



Prix Schläfli Chemistry 2024

Laudatio for the Award Ceremony of the **Prix Schläfli Chemistry 2024** of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) for **Dr Julia Reisenbauer**

The jury of the Prix Schläfli Chemistry 2024 of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) has evaluated 17 high quality applications and proposed to award the prize to Julia Reisenbauer for her publication entitled 'Late-stage diversification of indole skeletons through nitrogen atom insertion' (Science 2022, 377, 1104–1109).

Julia Reisenbauer received her Bachelor and Master degrees in Chemistry from ETH Zurich and did her PhD under the supervision of Prof. Bill Morandi at ETH Zurich. With a fellowship from the Swiss National Science Foundation she then moved to the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA for a postdoc with Prof. Frances H. Arnold.

Indoles are widely encountered and pharmaceutically relevant substrates. Julia Reisenbauer discovered a ring metamorphosis through insertion of a single nitrogen atom into an indole and she demonstrated that the reaction is highly functional group compatible. This makes her approach an attractive late-stage diversification strategy.

The jury of the Prix Schläfli was particularly impressed by the originality of the main idea, and its rigorous experimental implementation. Besides the mere beauty of the synthetic approach, it has large potential in medicinal chemistry. The jury would like to congratulate again Julia Reisenbauer on her excellent work and wish her the best of luck for the future.

Prof. Thomas Bürgi, president of the Prix Schläfli Chemistry 2024 jury
Award Ceremony, Zurich, 16 December 2024