

Editorial



The enormous growth of information and literature in all fields of chemistry over the past decades has seen the rapid rise of the use of search engines like Scifinder®, Web of Science®, Reaxys®, ChemSpider®, etc. To present-day researchers these tools are indispensable and with electronic subscriptions to journals, they transport relevant articles of primary literature onto the researcher's computer screen in minutes. And yet, one pathway of information, around since the beginning of civilisation, is still faster, more pleasurable, and more exciting – the personal transmission of new results from the researcher to his colleagues. Be it a poster or an oral communication, it takes organisational, graphic, and oratory talents to make a successful presentation and transmit to one's peers the excitement of discovery, novelty, and accomplishment. Regional and national meetings are ideal forums for young researchers to practice these skills.

Organized under the auspices of the Division of Chemical Research of the Swiss Chemical Society (SCS), the 2009 SCS Fall Meeting was held at the EPF Lausanne on September 11, 2009. The 500 presentations (oral and poster) attracted 700 participants to plenary sessions, eight parallel oral sessions, and extensive poster sessions. The excitement of the presenters (mainly PhD students and postdocs) and the participants was palpable and EPFL corridors were a beehive of activity with food and drink being provided by the SCS. The 2009 Werner prize was awarded to Prof. Roland K. O. Sigel (University of Zurich) for the high quality of his research into the interactions of metal ions with nucleic acids. The Dr. Max Lüthi award went to Simon Lang for his excellent bachelor diploma at the University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland. At the Fall Meeting, a jury made a selection of best oral- and poster presentations.

This issue of CHIMIA contains short articles by the Werner-prize winner Prof. *Roland K. O. Sigel*, the eight recipients of the SCS Mettler-Toledo Awards for Best Oral Communication and eight (out of fourteen) winners of the SCS DSM Nutritional Products Best Poster Awards.

I congratulate the prize winners, thank the authors for their contributions, DSM Nutritional Products and Mettler-Toledo (Schweiz) GmbH for their generous sponsorship of the awards, and wish all good reading.

Best Oral Communication Award articles sponsored
by Mettler-Toledo (Schweiz) GmbH

Loïc Dayon (U Genève)
Sylvia Anthoine Dietrich (ETHZ)
Sergio Grunder (U Basel)
Lucio Isa (ETHZ)
Sébastien Rochat (EPFL)
Tobias Seiser (ETHZ)
Simone Ulzega (EPFL)
Matija Zlataar (U Fribourg)

Best Poster Award articles sponsored
by DSM Nutritional Products

Liliana Sintra Grilo (U Genève/EPFL)
Martin Kubli (ETHZ)
Olivier May (U Fribourg)
Audrey Mercier (U Genève)
Raphael Reuter (U Basel)
Olivier Schuster (U Fribourg)
Katrín Tommes (EPFL)
Niels van Vegten (ETHZ)

Finally, I sincerely thank Dr. Sandrine Gerber (EPFL) and her team for the very successful and smooth organisation of the SCS Fall Meeting 2009. We are looking forward to the 2010 edition which will be held, for the first time, at ETH Zurich-Hönggerberg on September 16.

Prof. E. Peter Kündig
President of the Swiss Chemical Society
University of Geneva

Dear Scientist

METTLER TOLEDO congratulates the winners of the SCS Mettler-Toledo Award for the best oral presentations at the SCS Fall Meeting 2009.

As a young scientist you belong to the next generation of researchers many of whom use our instruments. METTLER TOLEDO is not only a committed sponsor of the Swiss Chemical Society, but also a partner for young researchers in projects from the Swiss National Science Foundation and other scientific programs. The goal behind this partnership between young talent and industry is to build an excellent foundation for ongoing scientific research programs – in academia as well as within industry. Furthermore, we strive to advance our own solutions together with young scientists by bringing our product developers directly to your labs. This way we can provide you with new solutions and services tailored specifically to your requirements.

Our instruments are used in research labs all over the world. We are the market leader in weighing technologies, with balances being the most commonly used instrument in the lab. Scientists like you turn to our analytical instruments, such as titrators and thermal analysis, when they need to detail properties of liquids or other substances. Our RAININ pipettes, widely used at universities and in industry, lead the market with their innovative ergonomic design. Additionally, we shorten the time to market for life-science start-ups by providing tools that accelerate the synthesis, purification and process research and development of new drugs through fully integrated solutions: from hardware to sophisticated software solutions.

METTLER TOLEDO appreciates the possibility to develop young scientists and wishes all of you all the best in the future, be it in academia or industry.

Mettler-Toledo (Schweiz) GmbH
Daniel Annaheim
Business Area Manager Laboratory

Dear CHIMIA readers,

On behalf of DSM Nutritional Products, it is my honour to congratulate the winners of the best poster presentations at the Fall Meeting of the Swiss Chemical Society 2009! Our engagement for these awards is an important corner stone of a long-term commitment in cooperation with science, stimulating and rewarding best scientific contributions.

The Fall Meeting of the Swiss Chemical Society 2009 was hosted by the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne. Objective of this traditional annual congress is the exchange of scientific information in between a broad variety of activities in chemistry. Key scientists from all over the world, scientists of all age and levels, *i.e.* senior researchers as well as graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, from both academia and industry, shared and presented their most recent results of research.

In a time of increasing globalization, competitive interaction, and fast changing framework, research and development is the prerequisite to keep a worldwide leading position. This is true for companies as well as countries! Top science helps to secure Switzerland's position and role as a place for world leaders in pharmaceuticals, speciality chemicals, and nutritional ingredients. Almost half of private industry's expenditure in research and development is spent by chemistry and pharma companies. In order to be able to manage this outflow, highly motivated and well-trained people are essential, *e.g.* in the highly competitive field of products for nutrition and health.

Continuous stimulation and professional enhancement are key factors for further development of future trends, as presented in scientific conferences such as the Fall Meeting of the Swiss Chemical Society 2009. More than 450 scientific contributions covering the fields of Analytical Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, Inorganic and Coordination Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, Computational Chemistry, and Polymer Science demonstrated the progress in science. The variety of high-quality research was impressive!

Meaningful scientific discussions are based on clearly presented results, and may be supported and further stimulated by acknowledgment! This is the reason why we as a science-based company award best contributions to science, in particular from young scientists: DSM Nutritional Products has donated the prize for best poster presentations. These were selected by a jury in each session. The awards aim to encourage young scientists to distinguish themselves in research, and contribute with new knowledge and breakthrough discoveries in the understanding of the role of chemistry and its impact for a sustainable development.

The laureate articles are now published as leading examples in this issue 3 of CHIMIA on the following pages.

Congratulations to the winners of the awards!

Dr. Manfred Eggersdorfer
Sr. Vice President Research & Development
DSM Nutritional Products