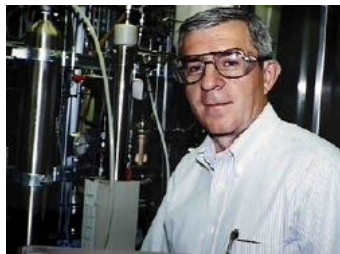




Sloan Career Cornerstone Center

Profiles of Chemists



Frank Herkes

**Research Fellow
E.I. DuPont Nylon Specialties**

Education:

B.S. - Chemistry, DePaul University

Ph.D. - Physical Organic Chemistry, University of Iowa

Job Description:

Research Fellow, Catalytic Chemistry

Interview:

Frank Herkes, a research fellow in Nylon Intermediates at DuPont, studies the basic chemicals and byproducts DuPont makes and finds ways to make new products from them using catalysis. "First, I scout what catalysts exist on the market and then seek to tailor them to our needs. This may mean adding secondary metals or additives such as platinum or palladium to the catalyst. I test these catalysts in my lab in either a batch mode or continuous mode," he says.

When choosing a catalyst, says Herkes, "I look at the temperature and pressure requirements, mass transfer of reactants, the weight and size of the catalyst, what degrades it, and what it costs. An understanding of chemical engineering as well as chemistry comes into play when putting a catalytic process together since costs of raw materials and utilities for running the process need to be considered."

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Prepared as part of the Sloan Career Cornerstone Center (www.careercornerstone.org)

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