

# Editorial



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Besides *Helvetica Chimica Acta*, *CHIMIA* is the second scientific journal of the Swiss Chemical Society (SCS) and is one of the society's major channels to inform the Swiss Chemistry Community of the great science being performed in Switzerland. In addition to the usual contributions to *CHIMIA* including Columns, Community News, Events and Report/Company News, the present issue contains six manuscripts of the laureates of the major SCS Awards 2019–2020. *CHIMIA* has been also a particularly useful link to our members during the recent difficult times, which did not allow physical attendance to our SCS events. However, most of the planned SCS events have been transformed into virtual online ones with, so far, a very good response from speakers and attendees. We thank you all most sincerely for your understanding of the circumstances and for your support and participation in the virtual SCS meetings. For the first time, the Fall Meeting will take place as an online conference to fulfil the regulations of the government and to facilitate safe exchange of scientific information. We received more than 400 abstracts for a short talk or a virtual poster in one of the nine sessions. Registration to join the conference is mandatory and gives you access to the virtual meeting rooms (Zoom platform). Registration is still open and is free for SCS Members. Information about the Fall Meeting is presented in the second part of this *CHIMIA* issue.

**Dr. Michael Berg, Dr. Stephan Hug, Dr. Annette Johnson (in memoriam), Dr. Andreas Voegelin and Prof. Lenny Winkel**, from the Eawag, Dübendorf, received the Sandmeyer Award 2019 for their experimental and modelling studies on drinking water contamination by arsenic and other geogenic elements with an enormous impact not only in Switzerland but around the globe. Their great achievements are disclosed in their manuscript entitled 'Arsenic and Other Geogenic Contaminants in Ground Water – A Global Challenge'.

**Dr. Fabrice Gallou**, Novartis Pharmaceuticals AG, Basel, received the SCS Senior Industrial Science Award 2019 in recognition of his outstanding track record of innovation and creativity in the field of organic synthesis and for his leadership in coaching and mentoring young scientists at Novartis. His manuscript summarizing some of his recent scientific achievements is entitled 'Sustainability as a Trigger for Innovation!'

**Dr. Christoph Boss**, Idorsia Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Allschwil, received the SCS Industrial Science Award 2019 to honour his outstanding contributions as a medicinal chemist with remarkable analytical skills and an excellent flair for multidimensional lead optimization taking into consideration all aspects of modern medicinal chemistry. His manuscript is entitled '20 Years of Medicinal Chemistry. Always Look at the Bright Side (of Life)'.

**Prof. Konrad Tiefenbacher**, University of Basel/ETH Zurich, received the Werner Prize 2020 for his innovative and original research in the field of supramolecular catalysis with focus on catalysis inside supramolecular containers, so-called 'capsules'. His manuscript co-authored with Drs. Ivana Némethová and Leonidas-Dimitrios Syntrivanis is entitled 'Molecular Capsule Catalysis: Ready to Address Current Challenges in Synthetic Organic Chemistry?'

**Prof. Eric Bakker**, University of Geneva, received the Simon Widmer Award 2019, for his pioneering work on ion-selective electrochemical and optical sensors. The article of Prof. Bakker is entitled 'A Scientific Journey with Ionophore-based Sensors'.

**Prof. David Sarlah**, University of Illinois, was awarded the Grammaticakis-Neumann Prize 2019 for his achievements in the development of photochemical dearomatization of nonactivated arenes that allows for a rapid incorporation of oxygen, nitrogen and carbon functionality with exquisite stereo-control. His article, co-authored by Mikiko Okumura, is entitled 'Arenophile-Mediated Photochemical Dearomatization of Nonactivated Arenes'.

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