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The cover features a central portrait of Professor Eiichi Nakamura, a man with glasses wearing a dark suit and tie, with his arms crossed. The portrait is set against a background of numerous chemical structures, including transition metal complexes, organometallic compounds, and various ligands. The structures are arranged in a grid-like pattern around the portrait. The name 'Eiichi Nakamura' is written in a cursive signature at the bottom right of the portrait. Below the portrait, the text reads: *In Honor of Professor Eiichi Nakamura for His 60th Birthday*.

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IYC 2011
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CHEMISTRY

Focus Reviews

Soft Materials

S. Shinkai et al.

Transition Metal Complexes

T. Fujita et al.

An **ACES** journal

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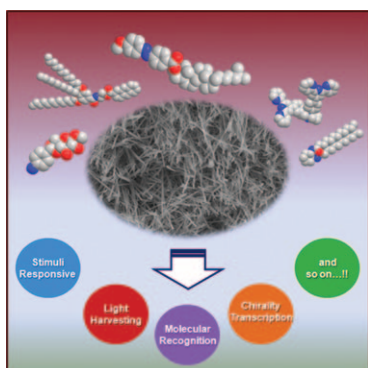
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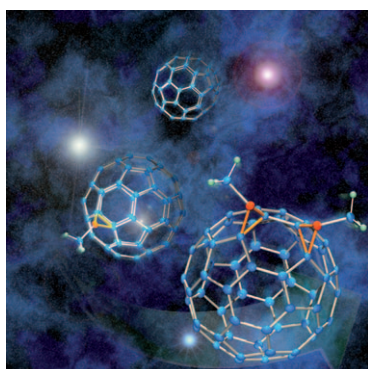
Professor Eiichi Nakamura ...

... celebrates his 60th (Kan Reki) birthday this month. Professor Nakamura has had a far-reaching influence in multiple areas of chemistry through his outstanding contributions and is highly respected the world over. He was also extremely active in the founding of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*, first serving on our Editorial Board and currently on our International Advisory Board. His enthusiasm and hard work were instrumental in the journal's success, and he has continued to set a high standard with his own publications in the journal. As a part of his birthday celebration, and as a tribute to Professor Nakamura's illustrious career, this special issue is in honor of this occasion. Cover picture courtesy of Mr. Shuzaburo Shibi, photographer: Mr. Masakatsu Shibata.



Soft Materials

The unique combination of structural softness together with order at the molecular level makes molecular gels a special class of self-assembled materials that are governed by the principles of supramolecular interaction. Emerging from their serendipitous discovery, the steady development of this chemistry towards molecular design provides ample opportunities to program new functions or to achieve amazing selectivity over certain processes. However, to reach that goal it is essential to directly correlate gel functions with their structures that are comprised of small molecular building blocks. In their Focus Review on page 266 ff., S. Shinkai et al. attempt to find such a 'bridge' that can motivate and stimulate this existing field towards precisely designing molecular gels for a desired function.



Fullerenes

Introduction of nitrogen substituents into a fullerene cage has attracted much attention in various fields as a new source for generating functionalized carbon materials. In their Full Paper on page 416 ff., T. Akasaka et al. describe the Michael-type cyclo-addition of C₆₀ with (*S,S*)-diphenylsulfilimines to regioselectively afford bis- and tris-aziridinated C₆₀ species. Their structures were determined by spectroscopic and single-crystal X-ray analyses. It is noteworthy to describe that the bis- and tris-aziridination reactions occur exclusively at the same six-membered ring on C₆₀ to give a sole isomer. Theoretical calculations were also performed to rationalize the regioselective addition.



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