

Editorial



Alain De Mesmaeker

CHIMIA is a major channel to inform the Swiss chemistry community about the great science performed in Switzerland. The present CHIMIA issue contains three manuscripts of the laureates of very important Swiss Chemical Society (SCS) Awards 2015. In addition, the information on the coming SCS Fall Meeting 2016, which will take place at the University of Zürich (Irchel Campus) on Thursday 15th September, is underlining the very promising program of scientific exchange that we will enjoy shortly after summer. We are all looking forward to one of the major events organized by the SCS showcasing the vitality of Swiss chemistry.

Professor Natalie Banerji, Department of Chemistry, University of Fribourg (CH), has been nominated Grammaticakis-Neumann Awardee for 2015. The Grammaticakis-Neumann Prize is awarded since 1985 to a promising young scientist for outstanding independent research in photochemistry, photophysics or molecular photobiology. Prof. Natalie Banerji describes in her article entitled 'Structure-Property Relations in Polymer:Fullerene Blends for Organic Solar Cells' some aspects of her recent research.

Dr. Dietmar Hüglin, BASF Schweiz AG, received the SCS-KGF Industrial Investigator Award in 2015. The SCS-KGF Science Awards have been given since 2013 to honor successful industrial investigators with outstanding achievements. Dr. Hüglin presents his major contribution in the discovery and development of novel UV absorber for skin protection. His publication is entitled 'Advanced UV Absorbers for the Protection of Human Skin'.

Dr. Stefan Abele, Dr. Jacques-Alexis Funel, Dr. Gunther Schmidt (Actelion Pharmaceuticals Ltd.), **Dr. Christian Mössner, Mischa Schwaninger** (Swissi Process Safety GmbH) and **Prof. Roger Marti** (Hochschule für Technik und Architektur Fribourg), received the Sandmeyer Award 2015 for the conception and successful scale-up of Diels-Alder reactions and organocatalysis leading to enantiomerically pure 5-phenylbicyclo[2.2.2]oct-5-en-2-one, a key intermediate for the production of an L/T calcium channel antagonist. The article describing their outstanding contribution in process chemistry is entitled 'Daring the Challenge and Thinking Big: The Value of Early Process R&D'.

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