

EDITORIAL



On Friday, October 13, 2006, we held the traditional Fall Meeting of our Swiss Chemical Society (SCS) at the University of Zurich-Irchel. In spite of the 'ominous date' (Friday 13th) the day was a big success. You may frown at my mentioning the ominous date, but do not underestimate the dangerous appeal of irrationality. I dare to state that for most people it is difficult to differentiate between knowing and believing, and this is surely one of the reasons for the growth of irrationality. It seems to me that, with the rapid advancement of science, irrationality in our society is also on the advance. *Ceterum censeo* a broad education in science is more important than ever.

Happily at the Uni-Irchel we were able to listen to and look at more than 450 presentations in the best tradition of rational chemical science. Many thanks to the organizers Prof. H. Berke and Dr. F. Wild.

Dr. Emmanuel Delamarche from IBM Zurich Research Laboratory received the **Werner Prize** for his work connecting physics with biology.

Prof. Torsten Fiebig and **Prof. Hans-Achim Wagenknecht** received together the **Grammaticakis-Neumann Prize** which is awarded for achievements in the fields of photochemistry and photobiology. The two recipients described their work on DNA photonics and chromophore-functionalized DNA presented in the form of a well thought-out dialogue.

Later in the afternoon, the METTLER TOLEDO Prizes for the best oral presentations and the SCS Prizes for the best Posters were awarded. At this occasion the big auditorium is always full and expectant. We thank METTLER TOLEDO for its generosity in sponsoring this event. It is unfortunate that many students do not take the opportunity to stay and listen to the excellent last lecture of the day.

METTLER TOLEDO-Prize Winners for Oral Presentations

Wee Han Ang	EPFL
Nadine Bohni	ETH
Fabian Feyen	ETH
Alexander Lederer	Polyphor AG
Pavlo Maksyutenko	EPFL
Davide Pozzi	UNIBE
Joost Vandevondele	EPFL
Alain Zahn	UNIBE

SCS-Prize winners for Poster Presentations

Silvan Eichenberger	UZH
Andreas Elsener	ETH
Álvaro Enriquez García	UNIGE
Céline Fellay	EPFL
Davide Ferri	ETH
Wojciech Gawelda	EPFL
Thibault Jarrosson	UNIGE
Dao Nguyen	UNIGE
Pilar Ruiz Sánchez	UZH
Antje Teichert	UNIBA
Alexander Titz	UNIBA

At the end of an already interesting day, we had the pleasure to listen to **Prof. Sir Jack Baldwin**, the winner of the **Paracelsus Prize** 2006. Prof. Baldwin's interests are manifold (see for example J. E. Moses, R. M. Adlington, *Chem. Commun.* **2005**, 5945). Here I mention only four major successful areas of his research activities: the (2,3)-sigmatropic rearrangement of bis-allylic sulfonium ylides, the development of the Baldwin rules specifying the exo- vs. endo-outcome of cyclization reactions, the penicillin biosynthesis and the biomimetic synthesis of natural products, the latter also being the topic of his Paracelsus lecture.

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