

I PREFACE

Vorwort

The year 2018 was very sadly occupied with the heavy illness and the great loss of our colleague and friend Prof. Siegfried Bauer, head of the soft matter group at the Johannes Kepler University. We have published large number of papers together with him and his group. Siegfried's name was listed in the "highly cited" list of ISI Thompson alongside with Sariciftci and Scharber in this year of 2018. This is a great loss and we shall keep an honorable memory of Siegfried Bauer forever.

On the scientific side, we had increasing efforts on carbon dioxide reduction to useful chemicals and artificial fuels. Three new projects on this topic have started during 2018 and at the beginning of 2019. Generally the idea of using organic, bio-organic as well as enzymatic catalysts for CO₂ reduction is today heavily accepted in the literature and our papers create an impact on this new topic. The Wittgenstein Prize Project, which gave us unprecedented freedom over the last 6 years, ended in June 2018. It is not redeemed in every scientist's career, to have such a privileged and distinguished funding over such a long period of six years. Herewith, we gratefully acknowledge the financial support of these funds from the Austrian Science Funds (FWF).

Furthermore, the idea of making an artificial retina using organic semiconductors has been pursued with a milestone paper and patent application together with our Israeli collaboration partner group (Prof. Yael Hanein). This general topic of "bioelectronics" is taking off remarkably well within our University as well as internationally. Our International Winterschool on Bioelectronics (www.bioel.at) will be successfully repeated for the 6th time coming March 16-23, 2019. Our University will be starting a focus on teaching and research in the general field of "Medical Engineering" with several new professor positions as well as a very new curriculum for bachelor and master studies. This underlines the general effort on interfacing the biological/medical world with the electronic/electrical devices as a highlight topic which was many years our interest at LIOS.

Last but not least, the hope, that we should have a "construction and dust free" environment at our labs, has not been fulfilled in 2018, but we hope that finally in 2019 we will have a year without heavy constructions and obstructions arising thereof. Wishing to every member and to all friends of LIOS a happy, healthy new year 2019.

Linz, February 2019

Niyazi Serdar Sariciftci