

Angewandte Chemie Always New

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125 Years of *Angewandte Chemie* was “yesterday”, the 126th volume of the German Edition and the 53rd of the International Edition begin with this issue, and there are plenty of new things to announce concerning the flagship journal of the Gesellschaft Deutscher

Chemiker (GDCh, German Chemical Society). But first, some reflections on the anniversary year: It began with a special issue that included articles from no less than 16 Nobel laureates—on topics ranging from personal accounts, to science policy themes, to cutting-edge research results—and a fireworks display of Essays, Reviews, and Communications from members of the Editorial Board and the International Advisory Board. At a time when the scientific literature is becoming increasingly virtual, this special issue has rapidly become a collector's item. Issue 10, published at the beginning of March to coincide with the spectacular anniversary event in Berlin, included the program of the symposium and superb articles from some of the lecturers, among them the exceptional review of 125 Years of Chemistry in the Mirror of *Angewandte Chemie*, by the long serving Chair of the Editorial Board, François Diederich (*Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, 52, 2714–2742). A pictorial review about the Symposium, which was attended by almost 1500 people, can be found in Issue 17 (*Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, 52, 4498–4512). In addition, it is still possible to relive the day online whenever you wish, because all the lectures can be enjoyed at ChemistryViews (<http://www.chemistryviews.org/view/0/angewandtechemie125.html>).

On the occasion of the 2013 Science Forum of the GDCh at the beginning of September, we published two themed issues: one to celebrate 125 years of liquid crystals, prepared in close cooperation with Merck in Germany, and one to celebrate 150 years of Bayer. The articles in both these issues impressively demonstrate the importance of chemistry for the welfare of everyone and show how open *Angewandte Chemie* is for the

results of industrial research. The name *Angewandte Chemie* which translates as Applied Chemistry is still an indication of the journal's program, though more in the sense that the results described today in the journal will perhaps be applied “tomorrow”, or in the more distant future. This spirit was embodied by the final issue of the Anniversary year, which was clearly future orientated, with Reviews about “Plasmon-Medi-



Figure 1. Cover Pictures from special 2013 Anniversary Issues 1, 10, 17, 34, 36, and 52.

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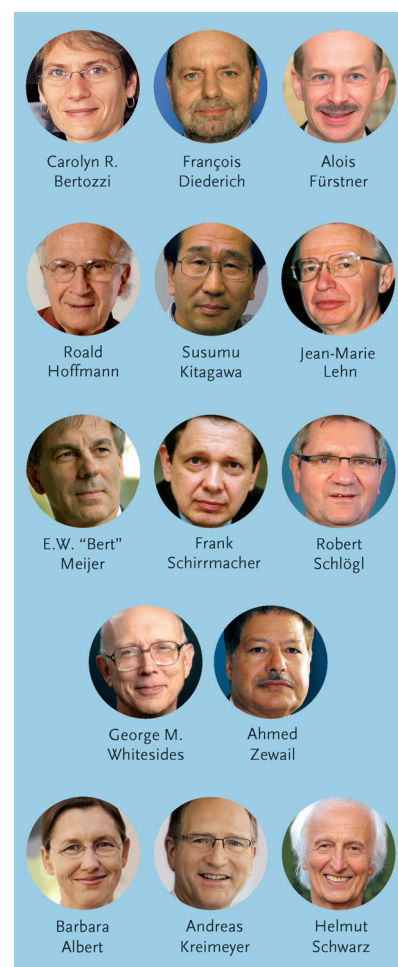


Figure 2. Speakers at the 125th Anniversary *Angewandte Chemie* Symposium.

ated Syntheses of Metallic Nanostructures” and “The Chemistry of Cyborgs—Interfacing Technical Devices with Organisms”. Especially well-suited to this issue were the contributions from the 2012 Nobel Laureates in Physiology or Medicine, John Gurdon and Shinya Yamanaka; in particular the article by Yamanaka made clear what possibilities will open up in modern medicine as a result of the iPSC-Technology (iPSC = induced pluripotent stem cells) he discovered and the important role chemistry has to play in it. The cover pictures of all the issues mentioned are shown in Figure 1, and Figure 2 shows the speakers at the anniversary symposium in Berlin.

Jubilee issues and an anniversary symposium—all well and good, but were there celebrations? Of course! And how! In Berlin (see above), in New Orleans at the ACS Spring Meeting and in Singapore at the 13th Asian Chemical Congress. In Berlin more than 1000 guests attended the evening celebration, while in both New Orleans and Singapore around 500 authors, referees, and readers joined us—demonstrating the close contacts between the GDCh, the publishers, and Editors with chemists all around the world.

