

EDITORIAL



The Fall meeting of the Swiss Chemical Society gives young scientists the opportunity to introduce themselves to the scientific community outside their own institute. This very successful and old tradition was used again in October 2004 in Zurich by more scientists than ever before: 410 oral and poster presentations were submitted which makes a full program for just one day. The abstracts were printed in the CHIMIA issue 7-8/2004.

A tradition of more recent origin, but already highly valued and which gives the event a touch of scientific and oratorical competition, is the awarding of prizes for the best oral presentations

and the best posters in each section. This time, for the first time, the prizes for the oral presentation were sponsored by Mettler-Toledo, a company which is a close companion of most of us chemists. Six of the eight recipients of the **Mettler-Toledo Award** for best oral presentation have contributions in this issue: Henrietta Dehmlow, Estelle Delort, Christian Gossens, Dominique N. Meyer, Claudia Minkowski, and Oliver S. Wenger. Nine of the eleven **SCS Poster Prize** winners have also contributed to this issue: Guillaume Bollot, Imenne Bouamaied, Maurizio Carano, Vincent Darmency, Sébastien Gauthier, Wenjing Huang, Angela Punzi, Daniel Stein, and Bernard Wenger.

Congratulations to all of them.

The **Werner Prize** was awarded to Prof. Paul J. Dyson from the EPFL Lausanne for his very promising work in the field of catalysis combined with ionic liquids, which seems to be a successful combination of academic activity and practical use.

The winner of the even more prestigious **Paracelsus Prize** of the SCS was Prof. George M. Whitesides from Harvard University. To answer the question for what he received the prize is not easy as he is active in so many fields. Perhaps one could say the prize was given for unexpected questions, unexpected experiments and the unexpected emerging answers; unexpectedness is surely what keeps science fascinating.

Last but not least, I also thank the local organizers for this successful meeting.

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