

Editorial



2011: The International Year of Chemistry

The forum offered by this year of chemistry celebration has opened the world's eyes to the importance of chemistry in personal lives, in industry, in the environment. Chemistry (as all chemists know) is central to the most vital aspects of our human world – water, food, medicine, materials, energy. In the field of research – both theoretical and applied – we are witnessing enormous discoveries and relentless developments. The fact that Switzerland needs many more scientists in general and chemists in particular is voiced by the Swiss Federal Government and industry leaders alike. It is hoped that the increased student enrollment in chemistry seen over the past few years at our Universities and Federal Institutes of Technology indicates a lasting trend.

Discoveries flourish and research excels. The record number of contributions to the Swiss Chemical Society (SCS) Fall Meeting 2010 is a direct reflection of this phenomenon. The level of chemistry is excellent, and Switzerland is on a par with the best in the world. I am proud to be part of the chemistry community and I am grateful to all who contributed to this showcase of our science.

The 2010 SCS Fall Meeting was organized under the auspices of the Division of Chemical Research of the SCS and it was held (for the first time) at the ETH Zurich Hönggerberg on September 16. The 570 presentations (oral and poster) attracted some 800 participants to plenary sessions, eight parallel oral sessions of presentations, and extensive poster sessions. The excitement of the presenters (mainly Ph.D. students and postdocs) and the participants was palpable. The ETH organizers had done everything to make this event attractive, both scientifically and socially. This went from food and drink being provided by the SCS, to ample space for posters and to the organization of buses to bring participants to the train station after the Paracelsus prize lecture and the prize ceremonies for the best oral- and poster presentations – both in front of a full house.

The recipient of the Paracelsus Prize was Prof. **Steven Ley** (Cambridge) who gave a fascinating lecture entitled 'New Tools for Molecule Makers: Enabling Technologies'. The Grammaticakis-Neumann Prize was given to Prof. **Sivaguru Jayaraman** (Fargo, North Dakota), and the Dr. Max Lüthi Award went to **Benjamin Otter** (Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz).

At the Fall Meeting, a jury made a selection of best oral- and poster presentations.

This issue of CHIMIA contains articles by the Grammaticakis-Neumann Prize winner Prof. Sivaguru Jayaraman, the recipients of the 1st prizes of the Metrohm Foundation Awards for Best Oral Communication and the winners of the DSM Best Poster Awards.

I congratulate the prize winners, thank the authors for their contributions, the Metrohm Foundation and DSM for their generous sponsorship of the awards, and wish all good reading.

Best Oral Communication award articles
sponsored by the Metrohm Foundation

Florian P. C. Binder (U Basel)
Albert Boddien (U Rostock, EPFL)
Jens Peter Hermes (U Basel)
Patrick Ilg (ETHZ)
Philipp Ottiger (U Bern)
Christoph Schotes (ETHZ)
Johannes Stadler (ETHZ)
Stephan N. Steinmann (EPFL)

Best Poster Award winner articles
sponsored by DSM

Nico Bruns (U Basel)
Nando Gartmann (UZH)
Tamas A. Godany (ETHZ)
Yun Ding (UZH)
Pascal Miéville (EPFL)
Yvonne A. Nagel (U Basel)
Sirinporn Thamapipol (U Geneva)
Duc N. Tran (ETHZ, EPFL)

Finally, I sincerely thank Prof. Frederic Merkt and PD Dr. Hans-Peter Lüthi (ETHZ) and their team for the very successful and smooth organisation of the SCS Fall Meeting 2010 and the sponsors of the event listed at http://www.scg.ch/x_data/event_pdf/FM10_Program.pdf.

Thanks also go to the Editorial Team of CHIMIA for the program and abstract layout and printing.

We are looking forward to the 2011 edition which will be organized at EPFL in Lausanne Dorigny on September 9.

Prof. E. Peter Kündig
President of the Swiss Chemical Society
University of Geneva

Dear CHIMIA readers,

Metrohm congratulates the winners of the best oral presentations at the Fall Meeting 2010 of the Swiss Chemical Society!

Today's budgets are small and the strong Swiss frank presently is a burden on our exports. Any spare money is needed for intercompany research and development. Every 'Rappen' should be spent to optimize our production, which in Metrohm's case is solely in Herisau, Switzerland.

So why sponsor student awards?

For more than 60 years Metrohm has been building instruments for the analytical chemistry. We develop and produce pH- and conductivity meters, potentiometric and Karl Fischer titration, as well as voltammetric and polarographic instruments. Metrohm stands also for highly sophisticated systems in ion chromatography. Therefore we feel at home in all the chemistry departments of the world.

Metrohm is a different stock cooperation. For the past thirty years all shares have belonged to the Metrohm Foundation. The Metrohm Foundation makes sure that a large part of the profit is reinvested in our organization, for example in the development of new equipment, and not to private stake holders looking for maximum return on their investment. The other part of the profit is to support the public wealth, mainly focusing on education. Today public spending for education in the department of natural sciences is very moderate. This is where the Metrohm Foundation gets active.

That is why it is a great pleasure for Metrohm to sponsor the awards of the Swiss Chemical Society. We honor and support the work that has been achieved by the students of chemistry.

Metrohm appreciates the possibility to support science and wishes our upcoming scientists all the best in the future!

Dr. Kai Henning Viehweger
Executive VP Sales & Marketing
Metrohm International Headquarters

Dear CHIMIA readers,

On behalf of DSM Nutritional Products, I wish to congratulate the winners of the best poster presentations at the Fall Meeting of the Swiss Chemical Society 2010!

The long tradition of this conference series was continued at the ETH Zürich, Campus Science City (Hönggerberg) on 16 September 2010. Again, scientists of all levels from academia and industry presented results from their most recent or ongoing research to the audience. Out of the overall almost six hundred contributions, the predominant number consisted of poster presentations, being a vital part of this largest annual scientific congress organized in Switzerland from all areas of chemistry (Analytical Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, Computational Chemistry, Inorganic and Coordination Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, and Polymers & Colloids).

In particular for young researchers, *i.e.* PhD students and post-doctoral fellows, the Fall Meeting offers a unique opportunity to share scientific information and discuss the results of scientific activities. It also allows the exchange of ideas between various generations of chemists, often acting as seeds for new projects and collaborations. In a world of high competition, top research and development towards sustainable processes and products, and recognising future trends are prerequisites for maintaining the leading position of Switzerland, in particular in pharmaceuticals and nutrition-based areas. Based on its long-term commitment to science, DSM Nutritional Products would like to encourage young scientists, support scientific interchange and professional training, and acknowledge the most successful leading examples of this meeting by donation of the best poster presentations.

Dr. Manfred Eggersdorfer
Sr. Vice President
DSM Nutritional Products