



2018 International Solvay Chair in Chemistry

Inaugural Lecture



Professor Ben Feringa
U. of Groningen, The Netherlands

The Joy of Discovery

Exploring across the current frontiers of chemical sciences there is vast uncharted territory to experience the joy of discovery. Far beyond Nature's design, the creative power of synthetic chemistry provides unlimited opportunities to realize our own molecular world as we experience every day with products ranging from drugs to displays that sustain modern society. In their practice of the art of building small, chemists have shown amazing success in the past decades. Moving from molecules to dynamic molecular systems the fundamental challenge is how to control and exploit motion at the nanoscale.

In this presentation the focus is on my journey in the world of molecular switches and motors, the process of discovery and my personal experiences through my scientific career. I will also share with you memorable moments after 'The Magic Call from Stockholm'. Based on recent development in nanotechnology perspectives for the future will be presented. In particular I will address how fundamental questions and molecular beauty have guided me on this journey.

MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER AT 4.00 P.M.

**COFFEE AND TEA WILL BE SERVED AT 3.45 P.M.
AND DRINKS AT 5.00 P.M. IN FRONT OF THE SOLVAY ROOM**

**SOLVAY ROOM
BUILDING N.O. 5TH FLOOR
UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES
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