

## Editorial



E. Peter Kündig

One of the four strategic priorities of the Swiss Chemical Society is to recognize and reward outstanding scientific contributions within the entire chemistry community. The international reputation of the SCS awards is assured through the judicious management of a challenging portfolio. The award program for academic researchers includes the Paracelsus Award, the Werner Prize and the Grammaticakis-Neumann Award. The Sandmeyer prize is a distinction specifically honoring contributions from industry. Although highly prestigious, it was the only SCS award for achievements in that sector. Starting in 2012 in collaboration with KGF (Contact Group for Research Matters) we have now set up a new series of industrial science awards that complement the Sandmeyer Prize. The KGF-SCS Industrial Investigator Awards are awards given to individuals for outstanding contributions in research & development in Switzerland. The achievements of the eight KGF-SCS Award winners in 2013 and 2014 confirm the exceptionally high level of industrial research in Switzerland, research that contributes strongly to the ongoing commercial success and advancement of the Swiss chemical and pharmaceutical industries.



David Spichiger

The first part of this CHIMIA issue contains articles by the winners of the major SCS prizes in 2013 and the Werner Prize 2014.

The **Werner Prize 2014** was given to two young, promising, untenured scientists at the time of the nomination deadline for their independent research. **Prof. Clémence Corninboeuf**, EPF Lausanne, was honored for developing and applying state of the art computational and theoretical methods for interpreting and solving chemical problems in complex systems. **Prof. Jérôme Waser**, EPF Lausanne, shared the award for the development of novel synthetic methods and strategies to construct complex structures of potential biological interest.

**Prof. Uwe Pischel**, University of Huelva (ESP), received the **Grammaticakis-Neumann award 2013** for his important contribution to the development of photoactive molecular logic gates.

A joint research team from **Clariant and the CNRS-University of Strasbourg** was awarded the **Sandmeyer Prize 2013** for its work on N-heterocyclic carbene-based zirconium complexes for use in ring opening polymerization.

To complete the list of the 2013 award winners there are articles by the first winners of the **KGF-SCS Industrial Science Awards**. The Distinguished Industrial Investigator Award was given to **Prof. Klaus Müller** from F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, Basel, for pioneering a number of important and crucial scientific initiatives in industry as well as for his outstanding contributions to further relations between industry and academia.

**Dr. Ian Lewis** from Novartis Pharma AG, Basel, received the Senior Industrial Investigator Award for the design and synthesis of Pasireotide (Signifor®), the first drug approved for the treatment of Cushing's disease. **Dr. Werner Bonrath** from DSM Nutritional Products, Basel, was also awarded this prize for his development of industrial catalytic processes in the fields of Vitamins, Carotenoids and Flavor and Fragrances.

The Industrial Investigator award in this new program was given to **Dr. Mark Rogers-Evans** from F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Basel, for his work in medicinal chemistry, particularly for his studies of small heterocyclic ring systems such as oxetanes and azaspiro[3.4]octanes.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the winners on their outstanding contributions and to thank all sponsors for their much-appreciated support of the SCS prize program.

The second part of this issue provides all necessary information relevant to the SCS Fall Meeting that will take place at the University of Zürich on September 11, 2014. More than 570 contributions in eight thematic sessions as well as three plenary lectures form an excellent program and promise an exciting day. We are looking forward to seeing you in Zurich on September 11, 2014.

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