

NATIONAL AWARD FOR
CHEMISTRY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST
HONORS SCRIPPS INSTITUTION SCIENTIST

KIMBERLY PRATHER IS BEING RECOGNIZED FOR HER WORK IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNIQUES FOR STUDYING OCEAN/ATMOSPHERE EXCHANGE PROCESSES WHICH ENABLE US TO UNDERSTAND CLIMATE VARIABLES.

Cambridge, MA -- February 14, 2023 -- Professor Kimberly A. Prather, Distinguished Chair in Atmospheric Chemistry, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, is being presented with the Gustavus John Esselen Award for Chemistry in the Public Interest for her use of mass spectrometry to characterize individual atmospheric aerosols for understanding air pollution, aerosol sources, and aerosol-cloud-climate chemistry. As founding director of the National Science Foundation's Center for Aerosol Impacts on Chemistry of the Environment, she has developed instrumentation that permits researchers to bring the full complexity of the ocean/atmosphere system into the laboratory. This instrumentation has been adapted to a portable system that is being used worldwide to gather on site, real-time data. It can detect and monitor every type of atmospheric particle including organic material, mineral dust, and sea spray. Her discoveries have clarified the impact of aerosols on not only climate, but also disease transmission, and natural water resources. The methods she has developed are now being adapted to other fields such as biofuels, pharmaceuticals and energy storage materials.

The Gustavus John Esselen Award for Chemistry in the Public Interest honors outstanding scientific achievement in scientific and technical work which contributes to the public well-being and has thereby communicated the positive values of the chemical profession. The award is presented annually by the Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society and has honored such publicly renowned chemists as F. Sherwood Rowland and Mario J. Molina (effect of chlorofluorocarbons on the ozone layer), Carl Djerassi (birth-control drugs), Kary Mullis (polymerase chain reaction), and Jennifer A. Doudna (genome editing). The Esselen Award is given to honor the memory of G. J. Esselen, past chair of the Northeastern Section and founder of Esselen Research Corporation.

In recognition of her contributions, Dr. Prather will receive the Gustavus John Esselen Award for Chemistry in the Public Interest on Friday, April 14, 2023, in a ceremony at the Harvard University Faculty Club, Cambridge, MA at 8pm. Dr. Prather's award lecture, entitled "Tiny Critters, Huge Impacts: How Microbes Impact Climate and Health" will follow the award presentation and is free and open to the public.

Further information concerning the award can be found at the Northeastern Section's website, www.nesacs.org.