



Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Kristallographie  
Société Suisse de Cristallographie  
Società Svizzera di Cristallografia  
Swiss Society for Crystallography

Sektion für Kristallwachstum und Kristalltechnologie  
Section de Croissance et Technologie des Cristaux

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## SGK / SSCr NEWSLETTER

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 Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Kristallographie  
Société Suisse de Cristallographie  
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Societad Svizera per Cristallografia

### Howard Flack Crystallographic Lecture Series (1943-2017)

$C = (1-x)X + x\bar{X}$

**April 16 - 20, 2018**



PSI Villigen  
ETH Zürich  
UNI Zürich  
Uni Bern  
EPFL Sion  
Uni Genève  
Uni Fribourg

**Prof. Dr. Omar Yaghi**  
University of California, Berkeley

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Start of the Howard Flack Crystallographic Lecture Series  
Report of General Assembly of the SGK/SSCr 2017 in Geneva

## The President's Page



Dear Member of the Swiss Society of Crystallography, I hope that you had an excellent start of 2018 and be ready for an even more exciting continuation.

This is the last year of my presidency and membership in the board of SGK, and I hope that it will be as fruitful as all the previous years.

After the excellent annual meeting organized in Geneva, the board of the society has accepted the idea proposed at the general assembly to organize a series of crystallographic lectures, named after the late Howard Flack, a colleague and a friend who is remembered for his enormous contribution to the field and who has contributed to grow the prestige of our community and association.

This initiative has attracted also the Swiss Academy of Science (platform, Mathematics, Astronomy and Physics, to which we belong), which will partially sponsor the lecture series.

For the first event, we have the great honor to host Professor Omar Yaghi from Berkeley, a pioneer in the field of metal organic frameworks, who will give seven lectures in Switzerland, at Universities or research facilities.

This is an extraordinary opportunity to disseminate the role and the most important results of the crystallography and show to the chemical, physical and biological communities how strong could be the cooperation.

This is the inaugural event and of course, I hope that more lecture series will come in the future and I invite the colleagues to make suggestions for the future.

I would also like to anticipate that, in cooperation with the High Alpine Research Station at Jungfrauoch, we will organize in 2019 a special symposium dedicated to the memory of Max Perutz, who was a frequent visitor at Jungfrauoch for scientific and amusement reasons.

Another suggestion proposed at the Geneva meeting concerns a special funding to support participation of retired members of the society to international meetings, for which a proposal will be elaborated in the next future and presented carefully at the next annual meeting, to be held at Paul Scherrer Institute, organized by Antonio Cervellino and Nicola Casati.

I hope that all these initiatives (and others described in this newsletter) will find your appreciation

Piero Macchi  
(President of the SGK-SSCr)



**Swiss Society of Crystallography**  
**Howard Flack Crystallographic Lectures**  
**Series**

**Prof. Dr. Omar Yaghi**  
**(University of Berkeley, USA)**



**Paul Scherer Institute, Monday April 16 h. 14.00**

WHGA/001 PSI West, 5232 Villigen

***Crystal structures of molecularly stitched and woven materials***

**ETH Zürich, Tuesday April 17 h. 11.00**

Room HIL E9 Hönggerberg, Stefano-Francini-Platz 5, 8093 Zürich

***Reticular chemistry: The atom, the molecule, the framework***

**University of Zürich, Tuesday April 17 h. 17.00**

Irchel Campus, Y15-G-60 Winterthurerstrasse 190, 8057 Zürich

***From A. Werner and G. N. Lewis to metal-organic frameworks and covalent organic frameworks***

**University of Bern, Wednesday 18 April h. 16.30**

Room EG16, Department of Chemistry, Freiestrasse 3, 3012 Bern

***Reticular materials for harvesting water from desert air***

**EPFL Sion, Thursday 19 April h. 10.30**

Zeuzier seminar room, I17 Rue de l'Industrie 17, 1951 Sion

***MOFs and COFs as porous crystals for clean energy and water from desert air***

**University of Geneva, Friday 20 April h. 10.30**

Room 1S081 science III, 30, quai Ernest-Ansermet, 1211 Genève 4

***Crystals as Molecules***

**University of Fribourg, Friday 20 April h. 17.00**

Main auditorium, Chemistry Department, Chemin du Musée 9, 1700 Fribourg

***Reticular synthesis and the design of new crystalline materials***

## Report on the first Howard Flack Crystallographic Lecture Series

From 15th to 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018 we had the great pleasure to welcome **Prof. Omar Yaghi**



Evelyne Flack and Omar Yaghi after the lecture at the University of Geneva.

at UZH, Omar was in high demand for short personal chats with members of the Department of Chemistry. We were fascinated to hear about his developments in the MOF field, particularly the use of such materials for the extraction of water from desert air.



Omar Yaghi and Piero Macchi in Bern

from the University of California, Berkeley, as the first guest of our **Howard Flack Crystallographic Lecture Series**. Prof. Yaghi agreed on a very dense schedule, giving 7 different lectures in just 5 days all over Switzerland. Based in a Hotel in Zürich, he started his Switzerland-tour at the PSI in Villigen. In the evening we enjoyed dinner at Prof. Dieter Schlüters place. The next day, he gave two lectures, one in the morning at ETH Zürich and one in the afternoon at the University of Zürich and both lecture rooms were filled up to the last seat. In the few hours before his lecture at



Jack Dunitz and Omar Yaghi after his talk at the ETH Zürich

The evening meal that day at

Restaurant Wolfbach was accompanied by lively discussions with a dozen participating colleagues.

His next stop was the University of Bern. There he gave a lecture entitled "Reticular materials for harvesting water from desert air" at the department of Chemistry of the University of Bern. The lecture was organized in cooperation with the Bernese Chemical Society, within the traditional semester program. Many students attended the lecture and had the occasion to discuss and interact with Prof. Yaghi during his short stay in Bern, from where he continued to the EPFL in Sion and then to the University of Geneva. Prof. Yaghi's short visit to UNIGE was met with

enthusiasm and a large crowd of students from several departments attended his lecture. Howard Flack's wife Evelyne has been also in the audience. She also enjoyed the lecture and had a short chat with Prof. Yaghi afterwards. The talk was followed by a long session of discussion, which reflected the great interest of the audience, before he left to go to Fribourg in the afternoon, from where he returned to Zürich to catch his flight back to San Francisco. It has been indeed a great experience to have Prof. Yaghi here in Switzerland and we thank him very much for the fascinating talks and also for accepting such a dense schedule.

Michael Wörle