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New Trends in Photochemical Engineering and Technologies

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In recognition of the 'International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies (IYL 2015)'¹ the journal *Chemical Engineering & Technology (CET)* published a dedicated special issue on '*New Trends in Photochemical Engineering and Technologies*' in January 2016.² The cover features the IYL logo together with a spiral-shaped capillary microreactor developed by Loubiere and co-workers (Figure 1). The device allowed for *in-line* reaction monitoring by UV-Vis spectrophotometry and was used to study a photochromic reaction.

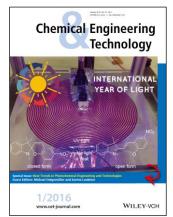


Figure 1. Front cover of the special issue of CET.

Associate-Professor Michael Oelgemöller from James Cook University and Dr Karine Loubiere from the Université de Toulouse served as guest-editors. The special issue comprises 5 review papers and 13 research articles from across the world. The 18 contributions highlight new photoreactor systems and light sources, photoreactor modelling, photochemical methodologies and photoactive materials.

Strehmel et al. review digital imaging of lithographic materials by radical photopolymerization and photonic baking with NIR diode lasers. Lacombe and co-workers review reactors and materials used in gas-phase photooxidations for air treatment. Lomaev and colleagues present a review on excilamps and their applications in photochemistry. De Lasa describes photocatalytic efficiency evaluations using quantum yields and the photochemical thermodynamic efficiency factor. Rehm reviews photochemical fluorination reactions under continuous flow conditions. Oelgemöller et al. study photodecarboxylation reactions in an advanced continuous flowreactor und furthermore apply it to the synthesis of a biological active target compound via a photo-thermal tandem process. Liu and collaborators develop a planar photocatalytic microreactor and assess its efficiency to degrade methylene blue. Li and co-workers utilize a microwave discharge electrodeless lamp in combination with H₂O₂ for the photooxidation of guaiacol to potentially valuable carboxylic acids. The group of Horikoshi develops solar-powered microwave discharge electrodeless lamps and utilizes them for continuous on-site field treatment of contaminated water. Deng uses computational fluid dynamics to assess radiation fields and disinfection efficiencies in UV reactors. Modelling and experiments in a spiral-shaped LED-driven microreactor are performed by Loubiere et al. to acquire kinetic data on a photochemical system. Ziegenbalg and his group study photon fluxes inside micro-structured photoreactors to demonstrate further optimization needs for these devices. Ponce-de-Leon and coworkers describe the construction of a photocatalytic flow reactor for the oxidation of methyl orange. Taghipour and Adeli report on the development of a GaN:ZnO-reduced graphene oxide composite for water splitting. Likewise, Fazaeli and colleagues design CdS and Ag/CdS nanoparticles for photocatalytic azo dye degradation. Hermosilla and collaborators describe the effects of carbonates on TiO2-photocatalysis and photo-Fenton processes. Likewise, a commercially available TiO2 photocatalyst doped with carbon is used by Ballari et al. for the degradation of acetaldehyde as an air pollutant. Finally, Landgraf utilizes semiconductor light sources for time-resolved fluorescence HPLC detection.

Overall, the content of this special issue clearly demonstrates the importance of 'light' in applied photochemistry and photochemical engineering.

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References.

1. IYL 2015 homepage: <u>http://www.light2015.org/Home.html</u> (last accessed 29. December 2015)

2. M. Oelgemöller, C. Loubiere "New Trends in Photochemical Engineering and Technologies" *Chem. Eng. Technol.* **2016**, <u>39</u>: 12.