

Editorial



As it is now a tradition for issue 7/8 of CHIMIA, recipients of awards from the Swiss Chemical Society are invited to present their work in a short account. These articles benefit both their authors and the wider chemical community. The former get an additional opportunity to be recognised, and this is particularly important for our younger colleagues, while the latter can discover new areas or chemistry that they would not have read about in more specialised journals.

Thus, I am once again delighted to welcome in this issue six laureates of the 2022/2023 series of awards. Recipient of the Werner Prize 2023, **Prof. Victor Mougel** took inspiration from enzymes to design electrocatalysts. This award is given to an outstanding promising young researcher, under the age of 40. **Dr. Teodoro Laino and his team** received the Sandmeyer Prize 2022 for outstanding work in industrial or applied chemistry. They considered chemical reactions in terms of language elements, a model particularly adapted for machine learning. The Senior Industrial Science Award 2022 was awarded to **Dr. Bernd Kuhn**, who details in his article how important it is to consider all protein-ligand interactions to accurately predict reactive conformations and biological activity. We will learn about the challenges in the development of anion-exchange membranes, essential components of efficient fuel cells, in the article from **Prof. Xile Hu**, who received the Green & Sustainable Chemistry Award 2022. Recipients of the Balmer Prize 2022, **Dr. Paolo Lubini** and **Michele D'Anna** pioneered a new approach of teaching chemistry, using chemical potential and entropy very early on. And last but not least, the Paracelsus Prize 2022, the most prestigious award of the SCS, went this year to **Prof. Antonio Togni**, who expresses in his article his philosophy of research, showing the sometimes subtle intertwining of "urgent science" vs "luxury science".

There are no doubts that this line-up of outstanding scientific achievements and articles will stimulate your curiosity, and, why not, initiate new directions in your own research. It is thus a perfect timing, as the quieter summer months are often a rare opportunity to take some distance with day-to-day occupations and think about broader issues.

Prof. Christian G. Bochet
President of the Swiss Chemical Society