

Editorial



Dr. Alain De Mesmaeker

Besides *Helvetica Chimica Acta*, *CHIMIA* is the second scientific journal of the Swiss Chemical Society (SCS) and is one of the society's major channels to inform the Swiss Chemistry Community about the great science performed in Switzerland. In addition to the usual contributions to *CHIMIA* including Notes, Highlights, Community News, Events and Report/Company News, the present issue contains seven manuscripts of the laureates of very important SCS Awards 2017–2019. You will find also some very useful information on the coming SCS Fall Meeting 2019, which will take place at the University of Zürich (Campus Irchel) on Friday 6th September 2019 displaying a very promising program. We are all very much looking forward to welcoming you in Zürich at one of the major events organized by the SCS showcasing the vitality of Swiss Chemistry.

Professor Ruedi Aebersold, ETH Zürich received the Paracelsus Prize 2018 for his exceptional and visionary contributions to the field of proteomics in general and to the fields of analytical chemistry, protein chemistry and mass spectrometry specifically. Professor Ruedi Aebersold discloses some of his great scientific achievements in the manuscript, co-authored with Dr. Peter Blattmann, entitled 'Mass Spectrometric Exploration of the Biochemical Basis of Living Systems'.

The Team from Syngenta Crop Protection AG, Stein **Dr. Raymonde Fonné-Pfister**, **Dr. Claudio Screpanti**, **Dr. Alain De Mesmaeker** and **Professor Harro Bouwmeester**, University of Amsterdam received the Sandmeyer Award 2018 for their pioneering work on Strigolactones that can be considered a collaboration masterpiece between Industry and Academia to explore novel area of this phytohormonal family. Their manuscript, co-authored with Dr. Mathilde Lachia and Dr. Alexandre Lumbroso, is entitled 'Design, Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of Strigolactone and Strigolactam Derivatives for Potential Crop Enhancement Applications in Modern Agriculture'.

Dr. Paul W. Manley, Novartis Pharmaceuticals AG, Basel has been nominated for the SISF-SCS Distinguished Investigator Award 2018 for his impressive track record of success as medicinal chemist, including 31 years in Basel at Sandoz/Novartis, working in several disease areas and on multiple classes of drug targets, including the invention of the commercial anti-leukemia drug Nilotinib[®]. Paul Manley has summarized some of his achievements in the present manuscript entitled 'Investigations into the Potential Role of Metabolites on the Anti-Leukemic Activity of Imatinib, Nilotinib and Midostaurin'.

Dr. Clemens Lamberth, Syngenta Crop Protection AG, has been nominated for the SISF-SCS Distinguished Investigator Award 2018 for his impressive track record of success in the field of fungicide research within Crop Protection, including the invention of the fungicide Mandipropamid (Revus[®], Pergado[®]). Clemens Lamberth presents some of his achievements in his manuscript entitled 'Episodes from the Continuous Search for Solutions against Downy Mildew Diseases'.

Dr. Richard Sedrani, Novartis Pharmaceuticals AG, Basel has been nominated for the KGF-SCS Industrial Investigator Award 2017 for his achievements in many important projects as research chemist, team leader, project leader and unit head that resulted in the discovery and development of the mTOR inhibitor Everolimus, which is the active ingredient of several successfully marketed drugs: Certican[®]/Zortress[®], Afinitor[®], Xience[™]. Richard Sedrani presents his achievements in the manuscript co-authored with Drs. Sylvain Cottens, Jörg Kallen, Walter Schuler entitled 'Derivation of Rapamycin: Adventures in Natural Product Chemistry'.

Professor Jeremy Luterbacher, EPFL Lausanne, received the Werner Prize 2019 for his original and ground-breaking research on chemical conversion of plant material using protection group chemistry during biomass depolymerisation and upgrading. Jeremy Luterbacher has summarized some of his main contributions in this field in his manuscript co-authored with Dr. Wu Lan entitled 'Preventing Lignin Condensation to Facilitate Aromatic Monomer Production'.

Dr. Thibaud Rossel, Gymnase français de Bienne, École de Maturité, received the Balmer Prize 2018 for his original and impressive research program, using simple methods and resources. Moreover, the experiments are shared with high-school students, who are happy to carry out original research work as part of their training in chemistry. His manuscript, co-authored with Dr. Marc Creus, is entitled 'La Chimie en Couleurs: Socially Relevant & Original Research in Chemistry in High Schools Using Modest Resources'.

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