## Self-assembly - Bouillabaisse or useful synthetic method?

## by Professor Edwin Constable

**Department of Chemistry – University of Basel (Switzerland)** 

Self-assembly and self-organisation are terms widely used in biology and supramolecular chemistry. The concept of molecular components coming together to spontaneously build new architectures is attractive and persuasive. But do we really understand what happens in these reactions?

The lecture will present a number of themes from our own work on metal-directed self-assembly in which the outcomes of the reactions are far from what was expected. The lecture will present a proposition that we do not always understand the self-assembly processes but that the serendipitous results are often beautiful and contribute to our future understanding.

The sub-themes are:

- a) When chemists talk to physicists......
- b) Mendeleev has a lot to answer for.....
- c) 1 + 1 = ?
- d) curly-curly link-link

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