



International Year of
CHEMISTRY
2011

LEADER

1 September 2011

KEMIA

Kemi

TEDLLISUUS • TUTKIMUS • TALOUS • KOULUTUS • YMPÄRISTÖ • BIO • NANO • PROSESSI

Vol. 38 Coden: KMKMAA ISSN 0355-1628

Toimitus • Redaktion • Office

Pohjantie 3, FIN-02100 Espoo
puh. +358 400 578 901
faksi +358 9 3296 1520
toimitus@kemia-lehti.fi

Päätoimittaja • Chefredaktör • Editor-in-Chief
DI Leena Laitinen +358 40 577 8850
leena.laitinen@kemia-lehti.fi

Toimituspäällikkö • Redaktionschef • Managing Editor
Päivi Ikonen +358 400 139 948
paivi.ikonen@kemia-lehti.fi

Taitto • Layout
K-Systems Contacts Oy
Päivi Kaikkonen +358 3 714 1614
taitto@kemia-lehti.fi

Sihtööri • Sekreterare • Secretary
Irja Hagelberg +358 400 578 901
irja.hagelberg@kempulssi.fi

Vakituisen avustaja • Permanent medarbetare
• Contributing Editor
Sanna Alajoki +358 40 827 9727
sanna.alajoki@kemia-lehti.fi

Ilmoitukset • Annonser • Advertisements

ilmoitukset@kemia-lehti.fi
Myyntipäällikkö • Forsäljningschef • Sales Manager
Kalevi Sinisalmi +358 44 539 0908
kalevi.sinisalmi@kemia-lehti.fi

Tilaukset • Prenumerationer • Subscriptions

puh. +358 400 578 901, faksi +358 9 3296 1520
tilaukset@kemia-lehti.fi

Tilauhinnat

Kotimaassa 89 euroa (kestotilaus 79 euroa),
muut maat 120 euroa
Koululle 45 euroa, www.aikakaus.fi
Prenumerationspris i Finland 89 euro,
övriga länder 120 euro
Subscription price (out of Finland) EUR 120
Irtonumero/Lösnummer/Single copy EUR 15
(special issue 5/2011 EUR 19)

Osoitteenmuutokset

Suomen Kemian Seura
puh. +358 10 425 6300, faksi +358 10 425 6309
toimisto@kemiaanseura.fi

Kustantaja • Utgivare • Publisher

Kempulssi Oy
Toimitusjohtaja • Verkst.direktör • Managing Director
Leena Laitinen
Pohjantie 3, FIN-02100 Espoo
puh. +358 40 577 8850
leena.laitinen@kemia-lehti.fi

Toimitusneuvosto

• Redaktionsråd • Editorial Board

Laboratoriopäällikkö Susanna Eerola, Roal Oy
Toimitusjohtaja Saara Hassinen, SalWe Oy
Professori Matti Hotokka, Åbo Akademi
Toimituspäällikkö Päivi Ikonen, *Kemia-Kemi*
Tutkija Helena Laavi, Aalto-yliopisto
Päätoimittaja Leena Laitinen, *Kemia-Kemi*
Professori Jan Lundell, Jyväskylän yliopisto
Apulaisjohtaja Juha Pyötsiä, Kemianteollisuus ry
Professori Markku Räsänen, Helsingin yliopisto
Tiedotuspäällikkö Sakari Sohlberg, VTT

Aikakauslehtien Liiton jäsenlehti
Painos • Upplaga • Printing order 6 300
Forssa Print, Forssa 2011
ISO 9002

Female Chemists into the Limelight

The International Year of Chemistry is being celebrated with a vast array of events in Finland and all around the world. One of the key goals is to highlight the significant contribution made by women to the progress of chemistry. There is much demand and good reason for this tribute.

The intellectual capacity of half of mankind has been underrated time and again, as over the past 110 years the Nobel Prize in chemistry has been awarded to 155 men but only to 4 women. This autumn will see the 100th anniversary of Marie Curie's Nobel Prize in chemistry, the first ever to be awarded to a woman. The most recent female chemist to receive this prize was Ada Yonath two years ago.

Most of brilliant female chemists have also been forced to overcome huge obstacles in their careers. Lise Meitner was nominated for the Nobel Prize altogether 39 times for the work she carried out with Otto Hahn in radiochemistry. When it was finally awarded in 1944 for discovering nuclear fission, it was awarded to Hahn alone.

During her studies, Meitner already hit the glass – or wooden, to be more exact – ceiling as she had to hide under a bench in the lecture hall in order to be able to attend the lectures. In the early 20th century only men were allowed to study chemistry at the University of Berlin.

However, the situation has not always been this gloomy: initially, chemistry was specifically a women's science. The first chemist to be known by name was a woman, Tapputi-Belatekallim, who lived in Assyria 3,000 years ago and had a huge following consisting of talented but now forgotten female chemists.

European Women in Chemistry (see p. 82), published as part of the celebrations for the International Year of Chemistry, serves a valuable purpose in shedding light on the stories of significant female chemists. The foreword has also been written by a notable female chemist, IUPAC President Nicole Moreau, who recommends that girls today follow the example set by these tenacious, skilful women.

Jubilee years come and go but the significance of chemistry for the mankind endures. As Timo Leppä, Director General of the Chemical Industry Federation of Finland, notes in his article, each year is a year of chemistry. From now on, let's make every year a year of female chemists too.

Leena Laitinen
Leena Laitinen



Karoliina Ek