

Editorial



Alain De Mesmaeker

Besides *Helvetica Chimica Acta* (published by Wiley) *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 about the great science performed in Switzerland. The present issue contains six manuscripts of the laureates of very important SCS Awards 2016 and 2017. In addition, the information on the coming SCS Fall Meeting 2017, which will take place at the University of Bern on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd August, is underlining the very promising one and a half day program of scientific exchange that we will enjoy at the end of this summer. We are all very much looking forward to welcoming you in Bern or at one of the major events organized by the SCS showcasing the vitality of Swiss chemistry.

Professor Maksym V. Kovalenko, Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences ETH Zürich and Empa-Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials and Technology, Dübendorf, was awarded the Werner Prize 2016 for his innovative studies in the chemistry, physics and applications of inorganic nanostructures. Prof. M. Kovalenko, together with M. I Bodnarchuk, describes in the article entitled 'Lead Halide Perovskite Nanocrystals: From Discovery to Self-assembly and Applications' some recent aspects of the research performed in his laboratories.

Professor Kevin Sivula, Institut des sciences et ingénierie chimiques, Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, received the Werner Prize 2017 for his significant contributions to the photoelectrochemical energy conversion. His article is entitled 'Advancing Materials and Methods for Photoelectrochemical Energy Conversion'.

Professor Christof Sparr, Department of Chemistry, University of Basel, received the Werner Prize 2017 in recognition of his very creative contributions to the asymmetric synthesis of single atropisomers of hindered aromatic compounds using organocatalysis. His article is entitled 'Catalytic Arene-forming Aldol Condensation: Stereoselective Synthesis of Rotationally Restricted Aromatic Compounds' and will be published in issue 9 (September) of *CHIMIA*.

Dr. Martin Weibel, Dr. Thomas Müller, Sika Technology AG, **Dr. Ratan K. Mishra, Prof. Robert J. Flatt**, Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering, ETH Zürich, **Prof. Hendrik Heinz**, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, University of Colorado Boulder US, received the Sandmeyer Prize 2016 for their outstanding contribution to the development of the new commercial additives for the grinding of inorganic solids. Their impressive results are summarized in their contribution entitled 'Energy-effective Grinding of Inorganic Solids Using Organic Additives'.

Dr. Eric R. Francotte, Novartis Pharma AG, has been nominated for the KGF-SCS Senior Industrial Investigator Award 2016 for his outstanding contributions to chromatographic resolution of racemic compounds on optically active polymers as chiral stationary phases and his pioneering work in implementing new preparative chromatographic techniques. Dr. Francotte has presented some of his major contributions in his contribution entitled "Polysaccharide Derivatives as Unique Chiral Selectors for Enantioselective Chromatography".

Dr. Martin H. Bolli, Actelion Pharmaceuticals Ltd., received the KGF-SCS Industrial Investigator Award 2016 for his excellent contributions in medicinal chemistry culminating in the discovery and development of Macitentan, a drug for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension. His article is entitled 'The Discovery of Macitentan. A Standard Medicinal Chemistry Program?'

Dr. Andreas Herrmann, Firmenich SA, was awarded the KGF-SCS Industrial Investigator Award 2016 for his essential contributions to make profragrance chemistry a key technology for fragrance delivery. His research in this area is summarized in the article entitled 'Profragrance Chemistry as an Interdisciplinary Research Area and Key Technology for Fragrance Delivery'.

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