



W. V. Mars Bio

Dr. Will Mars is an internationally recognized leader in the area of failure mechanics of rubber components. Will's professional activity has focused generally on applying experimental and computational mechanics in pursuit of better-performing rubber products. His experiences and contributions span a topic range including material characterization, product evaluation, constitutive modeling, crack nucleation, fracture mechanics, and fatigue life prediction methods. He has authored over 20 articles in refereed journals, and he has 1 patent. He obtained his BSME, with a polymer specialization, at the University of Akron, and his PhD at the University of Toledo. He is currently employed in the Research Department at Cooper Tire & Rubber Company in Findlay, Ohio, USA. He is also an adjunct faculty member in the MIME department at the University of Toledo, where he has taught graduate courses in continuum mechanics and fracture mechanics.

The purpose of this award is to perpetuate the memory of William J. Sparks and Robert M. Thomas, chemists, who developed butyl rubber by recognizing and encouraging outstanding scientific contributions and innovations in the field of elastomers by younger scientists, technologists and engineers. The award consists of \$4,000, a bronze medal (supplied by supporting company only), an engraved plaque, and \$500 for travel expenses incurred in attending the award ceremony meeting. The award was established in 1986 and is supported by the ExxonMobil Chemical Company. The recipient shall have made an outstanding contribution to the science and technology of elastomers. Special consideration may be given to areas that have not been recognized recently. Recognition will also be given to originality and independence of thought, and to the technological impact of the nominee's contribution. The nominee may be a citizen of any country and must be within 25 years of earning a baccalaureate degree. **This award is open and not restricted to Rubber Division membership.**