Swiss Chemical Society Prizes

The Swiss Chemical Society has announced its 2016 prize winners, and we feature two of the them here.

Michael Grätzel (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne; EPFL) is the recipient of the Paracelsus Prize. This honor, which comprises CHF 20 000 and a gold medal, is awarded biennially to an internationally renowned scientist in order to honor their lifetime achievements; Grätzel, who was featured here when he won the Albert Einstein World Award of Science,[1a] was recognized for "the invention and development of the dye-sensitized solar cell". He has reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on organic sensitizers.[1b] Grätzel is one of the Editorial Board Chairs of *ChemPhysChem* and is on the International Advisory Board of *Angewandte Chemie*.

Maksym Kovalenko (ETH Zurich and Empa Dübendorf) has been honored with the Werner Prize, which comprises CHF 10 000 and a bronze medal, and is awarded to an early-career scientist. Kovalenko studied at Chernivtsi National University, Ukraine, and worked with Wolfgang Heiß at the Johannes Kepler University Linz for his PhD (awarded in 2007). From 2008–2011, he was a postdoctoral researcher with Dmitri V. Talapin at the University of Chicago, and he started his independent career at the ETH Zurich in 2011. Kovalenko and his group are interested in the development of new synthetic methods toward inorganic nanomaterials for photonics, optoelectronics, and energy conversion and storage. He has reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on inorganic nanocrystal growth,[2a] and in *ChemPhysChem* on core–shell colloidal quantum dots.[2b]

Ružička Prize for Henning J. Jessen

The Ružička Prize is awarded annually by the ETH Zurich for an "outstanding piece of published work in the field of general chemistry" by an early-career researcher. Henning J. Jessen (University of Freiburg) is the winner of the 2015 award. Jessen studied at the University of Hamburg, where he completed his PhD (supervised by Chris Meier) in 2008. From 2008–2011, he was a postdoctoral researcher with Karl Gademann, firstly at the EPFL and then at the University of Basel. From 2011–2015, he was an Oberassistent (senior scientist) in the group of Jay S. Siegel and subsequently assistant professor at the University of Zurich, and in 2015, he was made Professor of Bioorganic Chemistry at the University of Freiburg. Jessen's research is focused on the synthesis of densely phosphorylated second messengers, their modification, and their application in chemical biology studies. He has reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal* on a modular synthesis of modified phosphoanhydrides,[3a] and in *Angewandte Chemie* on diphospho-*myo*-inositol phosphates.[3b]

Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art 1. Class for Bernhard Kräutler

Bernhard Kräutler (University of Innsbruck) has been awarded the Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art 1. Class. This decoration is given to recognize distinguished service in the areas of science or arts, and is awarded by the Austrian President on the recommendation of the federal government. Kräutler studied at the ETH Zurich, where he completed his PhD (supervised by Albert Eschenmoser) in 1976. He subsequently carried out postdoctoral work with Allen J. Bard at the University of Texas at Austin (1977) and Nicholas J. Turro at Columbia University, New York (1978). In 1979, he returned to the ETH Zurich as Assistent and Oberassistent, completed his habilitation in 1985, and was independent research group leader and lecturer from 1986–1991. In 1991, he was made Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Innsbruck, where he remained until his retirement in 2015. Kräutler's research is focused on the synthesis, structure, and properties of the "pigments of life" such as chlorophyll, heme, and vitamin B_{12}. He has reported in *Chemistry—A European Journal*[4a] and *Angewandte Chemie*[4b] on chlorophyll breakdown in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Kräutler, who was made a Fellow of ChemPubSoc Europe in 2015, is on the Editorial Board of *Chemistry—A European Journal*.

[1] a) *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 4520; *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, *124*, 4598; b) B. Liu, F. Giordano, K. Pei, J.-D. Decoppet, W.-H. Zhu, S. M. Zakeeruddin, M. Grätzel, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2015**, *21*, 18654.

[2] a) M. V. Kovalenko, D. V. Talapin, M. A. Loi, F. Cordella, G. Hesser, M. I. Bodnarchuk, W. Heiss, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 3029; *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, *120*, 3071; b) L. Protesescu, T. Zünd, M. I. Bodnarchuk, M. V. Kovalenko, *ChemPhysChem* **2016**, DOI: 10.1002/cphc.201501008.

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[4] a) I. Süssenbacher, C. R. Kreutz, B. Christ, S. Hörtensteiner, B. Kräutler, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2015**, *21*, 11664; b) I. Süssenbacher, C. R. Kreutz, S. Hörtensteiner, B. Kräutler, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, *54*, 13777; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, *127*, 13981.

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Awarded ...


M. Grätzel


M. Kovalenko


H. J. Jessen


B. Kräutler