

Editorial



Hans Peter Lüthi

In this issue of CHIMIA, the recipients of the best oral and the best poster presentation prize at the 2020 Fall Meeting of the Swiss Chemical Society present their award-winning research.

The 2020 Fall Meeting was a very memorable event as for the first time ever, it was held as virtual conference, operated by students and post-docs from the 'Control Center' installed at the Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Bern.



Silvio Decurtins

The response of the participants was wonderful: The attendance of 500 participants, 80% relative of a 'normal' year, also reflects the urge of our young researchers to present their results, despite the unusual conditions. Oral presenters needed to get used to the 'sterile' environment of a videoconference, and many of the poster presenters decided to go the extra mile to convey their message in the format of a short video. The 2020 Fall Meeting is the topic of a report published in CHIMIA.^[1]

Again, the Award Ceremony was a highlight of the Fall Meeting. With only a few exceptions, all winners and runners-up, when called, were still on-line and had a chance to say a few words to the audience. In this issue, sixteen laureates present their research in a form easy to enjoy also for a non-expert.

For over a decade, Metrohm (oral presentations) and DSM Nutrition (posters) have been supporting this unique award program. Overall, close to 40'000 CHF are handed out to the 32 laureates.^[2]

We would like to thank the young authors for their wonderful articles. We also thank the Jury for their efforts to identify the award-winning presentations. We always point out that the attribute 'best' should not be taken literally, but that it is correct to say that the presentations of the winners were of outstanding quality.

Please have a look at the Laureates issue and take this opportunity to learn more about the state-of-the-art of research in established as well as in emerging areas of chemistry, chemical biology and molecular materials!

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[1] H. P. Lüthi, S. Decurtins, D. Spichiger, C. Wittwer, 'Fall Meeting 2020: A Success Story Based on 'Plan B'', *CHIMIA* **2020**, *74*, 831–832.

[2] For the complete list of winners, including those of previous years, see: <https://scg.ch/component/page/best-presentation>