In addition to the anniversary program there was all the normal work: in 2013 we received approximately 10200 Communications, that is, 11.5 % more than 2012, and 2149 Communications were published (+ 5 %), and to organize both in parallel was a huge challenge for the editorial team. And here is their next one: From Issue 1 of 2014 every Communication will have an Abstract, and with currently around 2150 published Communications per year, that is a great additional burden for the editors because the Abstract will also need to be edited. In fact, every text needs editing, even that of an Editor-in-chief; this principle is established wisdom that these days is largely ignored. Generally Abstracts are required to aid the reader’s browsing through the content of *Angewandte Chemie*; without Abstracts, the possibility of finding scientific publications in abstracting services like Medline (or in online searches in general) is greatly reduced. And as the



Figure 3. GDCh and Wiley-VCH celebrate with authors, referees, and readers (from top to bottom) in Berlin, New Orleans, Singapore, as well as the editors and the other staff in Weinheim.

length of Communications has increased drastically over the last 50 years, from half a column to a good four pages on average, then readers will clearly be glad about a short summary. Authors and editors must pay particular attention to Titles and Abstracts to ensure that articles can be easily found in all the electronic media.

Which (electronic) ways lead to *Angewandte Chemie*, is the topic of an article in this Issue by our Senior Web Editor, Mario Müller. In his article you can learn more about the *Angewandte App* introduced in the anniversary year. The comfort of the App has been praised by users and in many ways can soon also be experienced with Wiley Online Library

Early View Articles

11 V. Nair, R. S. Menon, A. T. Biju, C. R. Siru, R. R. Paul, A. Jose, V. Sreekumar, *Chem. Soc. Rev.* 2011, 40, 5336–5346;
Open on...

1J D. A. DiRocco, T. Rovis, *Angew. Chem.* 2011, 123, 8130–8132;
Open on Wiley Online Library

Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2011, 50, 7982–7983;
Open on Wiley Online Library

1k N. T. Patil, *Angew. Chem.* 2011, 123, 1797–1799;
Open on Wiley Online Library

Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2011, 50, 1759–1761;
Open on Wiley Online Library

1l D. T. Cohen, K. A. Scheidt, *Chem. Sci.* 2012, 3, 53–57;
Open on...

Scheme 5. Proposed mechanism.

In conclusion, we have developed an asymmetric, NHC-catalyzed approach towards *trans*-disubstituted pyrrolindolones **3**. The desired products were obtained in moderate to good yields with excellent diastereo- and enantioselectivities. Further derivatizations of the products **3** resulted in new scaffolds with potential bioactivity. Mechanistically, this unprecedented [2+3] annulation method involves the Michael addition of the in situ generated enolate species from α -functionalized aldehydes **2** to nitroalkenes **1**, followed by a ring-closing reaction between indole nitrogen and the acyl azolium carboxyl surrogate. We are currently investigating the scope and applications of this reaction.

Experimental Section

A dried and argon-filled Schlenk flask was charged with (*E*)-2-(

Figure 4. Screen shot of the Angewandte Chemie App.



Figure 5. From February 1st Angewandte Chemie will change from manuscriptXpress to Editorial Manager. The team that made this transition possible (from the left): Neville Compton, Elisabeth von Roedern, Margitta Schmitt, Christiane Walter, Haymo Ross.



Figure 6. The Editorial Board Meeting 2013 at the GDCh headquarters in Frankfurt am Main.

(Figure 4). The challenge of producing a high-level journal and presenting it attractively through as many online channels as possible is not only an editorial and technological but also a great financial challenge. And the optimal presentation of the *Angewandte* for our readers is not the only issue; authors and referees require communication with the editors to be as straightforward as possible. For nearly 10 years we have been using the online system ManuscriptXpress, for software this is a very long lifetime. On February 1st we will change to Editorial Manager which is already used by many other journals, for example, our sister journal *Advanced Materials* has been using it for several months. The preparation for this change has required hard work from a small but dedicated team (Figure 5). Should, at the start of February, however, anything be found that is less than perfect, please write and tell us what needs to be improved!

A new editorial system changes the work flows, however, for the editorial tasks the motto remains “quality first”. One guarantee for this quality comes in the form of the Editorial Board (Figure 6) and the International Advisory Board of *Angewandte Chemie*. 2014 sees a number of changes to both Boards as a result of various terms of office coming to an end. First and foremost is the change of the Chair of the Editorial Board. After 19 years on the Editorial Board and 10 years as its head, François Diederich is stepping down. He has done an enormous amount for the journal, through direct contact with the editors, by e-mail and telephone, and also through his contact with the scientific community in lectures and discussions. His lecture in Berlin, his Review based on it (see above) and his departing Editorial (“Are we Refereeing Ourselves to Death?”) in Issue 52 are the most recent visible examples of his dedication. As a Luxembourger who lives in Switzerland is eligible to join the International Advisory Board, the Editorial Board voted in favor of François Diederich joining it which he will do in 2014. As his successor, the board elected Alois Fürstner, Director of the Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung in Mülheim, who has been a member of

Table 1: Changes to the Editorial Board and the International Advisory Board of *Angewandte Chemie* for 2014.

