

# Editorial

This issue of CHIMIA presents research topics and achievements of twelve scientists who have joined or have been promoted to professorships at Swiss Universities and Federal Institutes of Technology in the past four years. We welcome all cordially, wish them continued success in their careers and excellent integration into the social and professional fabric of Switzerland.

From West to East:

**Sascha Hoogendoorn** started as tenure track Assistant Professor in chemical biology at the **University of Geneva** in 2019. Her research focuses on the development of chemical tools to study and perturb Hedgehog signalling pathways.

**Yimon Aye** joined **EPFL** in 2018 as Associate Professor heading the Laboratory of Electrophiles and Genome Operation. She develops and tests new technologies of cell decision making with the ultimate goal of a precise understanding of ligand-protein interactions for medical applications.

**Ali Coskun** moved to the **University of Fribourg** in 2017 as Associate Professor heading the Multifunctional Organic/Inorganic Nanoarchitectures Laboratory. His group develops porous organic polymers for CO<sub>2</sub> capture/recycling and supramolecular polymers for high energy density electrodes in Li-ion batteries.

**Stefan Salentinig** has been full Professor in experimental physical chemistry at the **University of Fribourg** since 2019. His research focuses on the design of bio-inspired antimicrobial nanomaterials, using them as dispersions and surface-coatings with potential applications in food and healthcare materials.

**Eva Hevia** took up a full Professorship in Inorganic Chemistry at the **University of Bern** in 2019. Research in her group focuses on polar organometallic chemistry at the crossroads of inorganic, organic, and green chemistry. Mechanistic, structural and synthetic studies range from cooperative bimetallic reagents to air and moisture compatible polar organometallics.

**Francesca Paradisi** has been full Professor and Chair of Pharmaceutical and Bioorganic Chemistry at the **University of Bern** since 2019. Her research centres on biocatalysis as a sustainable approach to the synthesis of valuable products. Her development of enzyme-based processes in continuous flow bridges the gap between academic discovery and industrial applications.

**Dennis Gillingham** started his independent work at the **University of Basel** in 2010 as a tenure-track Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2016. His studies in chemical biology focus on nucleic acid chemistry. Recent interest is in translational research such as DNA encoded libraries and chemical protein silencing.

**Christof Sparr** carried out his habilitation at the **University of Basel** and in 2016 became Assistant Professor there. His research centres on synthetic organic synthesis and catalysis. His specific focus in this area is on controlling helicity in new chiral ligands for transition metal catalysts and in the synthesis of atropisomeric multi-axis systems.

**Michael A. Nash** has been Assistant Professor since 2016 with a joint appointment at the **University of Basel** and **ETH Zurich**. Using tools including protein engineering, hydrogel chemistry, and single-molecule measurement techniques his group engineers protein systems for medical therapy.

**Victor Mougél** was appointed to a tenure track Assistant Professorship of Inorganic Chemistry at **ETH Zurich** in 2018. Taking a bio-inspired approach, his scientific focus is on the electrochemical activation of small molecules. Examples involve catalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and N<sub>2</sub> conversion to ammonia.

**Klaus Eyer** is Assistant Professor at the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences of the **ETH Zurich** since August 2019. His research focuses on developing novel analytical strategies to understand the functionalities of individual cells within the context of complex cellular systems, such as the immune system and its reactions in health and disease.

**Bill Morandi** is a tenured Associate Professor at the **ETH Zurich** where he has held a Chair of synthetic Organic Chemistry since 2018. His prime research interest is in developing innovative synthetic methodologies using new concepts in catalysis. Elegant examples involve shuttle catalysis and single-bond metathesis.

My sincere thanks goes to the authors of this issue. The fascinating breadth of their research attests to the importance and vivacity of the field of chemistry. The outstanding quality honours the authors and bodes well for the future of science in Switzerland. I thoroughly enjoyed reading these articles and am sure that readers of CHIMIA will be excited as well. With periodic issues of 'News from New Professors in Switzerland' we hope to contribute to the reputation of our new colleagues, and contribute to new contacts and interactions.

Prof. E. Peter Kündig  
CHIMIA Editor in Chief