



A. Heckel

The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** in *Angewandte Chemie* in the last 10 years:

"Influence of the Absolute Configuration of NPE-Caged Cytosine on DNA Single Base Pair Stability": H. S. Steinert, F. Schäfer, H. R. A. Jonker, A. Heckel, H. Schwalbe, *Angew. Chem.* **2014**, 126, 1090–1093; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, 53, 1072–1075.



The work of A. Heckel has been featured on the inside back cover of *Angewandte Chemie*:

"Aptamer-Guided Caging for Selective Masking of Protein Domains": F. Rohrbach, F. Schäfer, M. A. H. Fichte, F. Pfeiffer, J. Müller, B. Pötzsch, A. Heckel, G. Mayer, *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, 125, 12129–12132; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, 52, 11912–11915.

Alexander Heckel

Date of birth: February 26, 1972
Position: Professor of Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry, University of Frankfurt
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Education: 1992–1997 Diploma, University of Konstanz
 1997–2001 PhD with D. Seebach, ETH Zurich
 2001–2003 Postdoc with P. B. Dervan, California Institute of Technology
 2003–2007 Liebig and Emmy Noether Fellow with M. Famulok, University of Bonn
Awards: **2003** Liebig Fellowship (Fonds der Chemischen Industrie); Feodor Lynen Fellowship (Alexander von Humboldt Foundation); **2006** Emmy Noether Fellowship (DFG; German Research Foundation); **2008** Dozentenstipendium (Fonds der Chemischen Industrie); Grammaticakis–Neumann Award (Swiss Chemical Society)
Research: Caged compounds, photoswitches, light-regulation, DNA/RNA, nanotechnology
Hobbies: Working for the Red Cross (emergency medical services on land and on water, search and rescue diving, teaching and developing strategy and tactics)

My favorite place on earth is ... under water.

Guaranteed to make me laugh is ... a good pun.

The best advice I have ever been given is ... not to look for good ideas but to create room for intuition.

The downside of my job are ... the limited possibilities for good leadership organization at (German) universities.

When I'm frustrated, I ... work as a paramedic or search and rescue diver (but not only when I am frustrated).

My favorite books ... were from the *Perry Rhodan* series when I was young.

My top three films of all time are ... *Avatar*, *Schindler's List*, and *The King's Speech*.

My favorite food is ... almost anything from India, Japan, or Thailand plus everything related to cheese.

If I won the lottery, I would ... do more "crazy" research and buy a yacht.

The most important thing I learned from my parents is ... self-reflection and self-control (which is why I do not buy a yacht right now).

I chose chemistry as a career because ... it allows me to do everything!

If I were not a scientist, I would be ... a medical doctor.

My 5 top papers:

1. "Photoinduced Transcription by Using Temporarily Mismatched Caged Oligonucleotides": L. Kröck, A. Heckel, *Angew. Chem.* **2005**, 117, 475–477; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2005**, 44, 471–473. (My first independent *Angewandte Chemie* paper.)
2. "Light Regulation of Aptamer Activity: An Anti-Thrombin Aptamer with Caged Thymidine Nucleobases": A. Heckel, G. Mayer, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, 127, 822–823. (The beginning of the wonderful series of studies with my colleague and friend Günter Mayer.)
3. "Polyamide Struts for DNA Architectures": T. L. Schmidt, C. K. Nandi, G. Rasched, P. P. Parui, B. Brutschy, M. Famulok, A. Heckel, *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, 119, 4460–4462; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, 46, 4382–4384. (Against all odds.)
4. "Light-dependent RNA interference with nucleobase-caged siRNAs": V. Mikat, A. Heckel, *RNA* **2007**, 13, 2341–2347. (The original idea finally come true.)
5. "Regulating Angiogenesis with Light-Inducible AntimiRs": F. Schäfer, J. Wagner, A. Knau, S. Dimmeler, A. Heckel, *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, 125, 13801–13805; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, 52, 13558–13561. (Let us see how far this boat will carry us.)

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