



For outstanding contributions to chemistry
meriting national and international recognition, the
2026 Linus Pauling Medal is awarded to

Professor Karen Wooley
Texas A&M University

by the Oregon, Portland, and Puget Sound Sections
of the American Chemical Society.

Symposium

1:00 PM Saturday, November 7, 2026
Portland State University
George C. Hoffmann Hall
1833 SW 11th Avenue
Portland OR 97201

Speakers

Prof. Geoffrey W. Coates, Cornell University
Prof. Craig J. Hawker, University of California, Santa Barbara
Prof. Douglas A. Keszler, Emeritus, Oregon State University
Prof. Karen Wooley, Texas A&M University
Recipient of the 2026 Linus Pauling Medal Award

The symposium, sponsored by these ACS sections, and hosted by the Portland Section and Portland State University, is free and open to the public (no registration required). The Award Banquet requires purchase of a banquet ticket. For further information, including banquet reservations, visit <https://acspss.org/pauling-medal-award/>

Linus Pauling Medal Symposium Speaker Biographies

Symposium Presented by Portland Section ACS

7 November 2026

Portland State University Hoffman Hall

Geoffrey W. Coates earned a B.A. in chemistry from Wabash College in 1989, followed by a Ph.D. in organic chemistry with Robert Waymouth at Stanford



University in 1994. After an NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship with Robert Grubbs at the California Institute of Technology, Coates joined Cornell University's faculty in 1997, where he is the Tisch University

Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology.

The Coates Group develops catalysts and polymer platforms for sustainable materials, including high-performance biodegradable polymers, plastics from biorenewable feedstocks, technologies for valorizing post-consumer plastics, and materials for energy storage and conversion.

Prof. Coates has received the Cope Scholar Award, ACS Award in Affordable Green Chemistry, Hach Award for Entrepreneurial Success, ACS Applied Polymer Science Award, Carl Marvel Creative Polymer Chemistry Award, and the ACS Award in Polymer Chemistry. He was inducted into the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 2011, and elected to the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Inventors in 2017. He received

the Eni Award in 2022, followed by the National Academy of Sciences Award for the Industrial Application of Science in 2023. He received The Franklin Institute's Benjamin Franklin Medal in Chemistry in 2026.

Prof. Coates is scientific cofounder of Novomer, Ecoelectro, and Intermix Performance Materials. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Mitsubishi Chemical Group and is an Associate Editor of the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

Craig J. Hawker earned a B.Sc. with First Class Honors in chemistry from the University of Queensland and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry with Sir Alan Battersby



at the University of Cambridge. Following postdoctoral research with Jean Fréchet at Cornell University, he joined IBM Almaden Research Center in 1993 and moved to the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2004,

where he is Distinguished Professor of Materials and Chemistry and holds the Alan and Ruth Heeger Chair in Interdisciplinary Science.

The Hawker Group develops new approaches to macromolecular synthesis and molecular engineering, with research

spanning precision polymer synthesis, self-assembly, nanostructured materials, 3D printing, sustainable polymers, and functional materials for electronics, therapeutics, and personal care.

Prof. Hawker has received the ACS Award in Polymer Chemistry, Kathryn C. Hach Award for Entrepreneurial Success, Charles G. Overberger International Prize, Royal Society of Chemistry Centenary Prize, and Herman F. Mark Polymer Chemistry Award. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the Royal Society, and a cofounder of several technology companies, including Relypsa and Olaplex.

Douglas A. Keszler, University Distinguished Professor of Chemistry Emeritus, served as a faculty member, Department Chair, Associate Dean for



Research, and co-lead of the Semiconductor Strategy Committee at Oregon State University. He was Director of the Center for Sustainable Materials Chemistry, a Center for Chemical Innovation co-sponsored by the National Science

Foundation and industry. His OSU research covered synthesis, characterization, and computational inverse design across a wide range of optical, electronic, and optoelectronic materials and devices, where his direct professional lineage to Linus Pauling heavily influenced his extensive application of X-ray diffraction.

During the early 2000s, Prof. Keszler

was a member of the OSU-HP team that discovered and developed the transparent oxide transistor now found in high-resolution displays. He and his collaborators discovered the first high-sensitivity metal-oxide photoresist and subsequently co-founded the EUV photoresist company Inpria Corp., which was acquired by JSR in 2021. He remains active as co-founder and advisor for multiple startups and invests in early-stage technology companies as a member of WVC and the Chemical Angel Network.

Prof. Keszler serves on the Steering Committee for the State of Oregon's 10-Year Innovation Plan and the External Advisory Council of the Texas A&M Semiconductor Institute. His honors include the American Chemical Society National Award in the Chemistry of Materials.

Karen L. Wooley holds the W. T. Doherty-Welch Chair in Chemistry and is a University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Texas A&M University, with a courtesy appointment in the Department of Materials Science & Engineering. Wooley studied at Oregon State University (B.S., 1988) and Cornell University (Ph.D., 1993). As an undergraduate, she engaged in natural product total synthesis research in the laboratory of Steven J. Gould (deceased), and she then shifted to macromolecular chemistry with a focus on the synthesis and characterization of dendritic and hyperbranched polymers during Ph.D. studies under the direction of Jean M. J. Fréchet.

The first sixteen years of her independent academic career were spent at



Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri and she then relocated to Texas A&M University in July 2009. In addition to her academic positions, she is a co-founder and President of Sugar Plastics, LLC, and Chief Technology Officer of Teysha Technologies, Ltd. Research interests include the synthesis and characterization of degradable polymers

derived from natural products, unique macromolecular architectures, complex polymer assemblies, and well-defined nanostructured materials.

Prof. Wooley has designed synthetic strategies to harness the rich compositional, regiochemical and stereochemical complexity of natural products for the construction of hydrolytically-degradable polymers—these materials are designed to impact global issues and she works aggressively to translate them to overcome global challenges with safe and sustainable chemicals. She has been elected to the National Academy of Inventors (2019), National Academy of Sciences (2020), and National Academy of Engineering (2026). Recent awards include being named as the 2021 Southeastern Conference (SEC) Professor of the Year, and receipt of the 2026 Hill Prize in Physical Sciences, 2026 Linus Pauling Medal Award and 2027 William H. Nichols Medal.

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