

## **Huib Bakker and Joost Reek to join the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences**

12 May 2015

Professors Huib Bakker and Joost Reek of the Van 't Hoff Institute for Molecular Sciences have been selected to join the KNAW, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. The festive installation of this year's new KNAW members, sixteen in total, will be held on Monday 28 September 2015.

Being selected to join the KNAW is a great honour for the two HIMS professors. Their membership can be considered as a testimony of both their academic excellence and societal involvement. As the forum, conscience, and voice of the arts and sciences in the Netherlands, the KNAW promotes quality in science and scholarship and strives to ensure that Dutch scholars and scientists contribute to cultural, social and economic progress.

### **Huib Bakker**



Huib Bakker (1965) is professor of Ultrafast Spectroscopy of Molecules in the Condensed Phase with the Molecular Photonics group at HIMS. On a daily basis he leads the Ultrafast Spectroscopy research group at the FOM-AMOLF research institute located at the Science Park Amsterdam. Bakker is a renowned expert regarding the molecular properties of water and ice. He developed an innovative infrared spectroscopy technique enabling the detection of movement and interaction of individual water molecules. This provided insights contributing to new developments in fields as diverse as food, energy technology and water treatment.

### **Joost Reek**



Joost Reek (1967) is professor of Supramolecular Catalysis, leading the HIMS research group for Homogeneous, Supramolecular and Bio-Inspired Catalysis. He has successfully developed effective approaches for the development of new catalysts and the investigation of reaction pathways at the

molecular level. His work is recognised internationally and has resulted in prestigious grants such as the NWO Vici grant and an ERC Advanced Grant for his project 'Nature Inspired Transition Metal Catalysis'. From 2006 until 2011 Joost Reek was already a member of the KNAW 'Young Academy'. Since 1 November 2013 Reek is the acting Scientific Director of HIMS.

### **Membership for life**

The Academy's membership consists of prominent researchers active in every field of science and scholarship. New members are nominated by existing Academy members and by external parties. The Academy has approximately five hundred members, divided between its Humanities and Social Sciences Division and its Science Division. Members are appointed for life. The new members will be installed on Monday 28 September 2015 at the Trippenhuis Building, the Academy's headquarters in Amsterdam.