

# Editorial



Catherine E. Housecroft



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## Coordination Polymer Chemistry

Dear CHIMIA readers,

One hundred years ago, the Chemistry Nobel Prize was awarded to Alfred Werner “*in recognition of his work on the linkage of atoms in molecules by which he has thrown new light on earlier investigations and opened up new fields of research especially in inorganic chemistry*”. Werner’s pioneering achievements opened up a new and vast field in chemistry, one that has twisted and turned over the last century. This special issue of CHIMIA is a timely exploration into the world of *Coordination Polymer Chemistry*. As of February 2013, the Web of Science shows almost 30’000 publications related to this field, with an exponential increase of annual papers over the past 20 years from 130 in 1993 to more than 3500 papers in 2012. This confirms the wide success of coordination polymers, which is probably based on the diverse applicabilities of these compounds in many areas of chemistry, materials science and biomedicine.

Since only a small number of Switzerland-based groups work with coordination polymers, the guest editors have chosen to open this special CHIMIA issue to contributions from around the world, and we are pleased that many of the currently leading experts of the field have agreed to participate.

Most contributions are personal reviews with a tutorial touch and together, these papers regroup the recent important results in the chemistry and properties of coordination polymers. We therefore believe that this special issue will be inspiring to many readers with different backgrounds as well as to young researchers starting out on their careers. We wish you ‘Happy Reading’, and hope that you will enjoy these contributions as much as we do.

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**Catherine E. Housecroft** is Titular Professor of Chemistry at the University of Basel. She is co-director of a highly active research group with Edwin Constable, and has a broad range of interests spanning organometallic and coordination chemistries. Current research is focused towards the application of coordination chemistry to sustainable energy and functional coordination polymers. She has published close to 400 research papers, in addition to numerous reviews and book chapters. She is an internationally recognized author of undergraduate textbooks: *Chemistry* (coauthored with her husband Edwin Constable) and *Inorganic Chemistry* (with Alan Sharpe) are both in their fourth editions.

After a PhD in organometallic chemistry with Prof. E. Hey-Hawkins in Karlsruhe, and postdocs in solid state and supramolecular chemistry with Prof. J. Strähle in Tübingen and Prof. J.-M. Lehn in Strasbourg, respectively, **Katharina M. Fromm** became a maître-assistante in Geneva where she received her habilitation in 2002. She accepted an SNF-Professorship in Basel before moving to Fribourg in 2006, where she holds the chair in inorganic chemistry. Her research areas reach from antimicrobial coordination polymers to nanoscale electrode materials for Li-ion batteries, *via* mixed metal cluster compounds and nanocontainers for drug delivery, spanning thus her chemistry from materials science to biomedicine.

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The Editorial Board of CHIMIA would like to thank the guest editors, Prof. Catherine Housecroft and Prof. Katharina Fromm, for providing a very interesting range of articles on Coordinating Polymer Chemistry.