



# Prix Schläfli Chemistry 2025

## Laudatio for the Award Ceremony of the **Prix Schläfli Chemistry 2025** of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) for **Dr Hyun Suk Wang**

The jury of the Prix Schläfli 2025 in Chemistry of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) has evaluated five high-quality applications and proposed to award the prize to Hyun Suk Wang for his publication 'Controlled radical depolymerization: Structural differentiation and molecular weight control'.

Hyun Suk Wang received his Bachelor and Master degrees from Korea University and performed his PhD studies at the ETH Zurich under the supervision of Prof. Athina Anastasaki as a Swiss Government Excellence Scholar. His research is focused on the chemical recycling of polymers synthesized by controlled and free radical polymerization. Hyun Suk Wang received his PhD in 2024 and is currently a postdoctoral researcher in the same group.

Chemical depolymerization is a decisive approach towards a circular economy and the characterization of plastics. However, conventional approaches are typically uncontrolled, leading to products that severely limit further applications. In his work, Hyun Suk Wang achieved a controlled radical depolymerization that resembles the reverse process of a controlled polymerization. By the gradual unzipping of polymer chains, the process not only constitutes a promising approach for the chemical recycling of polymers, but also enables the characterization of multiblock copolymers.

The jury of the Prix Schläfli was particularly impressed by the originality and implementation of this unique concept, which can be translated into a service to society. The contributions of Hyun Suk Wang thereby not only inspire further scientific work, but also their direct implementation for polymer characterization and chemical recycling.

The jury would like to congratulate Hyun Suk Wang on his excellent achievements and wish him the best of luck for the future.

Prof. Christof Sparr, president of the Prix Schläfli Chemistry 2025 jury  
Award Ceremony, Zurich, 16 December 2025