

CH Information

News – Honors – Workshops – Conferences – Lectures

NEWS

Swiss drugmaker **Roche** said its experimental Alzheimer's drug failed to meet its main goals in a mid-stage study, a result likely to bolster the belief that drugs need to be given in earlier stages of the disease to slow patients' decline. In a Phase II study involving 431 patients, it was found that the drug, crenezumab, failed to significantly slow cognitive and functional decline compared to placebo, missing two main goals. However an exploratory analysis of patients with a milder form of the disease who received a higher dose of crenezumab *via* an intravenous infusion showed a statistically significant reduction in cognitive decline, Roche said. Carole Ho, director of early clinical development at Roche's biotech unit Genentech told the news agency Reuters she was encouraged by the data, even though it missed its main goals, since it demonstrated that treating the disease earlier could increase the benefit. Roche said a smaller Phase II biomarker study also showed an effect of slowing cognitive decline in milder patients.

Novartis is collaborating with Phoenix, Arizona-based US non-profit Banner Alzheimer's Institute (BAI) on a clinical study to determine whether two of the Swiss pharmaceutical giant's investigational anti-amyloid treatments can prevent or delay the emergence of symptoms in people identified as being at genetic risk for developing the late-onset form of the disease. The study funded with a \$33.2 million grant awarded in 2013 by the US National Institutes of Health and supplemented by \$15 million from Banner will involve more than 1,300 cognitively healthy adults, ages 60-75, who have a genetic risk of developing symptoms of AD because they inherited two genetic copies of the apolipoprotein E epsilon 4 (APOE4) allele. About 2% of the world's population is believed to have this genetic profile, which is strongly linked to late-onset Alzheimer's disease. Novartis believes it could take nine years before the studies show results.

Bayer CropScience is seeking approval from the EU's Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) for use of its foliar neonicotinoid insecticide Biscaya in niche applications this autumn. Biscaya's active ingredient, thiacloprid does not fall under the EU's two-year moratorium on use of the neonicotinoid class of insecticide, including treated seeds, with the active ingredients clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam in all crops except those unattractive to bees. Over vocal opposition from insecticide producers, including Bayer, Syngenta and BASF, the temporary ban was in place from the beginning of December 2013 in an effort to determine whether the products contribute to the phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). The application Bayer is seeking approval for is control of the aphid vector of turnip yellows virus (TuYV) in oilseed rape, which would formerly have been controlled by a neonicotinoid seed treatment. It is also seeking approval for use of its Mesuro (methiocarb) non-neonicotinoid insecticidal seed treatment on oilseed rape. Given the proximity to the autumn sowing season, it is unclear whether there is any real prospect of approval being given in time for this year, the journal said. Biscaya is currently approved for spring

use in the winter oilseed rape crop for control of pollen beetle. Syngenta recently withdrew an application to plant 186,000 hectares of its neonicotinoid-treated Cruiser OSR in the UK, after the government failed to make a decision in time to apply for an exemption. Syngenta said it will consider making a new application for the 2015-16 season. The UK is one of the EU countries that did not vote in favor of the neonicotinoid moratorium.

Archer Daniels Midland Company is acquiring **Wild Flavors**, headquartered in Zug, Switzerland. In an all-cash transaction valued at approximately €2.3 billion enterprise value, ADM will pay €2.2 billion to Wild Flavors shareholders Dr. Hans-Peter Wild and funds affiliated with Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., and assume approximately €0.1 billion of net debt. The transaction is contingent on regulatory approvals and is expected to close by end of 2014. Wild Flavors, with estimated 2014 net revenues of about €1 billion, offers food and beverage companies full flavor and ingredient solutions – known as flavor systems – and fruit juice concentrates and blends, as well as other food and beverage ingredients. Dr. Hans-Peter Wild, chairman of Wild Flavors, said, "I am very pleased by ADM's acquisition of Wild Flavors and the future business we will build together. With the strong financial resources, and expanded customer base, product offering and global footprint, I am confident Wild Flavors will be well-positioned for growth."

Roche Holding AG plans to pay up to \$1.73 billion to buy Seragon Pharmaceuticals, a privately-held US biotech company that researches breast cancer treatments. Roche has long dominated the field of breast cancer with drugs such as Herceptin and recently won approval for Kadcyla and Perjeta, two treatments for patients whose cancer cells contain increased amounts of the protein known as HER2. San Diego-based Seragon was spun off from Aragon Pharmaceuticals last year when the company was bought by Johnson & Johnson. It is focused on developing a new generation of oral medicines that may offer an improved way of tackling hormone receptor-positive breast cancer, and potentially other cancers. Seragon's most advanced experimental drug, ARN-810, is currently in initial Phase I clinical trials for breast cancer patients who have not responded to current hormonal agents. Roche said Seragon's so-called oral selective estrogen receptor degraders, or SERDs, would complement existing research and development programmes in breast cancer under way at the Swiss group's Genentech unit. The Basel-based drugmaker will pay \$725 million in cash and may hand over as much as \$1 billion more if Seragon achieves drug development milestones. Seragon is the second notable acquisition in as many months for Roche, which bought privately held US gene-sequencing firm Genia Technologies for up to \$350 million in June, securing access to a technology that should allow it to decipher human genes more quickly at a cheaper cost. The acquisition represents a response to investors who wondered how Roche might use its cash after paying down debt from acquiring Genentech. The transaction is expected to close in the third quarter of 2014.

CONFERENCES IN SWITZERLAND

01.09. – 31.01.2015

BioTech 2014

04.09.2014–05.09.2014

Grüntal Campus, Wädenswil

Interdisciplinary conference on bioprocess analytics and sensor technology.

