

Editorial



Bruno Therrien

Cupcakes, like supramolecular chemistry, are in reality just variations of the same thing. They can of course be of different textures, colours, flavours, and even be gluten free, nevertheless, what really makes the difference for the hungry eyes is mainly the decoration, and to some extent what kind of ingredients were used by the chef to create his masterpiece. In supramolecular chemistry, the basic rules are all the same, and as presented by Jean-Marie Lehn in 2011: *“Supramolecular chemistry aims at constructing highly complex, functional chemical systems from components held together by intermolecular noncovalent forces”*. Chemists, like chefs, have to assemble several molecules together to obtain a final product which should attract our attention. Therefore, for this special issue of CHIMIA devoted to supramolecular chemistry, a selection of papers dealing with various aspects of the “chemistry beyond the molecule” is presented, and hopefully these contributions will attract your attention.

When I was invited by Paul Dyson, the Editor-in-Chief of CHIMIA, to organise a special issue on supramolecular chemistry, I was first confronted with the task of making a list of potential contributors. The subject is so vast and varied, and so many groups are working in the field that I faced a dilemma. I had the feeling that I was like a child in front of a platter full of cupcakes. I was unable to make a choice. It was too difficult to decide, because they all look so yummy! Therefore, I tried not to concentrate on a precise sub-field of supramolecular chemistry or to select papers on a kind of logical way based on a specific application related to supramolecular chemistry. Instead, I chose to invite research groups from all over the world, groups having in common their passion for supramolecular chemistry. The response was extremely positive, and we ended up with enough papers to justify a second issue. Therefore, if you cannot find this time the flavour that best suits your palate? Well! Come again! Soon we will have more to offer. However, don't forget that this is also an opportunity to broaden your horizon. Finally, I hope you will enjoy the reading of these scientifically diverse articles in the field of supramolecular chemistry, with a cup of coffee or tea, and maybe a cupcake.

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