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Keywords: Chemistry, Scientific Profile, Teaching-Research

GI-MS47-O4

What a difference a carrier choice makes?

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Having this in mind that crystallography has long overcome its basic definition, it is perhaps easier to grasp that a background in crystallography offers many career choices, and that one choice does not necessarily exclude the other. In other words, background in crystallography provides you with a good set of initial parameter set (skills) that can allow a stable (career) refinement. Where exactly your career will converge depends on your refinement skills and the restraints that you (pre)define.

I have started my career with a diploma in chemistry/crystallography, and my main focus was structure determination from single crystal data. Fifteen years later I count three careers, none of them focused on the single crystal diffraction:

- research in a pharmaceutical company (crystallographer)
- basic research in crystallography (PhD student)
- business development, marketing and consultancy in a high-tech company (application scientist)

This career path features periodic alternations between academia and industry, what allowed me to extend my initial set of skills to intellectual property, teaching, good laboratory practice, X-ray instrumentation, scientific communications, marketing, spectroscopy, turbine blades for aerospace industry, cultural heritage, world airports and much more.

I am also an academic guest at the University of Zurich. I keep the International Tables of Crystallography on the desk in my study. Calculations are ongoing.