

Editorial



Eva Hevia

We are delighted to act as editors of this exciting issue of CHIMIA which showcases the award-winning research of sixteen promising young scientists, recipients of a best poster or oral presentation prize at the 2021 Fall Meeting of the Swiss Chemical Society. We should note that in order to win one of these generous prizes, apart from an excellent scientific presentation, a fair share of good luck is also required. In all the nine sessions, the density of excellent presentations is high, and it is a challenge for the Award Jury to come to a quick and fair decision. We would like to thank all members of the Award Jury, usually composed of the session chairs and the senior lecturers, for their commitment and the fine job they carried out



Hans Peter Lüthi

For the second time after 2020,^[1] the Fall Meeting had to be held as a virtual conference. Again, students and post-docs of the Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Bern were running the 'Control Center', which ensured that all sessions ran smoothly. With lessons learnt from the previous year, the meeting was a real success, providing an excellent online forum for discussion and networking for the participants. It is worth noticing that in comparison to last year, the attendance was even larger, but still 20% lower than for our in-person 'real meetings'.

Nevertheless, as in previous editions, the Award Ceremony was a highlight of the Fall Meeting. In the minutes before the ceremony, we observed a rapid increase of the number of on-line connections. Only a very few winners missed their chance to say a few words to the audience.

For over a decade, Metrohm (oral presentations) and DSM Nutrition (posters) have been supporting this unique award program. Overall, close to 40'000 CHF were handed out to the 32 laureates,^[2] which makes it one of the best-endowed award program of its kind worldwide.

It is a genuine pleasure to introduce these early career researchers to you, who in our opinion, are outstanding ambassadors of the breadth and depth of chemical sciences in Switzerland. We invite you to have a look at this year's Laureates issue and to enjoy learning more about the state-of-the-art research in nine different areas of chemistry!

Eva Hevia
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Hans Peter Lüthi
SCS Foundation

[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>