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## **GRACE SCIENTIST RECOGNIZED WITH INDUSTRY AWARD**

Columbia, Maryland—November 12, 2009—Dr. Neal Berke, Research & Development Fellow for Grace Construction Products, an operating segment of W. R. Grace & Co. (NYSE: GRA), has received the 2009 Francis L. LaQue Memorial Award from ASTM International, a voluntary standards development organization. The award is recognition of Dr. Berke's leadership and contributions to the field of corrosion testing and evaluation. His work ultimately helps in the construction of stronger and longer lasting buildings, roads, bridges and tunnels.

ASTM International has over 30,000 members worldwide that develop technical standards for materials, products, systems and services covering a wide range of fields—from cement, concrete and corrosion all the way to aerospace materials and biomedical devices. The Francis L. LaQue Award was established in 1988 and is bestowed to no more than one qualified recipient each year. The award was officially presented to Dr. Berke by ASTM Committee G01 on Corrosion of Metals during an industry banquet in Atlanta, Georgia on November 11.

"A large percentage of the construction and specialty chemical products sold by Grace are covered by ASTM specifications and test methods," explained Andrew Bonham, Vice President of W. R. Grace & Co. and President of Grace Construction Products. He added, "We are extremely proud that Neal's dedication and exemplary effort in developing and promulgating metal corrosion standards was recognized at such a high level."

Dr. Berke received his A.B. Degree in Physics from the University of Chicago in 1974, and his Ph.D. in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1980. He joined Grace in 1983 and, over the years, has conducted groundbreaking research on products to improve the durability of concrete by reducing reinforcing bar corrosion and improving concrete's resistance to aggressive chemicals and cracking. In 2007, he received the Grace Prolific Inventor Award for holding 33 patent families. Prior to Grace, he worked in the Homer Research Laboratories of Bethlehem Steel Corporation from 1979 to 1983 on improving the corrosion resistance of hot-dip steel coatings.



Dr. Berke, who joined ASTM International more than 20 years ago, is a longtime member of Committee G01 and served as its Chairman from 2004-2007. For his many contributions over the years, Dr. Berke has received the ASTM Award of Merit and title of Fellow in 1999 and been named an Honorary Member of Committee C09 on Concrete.

Outside of ASTM International, Dr. Berke holds an impressive number of leadership roles in concrete and corrosion societies, including Fellow of the American Concrete Institute; Chairman of the National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE International) Specific Technology Group 01 Concrete; and, Chairman of NACE Technology Group 050 on Corrosion Inhibitors and Admixtures.

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ASTM International (originally known as the American Society for Testing and Materials or ASTM) is one of the largest voluntary standards development organizations in the world with representation in over 130 nations.

Grace is a leading global supplier of catalysts and other products to petroleum refiners; catalysts for the manufacture of plastics; silica-based engineered and specialty materials for a wide range of industrial applications; sealants and coatings for food and beverage packaging, and specialty chemicals, additives and building materials for commercial and residential construction. Founded in 1854, Grace has operations in over 40 countries. For more information, visit Grace's web site at [www.grace.com](http://www.grace.com).

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