Science and Technology will receive the award, joining the esteemed ranks of polymer scientists recognised for their exceptional contributions to both research and service to the broader community. The award acknowledges her groundbreaking work in precision polymerization, particularly in conjugated polymers for a wide range of optoelectronic applications. Additionally, it recognizes her significant service to IUPAC, having served as Secretary of the IUPAC Polymer Terminology Subcommittee (2014-2015) and as Vice President and subsequently President of IUPAC's Polymer Division (2016-2019, 2020-2023). Christine serves as an invaluable ambassador and role model for women in STEM. Beyond her contributions to Polymer Science, Christine also balances her responsibilities as a mother to a young family, exemplifying excellence both in her professional career and her role as a parent. Christine will deliver the Bob Stepto plenary award lecture at the upcoming 50th World Polymer Congress (MACRO 2024), scheduled for early July in Warwick, UK.

https://iupac.org/christine-luscombe-is-the-recipient-of-the-2024-stepto-lecture-award/

Athina Anastasaki is the recipient of the 9th Polymer International-IUPAC Award

The SCI® (Society of Chemical Industry), the Editorial Board of Polymer International and the IUPAC Polymer Division are delighted to announce that Athina Anastasaki, Assistant Professor of Polymeric Materials at ETH Zurich, Switzerland, is the winner of the 9th Polymer International-IUPAC award for Creativity in Applied Polymer Science.

The award celebrates the outstanding contributions that Professor Anastasaki has made to polymer chemistry where she has developed an outstanding, independent, innovative, and highly visible research profile spanning across the broad areas of polymer synthesis, polymer self-assembly and depolymerization leading the next generation of polymer chemists.

In polymer synthesis, she has been able to settle a long-lasting misconception in controlled radical polymerization whereby polymers with high dispersity have been traditionally associated with low livingness and increased termination, thus limiting several applications. Her in-depth knowledge and understanding in polymerization mechanisms led her group to develop a number of ATRP and RAFT polymerization approaches in which the initiation and deactivation steps were elegantly regulated, unambiguously showing that extremely high end-group fidelity can be maintained regardless of the targeted dispersity.

Anastasaki has also initiated a new research niche by revolutionizing the depolymerization of polymers made by controlled radical polymerization. Before her work, depolymerization was mainly observed as an unwanted reaction during the polymerization of bulky monomers. In a completely new perspective, she developed the first example of near-quantitative depolymerization of RAFT-synthesized non-bulky polymers (such as PMMA) and showed that, under thermodynamically favourable conditions, both the monomer and the original RAFT agent can be recovered.

Recently she showed the first true reversal of controlled radical polymerization with polymer chains uniformly reducing in size during depolymerization, direct inverse of the uniform growth observed in controlled polymerizations. This recent work is expected to receive hundreds of citations from various chemistry fields as it unlocks many additional opportunities.

Anastasaki will give a lecture and receive this award at the 50th World Polymer Congress (MACRO 2024), which will be held in Warwick, UK from 1-4 July, 2024.

https://iupac.org/9th-polymer-international-iupac-award-goes-to-athina-anastasaki/

2025 Distinguished Women in Chemistry/Chemical Engineering Award—Call for Nominations

IUPAC announces the call for nominations for the IUPAC 2025 Distinguished Women in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering Awards. The purpose of the awards program, initiated as part of the 2011 International Year of Chemistry celebrations, is to acknowledge and promote the work of women in chemistry/chemical engineering worldwide. In 2011, 23 women were honored during a