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Chemistry

Platform of the Swiss Academy of Sciences

**2015 Chemistry Travel Award by SCNAT, SCS and SSFEC**

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At the beginning of the year, the '2015 Chemistry Travel Award' was announced by the «Platform Chemistry» of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), the Swiss Chemical Society (SCS), and the Swiss Society for Food and Environmental Chemistry (SSFEC). This award program was initiated to support excellent PhD students from Swiss institutions to participate and actively present their work (poster or oral presentation) at international conferences. Many applications from students working in diverse fields of chemistry and at many institutions were received. The applications were reviewed by a selection committee composed of representatives of all three organisations: Prof. Dr. Gérard Hopfgartner (SCS, University of Geneva), Prof. Dr. Christian Bochet (SCS, University of Fribourg), Prof. Dr. Oliver Wenger (SCNAT, University of Basel), and Prof. Dr. Umberto Piantini (SSFEC, SCNAT, HES-SO VS). The committee was impressed by the high level of the applications. The selection was primarily based on the submitted conference abstracts and the scientific achievements.

On behalf of SCNAT, SCS and SSFEC we hereby congratulate the winners and wish them a successful conference participation.

We proudly present the winners of the '2015 Chemistry Travel Award':

**Joachim Ahlin**

Group: Nicolai Cramer, EPF Lausanne  
Conference: 18<sup>th</sup> IUPAC International Symposium on Organometallic Chemistry Directed Towards Organic Synthesis (OMCOS 18)

Title: 'Synthesis of Cyclopentenones by an Asymmetric Nickel-Catalyzed [3+2] Reductive Cycloaddition of Enoates with Alkynes'

**Diederik Balkenende**

Group: Christoph Weder, AMI University of Fribourg  
Conference: 249<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting & Exposition in Denver

Title: 'Optically Responsive Supramolecular Glasses'

**Raphael Bigler**

Group: Antonio Mezzetti, ETH Zurich  
Conference: 18<sup>th</sup> IUPAC Int. Symposium on Organometallic Chemistry Directed Towards Organic Synthesis (OMCOS 18)  
Title: 'Chiral (NH)<sub>2</sub>P<sub>2</sub> Macrocyclic Iron(II) Complexes: Design and Application in the Highly Enantioselective Transfer Hydrogenation of Ketones'

**Ina Bodoky**

Group: Marcel Mayor, University of Basel  
Conference: Chirality 2015  
Title: 'Setting the Hook for Specific Single Walled Carbon Nanotubes'

**Roberto Buratto**

Group: Geoffrey Bodenhausen, EPF Lausanne  
Conference: Experimental Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Conference (ENC)  
Title: 'Ligand-Protein Screening by Long-Lived States of Fluorine-19 Nuclei'

**Anamitra Chatterjee**

Group: Thomas R. Ward, University of Basel  
Conference: 19<sup>th</sup> European Symposium of Organic Chemistry in 2015 (ESOC2015)  
Title: 'Enantioselective Artificial Suzukiase Based on the Biotin-Streptavidin Technology'

**Victoria Custodis**

Group: Jeroen A. van Bokhoven, ETH Zurich  
Conference: 249<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting, Chemistry on Natural Resources  
Title: 'The Mechanism of Lignin Pyrolysis – from Model Compound to actual Lignin'

**Bernd Deffner**

Group: Dieter A. Schlüter, ETH Zurich  
Conference: The International Chemical Congress of Pacific Basin Societies (PACIFICHEM) 2015  
Title: 'High molecular weight poly(m,p-phenylene)s derived by Suzuki polycondensation: synthesis, processing and testing'

**Bogdan Dereka**

Group: Eric Vauthey, University of Geneva  
 Conference: Time-Resolved Vibrational Spectroscopy (TRVS) 2015  
 Title: 'Symmetry-Breaking Phenomena Detected with Ultrafast Time-Resolved Infrared Spectroscopy'

**Sonja Kracht**

Group: Katharina M. Fromm & Bernd Giese, University of Fribourg  
 Conference: Gordon Research Seminar and Conference: Self-assembly and Supramolecular Chemistry  
 Title: 'Electron Transfer Through Peptide Assemblies'

**Cathrin Ertl**

Group: Catherine E. Housecroft & Edwin C. Constable, University of Basel  
 Conference: 21<sup>st</sup> International Symposium on the Photochemistry and Photophysics of Coordination Compounds (ISPPCC)  
 Title: 'Going to Extremes: From Fluorine-Free Blue to Stable Red Emitting Iridium Complexes for LEECs'

**Ioannis Lignos**

Group: Andrew deMello, ETH Zurich  
 Conference: 2015 MRS Spring Meeting & Exhibit  
 Title: 'Millisecond Kinetics of PbS Quantum Dots Using Dropletbased Microfluidics with on-line Absorption and Fluorescence Spectroscopy'

**Lukas Felix**

Group: Marcel Mayor, University of Basel  
 Conference: 250<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting & Exposition, Innovation from Discovery to Application  
 Title: 'Molecules in Gasphase: Synthesis of Multi-Porphyrin-Systems for Quantum Interference Experiments'

