

Researchers honored with the 2014 WITec PaperAward for their outstanding scientific publications

The winners of this year's WITec PaperAwards have been announced. Research groups from the USA, France, and Germany won the PaperAwards in gold, silver, and bronze, respectively. The annual awards honor outstanding scientific publications that feature results acquired with a WITec instrument. Scientists from all over the world submitted more than 60 publications, from between January and December 2013, to this year's competition. A jury chose the three winning papers from among the submissions to be honored with a PaperAward. Selection criteria included the impact of scientific results and the innovation of the applied techniques.

The PaperAward 2014 in gold goes to Yufeng Hao. Hao was honored for his work on graphene in Rodney Ruoffs' research group at the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Materials Science and Engineering Program, University of Texas, USA. The group successfully collaborated with Luigi Colombos' laboratory from Texas Instruments and published their work in *Science* "Y. Hao et al., *The Role of Surface Oxygen in the Growth of Large Single-Crystal Graphene on Copper*". A confocal Raman image of the publication was also chosen as the cover image for the issue. The scientific paper convinced the jury by demonstrating the beneficial application of confocal Raman imaging for high-impact graphene research. Hao just moved from Texas to New York to start a new position at Columbia University where he continues his work.

The silver WITec PaperAward winners are researchers from the Centre de Biophysique Moléculaire, CNRS in France. Frédéric Foucher and Frances Westall published in *Astrobiology* "Foucher and Westall, *Raman Imaging of Metastable Opal in Carbonaceous Microfossils of the 700-800 Ma old Draken Formation*". They show comprehensive Raman imaging studies of microfossils from Norway, Canada, and Australia. The jury honored Foucher and colleague for their successful application of (3D) Raman imaging as part of their compelling scientific work.

The WITec PaperAward in bronze goes to the research group of Maike Windbergs at the Department of Biopharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Technology, Saarland University, Germany. Windbergs published together with her group member Birthe Kann in the *AAPS Journal* "Kann and Windbergs, *Chemical Imaging of Drug Delivery Systems with Structured Surface – a Combined Analytical Approach of Confocal Raman Microscopy and Optical Profilometry*". Her scientific work in the field of pharmaceutical research demonstrates the successful use of confocal Raman microscopy for the investigation of rough samples in combination with optical profilometry.

WITec recently announced the WITec PaperAward 2015 for publications published in 2014. Researchers from all fields of applications and both academia and industry are invited to submit their publications featuring results acquired with a WITec instrument to papers@witec.de.

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WITec PaperAward 2014 winning publications:

Y. Hao, M. S. Bharathi, L. Wang, Y. Liu, H. Chen, S. Nie, X. Wang, H. Chou, C. Tan, B. Fallahazad, H. Ramanarayan, C. W. Magnuson, E. Tutuc, B. I. Yakobson, K. F. McCarty, Y. W. Zhang, P. Kim, J. Hone, L. Colombo, R. S. Ruoff, The role of surface oxygen in the growth of large single-crystal graphene on copper. *Science* 342, 720-723 (2013); 8 (10.1126/science.1243879).

F. Foucher, F. Westall, Raman imaging of metastable opal in carbonaceous microfossils of the 700-800 ma old Draken Formation. *Astrobiology* 13, 57-67 (2013); (10.1089/ast.2012.0889).

B. Kann, M. Windbergs, Chemical imaging of drug delivery systems with structured surfaces-a combined analytical approach of confocal Raman microscopy and optical profilometry. *The AAPS Journal* 15, 505-510 (2013); (10.1208/s12248-013-9457-7).

Images: downloads and annotations

Download: www.witec.de/assets/Uploads/Documents/News/2014/WITecPaperAward2014.jpg

Left:

WITec PaperAward in Gold: Yufeng Hao (right) and James Hone (left) in front of Columbia University in New York, USA. Hao and colleagues receive the award certificate in gold and a 500 Euro Amazon gift card from Tavis Exzell, Regional Sales Manager at WITec USA (middle).

Middle:

WITec PaperAward in Silver: Frédéric Foucher (left) from the Centre de Biophysique Moléculaire and Nicolas Tcherbak, WITec sales representative for France (right). Foucher is the winner of the award in silver and a 300 Euro Amazon voucher.

Right:

WITec PaperAward in Bronze: Maike Windbergs (right) from the Saarland University receives the PaperAward Certificate in bronze and a 200 Euro Amazon gift card from Sonja Breuninger, responsible for Technical Marketing and PR at WITec (left).

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