





Written on 01 November 2013 15 minutes of reading
News

- Fundamental Research
- Renewable energies
- Biofuels and e-fuels
- Sustainable mobility
- IC powertrains
- Responsible oil and gas
- Fuels
- Basins and reservoirs modeling and simulation



IFPEN's policy of hosting PhD students forms one of the pillars of our

scientific strategy. It gives students an opportunity to consolidate their training by carrying out advanced research and by working within an applied context, with an opening towards industry and future career opportunities.

From our point of view, it is a way of advancing our expertise and approaching original avenues for progress in order to overcome obstacles that have been identified in our innovation areas. This policy also helps to forge or strengthen links with academic research—in France and throughout Europe—and expands the network of scientific resourcing available to our researchers.

This year, the Scientific Board awarded the Yves Chauvin prize to **Étienne Jourdier** for his research on the “**production of cellulases by *Trichoderma reesei* for lignocellulosic biorefineries**”. During its deliberations, the Board praised the theoretical and experimental quality of the research, along with its major contribution to IFPEN's R&D potential in the field of **biotechnologies**.

We hope that you enjoy this issue,

Pierre-Henri Bigeard, Executive Vice-President

Summary:

- **Microorganisms** change their diet. Thesis by **Étienne Jourdier, 2013 Yves Chauvin prize-winner**
- **Unmasking oxygen**. Thesis by Badaoui Omais
- **Catalysts poisoned by silicon**: the investigation progresses! Thesis by Fabien Chainet
- **Reducing engine pollution** without delay. Thesis by Delphine Bresch-Pietri
- **Arid zones on the Equator?** Thesis by Anne-Claire Chaboureau
- **Biomass** in the tank. Thesis by Léa Vilcoq
- **Pollution abatement** in vehicles: from atom to catalytic converter. Thesis by Nikola Rankovic
- **Microorganisms** in a stir. Thesis by Jean-Christophe Gabelle



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