

Roland K. O. Sigel is Associate Professor (2009) of Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Zürich, Switzerland. From 2003 to 2008 he was Assistant Professor at the same University endowed with a *Förderungsprofessur* of the Swiss National Science Foundation. After his studies of Chemistry at the University of Basel, Switzerland, he worked with Bernhard Lippert (University of Dortmund, Germany) on the effect of Pt(II) coordination on the acid-base and hydrogen-bonding properties of nucleobases and received his doctoral degree *summa cum laude* (1999). Thereafter he spent three years at Columbia University, New York, with Anna Marie Pyle (now Yale University) studying ribozymes. During the six years abroad he received several fellowships, including a European TMR Fellowship and one from the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences. He was awarded the *EuroBIC Medal* in 2008, the *Alfred Werner Prize* (Swiss Chemical Society) in 2009, and is a recipient of an *ERC Starting Grant 2010* by the European Research Council.

His scientific interests center around the manifold aspects of metal ion binding to large nucleic acids. Presently, most of the research in his lab is focused on the structural and catalytic role of metal ions in nucleic acids, especially group II intron ribozymes and riboswitches, which are gene regulatory elements occurring mostly in bacteria. His group applies a broad combination of tools, including (bio)chemical syntheses, single molecule fluorescence (smFRET), and NMR spectroscopy.

Roland was also an editor of Volumes 43 and 44 of the *Metal Ions in Biological Systems* series and is now co-editing the new series *Metal Ions in Life Sciences*. He is an SBIC member since 1996 and will chair EuroBIC-12 in Zürich, Switzerland, in 2014. He is married to Professor Eva Freisinger and they have a four year-old son.