

Editorial



Holger Frauenrath

The present special issue of CHIMIA is devoted to the research of new research groups and young scientists in the field of Polymer, Colloid, and Interface Science at Swiss research institutions.

Ever since the days of Hermann Staudinger developing some of the basic concepts of macromolecular chemistry during his time in Zurich, science and research on polymers, colloids, and interfaces has had a solid place in Switzerland. Nevertheless, the long history and accomplishments of the past decades notwithstanding, the best may be yet to come. Many exciting new concepts and research directions have only recently been started to be explored, whether it is the combination of bottom-up chemical synthesis and colloidal self-assembly with truly top-down approaches such as 3D printing, the application of biotechnological processing methods to materials design, or the expansion of polymer synthesis from one-dimensional polymers to two-dimensional covalent nanomaterials.

We are bound to see the next leap in soft materials research and interface technology, and Switzerland will certainly have an important part in it. Across all research institutions in Switzerland, the relevance of soft matter research has been well recognized. Numerous new laboratories have been established in recent years, and particularly many of the young scientists are leading the way to develop some of the most exciting new research programs. It is the goal of this special issue of CHIMIA to highlight the research efforts of some of these new groups and young scientists in the field of Polymer, Colloid, and Interface Science.

Hopefully, this special issue will thus serve to give an outline of the future developments in the field and, moreover, be a source of inspiration for other researchers in Polymer, Colloid, and Interface Science and related fields, both in Switzerland and internationally.

Holger Frauenrath

Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)
Institute of Materials

The Editorial Board of CHIMIA thanks the guest editor Prof. Holger Frauenrath for organizing such an interesting and well-chosen set of articles that serve to illustrate the many diverse aspects of the field of Polymer, Colloid, and Interface Science.

Front cover: Library of hybrid colloids produced by sequential capillarity-assisted particle assembly. See article by L. Isa et al. on page 349.