



Dr. Jean Marie Basset has been appointed Director of the Catalysis Research Center, and Named Professor of Chemical Science at KAUST. He assumed his duties in September 2009.

According to Dr. Basset, catalysis is a strategic domain for Saudi Arabia. It is a critical enabling science for the Kingdom's energy future. Improvement in the catalytic processes across the chemical and petroleum industries will increase resources and energy utilization efficiencies and reduce waste. In the future, cost-effective, environmentally sound utilization of energy resources will require new catalysts and processes. Efficient photo catalysts for water splitting are needed if these technologies are to become practical on a large scale. To meet these challenges the field must advance from catalyst discovery to catalysis by design.

Dr. Basset served as scientific director of the school of Chemistry, Physics and Electronics at the University of Lyon in France. He was appointed research Director at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in 1987, and funded his laboratory of Surface Organometallic Chemistry that he has held since 1994. Dr. Basset's Lyon lab is home to 50 scientists, including Nobel Laureate Yves Chauvin. He came to CNRS in 1971 and has occupied several positions, including vice director of the Institute of Catalysis (Lyon). Dr. Basset also founded the consortium, "Actane," on alkane activation with 11 university labs and five companies. Since 1992, he also has served as scientific director of L'École Supérieure de Chimie Physique Electronique de Lyon (CPE, Lyon), which has trained 450 chemists in a three-year scholarship program.

Dr. Basset founded and serves as president of Integrated Design of Catalytic Nanomaterials for a Sustainable Production (IDECAT). IDECAT is the only European Network of Excellence in Catalysis, which includes 40 labs and 20 companies.

A Distinguished author of over 450 journal and conference papers, Dr. Basset's research interests include the relationship between homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis. His research also includes, the synthesis of single site catalysts in various fields of chemistry, petroleum, and polymers.

Dr. Basset holds various professional memberships, is the recipient of several international and national awards, and is Doctor Honoris Causa of several universities. He received his doctoral and master's degrees at the University of Lyon