Professor Peter G. Schultz, a professor at the Scripps Research Institute in California, and director of the California Institute for Biomedical Research, was awarded the first Chemistry for the Future Solvay Prize in 2013.

Awarding the Prize, chairman of the jury Professor Håkan Wennerström explained:
“Professor Schultz made multiple scientific contributions at the interface between chemistry and biology, in particular the exploitation of molecular diversity and the rational expansion of the genetic code of living organisms. His groundbreaking work is impacting many scientific fields, including biotechnology and medicine. It also has important implications for regenerative medicine, and the treatment of infectious disease, autoimmune disease and cancer.”

“I was obviously delighted to win the Solvay Prize. It is wonderful recognition of all the hard work of a terrific group of present and past co-workers.”
Professor Peter G. Schultz

Solvay supports major scientific discoveries that will shape tomorrow’s chemistry
In a two-stage process, independent nominators first propose candidates whose achievements in the field of chemistry – including biochemistry, materials sciences, soft matter, biophysics and chemical engineering – will shape the chemistry of the future.

The international jury then selects the winner of the Chemistry for the Future Solvay Prize from amongst the list of candidates.

Gerhard Ertl, Professor emeritus at the Department of Physical Chemistry, Fritz-Haber-Institut der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft in Berlin, Germany, won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his studies of chemical processes on solid surface.

Jean-Marie Lehn, Professor at the Institut d’Etudes Avancées de l’Université de Strasbourg and Professor emeritus at the Collège de France in Paris, Lehn, an early innovator in the field of supramolecular chemistry, received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his synthesis of cryptands.

Patrick Maestro, member of the Académie des Technologies in France, Scientific Director of Solvay, was at the origin of the creation of several joint teams between Solvay, CNRS and universities worldwide.

Paul Baekelmans, Science Adviser to the Solvay Group, is Professor emeritus at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. He chairs the Conseil National de Chimie of the Académie des Sciences de Belgique.

Håkan Wennerström, President of the jury, is Professor of theoretical and physical chemistry at the University of Lund, Sweden. He is a former chairman of the jury for the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Peter G. Schultz, Professor at the Scripps Research Institute in California, USA, and Director of the California Institute for Biomedical Research, was awarded the first Chemistry for the Future Solvay Prize.

Paul Chaikin, Professor of Physics at the New York University, USA, specializes in solid state physics, in particular soft matter.

Christopher Dobson, John Humphrey Plummer Professor of Chemical and Structural Biology at the University of Cambridge, and Master of St John’s College, Cambridge, UK, is a specialist in protein folding and misfolding.