



SCS
Swiss Chemical
Society

Community News

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www.chemanager-online.com

SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

SCS Anniversary Members 2019



More than 80 of our members celebrate a special anniversary as SCS member this year. We like to express our special thank to Karl Heusler, Rudolf Anliker-Volkamer and Otto G. Rohr, who joined SCS in 1949 and congratulate them for being with us for 70 years.

Thank you all for your support and your loyalty throughout the years.

Member for 70 years

Karl Heusler, Basel
Rudolf Anliker-Volkamer, Binningen
Otto G. Rohr, Auenstein

Member for 50 years

Jean-Claude Bünzli, Lausanne
Ursula Bünzli-Trepp, Cugy
Martin Roth, Hölstein
Robert Egli, Magden
Peter Rüedi, Gockhausen
Heinz Heimgartner, Zurich
Helmut Werner, Würzburg (D)
Oskar Pfister, Uznach
Charles W. Jefford, Bogis-Bossey

Member for 40 years

André Chollet, Tannay
Henri Stalder, Basel
John Paul Maier, Basel
René Lattmann, Oberwil
Andreas Amrein, Winterthur
Michel Schurter-Moser, Wetzikon
Thomas Fuhrer, Bern

Member for 30 years

Bruno Martinoni, Zurich
Thomas R. Ward, Basel
Georg Süss-Fink, Kronburg (D)
Bernard Lucien Roy, Fribourg
Antonio Togni, Russikon
Hans Peter Wessel, Schliengen
Francesco Fuso, Therwil
Sylvain Cottens, Witterswil
Reto Naef, Rheinfelden
Wilfried Bauer, Laufelden
Peter Bläuenstein, Hausen
Franz Wombacher, Jonen
Alfred Giger, Möhlin
Rudolf Zahradnik, Prague (CZ)
Peter Göllitz, Weinheim (D)
Wolfgang Miltz, Basel

Roel Prins, Zurich
Philippe Guerry, Binningen
Robert Deschenaux, La Chaux-de-Fonds
Rolf Gueller, Füllinsdorf
Claudia Betschart, Basel
Hans Walter Rich, Aarburg

Member for 20 years

Bernhard Erb, Gipf-Oberfrick
Stefan Abele, Bottmingen
Carlo Thilgen, Zurich
Anne Dimitrov-Wagenknecht, Bernex
Thomas Häfeli, Reichenburg
Marco S. Passafaro, Thayngen
Daniel Rentsch, Zurich
Monika Mergler, Liestal
Jonathan Hall, Dornach
Helma Wennemers, Zurich
Achim Schlapbach, Basel
Donald Hilvert, Zurich
Martin Bossart, Frankfurt (D)
Marc-Olivier Ebert, Zurich
Pierre Brodard, Bern
Christophe Zeder, Zurich
Anna Seelig, Riehen
Serge Parel, Kaiseraugst
Holger Sellner, Buchs
Christian Jenny, Basel
Gábor Laurenczy, Lonay
Thierry Meyer, Lausanne
Ursula Röthlisberger, Lausanne
Gerhard Schiefer, Buggingen (D)
Bernhard C. Pfeiffer, Zurich
Reinhard Kissner, Männedorf
Pierre-Alain Muller, Fribourg
Philipp Ermert, Allschwil
Thomas Spielmann, Zurich

IAESTE – Your partner for international exchange



The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) is an organization for the exchange of students at higher education institutions wishing to obtain technical experience abroad. The aim of IAESTE is to provide science & engineering students with training experience abroad that is relevant to their studies

and to offer Swiss employers well-qualified and motivated foreign trainees to be a source of cultural enrichment for trainees and their host employers.

