

# Conference Report

## Christmas Symposium Basel

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### Introduction

The Christmas Symposium Basel organized by the board members of the PhD Chemistry Community (PCC) has a long-standing tradition. By inviting numerous professors from other research institutes as well as ambitious postdocs that envision to pursue an academic career, the symposium provides a stimulating atmosphere for a curious and enriching scientific exchange.

The PCC itself is composed of highly motivated graduate students that, besides following up their PhD research projects, want to contribute to an active and lively department by organizing both academic and social events, such as research seminars, symposia and the PCC ski retreat in the Swiss alps.



Fig. 1. Vittoria Chimisso mediating the question session following the talk of Dr. David Lim.

### Christmas Symposium Basel 2019

This year, the schedule of the symposium included three established professors from abroad, one new professor from the University of Basel as well as two ambitious postdocs. In between the two lecture sessions, a poster session including poster pitch presentations, was combined with a coffee and snack break in order to provide a pleasant atmosphere for the lively scientific exchange.

A fondue dinner in the evening finally provided the researchers with the opportunity to connect in a more casual environment. The two lecture sessions were chaired by **Vittoria Chimisso** and **Ivan Urosev**.

**Prof. Dr. Frédéric Allain** (ETH Zurich) introduced the audience to the influence of trans-acting splicing factors and small molecules that can influence the recognition of pre-mRNA in the spliceosome monitored by NMR spectroscopy.

**Prof. Dr. Jonathan de Roo** (University of Basel) presented how colloidal nanocrystals can serve as a toolbox for superconducting, memristive and catalytic applications.

**Dr. Johannes G. Rebelein** (University of Basel) reported on the design and evolution of dimeric streptavidin and its use as artificial metalloenzyme.

**Dr. David Lim** (University of Basel) introduced the audience to the intriguing versatility of novel selenoimidazolium salts in alkyl transfer reactions.

**Prof. Dr. Caroline E. Paul** (TU Delft) presented the exploitation of synthetic nicotinamide cofactors for oxidoreductase-driven reactions and increase of electron transfer yield and performance by use of the biomimetics.

**Prof. Dr. Tobias Erb** (Max Planck Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology) dived into the astonishing world of designed metabolic cycles enabled by a combination of artificial as well as natural enzymes.

### Poster Session and Prizes

The poster session enabled the participating researchers of the symposium to get insights into specific topics and to enjoy the vivid scientific exchange while being comforted with coffee and snacks. The prizes for the best posters were awarded by the judges **Prof. Dr. Olivier Baudoin**, **Prof. Dr. Cornelia G. Palivan** and **Prof. Dr. Thomas R. Ward** to **Jaicy Vallapurackal**, **Daniel Joss** and **Pierre Thesmar**. The winner of this year's newly introduced poster pitch presentations was: **Cangsong Liao**. In order to conclude an inspiring and successful conference day, the participants enjoyed the following mulled wine apéro that already prepared the atmosphere for the festive evening with fondue dinner and joyful exchange over all specific branches of chemistry united in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Basel.

The Department of Chemistry at the University of Basel as well as the Ressort Nachwuchsförderung of the University of Basel are gratefully acknowledged for their generous financial support and we thank all poster and poster pitch participants for their valuable scientific contribution and all speakers for their highly inspiring talks.

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