

## Danielle Franke

Research Chemist  
Industry  
Berlin, Germany  
Speciality: Diagnostic Imaging

Danielle Franke (née Zrinzo) was born in Leeds, England and moved to Malta with her mother, Sylvia, father, Laurence and elder brother, Ludvic, when she was 3 years old. Whilst her brother followed their parents' footsteps by choosing a medical profession, becoming a neurosurgeon like their father, Danielle felt more drawn to the pure sciences.

After graduating in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science (Honours, First Class Degree) in Biology and Chemistry at the University of Malta, she moved to Berlin to further her studies. She obtained a Master of Science and, thereafter, a PhD in Chemistry from the Max Plank Institute of Colloids and Interfaces in Potsdam. Her PhD work focused on the design and synthesis of nanowires for potential use in liquid crystal displays.

Since her move to Germany in 2001, Danielle has been living in Berlin with her German husband, Christian Alexander and they now have a son named Leo, aged one.

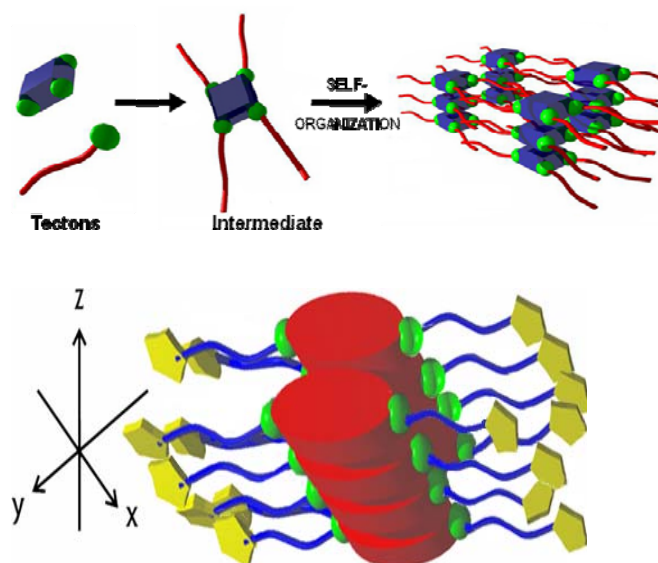
Having lived in Germany for a period of over seven years and being more fluent in both German and English than her native Maltese, Danielle was a real sport and twisted her tongue round the sounds of her mother tongue to encourage Maltese



youngsters to consider careers in chemistry.

## Research Profile

During her PhD work, Danielle studied the self-assembly of rationally designed monomers into nanomolecular wires via supramolecular processes.



She then worked at Bayer Schering Pharma, a leading pharmaceutical company, with headquarters in Berlin. Her work concerned the research and development of novel contrast media for Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). In some ways, her work brought her close to that of her mother's, who, as a radiologist, regularly uses MRI contrast agents. More recently, she has joined colleagues in starting up a new company to continue developing these technologies.

## **Relevant Links or info**

Further information regarding the Max Plank Institute in Potsdam look here:

[http://www.mpikg.mpg.de/english/cont\\_issues/news/index.html](http://www.mpikg.mpg.de/english/cont_issues/news/index.html)