The Battery Electrodes and Cells group at the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI), led by Dr. Sigita Trabesinger, has been a host for IAESTE internships since several years, providing scientific training experience to exchange students. In the 2019 within the

scope of the IAESTE internship, fundamental investigation on the gassing of sodium-ion cells was defined as a project topic. The talented and motivated IAESTE student Chrysi Tsolakidou came from Greece to devote 3 months of her time to new and very challenging topics in sodium-ion batteries, under supervision of Dr. Leiting Zhang. Chrysi has fully committed to the project and made substantial progress understanding gassing processes and stability of interphases in Na-ion batteries, which even resulted in her presenting a poster within 8th SCCER Heat and Electricity Storage Symposium. The main tool for this investigation was the online electrochemical mass spectrometry (OEMS) technique, used to monitor the gas release of the cell in real time. Miss Chrysi's main task was to learn how to make sodium-ion cells, designed specifically for operando gas analysis and how to interpret the experimental results, in order to shed light on the performance degradation mechanism in sodium batteries.

Dr. Sigita Trabesinger underlines the win-win situation for both parties: "IAESTE Switzerland is doing great job by uniting young, curious students with research laboratories to a mutual benefit."

Chrysi Tsolakidou from Greece describes her positive internship experience as follows: "My name is Chrysi and I have recently graduated from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece) with a Master's in Chemical Engineering. After finishing with my studies, I was very keen on finding a new opportunity to work abroad in an international environment and gain professional experience. I got a three-month internship through IAESTE in Switzerland, at PSI and started on September. My project was a comparative research study on the Solid Electrolyte Interface (SEI) stability in both Li-ion and Na-ion batteries. Coming to the end of my internship here, I would say that this experience exceeded any of my expectations. Not only did I expand my knowledge about electrochemistry and batteries in general, but also I had the opportunity to apply this knowledge using experimental methods and new instrumentation technologies. I also learnt how to appropriately interpret and present results and I had the chance to present my work at the 8th Symposium Heat and Electricity Storage Symposium in EMPA, Zurich. Except those, my internship included a lot of travelling during weekends all around Switzerland and I made a lot of new friends (IAESTE interns) from all over the world who inspired me, shared their cultures and made me see the world from a different perspective. It was once in a lifetime experience and I would definitely recommend it to every student!"

Interested in foreign interns as well?

By employing a foreign trainee ...

... you enlarge your international network.

... you strengthen the intercultural competence of your team and enrich your daily working life.

... you contribute to the promotion of Swiss students as young professionals, as for each internship in Switzerland, one internship abroad will be available for a Swiss student.

<https://www.iaeste.ch/swiss-employers/student-placement/>

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



Period: 25.10.–14.11.2019

Claudio Battilocchio, Münchwilen - Alexander Bork, Zurich - Jian Chen, Zurich - Giorgio Domenichini, Basel - Felix Donat, Zurich - Dario Faust Akl, Zurich - Nora Grundmann, Zurich - Michael Heilmann, Basel - Michael Hope, Lausanne - Kuang-Jung Hsu, Sion - Lukas Lätsch, Zurich - Gabriel Laude,

Zurich - Giancarlo Luongo, Zurich - Adrien Madron du Vigné, Lausanne - Dieuwertje Modder, Lausanne - Emanuele Moioli, Sion - Kaviani Moloud, Bern - Pierre-Adrien Payard, Zurich - Eva Perkovic, Zurich - Margarita Rekhina, Zurich - Alexandre Rod, Fribourg - Li Shaoxian, Sion - Puck van Gerwen, Basel - Jan Weinreich, Basel - Elena Willinger, Zurich - Lenny Winkel, Zurich - Rhiannon Audrey Zarotiadis, Zurich.

SCS AWARD WINNERS 2020



It's our pleasure to announce the winners of the 2020 SCS Awards. We would like to sincerely congratulate all winners for their outstanding scientific contributions, and we are looking forward to the award ceremonies and lectures that will take place at one of our upcoming SCS events. The winners of the SCS Industrial Science Award Program and the Metas

Award will be announced in early 2020.

scg.ch/awards

The Swiss Chemical Society honors the following awardees:

Paracelsus Prize 2020

Prof. Scott E. Denmark,

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (USA),

for his role as internationally recognized leader in the development of novel concepts of catalysis, of very useful synthetic methods, and insightful mechanistic investigations in organic chemistry.

