

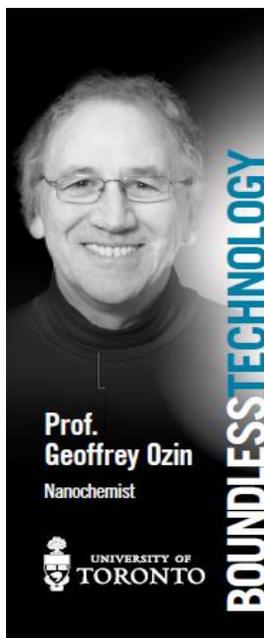
Jar of Fears – Do We Want to Fight CO₂ or Embrace It?

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CO₂, can't live with it, can't live without it. I think most people are very confused about what to do with our growing CO₂ challenge. This confusion is creating great uncertainty amongst the general public, media, industry, business, policy makers and governments. It is creating much anxiety about the future we can expect for our children. There is uncertainty whether this is a molecule we should love or hate, trust or fear, heed or ignore? We know that our survival depends on having a plentiful supply of it but we also have a disquieting feeling that too much of it can mean extinction of all life on earth. We understand that fossil energy is the blood supply that powers how we live, work and play but we also know the danger of willful blindness from its continued use and profiteering, which is threatening our future. While renewable forms of energy, like solar and wind generated electricity are coming on stream, with the promise of Utopia, there is uncertainty whether this energy transition will be fast enough to avoid the dread of Dystopia. It seems that we are all confronted with an existential problem that is too big, complicated and costly to solve. In this lecture I will explore whether chemistry and engineering strategies for transforming CO₂ into renewable fuels can provide a solution to this grand challenge. If this approach proves successful, I envision CO₂ sourced fuels in the foreseeable future will be traded on the stock market as a renewable substitute for fossil fuels, motivated by profit.



Jar of Fears – courtesy of www.artnoinnovations.com, www.advancedsciencenews.com/author/gozin.



Brief Biography: Geoffrey Ozin studied at King's College London and Oriel College Oxford University, before completing an ICI Postdoctoral Fellowship at Southampton University. Currently he is the Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Materials Chemistry and Nanochemistry and Distinguished University Professor at the University of Toronto, where he currently spearheads the activities of the Solar Fuels Cluster. Internationally he has been Global Chair at the University of Bath, Distinguished Research Professor at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Professorial Fellow at The Royal Institution Great Britain and University College London University, Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Colloid and Surface Science, Sherman-Fairchild Scholar at Caltech and 3M Research Fellow, Minneapolis-St Paul. Recently he has been the recipient of the World Technology Network Award in Energy and the RSC Centenary Prize and the Albert Einstein Prize for his work in defining, enabling and popularising a chemical approach to nanomaterials for innovative nanotechnology in advanced materials and biomedical science.