George A. Abbott, 1874-1973

Dr. George Alonzo Abbott, Professor Emeritus at the University of North Dakota, had a long and fruitful career of service to the State of North Dakota and the science of Chemistry. He was born July 7, 1874, in Alma, Illinois. Dr. Abbott received both the B.S. and M.A. pro merito from DePauw University. From 1896 until 1904 he taught chemistry in high schools in Evansville, Indiana; Duluth, Minnesota; and Indianapolis, Indiana. In 1903, through a contact with Professor Talbot, he received the Austen Research Fellowship at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Under the guidance of A. A. Noyes, Professor of Physical Chemistry at M.I.T., he received the Ph.D. in 1908. In this first class of doctorates in chemistry were such notables as Edward Washburn, Charles Kraus and Richard Tolman. Dr. Abbott joined the chemistry staff of the North Dakota Agricultural College (North Dakota State University) in 1909. In 1910 he was appointed Professor and Chairman of the Department of Chemistry at the University of North Dakota. His devotion to teaching and the application of chemistry for the betterment of North Dakota was one of his outstanding contributions. His interests in quality water and in natural products such as lignite, for which North Dakota is recognized, gave him national recognition. For half a century he was the only toxicologist in a wide area of the upper midwest. He found time to do a weekly radio program "Science from the Sidelines" which was broadcast for over twenty years. Professor Abbott was a founder and charter member of the North Dakota Academy of Science. He was a member of the Red River Valley Section of the American Chemical Society, a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemists, member of Sigma Xi, and a charter member of the University of North Dakota Phi Beta Kappa chapter. Dr. Abbott retired from administration in 1948 and from teaching in 1952. He continued toxicological work until 1970.

The George A. Abbott Lectureship was established by gifts from the University of North Dakota Alumni.

PREVIOUS GEORGE A. ABBOTT LECTURERS

1963	Dr. Nelson Leonard, University of Illinois	1991	Dr. Andrew Streitwieser, University of California-Berkeley
1964	Dr. Robert West, University of Wisconsin	1992	Dr. Marye Anne Fox, University of Texas at Austin
1965	Dr. Robert Parry, University of Michigan	1994	Dr. Kendall N. Houk, University of California, LA
1966	Dr. Ralph G. Pearson, Northwestern University	1995	Dr. Edward Yeung, Iowa State University
1967	Dr. Harold J. Bernstein, N.R.C. Ottawa, Canada	1997	Dr. Henry F. Schaefer, III , University of Georgia
1968	Dr. Edward L. King, University of Colorado	1999	Dr. Tobin J. Marks, Northwestern University
1969	Dr. David N. Hume, Mass. Institute of Technology	2000	Dr. Alexander Pines, University of California-Berkeley
1970	Dr. Ronald Breslow, Columbia University	2001	Dr. Paul A. Wender, Stanford University
1971	Dr. Arnold C. Wahl, Argonne Laboratory	2002	Dr. Samuel H. Gellman, University of Wisconsin
1972	Dr. John L. Margrave, Rice University	2003	Dr. Victor J. Hruby, University of Arizona
1973	Dr. Cheves Walling, University of Utah	2004	Dr. William H. Miller, University of California-Berkeley
1974	Dr. Fred McLafferty, Cornell University	2005	Dr. Barry K. Carpenter, Cornell University
1975	Dr. Daryle H. Busch, Ohio State University	2006	Dr. Malcom Chisholm, The Ohio State University
1976	Dr. Hans H. Jaffe, University of Cincinnati	2007	Dr. Catherine Fenselau, University of Maryland
1977	Dr. Roald Hoffmann, Cornell University	2008	Dr. Richard J. Saykally, University of California-Berkeley
1978	Dr. H.C. Brown, Purdue University	2009	Dr. Richard N. Zare, Stanford University
1979	Dr. Leo A. Paquette, Ohio State University	2010	Dr. Michael P. Doyle, University of Maryland
1980	Dr. Robert E. Sievers, University of Colorado	2011	Dr. Thomas J. Meyer, University of North Carolina, CH
1981	Dr. Dietmar Seyferth, Mass. Institute of Technology	2012	Dr. Michael Ward, New York University
1982	Dr. Koji Nakanishi, Columbia University	2013	Dr. Debra R. Rolison, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory
1983	Dr. Melvin Calvin, University of California-Berkeley	2014	Dr. Bruce Lipshutz, University of California, Santa Barbara
1984	Dr. Gabor A. Somorjai, University of California-Berkeley	2015	Dr. Donald J. Darensbourg, Texas A&M University
1985	Dr. Harry B. Gray, California Institute of Technology	2016	Dr. David Yarkony, John Hopkins University
1986	Dr. Allen J. Bard, University of Texas at Austin	2017	Dr. Jonathan V. Sweedler, University of Illinois, Urbana
1987	Dr. William J. Bailey, University of Maryland	2018	Dr. Thomas R. Hoye, University of Minnesota
1988	Dr. Mark S. Wrighton, Mass. Institute of Technology	2019	Dr. Christopher Cummins, Mass. Institute of Technology
1989	Dr. Peter B. Dervan, California Institute of Technology	2021	Dr. X. Chris Le, University of Alberta
1990	Dr. Robert H. Grubbs, California Institute of Technology	2022	Dr. Angela K. Wilson, Michigan State University