The award lecture will take place at the SCS Fall Meeting in Bern on August 24, 2020.

scg.ch/paracelsus

Werner Prize 2020

Prof. Konrad Tiefenbacher,

University of Basel / ETH Zurich,

for his innovative and original research in the field of supramolecular catalysis with focus on catalysis inside supramolecular containers, so called 'capsules'.

The award lecture will take place at the SCS Fall Meeting in Bern on August 25, 2020.

scg.ch/werner

Sandmeyer Prize 2020

Dr. Andreas Schuster, Dr. Philipp Schmidt, Dr. Régis Mondière, Dr. Isabelle Thomé, Dr. Christian Lautz, Dr. Hans Iding, Dr. Stephan Bachmann, from the Ipatasertib Team at F. Hoffmann La-Roche, and **Dr. Christoph Strasser** from Dottikon Exclusive Synthesis AG for the development of an economical, scalable and sustainable process to produce Ipatasertib, an Akt kinase inhibitor currently tested in Phase III clinical trials for the treatment of metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer and triple negative metastatic breast cancer.

The award lecture will take place at the SCS Fall Meeting in Bern on August 25, 2020 and at the Freiburger Symposium in May 2021.

<https://scg.ch/sandmeyer>

Balmer Prize 2020

Dr. Hans-Ueli Ehrensperger,

Kantonsschule Frauenfeld

als Auszeichnung seines Lebenswerks als Chemielehrer.

scg.ch/balmer

Dr. Max Lüthi Award 2020**Herr Nicola Christian Lüdi**

Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften, Wädenswil, für seine Bachelorarbeit «Immobilisierung von PETase auf elektrogesponnenen Cellulose-Nanofasermatten zum Abbau von Mikroplastik»
scg.ch/max-luethi

HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS**Mildred Dresselhaus Prize for Prof. Signorell, ETH Zurich**

Prof. Ruth Signorell from the ETH Zurich is awarded the Mildred Dresselhaus Senior Award 2019 of the Hamburg Centre for Ultrafast Imaging (CUI). The award recognizes her contributions to the fundamental understanding of the physical and chemical properties of aerosols and nanoparticles. The prize is also linked to the Mildred Dresselhaus

Guest Professorship at CUI that includes longer research stays at the cluster of excellence “CUI: Advanced Imaging of Matter” and a prize money of €20,000.

Source: chab.ethz.ch and cui-advanced.uni-hamburg.de

Ruzicka Prize for Dmitry Katayev, ETH Zurich

The Ruzicka Prize 2019 has been awarded to **Dmitry Katayev**, Group Leader in the Laboratory of Inorganic Chemistry at the Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences at ETH Zurich. He was honored for his excellent new synthetic methods with easily accessible and bench-stable reagents.

Katayev is awarded for his research on catalytic functional group transfer reactions using easily accessible and bench stable reagents. He filed two patent applications on the topic of nitration. This methodology is currently being offered for licensing by ETH transfer. In recognition of his outstanding achievements, ETH Zurich is awarding Katayev the Ruzicka Prize 2019, which includes the Ruzicka Medal and a prize money of CHF 10,000.

Source: chab.ethz.ch, By: Joachim Schnabl

2020 Advances in Measurement Science Lectureship Awarded to Prof. deMello, ETH Zurich

Prof. Andrew deMello, ETH Zurich, was awarded one of three 2020 Advances in Measurement Science Lectureship Award from the ACS Sensors, Analytical Chemistry, Journal of Proteome Research, and the ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry, representing Europe/Middle East/Africa.

These awards honor the contributions of three individuals from three major geographic regions – the Americas, Europe/ Middle East/Africa, and Asia-Pacific – who have made a major recent impact in the field of measurement

science. Winners are selected based on their lecture abstracts and their research output during the past five years. While each of the award winners has different backgrounds and countries of origin, they all have contributed significantly to measurement science.

