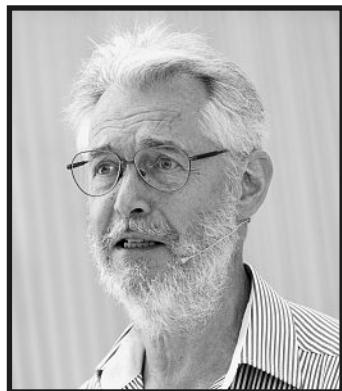


## Obituary



**Roland W. Kunz**  
**Dr. sc. Nat. ETH**  
23. April 1949 – 26. October 2022

The Swiss Chemical Society and the CHIMIA Editorial Board is extremely sad to announce that Roland W. Kunz, a long-term member of the CHIMIA Editorial board, Chairman of the EB from 2009 to 2018, and member of the SCS Executive Board and SCS Board of Directors has passed away at the age of 73. He leaves behind his wife, Astrid Forster.

Roland grew up and attended school in Frauenfeld. After obtaining his Matura in 1971, he made his way to Zurich to study chemistry at the ETH. He graduated in 1976 after specialising in inorganic chemistry, analytical chemistry, and theoretical organic chemistry. He stayed at the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, ETH, to do his doctoral studies under the supervision of Prof. Luigo Venanzi and Prof. Hans-Beat Bürgi, which he completed in 1979, with a thesis entitled ‘Strukturuntersuchung an Quecksilberkomplexen mittels NMR-, Röntgenstruktur- und MO-Methoden’. Roland cowrote a frequently cited book with Prof. Paul Pregosin, ‘<sup>31</sup>P and <sup>13</sup>C NMR of Transition Metal Phosphine Complexes’, which was published in 1979 in the Springer Series “NMR Basic Principles and Progress”, vol. No. 16.

Roland then moved onto the University of Bern as an Oberassistent at the Institute for Inorganic and Physical Chemistry to carry on his research on molecular beams and laser spectroscopy.

He continued his scientific career back in Zurich, but this time at the Institute for Organic Chemistry, University of Zurich. He worked there for an impressive 33 years, firstly as a research scientist (1981 to 1988) and then a senior research scientist (1988 to 2006) during which time he published 58 publications covering a range of topics including organometallics, NMR, chemoinformatics, catalysis, molecular modelling and X-ray crystallography.

In 2006 he was engaged as Executive Manager of the Department of Chemistry, UZH, a role that he carried out until his retirement in 2014. Even though retired, he continued to work as User Representative for the construction project ‘UZI 5’ at the UZH Irchel Campus, which was completed in 2021.

Despite his busy professional life, Roland was able to dedicate his time to some, perhaps surprising, hobbies. He took up sky-diving and became a member of the Swiss National Skydiving Team (Aero-Club der Schweiz, 1982–1984), very successfully becoming the Silver Medallist in the World Championships in 1983 (8-way Relative Work Team) and Gold Medallist in the Swiss Championships in 1982, 1983, 1984, and 1985 (8-way Relative Work Team). He followed up as a skydiving trainer for the Aero-Club der Schweiz until 1988.

After his retirement, Roland rediscovered his love of photography and travel. He developed his skill as a photographer over many years with stunning pictures of the natural world, architecture, and with beautiful pictures of the human body. His photographs can be viewed at <https://youpic.com/photographer/RolandWKunz/>, roland.kunz@format.com



Law library, University of Zurich, designed by Santiago Calatrava. Photo: Roland W. Kunz.

Roland also gave a great deal of his time and efforts to the Swiss Chemical Society and CHIMIA. He joined the CHIMIA Editorial Board in 2002 and became the Assistant Editor. He quickly set about bringing CHIMIA, up to this point a purely print journal, into the digital world by arranging for an online host, initially with ChemWeb and subsequently with Ingenta.com. Thanks to the digital foundations he laid, CHIMIA now has a strong online presence as a platinum open-access journal. He was also instrumental in creating the path for CHIMIA as an open access journal. In 2009 he took over from Prof. Camille Ganter as the Chairman of the CHIMIA Editorial Board and joined the SCS Executive Board and SCS Board of Directors. During this time Roland was a fierce advocate for CHIMIA and ensured that the SCS was willing and able to continue to produce a high-quality scientific and membership journal. Roland served the SCS and CHIMIA for 16 years and we are grateful for the energy that he put into securing CHIMIA for the future. Those of us that came after him on the CHIMIA Editorial Board are thankful for the groundwork that he laid for our tasks.