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This 15th competition was once again (and as it is now traditional) focused on promoting modern analytical methods in the fields of electroanalytical chemistry, Raman spectroscopy and ion chromatography, areas in which Metrohm plays a significant role. The main aim of this competition is to encourage young colleagues' interest in these modern instrumental methods and to raise the image of analytical chemistry, which has unfortunately been declining somewhat recently as a result of certain unfortunate activities and decisions – a trend that may have adverse effects across virtually all natural, medical and technical sciences. As in previous years, the highlight of the competition was the ceremonial announcement of the winners at Metrohm's excellent seminar, 'Modern Electroanalytical Methods 2026', which took place at the Department of Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague on February 10th, 2026, under the patronage of the Rector of the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, Prof. Milan Pospíšil, and the Rector of Charles University, Prof. Jiří Zima.

As in previous years, three prizes (each worth 10,000 CZK) were awarded in 2026 to young analytical chemists (aged 35 or under) for the best scientific publication in the field of electroanalytical chemistry, one prize (10,000 CZK) in the field of UV-VIS-NIR spectroscopy and Raman spectrometry, and one prize (10,000 CZK) in the field of liquid chromatography for the separation of ionic and polar substances. Exceptionally, in view of the 15th anniversary of this competition in 2026, two Metrohm Prizes were awarded for lifetime contributions to the development of electroanalytical chemistry (each worth 20,000 CZK). As has become tradition, a series of outstanding specialist lectures were delivered, highlighting the extraordinary importance of analytical chemistry and the aforementioned specialised analytical methods, as well as the irreplaceable role played by Metrohm in their rapid development and practical application.

The opening lecture, dedicated to the memory of Prof. Karel Štulík, was delivered by RNDr. Jan Fischer, Ph.D. (Faculty of Science, Charles University, Prague), and focused on the preparation of electrochemical cells using 3D printing. This was followed by a presentation by Prof. RNDr. Ing. Petr Tůma, Ph.D. (Third Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Prague) on 3D printing for the production of PDMS microfluidics and its applications in microanalysis. This was followed by a lecture by Prof. Ing. Jiří Homola, DrSc. (Institute of Photonics and Electronics, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague), on fascinating advances in the field of surface plasmon-based optical biosensors and their applications in molecular medicine. RNDr. Romana Sokolová, Ph.D. (Heyrovský Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague) spoke on the advantages and pitfalls of *in-situ* spectroelectrochemistry in elucidating the redox mechanisms of bioactive organic compounds. Ing. Jiří Kudr, Ph.D. (Institute of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Mendel University in Brno) focused his excellent presentation on advances in the field of flow-through analytical systems and microsystems with electrochemical detection for monitoring biologically active substances. Prof. RNDr. Miroslav Gál, Ph.D. (Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava) presented advances in the use of aptamers in the diagnosis of tumour cells, with a focus on electrochemistry, QCM and confocal microscopy. The above-mentioned presentations are available to interested parties from the author of this article and on the Metrohm ČR website (https://www.metrohm.com/cs-cz). Following the presentation by Metrohm on its outstanding instruments and other activities that significantly support the development of (not only) Czech analytical chemistry, a distinguished reception was held, providing an

opportunity for direct networking amongst the more than one hundred participants at this celebratory seminar.

And now the most important part: the seven-member expert jury, in its now traditional composition (Ing. P. Barath, Prof. J. Barek, Prof. J. Labuda, Prof. J. Ludvík, Prof. L. Trnková, Prof. P. Janoš, Prof. P. Matějka), representing analytical chemists from leading analytical research centres, selected the winners in the field of electroanalytical chemistry from a total of fourteen submitted publications from seven universities or institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences (see Table I).

Table I
Metrohm Prize 2026 – alphabetical list of competing authors in the field of electroanalytical chemistry

Michal Augustín	Faculty of Science, Charles University, Prague
Eliška Birgusová	Mendel University, Brno
Jan Dismas Buriánek	University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague
Vojtěch Domín	University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague
Sofiia Ivakh	Faculty of Science, Charles University, Prague
Kristýna Jelšíková	Faculty of Science, Charles University, Prague
Oleksandra Labzová	Heyrovský Institute, Prague
Oleksandr Matvieiev	University of Pardubice
Martin-Alex Nalepa	Palacký University, Olomouc
Ndreka Xhensiana	Mendel University, Brno
Viktorie Neubertová	Jan Evangelista Purkyne University, Ústí nad Labem
Martin Pižl	Palacký University, Olomouc
Vera Shilenko	University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague
Šárka Ševčíková	Masaryk University, Brno

The Metrohm 2026 Award for the best publication by a young chemist in the field of electroanalytical chemistry was awarded to:

Jan Dismas Buriánek from the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, for the paper 'Buriánek J. D., Bystron T., Bouzek K.: *Methodology of evaluating the activation energy of the oxygen reduction reaction on Pt-based electrodes'* published in the leading journal Journal of Electroanalytical Chemistry *996*, 119418 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jelechem.2025.119418.

Martin Pižl from the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, for the paper by Stitch M., Pižl M., Lehane N., Greetham G. M., Hartl F., Towrie M., Quinn S. J.: *'Eyes on the Prize: Tracking Electron Transfer in G-Rich Duplex and Quadruplex DNA Using Enantiopure Ruthenium Polypyridyl Infrared Redox Probes'* in the internationally recognised journal Journal of the American Chemical Society *147*, 29801 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1021/jacs.5c05736.

