

Editorial



Sandrine Gerber

As a sign of the vitality of chemical research being carried out in Switzerland, the SCS Fall Meeting 2013, organized under the auspices of the SCS Division of Fundamental Research, gathered about 800 participants in the premises of the EPF Lausanne on September 6, 2013. The 553 scientific contributions (oral and poster presentations) and 14 invited lectures attracted collaborators from both academia and chemical/pharmaceutical industry to present, discuss and share recent scientific achievements which were presented in nine parallel sessions and two plenary sessions. The excitement of the young researchers disclosing the most important results of their research was palpable, and the social components of this large and lively annual event gave excellent opportunities to make new contacts and enlarge professional networks. What a sign of enthusiasm to see a full auditorium attending the final lecture and plenary session until 6.30 pm!

The SCS Fall Meeting was again a perfect platform to honor scientists from academic institutions and industries for their outstanding contributions to chemical research and development. For the first time, a ceremony was organized on the occasion of the SCS Fall Meeting VIP Dinner, on September 5, to reward the winners of the 2013 prizes:

The Grammaticakis-Neumann Prize was awarded to Prof. *Uwe Pischel*, University of Huelva, Spain, in recognition of his important contribution to the development of photoactive molecular logic gates.

The KGF-SCS Distinguished Industrial Investigator Award was given to Prof. Dr. *Klaus Müller* (F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG and ETHZ) in recognition of his pioneering and crucial scientific initiatives both in academia and industry. The KGF-SCS Senior Industrial Investigator Awards were awarded to Dr. *Ian Lewis*, Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research, for the design and synthesis of SOM230/Pasireotide (Signifor®) as the first pituitary directed medical therapy for Cushing's disease approved by EMA and FDA in 2012, and to Dr. *Werner Bonrath*, DSM Nutritional Products, for his contributions to the development of new catalytic processes applied to the fields of Vitamins, Carotenoids, Flavor and Fragrances. Dr. *Mark Rogers-Evans*, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, received the KGF-SCS Industrial Investigator Award for his work in medicinal chemistry.

Finally, a team of scientists – Drs *Ralf Dümpelmann*, *Pascal Steffanut* (Clariant Group R&D), *Samuel Dagonne* and *Stephane Bellemin* (CNRS-University of Strasbourg) – was honored with the Sandmeyer Award for their joint work on N-heterocyclic carbene-based zirconium complexes for use in ring opening polymerization.

All prize winners gave excellent and fascinating lectures in the plenary and parallel sessions of the SCS Fall Meeting 2013.

Young researchers were also honored for the scientific quality of their contributions by the SCS-Metrohm Foundation Awards for Best Oral Communications and the SCS-DSM Best Poster Awards. This issue of CHIMIA contains articles by these laureates and will give you a flavor of the research being developed in Switzerland in a wide range of chemical fields.

I would like to warmly congratulate all prize winners, thank the authors for their contributions, the Metrohm Foundation and DSM for the generous sponsorship of the awards and their support to young talented chemists.

Best Poster Award winner articles sponsored by DSM Nutritional Products

- Sebastian Keller, ETH Zurich
- Roger Slavik, ETH Zurich
- Jeanne Bolliger, University of Cambridge
- Thomas Buyck, EPF Lausanne

Best Oral Communication Award winner articles sponsored by The Metrohm Foundation

- Caroline Münsterer, ETH Zurich
- Cecilia Tortoreto, University of Geneva
- Emiliana Fabbri, Paul Scherrer Institute
- Caroline Souris, MPI for Coal Research
- Jérôme Gonthier, EPF Lausanne
- Gabriel Schäfer, ETH Zurich
- Gloria Capano, EPF Lausanne
- Benjamin Bertsche, EPF Lausanne
- Angèle Monney, LIKAT Rostock
- Susan Blaser, University of Bern
- Jan Breitenfeld, EPF Lausanne
- Philipp Anstaett, University of Zurich
- Thomas Jack, University of Bern

Finally, I sincerely thank the organizing team of the Institute of Chemical Sciences and Engineering (ISIC) at EPFL for their hard work and crucial contribution to the success of the SCS Fall Meeting 2013. We are looking forward to the 2014 edition, which will be held at the University of Zürich on September 11, 2014.

I hope that you will enjoy the content of this issue and I wish you all good reading.

Sandrine Gerber
Chair of the SCS Fall Meeting 2013
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