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1. Who was your supervising tutor when you visited the University of Würzburg?

During my two research stages in Würzburg I worked in the group of Prof. Dr. Manfred Christl at Institut für Organische Chemie. The results of this work are the subject of two publications (*J. Org. Chem.* **2006**, 71, 1018–1026 and *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2006**, 531–542).

2. We would be happy to get to know something about your academic/ professional career and it would be nice if you could describe your professional work in a few words.

Between 1993 and 2003 I have completed my bachelor and master degree as well as my PhD in chemistry at the Babes-Bolyai University from Cluj-Napoca, Romania. As a PhD student I was able to gain more experience in the field of organic chemistry during the research stages performed at Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, Austria (CEEPUS scholarship – 1 month) and at Universität Würzburg, Germany (DAAD scholarship – 10 months).

My professional teaching career began as teaching assistant at the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca in 2002 and since 2008 I was appointed as lecturer at the same university. In 2004 I was awarded with a "Roman Herzog" postdoctoral fellowship (18 months) by Alexander von Humboldt foundation and Hertie foundation when I returned at Universität Würzburg in the group of Prof. Dr. Manfred Christl. As a PhD student, the research activity was focused on synthesis and stereochemistry of saturated six-membered rings: 1,3-dioxanes and spiranes, diastereoselective bromination of spiranes, synthesis and structural investigations of macrocyclic compounds as well as on bicycloalkanes chemistry. As a postdoctoral fellow, I started the work in the synthesis and reactivity of another class of heterocyclic compounds, cyclopenta[c]pyrans. The results are published in 25 papers.

3. What's your image from India/EU? What do you find most fascinating about the subject? Do you have any experience regarding a scientific or economic exchange between India and the European Union?

Actually I don't have a well defined image about India/EU. This was one of the reasons I decided to participate to this meeting because I was curious to learn more about India (more than what usually someone finds out from mass-media), about the differences and similarities with Europe. Beside their culture, their traditions, I would be interested to know more about their academic life, about their research programs for sciences, especially chemistry. I had no experience regarding a scientific or economic exchange between India and the European Union.

4. What do you think about the importance of Alumni in terms of the cultural, academical and economical exchange?

I consider Alumni may play a certain role in cultural and academical exchange. As a member of the Alumni community one have a relatively facile access to different information about other countries, for example if someone is interested in applying for a job in a company (and this may be important also in terms of economical exchange), or to establish scientific collaborations and get support for initiating academical exchange programs.