Leaving Members of the Editorial Board:

François Diederich, ETH (Zürich, Switzerland)
Hartmut Michel, MPI für Biophysik (Frankfurt)
Walter Thiel, MPI für Kohlenforschung (Mülheim)
Otto Wolfbeis, Universität Regensburg

New Members of the Editorial Board:

Annette Beck-Sickinger, Universität Leipzig
Thomas Carell, LMU München
Stefan Grimme, Universität Bonn
Hansjörg Grützmacher, ETH (Zürich, Switzerland)
Wolfgang Parak, Universität Marburg
Ferd Schüth, MPI für Kohlenforschung (Mülheim)

Leaving Members of the International Advisory Board:

Lia Addadi (Rehovot, Israel)
Chun-Li Bai (Peking, China)
Scott Biller (Cambridge, USA)
Sir Alan Fersht (Cambridge, England)
Andrew Holmes (Melbourne, Australia)
Richard Lerner (La Jolla, USA)
Sheng-Ming Ma (Hangzhou, China)
Bernard Meunier (Toulouse, France)
Chad Mirkin (Evanston, USA)
Kyriacos C. Nicolaou (Houston, USA)
Luis Oro (Zaragoza, Spain)
Sir J. Fraser Stoddart (Evanston, USA)

New Members of the International Advisory Board:

Phil Baran (La Jolla, USA)
Hagan Bayley (Oxford, England)
Frank Caruso (Melbourne, Australia)
Avelino Corma (Valencia, Spain)
François Diederich (Zürich, Switzerland)
Joseph DeSimone (Chapel Hill, USA)
Kuiling Ding (Shanghai, China)
Marc Fontecave (Grenoble and Paris, France)
John Hartwig (Berkeley, USA)
Eric Jacobsen (Cambridge, USA)
David Leigh (Manchester, England)
Ilán Marek (Haifa, Israel)
Kyoko Nozaki (Tokio, Japan)
Li-Jun Wan (Peking, China)
Ralph Weissleder (Boston, USA)
Qi-Lin Zhou (Tianjin, China)

the Editorial Board since 2011. He has been active as an author and referee for *Angewandte Chemie* since the beginning of his career, and his close ties to the journal were admirably demonstrated in his lecture at the Anniversary symposium in Berlin. An Editorial by Alois Fürstner “What Matters?” can be found on the following pages. Also retiring from the Editorial Board are Hartmut Michel, Walter Thiel, and Otto Wolfbeis, who have all done a great deal to enhance the standing of *Angewandte Chemie* in the fields of biochemistry, theoretical chemistry, and analytical chemistry, respectively. Table 1 shows the changes in both the Editorial Board and the International Advisory Board, and a detailed introduction to the new members of both Boards can be found in the News Section of this issue. All the departing members of the Editorial and International Advisory Boards have earned the thanks of the editors, the publishers Wiley-VCH, and the German Chemical Society (GDCh). The new members of these Boards will ensure that *Angewandte Chemie* continues to provide a home for the chemical avant-garde.



Dr. Peter Göllitz, Editor

PS: *Angewandte Chemie* has many “offspring”, some of which are now fully grown: *Advanced Materials* is currently celebrating its 25th anniversary with,

among other things, the publication of a series of jubilee Reviews, and in 2014 *Chemistry—A European Journal* enters its 20th year with a new layout. The latest sister journal, *ChemElectroChem*, has already published a large number of articles online even before the first issue which will appear later in January. Figure 7 shows some relevant covers.

PPS: I did not actually want to write anything about Impact Factors which have become a plague. However, there are now some people who believe that in addition to or in place of citations, other statistics (“metrics”) can be attached to articles, for example, the number of mentions in blogs, on Facebook and Twitter, and that these should be shown on every article online; the talk is of “alternative metrics”, and these are even easier to manipulate than the number of citations. Out of the frying pan, into the fire!

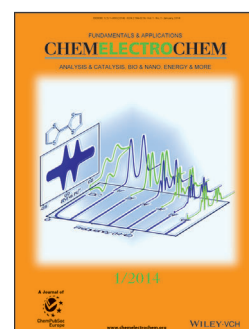


Figure 7. Cover of *Advanced Materials* 25/2013, *Chemistry—A European Journal* 1/2014, *ChemElectroChem* 1/2014.