

Life in industry for a scientist: the Solvay experience

John van Geuns Foundation Lecture by

Dr. Pascal Metivier

Senior Executive Vice president, Science & Technology Director Solvay

Tuesday, September 3rd, 2019; 1pm; room G2.10

Working in Industry can be exciting and attractive for young scientists but at the same time it is a jump into the unknown with a lot of uncertainties. Taking the Solvay Company as an example, we will discuss how industrial research is organized, what is the work of a young scientist, how people work together, the relationship with academic institutions, as well as the potential career paths for young scientists entering Solvay. Based on my long experience in research in multiple countries, I will also try to answer all your questions on these topics.

Pascal Metivier is Science & Technology Director of the Solvay group, with annual sales >€10Bn and 24,000 employees. He manages all the shared laboratories and infrastructure of the group focusing on leveraging group capabilities and delivering innovations. Previously, he spent 10 years in Asia, where he set up the group R&D footprint, building and developing research activities in China, Korea & India. From 2000 to 2007, he was the R&I director of the business units Phosphorus and Performance Derivatives and Novecare. Pascal obtained his degree from the *Ecole Européenne des Industries Chimiques* in Strasbourg, followed by a PhD at the University Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg and a postdoc at Purdue University. He has received many prizes and awards, including the Rhone-Poulenc 1996 Research Prize, the Rhodia Customer Sustainable Innovation Award in 2010, the Solvay Breakthrough Innovation Prize in 2013, and the Magnolia Award from the City of Shanghai. Since 2009, he is honorary professor at Zhengzhou University and guest professor at East China University of Science and Technology.



“My passion is to work with other people to invent new things and then to bring them to become useful reality in daily life”