The BioTech conference series has been successfully focusing on various topics in biotechnology for many years, bringing together scientists and professionals from both industry and academia.

<http://www.biotech2014.ch>

SCS Fall Meeting 2014

11.09.2014

University of Zurich-Irchel, Institute of Chemistry, Zurich

The Fall Meeting represents a major event for chemical research in Switzerland, offering a unique opportunity for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and senior scientists from academia and industry.

<http://www.scg.ch/fallmeeting2014>

ISC 2014

14.09.2014–18.09.2014

Salzburg Congress, Salzburg

30th International Symposium on Chromatography

The ISC series has established itself as one of the premier meetings for discussion and presentation of all modes of separation sciences such as gas chromatography, high performance liquid chromatography electro-driven separation techniques or supercritical fluid chromatography, to name but a few methodological topics.

<http://www.isc2014.at>

Applica 2014

18.09.2014

Kongresszentrum Oekolampad, Basel

Die APPLICA, ein praxisorientiertes Fachseminar, das sich an Anwender moderner Trenntechniken wendet, wird nun bereits zum 7. Mal durchgeführt.

Der Fokus ist dieses Mal auf die Entwicklung und Anwendung neuester stationärer Phasen sowie alternative Detektionsmethoden ausgerichtet. Eine Ausstellung ist integrierter Bestandteil des Seminarablaufes. Dadurch ist ein intensiver Kontakt zwischen Ausstellern und Teilnehmern garantiert, der durch Workshops weiter vertieft wird.

<http://www.applica-analytik.ch/>

MipTec 2014

23.09.2014–25.09.2014

Congress Center Basel, Basel

MipTec is Europe's leading event for Drug Discovery and Life Sciences Research and introduces new topical forums to cover an even broader range of these disciplines: Infectious diseases, drug discovery information management, and clinical development.

<http://www.miptec.ch>

3rd Japanese-Swiss Chemical Biology Symposium

02.10.2014–03.10.2014

Departement für Chemie und Biochemie, Hörsaal EG16, Bern

This event takes place to further promote scientific exchanges and collaboration between chemical biologists in Japan and Switzerland. The event will feature a poster session and approximately 20 short lectures.

SPICA 2014

05.10.2014–08.10.2014

Congress Center Messe Basel, Basel

15th International Symposium on Preparative and Industrial Chromatography and Allied Techniques

<http://www.spica2014.org>

11. Swiss Course on Medicinal Chemistry 2014

12.10.2014–17.10.2014

Mercure Classic Hotel, Leysin

This five-day Medicinal Chemistry School, that is organized by the Division of Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology of the Swiss Chemical Society, will focus on most modern aspects associated with small molecule drug discovery, highlighting the relevance of hit generation, lead finding and lead optimization technologies.

<http://scg.ch/leysin2014>

Ecochem, The Global Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering Event

11.11.2014–13.11.2014

Congress Center Basel, Basel

The meeting will aim to accelerate innovation, research, commercialisation and market uptake in design and production, as well as use of efficient, effective, safe and more environmentally benign chemical products and processes.

<http://www.ecochemex.com>

LECTURES

01.09.14–30.09.2014

University of Basel

Department of Chemistry, Kleiner Hörsaal OC

22.09.2014 *Prof. Sukbok Chang, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Korea*
17.30 h 'Development of Direct C-H Amination Reactions Based on Mechanistic Aspects'
SCS Lectureships
<http://scg.ch/scs-lectureships>

University of Bern

DCG, Room EG 16

17.09.2014 *Prof. Sukbok Chang, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Korea*
16.30 h 'Development of Direct C-H Amination Reactions Based on Mechanistic Aspects'
SCS Lectureships
<http://scg.ch/scs-lectureships>

Université Genève, Chimie organique

Auditoire A-100

04.09.2014 *Prof. Stephan Sieber, Technical University of Munich, Germany*
16.30 h Title to be announced

18.09.2014 *Prof. Sukbok Chang, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Korea*
16.30 h 'Development of Direct C-H Amination Reactions Based on Mechanistic Aspects'
SCS Lectureships
<http://scg.ch/scs-lectureships>

25.09.2014 *Prof. Thomas Schrader, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany*
16.30 h 'Supramolecular Chemistry on Proteins'

EPFL Lausanne
ISIC, BCH 2218

19.09.2014 *Prof. Sukbok Chang, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Korea*
17.15 h 'Development of Direct C-H Amination Reactions Based on Mechanistic Aspects'
SCS Lectureships
<http://scg.ch/scs-lectureships>

ETH Zurich, Laboratorium für Organische Chemie
ETH Hönggerberg, HCI J 7

23.09.2014 *Prof. Sukbok Chang, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Korea*
17.15 h 'Development of Direct C-H Amination Reactions Based on Mechanistic Aspects'
SCS Lectureships
<http://scg.ch/scs-lectureships>

The complete and updated lecture calendar is available on www.scg.ch.



Die Welt ist voll von Halbwissen.

Wenn man sich in unbekannte Gefilde begibt, sollte man auf alles vorbereitet sein. Besonders im sensiblen beruflichen Umfeld der Chemie ist Halbwissen fehl am Platz. Deshalb arbeiten wir seit 1947 mit Leidenschaft und Akribie daran, dass evaluierte Daten und Fakten rund um das Themenfeld Chemie zur Verfügung stehen. Immer. Und ohne Ausnahme. So wurde „Der RÖMPP“ Synonym für inzwischen über 62.000 Stichwörter, auf die man sich verlassen kann. Das sollten Sie sich am besten selbst anschauen.

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