

March Historical Events in Chemistry

By Leopold May, Catholic University of America

March 1

b. 1910 Archer J. P. Martin, Nobel Prize (1952) with Richard L. M. Synge for their invention of partition chromatography.

March 3

b. 1918 Arthur Kornberg, researcher on the synthetic pathways by which nucleic acids are produced; Nobel Prize in Medicine (1959) with Severo Ochoa for their discovery of the mechanisms in the biological synthesis of ribonucleic acid and deoxyribonucleic acid.

March 8

b. 1879 Otto Hahn, discovered protactinium (Pa, 91) with L. Meitner; researcher on nuclear fission with F. Strassman (1938); Nobel Prize (1944) the discovery of fission of heavy nuclei.

b. 1886 Edward C. Kendall isolated thyroxine, 1915; Nobel Prize in Medicine (1950) with Philip Hench & Tadeus Reichstein for their discoveries relating to the hormones of the adrenal cortex, their structure and biological effects.

March 9

b. 1923 Walter Kohn, developed density-functional theory, which makes it possible to study very large molecules; Nobel Prize (1998) with John A. Pople for his development of the density-functional theory

March 14

b. 1854 Paul Ehrlich, researcher in immunity & chemotherapy; discovered Salvarsan (No. 606) & neosalvarsan; improved laboratory staining methods; Nobel Prize in Medicine (1908) with Ilya Ilyich Mechnikov in recognition of their work on immunity.

b. 1879 Albert Einstein, researcher on photochemical effect & theory of relativity; Nobel Prize Physics (1921) for his services to Theoretical Physics, and especially for his discovery of the law of the photoelectric effect.

March 19

b. 1883 Walter N. Haworth, synthesized ascorbic acid (Vitamin C), 1933; researcher on sugars & dextran as blood plasma substitute; Nobel Prize (1937) for vitamin synthesis, with Paul Karrer.

b. 1900 Frédéric J. Joliot (Joliot-Curie), Nobel Prize, (1935) with wife Irene Joliot-Curie, for production of artificial radioisotopes, in 1934; proved experimentally that neutron emission occurs in nuclear fission with H. Halban & L. W. Kowarski.

b. 1943 Mario Molino, researcher in air pollution, particularly formation & destruction of ozone; Nobel Prize (1995) with Paul Crutzen & F. Sherwood Rowland for their work in atmospheric chemistry, particularly concerning the formation and decomposition of ozone.

March 21

b. 1932 Walter Gilbert, researcher on the determination of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) base sequence; Nobel Prize (1980) with Paul Berg & Frederick Sanger for their contributions concerning the determination of base sequences in nucleic acids.

March 22

b. 1868 Robert A. Millikan measured the charge/mass ratio of the electron; Nobel Prize in Physics (1923) “for his work on the elementary charge of electricity and on the photoelectric effect”.

March 23

b. 1881 Hermann Staudinger, researcher on the chemistry of macromolecular substances; Nobel Prize (1953) for his discoveries in the field of macromolecular chemistry

March 24

b. 1903 Adolf F. J. Butenandt, researcher on sex hormones; offered Nobel Prize (1939), for his work on sex hormones; declined on account of Nazi decree against foreign awards.

b. 1884 Peter Joseph William Debye, researcher in dipole moments and powder method of x-ray diffraction; Nobel Prize (1936) for his contributions to our knowledge of molecular structure through his investigations on dipole moments and on the diffraction of X-rays and electrons in gases.

b. 1917 John Kendrew, research on structure of hemoproteins with xrays; Nobel Prize (1962) with Max Ferdinand Perutz for their studies of the structures of globular proteins

March 26

b. 1911 Bernard Katz, Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology (1970) with J. Axelrod and U. Von Euler for discoveries concerning humoral transmitters in the nerve terminals and the mechanism for their storage, release and inactivation.

b. 1916 Christian Anfinsen, received the Nobel prize (1972) with Stanford Moore and William Moore, for studies on the relationship of structural properties of proteins and biological functions, particularly ribonuclease.

March 27

b. 1845 Wilhelm K. Röntgen discovered X-rays, 1895; Nobel Prize in Physics (1901) in recognition of the extraordinary services he has rendered by the discovery of the remarkable rays subsequently named after him; researcher in specific heats & heat conduction in crystals.

b. 1847 Otto Wallach, researcher on essential oils & terpenes; Nobel Prize (1910) in recognition of his services to organic chemistry and the chemical industry by his pioneer work in the field of alicyclic compounds. 1847-1931

March 31

b. 1890 W. Lawrence Bragg, researcher in X-ray & crystal structure; Nobel Prize in Physics (1915) with father, William H. Bragg for their services in the analyses of crystal structures by means of X-ray