**Mihai Lomora**

Group: Cornelia G. Palivan, University of Basel  
 Conference: 45<sup>th</sup> World Chemistry Congress (IUPAC-2015)  
 Title: 'Selective Ion Permeability of Biomimetic Membranes Induced by Insertion of Biopores'

**Kristina Goncharenko**

Group: Florian P. Seebeck, University of Basel  
 Conference: BIOTRANS 2015  
 Title: 'The Mechanism of Enzyme Catalysed Oxidative Sulfur-Carbon Bond Formation in Ergothioneine Biosynthesis'

**Michael Luescher**

Group: Jeffrey W. Bode, ETH Zurich  
 Conference: 25<sup>th</sup> International Society of Heterocyclic Chemistry Congress  
 Title: 'One-Step Synthesis of Unprotected, Substituted Saturated N-Heterocycles using SnAP Reagents'

**Jeannine Hess**

Group: Gilles Gasser, University of Zurich  
 Conference: 250<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting & Exposition, Innovation from Discovery to Application  
 Title: 'Facile Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of Metallocenyl Derivatives'

**Valentina Marchionni**

Group: Alexander Wokaun, PSI Villigen  
 Conference: 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Operando Spectroscopy  
 Title: 'Influence of CO on Methane Oxidation of TWC by Combined Spectroscopic and Modulation Approach'

**Alexandre Hofer**

Group: Henning J. Jessen, University of Zurich  
 Conference: 250<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting & Exposition, Innovation from Discovery to Application  
 Title: 'Synthesising Biologically Relevant Phosphoanhydrides and Analogs by Chemoselective Coupling of Phosphoramidites with Phosphates'

**Carlos Morales Guio**

Group: Xile Hu, EPF Lausanne  
 Conference: 1<sup>st</sup> International Solar Fuels Conference (ISF-1)  
 Title: 'Coupling of Earth-abundant Electrocatalysts to Metal Oxide Photoelectrodes for Solar Fuel Production'

**Waiz Karim**

Group: Jeroen A. van Bokhoven, ETH Zurich & PSI Villigen  
 Conference: XII European Congress on Catalysis (EuropaCat2015)  
 Title: 'Size-dependent Redox Behaviour in Iron Observed Using top-down Lithography and in-situ Single Particle Spectro-microscopy'

**Adrian Najer**

Group: Wolfgang Meier, University of Basel  
 Conference: 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Infectious Diseases and Nanomedicine 2015  
 Title: 'Trick Malaria Parasites Using Nanomimics of Host Red Blood Cell Membranes?'

**Arman Nilforoushan**

Group: Shana J. Sturla, ETH Zurich  
 Conference: 250<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting & Exposition, Innovation from Discovery to Application  
 Title: 'Human DNA Polymerase  $\eta$  is Impeded by Nucleotides with Altered Hydrogen Bonding Capacities'

**Ugo Orcel**

Group: Jérôme Waser, EPF Lausanne  
 Conference: 18<sup>th</sup> IUPAC International Symposium on Organometallic Chemistry Directed Towards Organic Synthesis (OMCOS 18)  
 Title: 'Vicinal Amino Alcohols Synthesis from Allyl Amines via in Situ Tether Formation and Pd-Catalyzed Carboetherification'

**Igor Pavlovic**

Group: Henning J. Jessen, University of Zurich  
 Conference: 250<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting & Exposition, Innovation from Discovery to Application  
 Title: 'A Photocaged Diphosphoinositol Pentakisphosphate: Synthesis, Photochemical Release, and Cellular Delivery'

**Manh Van Pham**

Group: Nicolai Cramer, EPF Lausanne  
 Conference: 18<sup>th</sup> IUPAC International Symposium on Organometallic Chemistry Directed Towards Organic Synthesis (OMCOS 18)  
 Title: 'Cp\*Rh(III)-Catalyzed C-H Activation: Access to Complex Organic Molecules'

**Elia Previtera**

Group: Andreas Hauser, University of Geneva  
 Conference: New Era of Nanotechnology - Third International Conference on Advanced Complex Inorganic Nanomaterials (ACIN)  
 Title: 'Directional Energy Migration in Nanoparticles of Crystalline Metal Complexes'

**Antonio Prlj**

Group: Clemence Corminboeuf, EPF Lausanne  
 Conference: 51<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Theoretical Chemistry 'Chemistry in Motion'  
 Title: 'Excited States Conundrum and Nonadiabatic Molecular Dynamics of Thiophene-Based Compounds'

**Sophie Racine**

Group: Jérôme Waser, EPF Lausanne  
 Conference: 16<sup>th</sup> Tetrahedron Symposium on Challenges in Bioorganic and Organic Chemistry  
 Title: 'Synthesis of Nucleoside Analogues via Annulation of strained Rings'

**Daniel Reker**

Group: Gisbert Schneider, ETH Zurich  
 Conference: 250<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting & Exposition, Innovation from Discovery to Application  
 Title: 'Active machine learning for the detection of novel bioactive molecules and efficient model building'

