

Preface

Alf Mews*

Congratulations to Horst Weller

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This special issue is dedicated to Horst Weller on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

It was a great pleasure for me to act as a co-editor for this ZPC special issue in honor of Horst Weller 60th birthday. I guess that all 18 contributions of this issue are closely related to or even based on the broad variety of scientific achievements of Horst – as I think every contributor would call him.

Horst started his scientific career in Göttingen, where he studied Chemistry after leaving his home town of Siegen, located directly in the center of Germany. Afterwards he performed his PhD study at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen where he investigated photo induced chemical reactions. Then he moved to the “Hahn-Meitner-Institute” in Berlin, where he essentially started a new field of science. It was certainly the most important point in Horst

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Wellers career that he had the great fortune to join the group of Arnim Henglein († 2012), one of the most impressive Physical Chemists of the late 20th century. In fact, also Vol 221 (2007) of this journal was a special issue, in honor of Arnim Hengleins 80th birthday, and the guest editor was of course Horst Weller. In its preface, Horst describes how both of them got excited about “the neglected dimension”, as Wolfgang Oswald called the scientific field of colloids already in 1914. In fact, during that time in the early 1980th, the nanocrystals were still called “semiconductor colloids” or Q-(quantized) particles. I had the pleasure to be the last “official PhD student” of Arnim Henglein, who concentrated on metal particles at that time, while actually working in Horst’s group on core-shell semiconductors. Already then Horst was not only interested in the fundamental chemical and physical aspects of nanoparticles, but was always trying to use them in practical application like photo catalysis or in devices such as solar cells. Naturally, he got several offers for professorships and eventually moved to Hamburg where he is a Professor for Physical Chemistry since 1994. Since then he made a tremendous impact on the development of the field of “chemical nanotechnology” worldwide. For his achievements in different fields of nanoscience he was honored with several awards and prizes, and in parallel he was a co-founder different companies to push the scientific achievements towards nano-technological applications.

Now, currently I have the great pleasure to again work in the same Institute with Horst Weller as a colleague and as a friend. Since it was certainly Horst achievement that nanoscience has become the most prominent research topic in Hamburg, it has to be pointed out that this is not only due to his scientific impact. Everybody who has ever worked or discussed with him realizes directly his warm and honest personality by which he makes friends all over the world. In fact the response to contribute to this special issue on a very short notice was overwhelming, and even though this special issue birthday present comes 2 months late, we still want to congratulate to your 60th birthday and wish you all the best for the future!

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