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
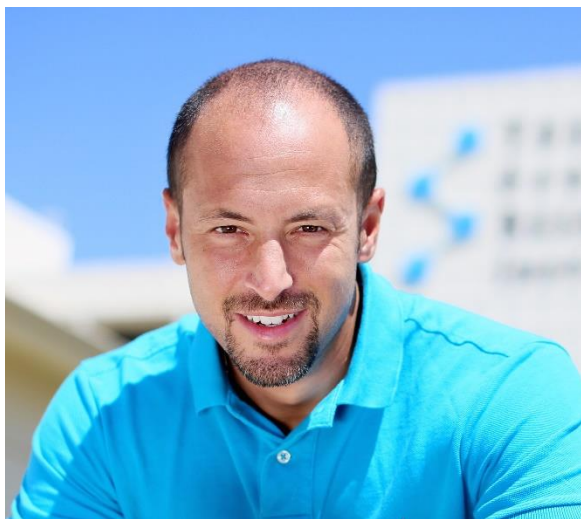## CHEMISTRY

The 2023 Abbott Chemistry Lectures

March 9 & 10, 2023

Dr. Phil Baran

Darlene Shiley Chair in Chemistry
Professor

Scripps Research, La Jolla, CA

Phil Baran was born in 1977 in Denville, New Jersey. He received his B.S. in chemistry from NYU in 1997, his Ph.D. The Scripps Research Institute in 2001, and from 2001-2003 he was an NIH-postdoctoral fellow at Harvard. His independent career began at Scripps in the summer of 2003. Phil has published over 250 scientific articles, several patents, and has been the recipient of several ACS awards such as the Corey (2015), Pure Chemistry (2010), Fresenius (2006), and Nobel Laureate Signature (2003), and several international distinctions such as the Hirata Gold Medal and Mukaiyama Prize (Japan), the RSC award in Synthesis (UK), the Sackler Prize (Israel), and the Janssen Prize (Belgium). In 2013 he was named a MacArthur Foundation Fellow, in 2015 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, in 2016 he was awarded the Blavatnik National Award, and in 2017, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, USA. He has

delivered hundreds of lectures around the world and consults for numerous companies such as Bristol-Myers Squibb and Gilead. He currently serves as a scientific advisory board member for Eisai, Alkermes, Nutcracker, Quanta and AsymChem. From 2016-2020 he served as an Associate Editor for the Journal of the American Chemical Society. He co-founded Sirenas Marine Discovery (2012), Vividion Therapeutics (2016), Elsie Biotechnologies (2021), and Elima Therapeutics (2022). In 2013 he co-authored The Portable Chemist's Consultant, an interactive book published on the iBooks store along with his graduate class in Heterocyclic Chemistry (viewable on YouTube). The Baran laboratory is committed to identifying areas of chemical synthesis that can have a dramatic impact on the rate of drug discovery and development. This is achieved both through the development of practical total syntheses of complex natural products (such as terpenes, alkaloids, peptides, and oligonucleotides) and by inventing reactions which can dramatically simplify retrosynthesis.

Thursday, March 9, 7:00 PM
Abbott Hall Room 101

"Simplifying Synthesis"

Friday, March 10, 12:20 PM
Abbott Hall Room 138

"Electrifying Synthesis"