Award recipients will be presented with a plaque and have the opportunity to speak at the 3rd symposium on Advances in Measurement at Pittcon 2020 in Chicago, Illinois, in early March 2020. Recipients will also receive \$3,000.

Source: chab.ethz.ch and axial.acs.org

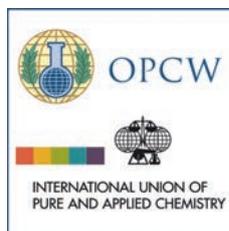
Two international recognitions for Prof. Eric Carreira, ETH Zurich

On November 8, 2019, **Prof. Erick Carreira** held the 6th Barluenga Lecture entitled “Synthesis as an Enabling Tool” at the University of Oviedo in Spain. He was awarded the Barluenga Medal 2019.

On October 21 and 22, 2019, Prof. Erick Carreira held the Carl Shipp Marvel Lectures in Organic Chemistry at the University of Illinois, Urbana Cham-

paign. The annual lectureship hosts internationally recognized senior researchers in the field of organic chemistry.

Source: chab.ethz.ch

IUPAC is one of the Recipients of the 2019 OPCW-The Hague Award

The Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), H.E. Mr Fernando Arias, is pleased to announce the decision of the OPCW-The Hague Award Committee to honour Dr Robert Mikulak (United States of America); Mr Cheng Tang (People's Republic of China); and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemis-

try (IUPAC) as joint recipients of the 2019 OPCW–The Hague Award.

The award ceremony will be held on 25 November in The Hague, during the first day of the Twenty-Fourth Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

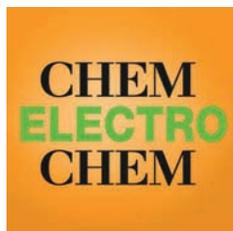
IUPAC has contributed to providing the OPCW with objective scientific knowledge on emerging areas of science related to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), as well as carrying out education and outreach activities to chemistry practitioners and the general public.

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) is an international federation of chemists that was established in 1919. Consisting of members, associates, and affiliate institutions from around the world, the organisation played an instrumental role in the development and promotion of The Hague Ethical Guidelines on Chemistry. IUPAC has actively cooperated with the OPCW to produce educational materials, teaching modules and joint-OPCW symposia on CWC related topics. A strong advocate for the peaceful uses of chemistry, IUPAC has provided extensive and longstanding support to the OPCW in promoting the objectives of the CWC.

Sources: www.opcw.org/media-centre/news
www.iupac.org/news

JOURNAL NEWS

ChemElectroChem: Special Collection on Bioelectrochemistry

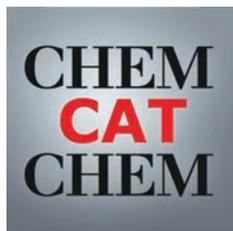


Guest-edited by Wolfgang Schuhmann, José Pingarrón, and Tomokazu Matsue, ChemElectroChem is proud to present this Special Collection highlighting the latest developments in all aspects of bioelectrochemistry. This collection is published in honour of Professor Lo Gorton of Lund University (Sweden) on the occasion of his 70th birthday. With a special

tribute to Lo Gorton by Paolo Bollella, Carlo Santoro, Pierangela Cristiani, and Plamen Atanasov.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/celec.201900945>

ChemCatChem: Special Issue on New Concepts in Homogeneous Catalysis



Guest-edited by Lutz Ackermann and Jean-Baptiste Sortais, ChemCatChem's latest Special Issue focuses on New Concepts in Homogeneous Catalysis. Discover how homogeneous catalysis can meet and overcome the current challenges in the field, ranging from the valorization of biomass and the formation of advanced materials to the synthesis of

sustainable fuels, and the step-economical preparation of novel value-added chemicals. Enjoy free access until December 31, 2019.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/18673899/2019/11/21>

New Co-Owners for Chemistry Preprint Server ChemRxiv



The Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh, German Chemical Society), the American Chemical Society (ACS), and the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) have announced a partnership with the Chinese Chemical Society (CCS) and the Chemical Society of Japan (CSJ) as co-owners to support the strategic and financial development of ChemRxiv, a

preprint server for the global chemistry community.