**Michel Rickhaus**

Group: Marcel Mayor, University of Basel  
 Conference: 16<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Novel Aromatic Compounds (ISNA-16)  
 Title: 'Molecular Dance Ribbons - Inducing Helicity By Length Mismatch'

**Jan-Georg Rosenboom**

Group: Massimo Morbidelli, ETH Zurich  
 Conference: Polymer Reaction Engineering IX (PRE 9)  
 Title: 'Ring-Opening Synthesis of Polyethylene Furanoate (PEF) as a Renewable Resource-Based Substitute for Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)'

**Marjorie Sonnay**

Group: Felix Zelder, University of Zurich  
 Conference: International Symposium on Clinical and Experimental Metallodrugs in Medicine (CEMM)  
 Title: 'Peptide Backbone Vitamin B12 Derivative: a Biomimetic Model'

**Katerina Sordakis**

Group: Gábor Laurenczy, EPF Lausanne  
 Conference: World Hydrogen Technologies Convention  
 Title: 'A Viable Hydrogen Storage and Release System Based on Formate and Bicarbonate Salts: Mechanistic Insights into the Hydrogen Release Step'

**Manasa Sridhar**

Group: Jeroen A. van Bokhoven, ETH Zurich  
 Conference: XII European Congress on Catalysis: 'Catalysis: Balancing the use of fossil and renewable resources'  
 Title: 'Base-promotion of Selective Decomposition of Ammonium Formate and Formic Acid over Au/TiO<sub>2</sub> under SCR-relevant Conditions'

**Robert Steinhoff**

Group: Renato Zenobi, ETH Zurich  
 Conference: Single Cell Analyses  
 Title: 'Rapid Method for Monitoring Monoclonal Antibody (mAb) Production in Biotechnological Processes using Quantitative MALDI-TOF-MS: Working Towards Cell Characterization'

**Maxence Valla**

Group: Christophe Copéret, ETH Zurich  
 Conference: 21<sup>st</sup> International Symposium on Olefin Metathesis and Related Chemistry (ISOM XXI)

Title: 'Tailored Made Al-Doped Silica Dramatically Improves the Metathesis Activity of Re-Oxo-Alkylidene supported Complexes'

**Marc Walter**

Group: Maksym Kovalenko, ETH Zurich  
 Conference: LiBD2015 'Lithium Battery Discussions' – Electrode Materials

Title: 'Nanocrystals as High-Performance Anode Materials for Sodium-ion Batteries'

**Maarten van Reijzen**

Group: Rainer Beck, EPF Lausanne  
 Conference: Gordon Research Seminar on Dynamics at Surfaces

Title: 'State-to-state Scattering of CH<sub>4</sub>(v<sub>3</sub>) from Ni(111) and LiF(100) Surfaces'

**Patrick Wilhelm**

Group: Helma Wennemers, ETH Zurich  
 Conference: American Peptide Symposium

Title: 'Crystal Structure of a PPII-helical Oligoproline'

**Birte Varnholt**

Group: Thomas Bürgi, University of Geneva  
 Conference: Gordon Research Conference: Clusters & Nanostructures: Bridging the Gap from Free Clusters to Functional Nanostructures

Title: 'Vibrational spectroscopy on functionalized and chiral monolayer protected gold clusters'

**Marianthi Zampakou**

Group: Daniela Donghi & Roland Sigel, University of Zurich

Conference: 13<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Applied Bioinorganic Chemistry (ISABC13)  
 Title: 'Interaction of Oxaliplatin and RNA: Investigation of the Platinum Binding Sites'

**Mykhailo Vybornyi**

Group: Robert Häner, University of Bern  
 Conference: Gordon Research Conference: Self-Assembly & Supramolecular Chemistry (From Molecular Information to Function)

Title: 'From Supramolecular Sheets to Fibers and Back: Establishing the Critical Parameters that Govern the Morphology of Pyrene-based Self-assembled materials'

**Guobo Zeng**

Group: Markus Niederberger, ETH Zurich  
 Conference: Materials Research Society (MRS) Spring Meeting 2015

Title: 'A General Method of Fabricating Flexible Spinel-Type Oxide/Reduced Graphene Oxide Nanocomposite Aerogels for Advanced Lithium-Ion Batteries'

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**SCS**

Swiss Chemical Society

**SGLUC** SCHWEIZERISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR LEBENSMITTEL- UND UMWELT-CHEMIE  
**SSCAE** SOCIÉTÉ SUISSE DE CHIMIE ALIMENTAIRE ET ENVIRONNEMENTALE  
**SSCAA** SOCIETÀ SVIZZERA DI CHIMICA ALIMENTARE ED AMBIENTALE  
**SSFEC** SWISS SOCIETY FOR FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY

Additional information about the «Platform Chemistry» and its activities may be found at [chemistry.scnat.ch](http://chemistry.scnat.ch)

Do not miss the «Chemistry Travel Award 2016», which will be announced early in 2016 on [chemistry.scnat.ch/travel\\_award](http://chemistry.scnat.ch/travel_award) and in CHIMIA.

