

Half time break...

Matthias Neumann

After a great kickoff we are now facing the halftime of our first semester. In this short time we already had a lot of highlights and activities like two seminar days, a complete new lecture on photochemistry and photocatalysis for master students in Regensburg, a publication in *Angewandte Chemie* and several students representing our program on several international conferences.

After a short excursion to spectroscopy laboratories of the Dick group the graduates and associates were introduced to the mentoring program of the GRK 1626 by Christiane Kapp and had time to discuss and gather more precise information from Mrs Kapp and Miriam Breuning before leaving to their home labs.



The whole GRK at the 2nd seminar day in Erlangen

1st seminar day – Regensburg. Spectroscopy was the main content of this series of lectures. Bernhard Dick opened the session reminding us of things we all had heard, at least once during our studies but mainly stored somewhere around the back walls of our heads. With his talk about the fundamentals on light absorption by molecules, he provided the basis for all the following special methods we heard about in spectroscopy. This event's guest speaker, Dr. J. Luis Pérez Lustres afterwards presented very interesting results from his work with femtosecond broadband spectroscopy on plant cytochromes. At the group diner as usual lively discussions about all contents and belongings of the graduate program were held. As some graduates discussed a little longer not everybody was in time for an inspiring talk about the linkage between synthesis and spectroscopy by Eberhard Riedle who moreover had several remarks about the correct behavior within cooperations.

End of May, a lecture on Photochemistry and Photocatalysis within the organic chemistry lectures for master students started at the University of Regensburg. The lecture is a community project of nearly all local supervisors of our graduate program and is very well accepted by the students. The lecture will be repeated – probably in a revised version – next summer and is especially recommended to all potential graduates and associates.

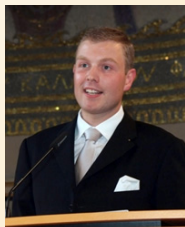
At the end of June – just on time for Burkhard König's birthday – Kirsten Zeitler *et al.* got a publication accepted by *Angewandte Chemie*. The paper is dealing with metal free alternatives to common photoredox catalysts based on Ruthenium and Iridium and is already published online (print version will follow in December). During summer, several other papers from our graduates and associates were published and the list grew up to seven publications within the first six months (for details check out webpage).

A publication of the DFG Research Training Group 1626 Chemical Photocatalysis

The 2nd seminar day in Erlangen at the beginning of July was dominated by the photochemistry of organometallic complexes and analytical methods for their investigation. Sven Rau, our host of this seminar days, opened the meeting with an overview of photocatalytic water splitting methods with focus on own works in this field, followed by a lecture by Johannes G. Vos from Dublin, who gave us deep insight to his work on dinuclear ruthenium based complexes and their photochemical abilities. As we were guests in Erlangen, visiting the "Berg" was unavoidable and we had dinner in one of the famous cellars there. The next morning, Rainer Winter gave a lecture on Cyclovoltammetry - a technique used by nearly all groups of our program but which was somehow cryptical to most of us. Afterwards Huang Ping who was invited from Uppsala, ended the session with a motivating and entertaining talk on Electron Paramagnetic Resonance spectroscopy and how to apply in photocatalytic systems.

During the whole summer, several of our graduates and associates attended international conferences in Europe and the USA and brought many good new ideas and potential cooperation to their home labs.

As the first half year has gone, the graduates' spokesman changed. From now on Matthias Wenninger from the Riedle group assumes the duties of the spokesman and will care of all future matters of our students.



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...and restart

Matthias Wenninger

At present the second semester of the GRK Chemical Photocatalysis is running. Since the whole GRK came together the last time to participate in the second seminar day in July in Erlangen, almost the whole GRK found itself together again in Erlangen. In end of September the 22. Lecture Conference of the GDCh-division Photochemistry took place there. Many members of the GRK were contributing to this

conference with a poster presentation. A poster from our GRK was also awarded: Maria Cherevatskaya and Dr. Tatiana Mitkina were glad to receive the prize for the best poster presentation.

On October 22nd a joint event between the GRK 760 MedChem and our GRK took place in Regensburg. The intention of this meeting was to summarize his or her research activity in a five-minute-talk in order to train for a job interview. Four speakers from our research training group contributed to this event with a short talk. The participating PhD-students afterwards agreed that the intention of this event makes sense but that there were improvements possible and necessary concerning the realization of this idea. Maybe after the presentation training seminar, which takes place on November 23rd in Regensburg, the remake of such an event will improve the presentation skills of the participants in a more effective way.

Please note, that the seminar-day in February will start with a graduate-intern meeting on Wednesday, February 16th. This time will be used for discussions within the graduate students. On the one hand the research projects within the GRK should be discussed and presented. On the other hand the time will be used for talking about planned events and the GRK in general.

Upcoming events

Nov. 04 th /05 th 2010	Seminar-day, Regensburg
Nov. 23 rd 2010	Presentation training, Regensburg
Dec. 6 th 2010	Lecture Prof. Licheng Sun (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm), Regensburg
Jan. 20 th 2011	Lecture Prof. Albini, Garching
Feb. 16 th /17 th 2011	Graduate intern seminar-Day, Munich
Feb. 17 th /18 th 2011	Seminar-Day, Munich

Agenda "Chemical Photocatalysis"

3rd Seminar Day: 4./5. November 2010 in Regensburg

Thursday, Nov. 4 th	topic	who is speaking?	where?
14:00	opening & administration	Prof. Dr. Burkhard König	H48
14:30	lecture: "Organocatalysis - also in combination with light?"	Dr. Kirsten Zeitler	
16:00	demonstration: "Microreactors in Photocatalysis"	Prof. Dr. Burkhard König/Matthias Neumann	
16:45	coffeebreak - meet the speaker	all	
17:15	talk: "Molecular cavities from calixarenes - synthesis and function"	Prof. Dr. Jochen Mattay (University of Bielefeld)	
19:00	follow-up meeting & dinner at "uni-pizzeria"	all	

Agenda "Chemical Photocatalysis"

3rd Seminar Day: 4./5. November 2010 in Regensburg

Friday, Nov. 5 th	topic	who is speaking?	where?
09:00	lecture: Photoinduced electron transfer in DNA	Prof. Dr. Hans-Achim Wagenknecht	H45
10:30	coffeebreak - meet the speaker	all	
11:00	lecture: "Wissenschaftliches Fehlverhalten - Kavaliersdelikt oder Systembruch?"	Prof. Dr. Christoph Meinel (History of Science Unit)	
12:00	concluding remarks	Prof. Dr. Burkhard König	