Authors working across all fields of chemistry can post their research findings to the server ahead of formal peer review and publication. The service is free of charge, features easy submission, and supports a wide variety of file formats. ChemRxiv submission includes a process that checks for plagiarism and scientific integrity.

ChemRxiv is supported, developed, and led by societies representing the global chemistry research community. Close collaboration between the five societies aims to ensure the sustainability of this service and present a clear path to broader engagement with authors and readers of the service.

[ChemRxiv.org](https://chemrxiv.org)

Source: [ChemistryViews.org](https://chemistryviews.org)

Helvetica, Volume 102, Issue 11, November 2019



Reviews

5-*exo* versus 6-*endo* Thiyl-Radical Cyclizations in Organic Synthesis
Ruairí McCourt, Eoin M. Scanlan

Synthesis of Organometallic Compounds in Flow
Tuan Zhao, Laurent Micouin, Riccardo Piccardi

Full Papers

Polysiloxanes Modified by Thiol-Ene Reaction and Their Interaction with Gold Nanoparticles

Stéphane Lemonier, Jean-Daniel Marty, Juliette Fitremann

Synthesis of Functionalized Novel α -Amino- β -alkoxyphosphonates through Regioselective Ring Opening of Aziridine-2-phosphonates

Sidika Polat-Cakir, Nurzhan Beksultanova, Özdemir Dogan

Total Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of Heliolactone
Masahiko Yoshimura, Raymonde Fonné-Pfister, Claudio Screpanti, Katrin Hermann, Stefano Rendine, Michael Dieckmann, Pierre Quinodoz, Alain De Mesmaeker

onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15222675/



Season's Greetings

Many thanks to all our members, partners, board members and co-workers who support us throughout the year. Merci!

May this holiday season sparkle and shine, may all of your wishes and dreams come true, and may you feel this happiness all year round.

All the best for 2020 and Happy New Year!

Your team from the SCS Office
Sarah, Gillian, Robert,
Hans Peter & David



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INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: www.chemanager-online.com

Drone Strike may Impact Aramco's Output

October 29, 2019: Saudi chemicals giant Sabic has quantified the impact of September's drone attack on oil facilities of its now almost-parent company Saudi Aramco last month at 400,000-500,000 t of product. In presenting Sabic's third quarter financial results, CEO Youself Al-Benyan answered questions that journalists and financial analysts had been asking recently. Speculation has focused on the refinery damage as one of several possible reasons for the latest postponement of Aramco's long planned and long delayed initial public offering (ipo). Speaking to journalists, Al-Benyan said the financial impact of the attack on Aramco is not expected to be significant. If there was any impairment, it would come in the fourth quarter. Aramco is acquiring Sabic in a \$69.1 billion deal sealed earlier this year at the urging of the Saudi government, which wants to see its flagship oil producer move downstream into refining and petrochemical production. The economic environment for petrochemicals as well as oil was "challenging" in the third quarter, the Sabic CEO conceded. Slower global growth coupled with additional new capacities coming on stream had a negative impact on business as falling oil prices simultaneously put downward pressure on petrochemical prices. Sabic said it took a 1.5 billion riyal impairment charge on its 25% investment in Swiss specialty chemicals producer Clariant. With economic growth projected to be lower this year than last, Sabic management expects the challenges to earnings in the third quarter to persist for the rest of the year, Reuters reported. Al-Benyan said the company continues to review the value of all its assets as part of its annual planning. "We think the next quarter could be worse," Prithish Devassy, head of equity research at Al Rajhi Capital, told Reuters. "Next quarter could be the bottom for earnings for the petrochemicals sector."

