

Editorial



David Spichiger

In its strategy workshop in January 2012 the Board of the Swiss Chemical Society confirmed the importance and necessity to honor outstanding scientific contributions in a wide range of chemical fields and it is one of the main tasks of the SCS to manage a balanced, fair and challenging award program to ensure its quality and reputation. Beside the well-established award programs for academic researchers, the industrial part was underrepresented. Therefore it is a great pleasure to me to announce a new series of industrial science awards. Outstanding contributions of industrial chemists in Research & Development in Switzerland throughout their scientific careers will be honored with this new award program that is supported by SCS as the executing organization and the KGF (Contact Group for Research Matters) as the founding partner. I would like to thank the KGF for their initiative and the generous support.

The KGF-SCS Industrial Investigator Awards that are given the first time in 2013 go to **Prof. Dr. Klaus Müller**, Roche/ETH, **Dr. Werner Bonrath**, DSM, **Dr. Ian Lewis**, Novartis, and **Dr. Mark Roger-Evans** from Roche. Please receive again my sincere congratulations.

The SCS Spring and Fall Meetings are the perfect platforms to honor the award winners for their outstanding contributions and the ceremonies are part of our strategy to further improve the visibility of excellence in chemical research and to promote young scientists on their way to international reputation.

At the Fall Meeting in Zurich the Paracelsus Prize was awarded to **Prof. Bernd Giese**, University of Fribourg and Basel, in recognition of his pioneering work on stereoselective radical reactions in synthesis and his elaboration of the mechanism of electron transfer processes in biopolymers. His lecture talk in front of the full auditorium in the evening plenary session was absolutely exciting and showed again the high standards of the scientific research in Switzerland.

In the morning plenary session of the Fall Meeting the Grammatikakis-Neumann Prize was given to **Prof. Hans Jakob Wörner**, ETH Zurich, in recognition of his pioneering investigations of molecular reaction dynamics on the sub-femtosecond time scale and the Dr. Max Lüthi Award was given to **Lucie Sägesser**, Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften in recognition of her 'Bachelor Diploma work' on preparative and analytical investigations of the positive effect of the 'papersave swiss' process on iron gall inks.

The SCS Fall Meeting 2012 was again organized under the auspices of the SCS Division of Fundamental Research and was held at the ETH Zurich on September 13. The total of 615 scientific oral or poster contributions attracted more than 800 participants from industry and academia and stand again for a new all-time record. The format seems to fit the community's needs and it is our ambition to further improve the format of this largest annual scientific conference in Switzerland. The program included two plenary sessions, one at the beginning and one at the end of the day, nine parallel oral presentation sessions and nine extensive poster sessions. The excitement of the presenters (mainly PhD students and postdocs) and the participants was palpable. The feedback concerning the newly implemented catalysis session was consistently positive to enthusiastic and we certainly will keep this session as part of the program for the upcoming Fall Meeting next September. Beside the scientific know-how exchange the events focused also on social components and provided an excellent opportunity to meet academic colleagues and to enlarge the personnel network. It is always an excellent sign when the Fall Meeting opening sessions as well as the final lecture at 5.30 p.m. take place in front of a full house.

This issue of CHIMIA contains articles by the Paracelsus prizewinner Prof. Bernd Giese, University of Fribourg and Basel, the Sandmeyer prizewinners Pierre Martin, Markus Müller, Dietmar Flubacher, Andreas Boudier and Dirk Spielvogel, Solvias AG, and the Grammatikakis-Neumann prizewinner Prof. Hans Jakob Wörner, ETH Zurich, as well as articles of the winners of the Fall Meeting's Best Oral and Best Poster Presentation Awards.

I would like to congratulate all prizewinners and thank the authors for their contributions.

A special thanks goes to the Metrohm Foundation and DSM for their generous sponsorship of the Fall Meeting Best Oral and Best Poster Awards.

Finally, I sincerely thank **Dr. Hans Peter Lüthi** (ETH) and his team for the very successful and smooth organization of the SCS Fall Meeting 2012. We are looking forward to the 2013 edition, which will be organized at EPFL Lausanne on September 6, 2013 (www.scg.ch/fallmeeting). I wish all good reading.

David Spichiger
Executive Director
Swiss Chemical Society