

Maurizio Prato, CIC biomaGUNE researcher, honored by the U.S. National Academy of Inventors

Maurizio Prato has been accorded the NAI Fellow distinction by the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) for his contributions toward the advancement of science in various fields

This distinction recognizes inventions that have a tangible impact on the quality of life, economic development and welfare of society.

Donostia-San Sebastian. 7 December, 2021. The National Academy of Inventors® (NAI) of the United States has just published the list of the 164 academic inventors it will be honoring as NAI Fellows in 2021. They include Maurizio Prato, lead researcher in the [Carbon Bionanotechnology](#) group at CIC biomaGUNE, [Ikerbasque](#) professor and [AXA Chair](#). It is an appointment based on all the inventive activity of Prato, who for years has been contributing toward the advancement of science with numerous inventions in various fields. Among them all, it is worth highlighting the "[Prato Reaction](#)", a chemical reaction that is used to functionalize fullerenes, carbon nanotubes and graphene, and has been used by scientists across the world working on these materials for various applications ranging from new solar cells to medical devices.

The NAI Fellows Program highlights academic inventors who have demonstrated a spirit of innovation by creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have had a tangible impact on the quality of life, economic development and the welfare of society. The NAI Fellow recognition is the highest professional distinction granted only to academic inventors. To date, NAI members hold more than 48,000 U.S. patents, which have generated more than 13,000 licensed technologies and companies, and created more than one million jobs. In addition, revenue to the tune of over \$3 billion has been generated based on the discoveries of NAI members.

The NAI Fellows class of 2021 has been drawn from 116 research universities and not-for-profit and governmental research institutes across the world. Among the members of this class are 33 members of various National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, and three Nobel Prize laureates, in addition to other honors and distinctions. Their research and entrepreneurial work likewise covers a wide range of scientific disciplines related to the technological transfer of their inventions for the benefit of society.

The full list of the 2021 NAI Fellows is available [here](#).

About Maurizio Prato

A researcher since 1983 in the Department of Organic Chemistry of the University of Padua, [Maurizio Prato](#) was appointed associate lecturer in Organic Chemistry at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Trieste in 1992, becoming a tenured lecturer in February 2000. Since 2015 he has been an Ikerbasque Research Professor and an AXA Research Professor at the CIC biomaGUNE cooperative research center. He was awarded two prestigious ERC grants in 2008

and 2020. In addition, he was appointed a member of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei in 2010, of the European Academy of Sciences in 2013, of the European Academy in 2015 and of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti in 2018. In 2013 he was appointed honorary professor of the Jiao Tong University in Xi'an (China). He has done research at Texas Tech University, Lubbock, USA (1980); at University College Dublin, Ireland (1983); at the University of Yale, (1986-87); and at the University of California, Santa Barbara, (1991-92). He was visiting professor in the Departments of Chemistry at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris in 2001, at the University of Namur (Belgium) in 2010, at the University of Strasbourg in 2014, and at the University of Mons (Belgium) in 2018 in the context of the *Francoqui Chair*. The University of Salento has recently conferred on him an honorary degree in "Medical Biotechnology and Nanobiotechnology".

About the National Academy of Inventors

The [National Academy of Inventors](#) is a member organization comprising U.S. and international universities, governmental and non-profit research institutes, with more than 4,000 individual inventor members and Fellows spanning more than 250 institutions worldwide. It was founded in 2010 to recognize and encourage inventors with patents issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), enhance the visibility of academic technology and innovation, encourage the disclosure of intellectual property, educate and mentor innovative students, and translate the inventions of its members for the benefit of society.

About CIC biomaGUNE

The Center for Cooperative Research in Biomaterials CIC biomaGUNE, member of the Basque Research and Technology Alliance ([BRTA](#)), conducts state-of-the-art research at the interface between Chemistry, Biology and Physics, devoting particular attention to studying the properties of biological nanostructures on a molecular scale and their biomedical applications. It was recognized in 2018 as a "María de Maeztu" Unit of Excellence for meeting requirements of excellence, which are characterized by a high impact and level of competitiveness in its field of activity on the global scientific stage.