

## Editorial



Bruno Therrien

For this second issue devoted to supramolecular chemistry, once again a series of papers showing different aspects of supramolecular chemistry are presented. Not surprisingly, the compounds described in these articles are either organic or inorganic derivatives. But today, these terms dividing chemistry into distinct fields have lost some of their significance. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it was easily assumed that the work of Alfred Werner on coordination chemistry (Nobel Prize Winner in 1913) had no link to the work of Emil Fischer on purines and sugars (Nobel Prize Winner in 1902), now the situation has become more complicated. Today we appreciate that the two are linked, in nature as well as in the laboratory, and nowadays, it's often the application that dictates the field, not the nature of the synthesized compound.

In supramolecular chemistry, components used to assemble the final product are often a mixture of both organic and inorganic moieties. However, as encountered in this issue, it is still common to prepare purely classified organic or inorganic compounds to perform supramolecular chemistry tasks. Nevertheless, new achievements in specific fields of supramolecular chemistry have been attained from organic and inorganic chemistry or from a combination of both, thus reducing the importance of these words. I don't suggest that we need to put the terms organic and inorganic chemistry in the rubbish – I'm sure we can recycle them. If chemists find the division between organic and inorganic more difficult to define it is not surprising that non-chemists really struggle (see cover picture). But in the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading these articles dealing with supramolecular chemistry from leading supramolecular chemists.

Bruno Therrien  
Institut de chimie  
Université de Neuchâtel

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The CHIMIA Editorial Board is very grateful to Dr. Bruno Therrien for the organisation of both issues devoted to Supramolecular Chemistry, providing a comprehensive overview of the activities in this field.