major areas:

- 1) membrane-cytoskeleton adhesion measurements using laser optical tweezers – understanding the mechanism regulating membrane-cytoskeletal adhesion will provide new insights in molecular events that stimulate and modulate variety of cell functions;
- 2) the effects of pharmaceutical reagents on cell biochemistry and physiology – studies to elucidate whether therapeutic administration of biologically compatible membrane-cytoskeleton adhesion reducing reagents in combination with antitumor drugs at lower concentrations may effectively inhibit tumor growth;
- 3) targeted delivery of antisense oligonucleotides to tumors by genetically engineered responsive polymers – the objective is to develop a targeted approach using thermally responsive polypeptides to specifically deliver antisense oligonucleotides to a tumor site and induce apoptosis of cancer cells.