Inherently Chiral Macro cyclic Oligothiophenes: Easily Accessible Electrosensitive Cavities with Outstanding Enantioselection Performances

What is the inspiration of the cover?
The image highlights the relationships between the structure of a stunningly formed chiral $D_3$ symmetric oligothiophene macrocycle described in the paper and the magic (human-made?) beautiful complex figure of a $D_3$ symmetric crop circle, emerged in a wheat field at Barbury Castle, Wiltshire, in July 1999. In both cases chirality plays a great aesthetic and fascinating role. (Photograph courtesy of Mr. Steve Alexander—www.temporarytemples.co.uk)

What aspects of this project do you find most exciting?
The successful combination of chirality and electroactivity in fully conjugated oligothiophene circular systems, where stereo- genic elements and the electroactive backbone coincide. These molecules idealize conducting polymers without ends and offer electrosensitive cavities for enantioselective inclusion of guest molecules.

Did serendipity play a part in this work?
Serendipity often plays a role in chemical research and we felt that this was the case. Anyway, many brilliant unexpected results, which pave new research paths and open new applica- tive perspectives, seem simple to explain in retrospect, even recognizing that they could have been planned a priori by par- ticularly smart minds supported by a multifaceted chemical culture.