



Ryoji Noyori

July 5, 2022

Professor Jeffrey I. Seeman
Department of Chemistry
University of Richmond
Richmond, VA 23173
USA

Re: 2021 Citation for Chemical Breakthrough Award

Dear Professor Seeman,

I just returned from the Nagoya University's ceremony commemorating the exceptionally prestigious Chemical Breakthrough Award, conferred to the University, the Institute for the Molecular Science, and the Takasago International Corporation. The three institutions felt highly proud for being selected for the first time from Asia. Personally, on behalf of the seven authors, though two of them sadly passed away, of the 1987 *JACS* paper, I would like to thank the warm consideration of you and other members of the selection committee on our research work. I still vividly remember the pleasant three-party collaborative research of 35 years ago.

This ceremony, in which your kind message was introduced at the beginning, was followed by a chemistry symposium aiming at encouraging high school students who are eager to study science. This meeting seemed very successful; the circumstances will be reported to you in some way from the university.

I am highly impressed by the deep philosophy of this Award that urges the current scientific community to rethink of the research value and evaluation system. Sir Derek Barton, whom I long respected, stated, "In chemical sciences, the distant past, the near past and the present join together in continuous harmony." (At William S. Johnson Symposium at Stanford, 1995). This is very true.

I feel highly honored that our experimental work was recognized in the same 2021 together with Professor Fukui's theoretical research. I was originally educated and started to conduct research at Kyoto University, Faculty of Engineering, Department of Industrial

Chemistry (lunched by Gen-itsu Kita) prior to move to Nagoya to chair a newly founded organic chemistry group in 1968 when I was 29 years old. Since then, I learned much from American and European colleagues. Fortunately, later from around 1980, I had again been guided by Fukui in many ways, though I could not fully understand his sophisticated MO theory. As such I now enjoy very much your recent article on Kenichi Fukui in *the Chemical Record*. I have been learning more about this great philosopher.

I acknowledge again your generous consideration and am looking forward to seeing you in person.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryoji Noyori', written in a cursive style.

Ryoji Noyori

University Professor, Nagoya University

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