

Editorial

In this issue of CHIMIA, the laureates of the 2017 Fall Meeting of the Swiss Chemical Society held at the University of Bern vonRoll Areal, present their award-winning research. The Laureates issue renders a platform for these young authors to present their research for a broader, non-specialist audience of chemists. In most cases, the original research has been, or will be published in specialized journals.

First introduced in 2002,^[1] the 'best poster' and 'best oral presentation' award programs have become a key element of the Fall Meeting. The Award Ceremony is the last item on the agenda of an intense day, and certainly one of the meeting highlights. The awards are sponsored by Metrohm (oral presentations) and by DSM Nutrition (posters). Their generous contribution makes this 'grand finale' of the Fall Meeting possible.

The prizes for the best poster and the best oral presentations in each parallel session amount to a cash- and a travel award, plus the invitation to contribute to this issue of CHIMIA. There are similar awards for the second ranked in both categories. See ref. [2] for more details.

The number of prizes awarded also reflects the development and popularity of the Fall Meeting. In 2002, eighteen prizes were available for the 300 presenters. In 2017, the program covered nearly 600 scientific contributions, and as many as 37 prizes were awarded to the best posters and oral contributions presented in the eight parallel thematic sessions.^[2]

In this issue of CHIMIA, 15 laureates present their award-winning research. Even though these are invited articles, they are reviewed for scientific content and quality of the presentation. All authors briefly present themselves. It is interesting to see what background they have and how their still very young career is evolving.

We would like to thank the authors for the work they put into their articles. We also thank the Jury for their effort to select the award-winning presentations on-site. Given the large number of posters and the limited time available, the rating of the poster presentations is not an easy task. The attribute 'best' therefore cannot always be taken literally, but it is fair to say that the research of the winners is of excellent quality.

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[1] A. Merbach, *CHIMIA* **2002**, 57, 146

[2] For the 2017 Fall Meeting Award program and the complete list of winners see:
<http://fm17.chemistrycongresses.ch/program/presentation-awards>