

Editorial



Dear Readers of CHIMIA,

About 10% of all Swiss nationals live abroad. One of the largest colonies, made up of roughly 10% of all Swiss expatriates, has settled in the United States of America. So merely from a statistical point of view one should not be surprised to find a few Swiss chemists over there. But it seems that the number of Swiss chemists in the USA is much higher than statistically expected, suggesting that America is somewhat of a magnet for members of our profession.

Indeed, my own experience (I just returned to Switzerland after spending nine years in the USA and worked on this issue of CHIMIA on both sides of the pond), which is shared by other authors of this issue, is that the US provides above-average opportunities for chemists in academia. The larger research community, the competitive nature of the system, and the greater opportunities for becoming independent at an earlier career stage and to stay active longer are some of the features that make the academic landscape in the USA attractive. This special issue of CHIMIA showcases the research of nine research groups led by Swiss expatriates and intends to sketch a picture of the prolific Swiss chemistry community in the USA. The contributions were invited to represent different areas of chemical sciences and include articles on Light-Induced Water Splitting, Fluorescent Probes for Cellular Imaging, Nanostructured Photocatalysts for Artificial Photosynthesis, DNA Structure and Damage Recognition, Engineered Kinases for Antiviral and Cancer Therapy, Novel Antennae for Luminescent Lanthanide Emitters, Endonucleases for DNA Repair, Functional Polymer Blends and Nanocomposites, and Peptide-Like Molecules. The authors are **Stefan Bernhard** (Carnegie Mellon University), **Christoph Fahrni** (Georgia Institute of Technology), **Heinz Frei** (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory), **Markus Germann** (Georgia State University), **Stefan Lutz** (Emory University), **Stéphane Petoud** (University of Pittsburgh), **Orlando Schärer** (State University of New York Stony Brook), **Christoph Weder** (Case Western Reserve University and University of Fribourg), and **Peter Wipf** (University of Pittsburgh).

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of CHIMIA

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It is with great pleasure that the Editorial Board of CHIMIA thanks Prof Dr. Christoph Weder for his efforts in the planning and successful realisation of this issue on 'Swiss Chemists in the USA'.