



**PRESS RELEASE** (October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005)

**2005 Walter Hälg Prize  
of the  
European Neutron Scattering Association (ENSA)**



Albert Furrer



Hans Ulrich Güdel

Every two years the European Neutron Scattering Association, ENSA, awards the prestigious Walter Hälg Prize to European scientists for an outstanding programme of research in neutron scattering with a long term impact on scientific and/or technical neutron scattering applications. The Prize of 10'000 Swiss Francs is donated by Professor Walter Hälg, the founder of neutron scattering science in Switzerland. In 2005 the Hälg Prize is to be presented at a special session of the International Conference on Neutron Scattering, to be held in Sydney, Australia, between November 27 and December 2.

The nominations received for the 2005 Hälg Prize were examined by an international selection committee consisting of authorities representing the major scientific disciplines, both within and beyond the field of neutron scattering. The selection committee is delighted to announce that the 2005 Hälg Prize will be awarded exceptionally to both

**Professor Albert Furrer (ETH Zürich and Paul Scherrer Institute)**

and

**Professor Hans Ulrich Güdel (University of Bern)**

in recognition of the important role their continuing collaboration has played in developing new and interesting magnetic materials and studying them to obtain unique insights into their magnetic properties. The collaboration began in the 1970's with studies of magnetic cluster compounds that showed the detailed nature of the exchange interactions. The laser rare-earth materials were then studied and showed that the exchange interactions were more complex than expected, but could be understood by taking account of both the initial and final rare earth states. Most recently they have performed elegant experiments on spin dimers and have measured the triplet excitations and shown by applying a magnetic field that they could induce a Bose-Einstein condensation to a magnetically ordered state. All of these experiments show the importance of the collaboration between the chemist who grows the new materials and the neutron scatterer who studies the detailed nature of the excitations.

Albert Furrer obtained his doctorate at ETH, Zürich in 1970 and held post-doctoral positions in Denmark and the USA before returning to ETH, Zürich where he became Head of the Laboratory for Neutron Scattering from 1984-2004. He became Chairman of ENSA in 1997 and has held many important administrative posts.

Hans Ulrich Güdel obtained his doctorate from the University of Bern in 1970. He then went to Denmark and followed that by a time in Australia before returning to the University of Bern. He was the first Chairman of the Swiss Neutron Scattering Association and has since held many important administrative roles in Neutron Scattering.