

# Professor K. Barry Sharpless



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**2002 Professor K. Barry Sharpless** is the W. M. Keck Professor of Chemistry at The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, California. He received his degree from Dartmouth in and his Ph.D. under the supervision of Professor E. E. van Tamelen at Stanford where his fascination with transition metal catalysed reactions took root. Following postdoctoral research at Stanford with Prof. J. T. Collman and Harvard with Professor K. Bloch, Professor Sharpless took up his first academic appointment MIT in 1970. He has since moved to Stanford (1977) and MIT (1980) before taking up the W. M. Keck Chair of Chemistry at Scripps in 1990. His abiding interest in transition metal mediated reactions and asymmetric catalysis has given the world some of the most widely used and synthetically useful catalytic asymmetric transformations including the asymmetric epoxidation, dihydroxylation and aminohydroxylation. For those with a greater interest in his research and background, his Nobel lecture “Search for New Reactivity” (*Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2002**, *41*, 2024.), is at once entertaining, informative and inspiring. He is the recipient of numerous awards for research such as the Roger Adams and Arthur C. Cope awards from the American Chemical Society, the Tetrahedron award, the King Faisal Prize, the Prelog Medal and the Wolf Prize. In 2001 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work on chirally catalysed oxidation reactions.