
EDITORIAL



Chemical reactions induced by light are involved in many processes that are essential in life, for example the production of oxygen by photosynthesis, the primary steps of vision or the synthesis of ozone in the upper atmosphere and of vitamin D in our own bodies.

The nature of light and its effect on 'inert' matter and living organisms has always fascinated scientists. However photochemistry has only really emerged as a new field of chemistry about half a century ago. This emergence is mainly due to our better understanding of matter at the molecular level thanks to the advances in quantum chemistry and spectroscopy. As most of the basic concepts and principles are now quite well understood, photochemistry has become a mature field of

science and is consequently expanding in many different directions, such as single molecule spectroscopy, photomedicine, or photonics, to cite a few.

This special issue aims at presenting the state of the art in molecular photosciences in Switzerland. Contributions from research groups affiliated with universities, federal research institutes and industries cover a wide range of areas from single molecule fluorescence to environmental photochemistry.

Most of the contributors to this issue are members of the Photochemistry Section of the Swiss Chemical Society, which acts as the national section of the European Photochemistry Association (EPA). The main purpose of this section is to bring together scientists working in photochemistry, photophysics, and photobiology to share knowledge and to foster interdisciplinary collaboration. More information can be found on the webpage of the Photochemistry Section (www.scg.ch/photochemistry).

Finally, I would like to thank all the authors for their splendid contributions and the editor-in-chief for his kind help in preparing this special issue that I hope you will enjoy reading.

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