

## EDITORIAL



“Culture should not be explained, only the prerequisites that made culture possible can be shown” – writes J. Huizinga in his analysis of Dutch culture in the 17th century.

Science is part of our culture, so is chemistry, and we have to guard the necessary prerequisites carefully, which can influence our science to become great or mediocre.

One well-established part of our chemical culture is the Fall meeting of the Swiss Chemical Society.

In October 2005 we enjoyed the hospitality of the EPFL. The beautiful location, the modern infrastructure, the faultless organization greatly helped to make the meeting a success. Many thanks to Professor H. Girault and J. Moser and their team for that.

The 412 poster and oral presentations gave a rich scientific harvest for anybody.

**Prof. Ruth Signorell** received the **Werner Prize**. She is the first woman to receive this award. Given the fact that women are perhaps in some ways different, but certainly have the same intelligence and abilities as men, her being the first female Werner Prize winner only shows that something is still amiss in our society and educational system. Her lecture on the physical chemistry of dust was a highlight of clarity.

Towards the end of the day, the awards for the best oral and poster presentations were presented. This year again the **Prizes** for the best oral presentations were sponsored by **METTLER TOLEDO**. The SCS and the awardees are very much obliged to METTLER TOLEDO for their generosity. The awardees for oral presentations and poster presentations are:

### **METTLER TOLEDO-Prize Winners for Oral presentations**

Luc A. Leuthold	UNIGE
Hélène Fiaux	EPFL
Mark Rogers-Evans	Hoffmann-La Roche
Ivano Tavernelli	EPFL
Estelle Burri	EPFL
Clément Mazet	UNIBAS
Lydiane Saucède	EPFL
Olivia Bossart	UNIBE

### **SCS-Prize winners for Poster Presentations**

Anne-Sophie Chauvin	EPFL
Olivier Schwardt	UNIBAS
Venkatachalam Tamilmani	UNIFRI
Lutz O. Müller	EPFL
Joël Kühni	UNIFRI
David Linder	UNIGE
Sarah Mossé	UNIGE
Fabrice Riblet	EPFL
Dominique Kummli	UNIBE
Atsushi Urakawa	ETHZ

Nearly all of the above scientists have submitted a manuscript for this issue of CHIMIA.

The last event of that full day was **Dr. Dario Bassani** who received the **Grammaticakis-Neumann Prize** of the Swiss Chemical Society. This was the first time that this Prize has been awarded by the SCS, after the SCPP (Swiss Club of Photochemistry and Photobiology) became the Section Photochemistry within the SCS-Division for Chemical Research. Dario Bassani's lecture 'Exciting Supramolecular Assemblies' turned out to be a perfect end to a long day. This presentation was exciting, colourful, scientific and elegant.

Congratulations to all award winners.

A personal note: I missed most of the Professors from outside Lausanne. Obviously, the administrative and scientific work load on them does not permit a day off. This used to be different.

Prof. Dr. Georg Fráter  
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## Congratulations to the Winners of the METTLER TOLEDO Award

Dear Scientist,

METTLER TOLEDO would like to congratulate the winners of the METTLER TOLEDO award for best oral presentations.

As a partner and sponsor of the Swiss Chemical Society we would like to thank the SCS for giving METTLER TOLEDO the possibility to participate in the development of young scientists.

You may ask why METTLER TOLEDO sponsors the best posters and scientific presentations and what is the value for an industrial company like us is? If you think about your daily work you might find – hopefully – many places where you are using METTLER TOLEDO instruments.

You might use balances for weighing applications or pH-meters and titrators for analytical chemistry. You probably work with pipettes or with thermal analysis to measure any physical constant. If you work in a chemical production environment then you might know our transmitters or oxygen sensors. Even if you do not work in one of the mentioned areas you might use our retail balances during your shopping time on Saturday afternoon buying apples, tomatoes, meat or cheese at Migros or COOP.

In any case you will encounter us everywhere in your business career. Many of these instruments are developed and used by chemists or chemical engineers who studied at Universities around the globe.

To develop such instruments we need scientists like you. You must foresee how methods develop over the years, you must challenge us by asking questions, why we do things in a specific manner and why not differently.

We need your creativity and your experience in the laboratory to tell us where to go. You are the next generation and we do expect a lot of you.

Some of you will – perhaps – join METTLER TOLEDO as an employee in the future – some of you will start a scientific career or stay in an academic environment.

But wherever you are going to work in the future, use your imagination, ask questions and challenge us every day. Only these attitudes will make all of us successful.

We wish you all the best for your scientific future.

METTLER TOLEDO

Giulio Pè

Business Area Manager Laboratory