Šárka Ševčíková from Masaryk University in Brno for the paper by Sebuyoya R., Sevcikova S., Yusuf B., Bartosik M.: *'Integrating isothermal amplification techniques and LNA-based AI-assisted electrochemical bioassay for analysis of the KRAS G12V point mutation'* in the prestigious journal Talanta *288*, 127709 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.talanta.2025.127709.

Unfortunately, only one paper was submitted in the field of liquid chromatography for the separation of ionic and polar substances; this may be seen as a call from the author of these lines to young colleagues working in this field not to hesitate to submit their work to this prestigious competition next year.

The 2026 Metrohm Prize for the best publication by a young chemist in the field of liquid chromatography for the separation of ionic and polar substances was awarded to:

Tomáš Lener from the Faculty of Science, Charles University, Prague, for the paper by Lener T., Štícha M.,



Fig. 1. **Jan Dismas Buriánek**



Fig. 2. **Šárka Ševčíková**

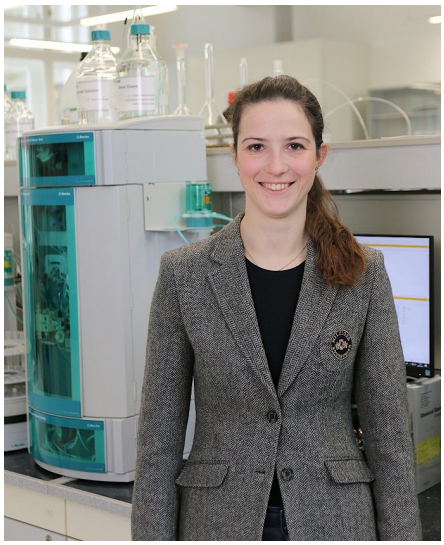


Fig. 3. **Valerie Smeliková Černá**

Bauerová M., Ulbertová K., Nesměrák K.: *'Historical analgesic tablets revisited: development of a versatile RP-HPLC method for the stability study of and multi-component pharmaceutical preparations'* in the journal *Monatshefte für Chemie – Chemical Monthly* *156*, 1013 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1007/s00706-025-03350-4.

In the field of UV-VIS-NIR and Raman spectrometry, the jury selected from four submitted publications from research centres in Prague and Brno (see Table II).

Table II
Metrohm Prize 2026 – alphabetical list of authors of entries in the field of UV-VIS-NIR and Raman spectroscopy

Ivan Kopal	University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague
Vít Pavelka	Masaryk University, Brno
Valerie Smeliková	University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague
Jiří Volánek	Institute of Analytical Chemistry, Brno

The Metrohm 2026 Prize for the best publication by a young chemist in the field of UV-VIS-NIR and Raman spectrometry was awarded to:

Valerie Smeliková (married name Černá) from the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, for the paper by Kopal I., Smeliková V.: *'Silver-Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectra of Berberine: Analytic-Induced Surface Changes, Variable Concentration Correlation, and Excitation Wavelength Dependence'* in the prestigious international journal Langmuir *41*, 16725 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.langmuir.4c05174.

As previously mentioned, in the 15th anniversary of the Metrohm Prize 2026 competition for lifetime contributions to the development of electroanalytical chemistry, two prizes were exceptionally awarded.

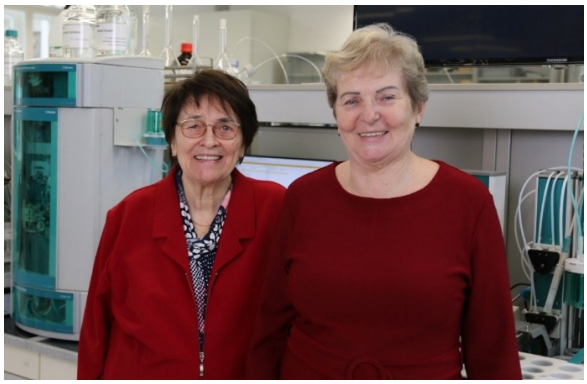


Fig. 4. **RNDr. Ivana Šestáková (left) a doc. Zuzana Navrátilová (right)**

The Metrohm 2026 Award for a lifetime contribution to the development of electroanalytical chemistry was awarded to:

Doc. Ing. Zuzana Navrátilová, CSc., from the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Ostrava

and RNDr. Ivana Šestáková, CSc., from the Heyrovský Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague.

Once again in 2026, I am delighted to reiterate that the commendable efforts of Charles University, the Heyrovský Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, on the one hand, and Metrohm, a renowned supplier of modern analytical instrumentation in the fields of electroanalytical chemistry, ion chromatography and Raman spectrometry, on the other, in collaboration with a number of other institutions whose logos are listed in the header of this article, is making a significant contribution to improving the perception of analytical chemistry within (not only) the Czech chemical community and is successfully seeking to counteract certain unfortunate negative perceptions that have arisen in relation to analytical chemistry.

Further information on this event and other events of interest to the wider analytical community can be found on the website of the Analytical Chemistry Division of the Czech Chemical Society (https://osanal.csch.cz/). Information on Metrohm's products and its activities beneficial to the entire chemical community can be found at https://www.metrohm.com/cs-cz, including useful details about Metrohm's Demonstration Laboratory at the Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague (Albertov). A wealth of information of interest to analytical chemists can also be found on our journal's website at https://www.chemicke-listy.cz. The author of this article will be happy to provide any further information on the activities of the Czech community of analytical chemists.

And I am delighted to announce to our readers that the Metrohm Prize 2027 will, as usual, be announced this autumn, and the winners will once again be honoured at Metrohm's special seminar 'Modern Electroanalytical Methods 2027' on Tuesday 9 February 2027 at the Department of Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague-Albertov.

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