

Paul R. Jones Outstanding Paper Award
David E. Lewis



David E. Lewis of the University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire is the recipient of the 2019 Paul R. Jones Outstanding Paper Award for “1860-1861: Magic Years in the Development of the Structural Theory of Organic Chemistry,” Vol. 44, No.2 (2019), 77-91. This is the third time David has won the OPA Award. Of even more interest, this paper is the written form of his HIST Award Address for 2018!

David Lewis graduated with honors in Organic Chemistry from the University of Adelaide, South Australia in 1973. In 1977 he emigrated to the State of Arkansas as a Research Associate while he completed his Ph.D. from the University of Adelaide (1980) working with Ralph A. Massy-Westropp (1932-), who was one of Arthur J. Birch's (1915-1995) earliest Ph.D. students. In 1981 he joined Baylor University in Texas and earned tenure in 1988. He next earned tenure and a Full Professorship at South Dakota State University in 1993. He settled in the Wisconsin in 1997, where he has flourished as both an organic chemist and a historian of Chemistry. His international reputation has been recognized as a

Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (2015), a D.Sc. from the University of Adelaide (2012) and as the Markovnikov Medalist for 2019.

David Lewis has served the Division of the History of Chemistry in many roles over the last 30 years. He was a Chair from 2002-2006. He has been one of the most frequent speakers at HIST symposia for 30 years. And he is one of the most frequent contributors to the Bulletin for the History of Chemistry.

The Prize paper is a *tour de force* chronicle of the dramatic improvement in our understanding of organic chemistry in the years 1860-1861. The invention of graphic representations of the knowledge about molecules was the key tool. All the key figures are discussed and contextualized, however Prof. Lewis believes the key contributor to our understanding of organic chemistry in these crucial years was the work of Butlerov. Chemical structure both explained the properties of individual molecules and suggested likely reactions with other chemical agents. This chemical revolution in Russia even survived the Russian Revolution.