

WOLF PRIZE FOUNDATION SPEECH BY PROFESSOR K.C. NICOLAOU AT THE KNESSET

June 2, 2016

Mr. President, Distinguished Guests,

Stuart Schreiber and I would like to express our deep gratitude and appreciation to the Wolf Foundation and the Selection Committee for this high honor and thank our students and mentors for their contributions and support that culminated in us standing in front of such a distinguished audience today.

Stuart would like to thank his wife Mimi and his family for their support and unconditional love; and I would like to express my many thanks and gratitude to my wife, Georgette, and family for their unconditional love and support and apologize to them for the times I was not there when I should have.

I also personally like to acknowledge with pleasure the presence in this special ceremony of the Ambassador of Cyprus and the Mayor of my town in Cyprus, Karavas, where I was born and raised—now unfortunately occupied. I am also happy to note the presence in the audience of Mr. and Mrs. Takis and Louki Nemitsas who established, and currently preside over the Nemitsas Foundation in Cyprus, whose mission is similar to that of the Wolf Foundation.

This Award is very special and touching to both Stuart Schreiber and me, for it not only recognizes us, but it also reflects the collective contributions of our colleagues and friends that resulted in the impressive advances in the fields of organic synthesis and chemical biology and their enormous impact on chemistry, biology and medicine in the last few decades. These advances, and the myriad molecules that resulted from them, enabled and facilitated the discovery of new medicines for people and are poised to exploit the latest discoveries in the life sciences for the benefit of science and society today and in the future.

Being honored in the Knesset in this magnificent ceremony, and in front of this historic wall, I am sure I reflect the sentiments of all the Wolf Laureates in expressing my admiration and respect for the State of Israel and its people for their contributions to democracy, science, culture and civilization.

On behalf of Professor Schreiber and myself, thank you all for honoring us today with your presence.