Novartis Chemistry Lectureship 2014–2015

Six researchers have been awarded the Novartis Chemistry Lectureship 2014–2015, which is presented for excellent work in organic and computational chemistry, including applications to biology.

Richmond Sarpong (University of California, Berkeley) studied at Macalester College, Minnesota, and Princeton University, and worked Martin F. Semmelhack at Princeton for his PhD (awarded in 2001). After postdoctoral work with Brian M. Stoltz at the California Institute of Technology (2001–2004), he joined the faculty at the University of California, Berkeley, where he was made professor in 2014. Sarpong's research interests involve the design of strategies and the development of methods to achieve the efficient synthesis of complex molecules, including natural products. His most recent contributions to *Angewandte Chemie* include a Review on cascade reactions involving catalysis and sigmatropic rearrangements,[1a] and a report on the synthesis of fused azepine derivatives.[1b]

Abigail Doyle (Princeton University) was featured here when she won the Boehringer Ingelheim New Investigator Award in Organic Chemistry.[2a] Among her other recent honors, she was among the winners of the 2013 Bayer Early Excellence in Science Award, and is the recipient of the 2015 National Fresenius Award from the American Chemical Society. Doyle has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the nickel-catalyzed enantioselective arylation of pyridinium ions.[2b]

Matthew S. Sigman (University of Utah) studied at Sonoma State University, California, and worked with Bruce Eaton at Washington State University for his PhD (completed in 1996). He subsequently carried out postdoctoral research with Eric N. Jacobsen at Harvard University (1996–1999), and he joined the faculty at the University of Utah in 1999. Sigman and his research group are interested in exploring the broad areas of oxidation catalysis, asymmetric catalysis, and the biological interactions of small molecules in breast cancer models. He has published a Minireview in *Angewandte Chemie* on carbon–carbon bond-forming reactions of ethylene.[3]

Frank Glorius (University of Münster) was featured here when he won the OMCOS Award.[4a] His latest contribution to *Angewandte Chemie* is on a rhodium(III)-catalyzed activation/cyclative capture approach.[4b] Glorius is on the International Advisory Board of *ChemCatChem*.

Dirk Trauner (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München; LMU) studied at the Freie Universität Berlin and the University of Vienna, and obtained his PhD (supervised by Johann Mulzer) from the latter institution in 1997. From 1998–2000, he carried out postdoctoral research with Samuel J. Danishefsky at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Institute, New York, and in 2000, he was appointed to the faculty at the University of California, Berkeley. He was made Professor of Chemical Biology and Chemical Genetics at the LMU in 2008. Trauner's research interests are in synthetic chemistry, natural product chemistry, neuroscience, and photopharmacology. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the total synthesis of (−)-nitidasin,[5a] and on the biomimetic synthesis of dibefurin.[5b] Trauner is on the Editorial Board of *ChemBioChem*.

Klaus R. Liedl (University of Innsbruck) studied both mathematics and chemistry at the University of Innsbruck, where he carried out his PhD (awarded in 1995) with Bernd M. Rode. He remained at the same institution for postdoctoral work with Janos M. Varga and Erwin Mayer, and after completing his habilitation in 1998, was made Professor of Theoretical Chemistry. Liedl also holds a law degree (2003) and a doctorate in juridical science (2006). Leidl's research program is focused on the physics-based understanding of biomolecular interfaces by computer simulations and quantum mechanics. He is co-author of reports in *Angewandte Chemie* on the spectroscopic observation of matrix-isolated carbonic acid,[6a] and in the *European Journal of Organic Chemistry* on the properties of the silver borate AgB_3O_5.[6b]

Karl Heinz Beckurts Prize for Andreas Marx

Andreas Marx (University of Konstanz) has been awarded the 2014 Karl Heinz Beckurts Prize. This honor, which is valued at €30000, is presented by the Karl Heinz Beckurts Foundation for achievements in transferring results derived from basic research to industrial applications, and Marx was recognized for his work in the chemical biology of DNA polymerases. Marx studied at the University of Freiburg, the University of Sussex, and the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, and graduated from the latter institution in 1994. He carried out his PhD (awarded in 1997) with Bernd Giese at the University of Basel, and from 1997–1999, he carried out postdoctoral research with Hisashi Yamamoto at Nagoya University. From 1999–2003, he was group leader at the University of Bonn, and completed his habilitation there in 2003. He was made Professor of Organic Chemistry and Cellular Chemistry at the University of Konstanz in 2004. Marx and his group are interested in the targeted synthesis of functional (bio)molecules (e.g., nucleotides, oligonucleotides, proteins), and their subsequent applications in order to explore complex biological processes. His most recent contributions to *Angewandte Chemie* are reports on the enzymatic

Awarded ...

R. Sarpong

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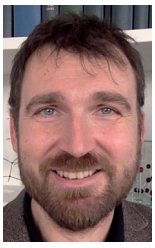
A. Doyle

M. S. Sigman

F. Glorius



D. Trauner


K. R. Liedl


A. Marx


D. Díaz Díaz


J. Groll


F. H. Schacher


S. Seiffert

activity of the tumor suppressor Fhit,[7a] and on ubiquitin signaling (which was featured on the cover).[7b]

Polymer Networks Group Young Investigator Award

The Polymer Networks Group recently honored seven outstanding young investigators for their work in the area of polymer networks and gels. We congruatulate all the awardees, including **Kevin Cavicchi** (The University of Akron), **Takamasa Sakai** (The University of Tokyo), and **András Szilágyi** (Budapest University of Technology and Economics), and feature four of our authors here.

David Díaz Díaz (University of Regensburg) studied at the Universidad de La Laguna, where he completed his PhD under the supervision of Victor S. Martín García in 2002. From 2002–2005, he was a postdoctoral fellow with M. G. Finn at The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, and he subsequently took up a Ramón y Cajal Fellowship at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid before joining Dow Europe in Switzerland. In 2010, he moved to the University of Regensburg as an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow, and was made Heisenberg Professor there in 2013. Diáz Diáz and his team are interested in the development of functional materials, such as stimuli-responsive supramolecular gels, functional polymer gels, biopolymers, and adhesive polymeric materials. He has reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on metal-adhesive polymers,[8a] and on the formation of hierarchical supramolecular gels.[8b]

Jürgen Groll (University of Würzburg) studied at the University of Ulm, and carried out his PhD (awarded in 2004) with Martin Möller at the RWTH Aachen. From 2004–2010 he was a group leader at the DWI – Leibniz-Institut für Interaktive Materialen e.V. at the RWTH Aachen, and from 2005–2008, he also held a position as senior researcher at Sustech in Darmstadt. He was made Professor and Chair for Functional Materials in Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Würzburg in 2010. Groll's research interests include applied polymer chemistry, nanobiotechnology, biometerial design and characterization, biocompatibility, and biomimetic scaffolds. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* the preparation of redox sensitive hydro- and nanogels,[9a] and on the biofabrication of cell-loaded spider silk constructs.[9b]

Felix H. Schacher (University of Jena) was featured here when he was awarded the Dr. Hermann Schnell Fellowship.[10a] He has recently reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on the use of hydrophobic interactions in directing aqueous self-assembly processes.[10b]

Sebastian Seiffert (Freie Universität Berlin) was featured here when he won an ADUC Prize.[11a] His overview article on nanostructural complexity in sensitive polymer gels was recently featured in the "Talents and Trends" series in *Macromolecular Chemistry and Physics*.[11b]

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