

The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Dartmouth Chemistry Lecture Series 2025-2026



Geoff W. Coates

Tisch University Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
Cornell University

“Translation of Basic Science for Societal Benefit: Three Case Studies”

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

4:00 P.M.

006 Steele Hall, College Street, Hanover, NH

Refreshments at 3:30 P.M. in the Burke Laboratory Marx Lounge

“Reimagining Plastics: Catalysis at the Core of Polymer Sustainability”

Thursday, September 25, 2025

10:30 A.M.

006 Steele Hall, College Street, Hanover, NH

Refreshments at 10:00 A.M. in the Burke Laboratory Marx Lounge

Geoffrey W. Coates received a B.A. degree in Chemistry from Wabash College in 1989, a Ph.D. in organic chemistry with Robert Waymouth at Stanford University in 1994, and was an NSF Postdoctoral Fellow with Robert Grubbs at the California Institute of Technology. He joined the Cornell University faculty in 1997, where he is now the Tisch University Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. The research focus of the Coates Group is the development of new catalysts for the synthesis of macromolecules and small molecules. Professor Coates' research concentrates on developing new methods for reacting commodity feedstocks in unprecedented ways. His current research centers on the development of homogeneous catalysts for olefin polymerization, heterocycle carbonylation, epoxide homo- and copolymerization, the utilization of carbon dioxide in polymer synthesis, and new polymers for energy conversion and storage. Professor Coates has been awarded the A. C. Cope Scholar Award, the ACS Award in Affordable Green Chemistry, the ACS Award for Polymer Chemistry, the ACS Hach Award for Entrepreneurial Success, the ACS Applied Polymer Science Award, and the Carl S. Marvel Creative Polymer Chemistry Award. In 2011 he was inducted into the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Inventors in 2017. He was awarded the Eni Award in 2022 and the National Academy of Sciences Award for the Industrial Application of Science in 2023. He is the scientific cofounder of Novomer, Ecoelectro, and Internix Performance Materials, and is an Associate Editor of *JACS*.