Stada Takes Part of Takeda's CIS Portfolio

November 17, 2019: In the largest acquisition in the company's history, German generics producer Stada is paying \$660 million to take some of the over-the-counter and prescription drugs portfolio of Japanese pharmaceuticals giant Takeda marketed in Russia, Georgia and several other countries belonging to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The pick-up, which broadens the German company's existing offerings in the region while further expanding its consumer health business, encompasses around 20 of Takeda's assets in the countries, including OTC vitamins and food supplements as well as drugs in cardiovascular, diabetes, general medicine and respiratory therapeutic areas. Among the medicines changing hands are blood clot buster Cardiomagnyl (magnesium hydroxide), which was acquired by

Takeda in its 2011 takeover of Nycomed buyout and is regarded as a key growth driver. Other products planned to transfer are the diabetes treatment Nesina, which is still patent-protected, and blood pressure drug Edarbi. Some 500 current Takeda employees in sales and marketing are expected to move to Stada when the transaction completes at the end of the 2020 first quarter. The Japanese drugmaker will continue to manufacture the drugs for Stada. The deal with the German company is Takeda's fourth divestment in the past six months, and the Japanese player said it contributes to its goal of divesting around \$10 billion worth of non-core assets to focus on its five key business areas while additionally reflecting its commitment to accelerating its deleveraging following its acquisition of Shire. Other deals Takeda has inked over the past months include the divestment of Xiidra to Novartis for up to \$5.3 billion in July and the sale of TachoSil to Ethicon for \$400 million in May. In October, it announced the divestment of non-core assets in the Middle East and Africa to Switzerland's Acino International for more \$200 million. Stada has been on the acquisition trail this year, most recently announcing plans to buy Czech Republic-headquartered Walmark for an undisclosed sum. The Czech company employing more than 540 people is said to have a "market-leading" consumer health portfolio in central Europe. The German drugmaker also recently bought six OTC brands, including five skin care products and a pediatric cough remedy, from GlaxoSmithKline as the British market leader moves to divest its consumer health portfolio.

Adama in JV with China's Huifeng Prior to Takeover

November 8, 2019: Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in January, Adama and China's Jiangsu Huifeng Bio Agriculture have now entered into a joint venture in advance of a larger transaction in which the Israeli agrochemicals group envisages acquiring Huifeng's overall business. In this first step, Adama will pay \$53 million in cash to take a 50% share in Huifeng's wholly owned subsidiary Shanghai Dibai Plant Protection, which sells and distributes formulated crop protection products in China. The deal is subject to the completion of an appraisal report and also contingent on Huifeng resuming the majority of its formulation activities and entering into definitive agreements for the overall transaction. The JV is expected to be finalized before the end of Q1 2020. As equal shareholders, Adama and Huifeng will jointly manage the company and have equal representation on the board of directors. Adama, however, will be responsible for setting the JV's commercial, marketing and branding direction. With sales of around \$75 million, Shanghai Dibai has a portfolio of more than 150 product registrations. Under the terms of the transaction, the Chinese company will obtain the exclusive, indefinite, royalty-free rights to license Huifeng's existing and future registrations in China, while also conducting all sales of formulated products in the country. "This strategic commercial joint venture is a significant milestone in our ongoing, rapid expansion in China and will significantly bolster our commercial

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activities, posting and offering in this key crop protection market,” said An Liru, Adama’s senior vice president China. Hui-feng’s chairman Zong Hagen added that the collaboration with Adama will also lead to the “significant expansion of the global market for Hui-feng’s innovative products and solutions.” In separate news, Adama announced it is to acquire French-Swiss crop protection company SFP – its second acquisition in Europe so far this year. Based in Aix-en-Provence in France and in Sion, Switzerland, the company has “strong, focused” positions in key products in Europe, notably in the plant growth regulator and fungicide segments. The European market for plant growth regulators, which are widely used in agriculture and gardening, is worth \$375 million, according to Adama. The Tel Aviv-headquartered group said SFP’s products are highly complementary to its European portfolio and are “poised to drive significant growth” for Adama going forward. In addition, Adama already manufactures certain active ingredients in SFP’s products and noted the backward integration would provide benefits such as competitive costs, quality assurance and traceability. “SFP has built an attractive portfolio of straight and differentiated mixture products that have carved out compelling positions in France and other key European countries. We are now looking forward to taking the business to the next level, leveraging our commercial presence across Europe,” said Bertrand Lombard, Adama vice president Southern Europe. The transaction is expected to close within the coming weeks. Just days ago, Adama also announced the purchase of Peruvian crop protection company AgroKlinge. This deal is also anticipated to close within the next few weeks.

