

Editorial



Hans Peter Lüthi

The Award Ceremony marks one of the highlights of every Fall Meeting. It is the last item on the agenda of a very intense day, and still, pretty much everybody is present when the award winners are called on stage to claim their prize and to shake hands with the president of the Swiss Chemical Society and the representatives of the award sponsors. The rating sheets of the Juries are turned in only about an hour prior to the ceremony. Therefore, the result is news not only for the audience, but also for the winners themselves.

At the 2014 Fall Meeting, as many as 32 prizes were awarded to the best posters and oral contributions presented in the eight parallel thematic sessions.^[1] The number of prizes also reflects the growing size and popularity of the Fall Meeting. In 2002, at the Fall Meeting held in Basel, when the award program was introduced,^[2] eighteen prizes were made available for the 300 presenters. In recent years, the program has covered nearly 600 scientific contributions.

The first prizes in the best poster and the best oral presentation categories, next to a cash- and a travel award, also come with an invitation to present the award-winning research in the Laureates Issue of CHIMIA. Since 2004, issue number 4 of CHIMIA is dedicated to the winners of the best poster and oral presentation awards. This gives these young scientists an opportunity to present their research to a wider audience. At the same time, the Laureates issue is a mirror of Swiss chemical research.

In this issue of CHIMIA, 14 laureates present their award-winning research. For quite a few of these young researchers, it was the first time they acted as corresponding authors, thus dealing with an editor and the reviewers. Even though these are invited articles, they are reviewed for scientific content and quality of the presentation.

I would like to thank the authors of the articles for their excellent contributions. I would also like to thank the Jury for carefully selecting the award winning presentations. For the poster presentations this is certainly not an easy task: there is only limited time available, and the number of posters to be viewed is considerable. The attribute 'best' therefore cannot always be taken literally, but it is fair to say that the research of the winners is of excellent quality. Last but not least, I would like to thank the sponsors of the awards, namely the Metrohm and DSM Nutrition corporations.

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[1] For the 2014 Fall Meeting Award program and the complete list of winners see: https://scg.ch/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=452&Itemid=737&lang=en

[2] A. Merbach, *Chimia* **2002**, 57, 146