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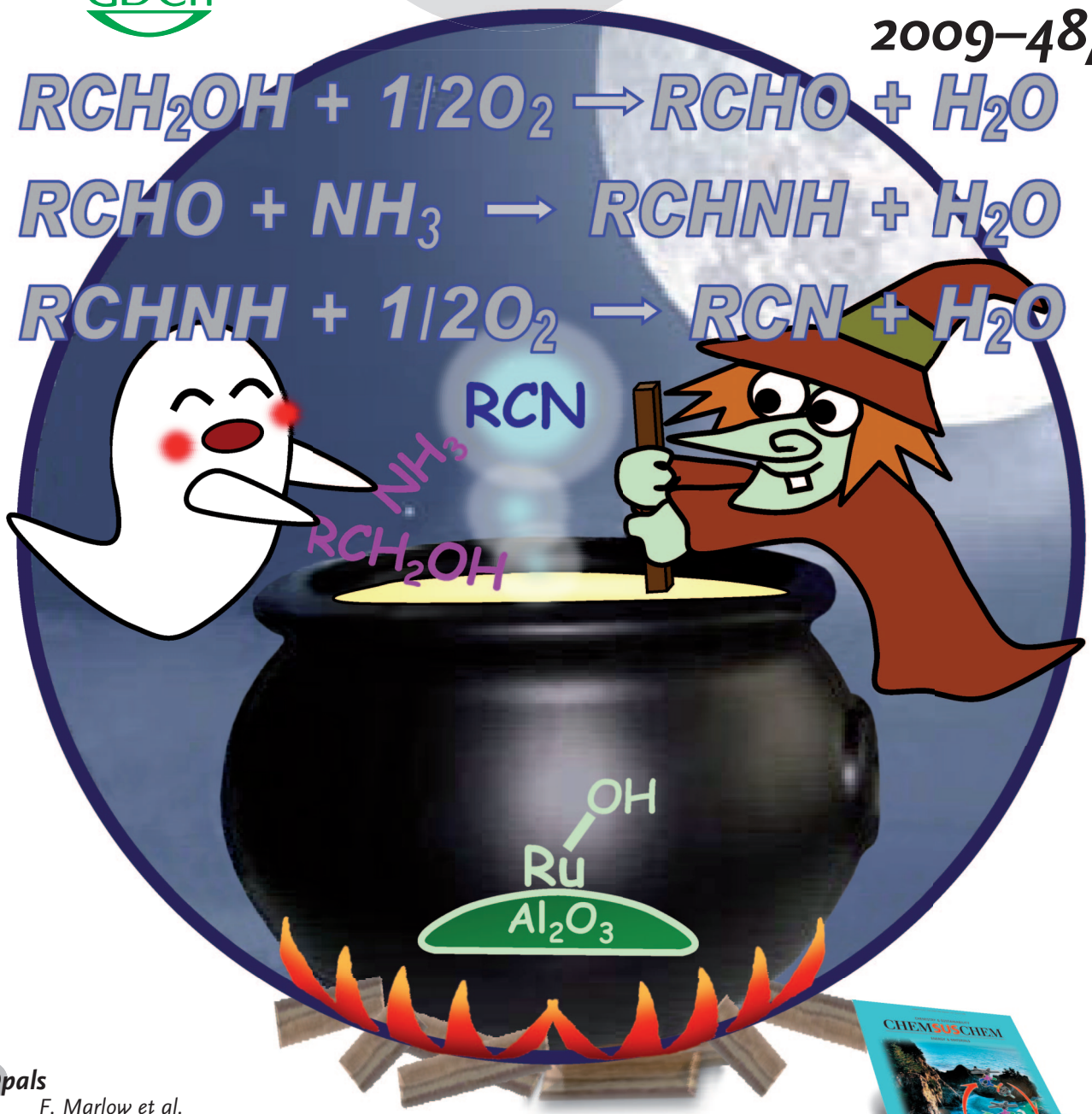

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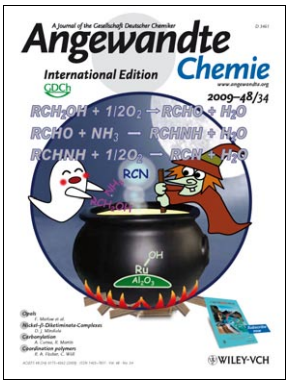
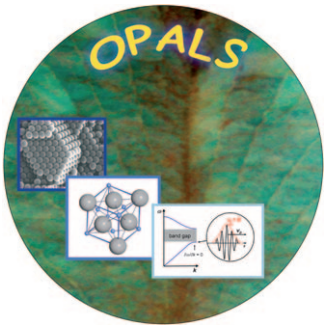
Cover Picture

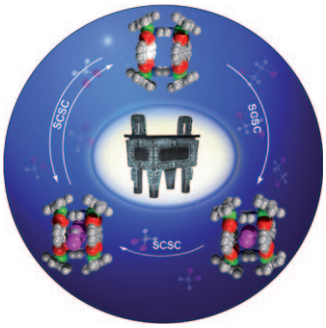


Takamichi Oishi, Kazuya Yamaguchi, and Noritaka Mizuno*

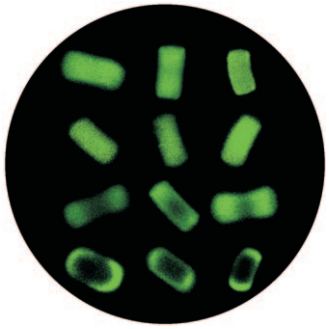
A supported ruthenium hydroxide serves as an efficient heterogeneous catalyst for the aerobic oxidative synthesis of nitriles, which are widely used in the production of pharmaceuticals as well as agricultural and fine chemicals. N. Mizuno and co-workers show in their Communication on page 6286 ff. that nitriles can be synthesized directly from alcohols or aldehydes and ammonia by using this method, thus providing a new avenue for green nitrile synthesis.



Opals
Opals are not only beautiful, they also have fundamental significance as prototypes for photonic crystals. As described by F. Marlow et al. in their Review on page 6212 ff., they may lead to new photonic or photocatalytic materials.



Functional Frameworks
Molecular splints with half-sandwich Ir and Rh corners undergo single-crystal to single-crystal (SCSC) structural transformations induced by solvent exchange, as described by G.-X. Jin and co-workers in their Communication on page 6234 ff.



Mesoporous Materials
N. Gartmann and D. Brühwiler describe in their Communication on page 6354 ff. a method based on fluorescence-labeled amino groups and confocal laser scanning microscopy for the modification of external mesoporous silica surfaces.