Lonza CEO Marc Funk Quits Unexpectedly

November 13, 2019: Marc Funk resigned as CEO of Lonza on Nov. 12, citing personal reasons, after only eight months at the helm of the Swiss CDMO. The news took most observers and investors by surprise, and the company’s share price gave up 4.5%. Chief operating officer of the company’s Pharma & Biotech segment for seven years, Funk took over as CEO from Richard Ridinger at the beginning of March 2019. He will continue in the job until January 2020, when he will be succeeded by Lonza’s board chairman Albert Baehny as the search for a new chief executive continues. Board member Christoph Maeder meanwhile has been appointed lead independent director. Funk is credited with spearheading the expansion of Lonza’s role in biopharma, in particular its gene therapy capabilities. The smaller Specialty Ingredients business (LSI) has lagged, and in July 2019, the company announced plans to separate the two businesses, with LSI remaining wholly owned by the Swiss parent. The separation process is due to be completed by mid-2020, with 130 jobs being shed. Lonza said earlier that the proposed layoffs would be lim-

ited to LSI and support functions without impacting the newly realigned Pharma Biotech & Nutrition segment. In the first half of 2019, LSI reported a sales decline in of 3.8%. However, the segment’s core EBITDA margin improved by 20 basis points to 19%, despite what management said were raw material price increases, supply chain challenges and negative cyclical impacts. On the back of 11% sales growth, Pharma Biotech & Nutrition, including the Consumer Health & Nutrition business transferred from Specialty Ingredients, increased its core EBITDA by nearly 10%. Among other strategic projects, over the past 12 months, Lonza has opened what it calls the world’s largest site dedicated to the production of cell and gene therapies at Pearland, Texas, in the US. In summer, it expanded its bioconjugation facilities in Visp, Switzerland. Given the relatively solid operational backdrop, analysts expressed doubt that problems at the company were a factor in the CEO’s early departure, though some speculated that there may have been differences between Lonza’s management and board. Some noted that Ridinger’s departure early this year was unexpected; the German executive had been in the position for seven years, however.

IMCD Buys Whawon and DCS Pharma

November 14, 2019: Dutch distributor IMCD has signed two separate deals to acquire companies in South Korea and Switzerland. The first is to buy 57% of the shares in Seoul-based distributor Whawon Pharma; the remaining 43% will be retained by the management for up to five years after the deal closes. Whawon is a leading pharmaceutical distributor in South Korea with a focus on formulation ingredients. The company employs 54 people and generated revenue of around €44 million in 2018. John Robinson, IMCD business group director pharmaceuticals, commented: “Whawon are leaders in the supply of excipients and active pharmaceutical ingredients and their business perfectly complements our leading global pharmaceutical position. We are dedicated to expand into the other regulatory markets of personal care and food.” IMCD’s second transaction is to acquire, in two steps, all of the shares in Basel-based distributor DCS Pharma. The distributor will take a 90% stake upon fulfillment of the purchase conditions and will acquire the remaining 10% as per Dec. 31, 2021. DCS Pharma was founded in 2016 by two Swiss pharmaceutical distributors, Dolder and ChemSwiss. The company operates in eight markets including Spain, Italy, Germany, Mexico and China, and generated revenue of 68 million Swiss francs in 2018. In separate news, IMCD announced on Nov. 1 that it had completed the integration of E.T. Horn into its US operations. The distributor acquired Horn in August 2018. Horn’s former headquarters in La Mirada, California, now serve as the Western US regional hub for IMCD.