



SCS
Swiss Chemical
Society

Community News

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SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

SCS General Assembly and SCS Spring Meeting postponed



Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the latest developments in Switzerland and abroad in March 2020 the SCS Spring Meeting and the SCS General Assembly were cancelled.

The General Assembly 2020 will take place in the Haus der Akademien, Laupenstrasse 7, 3008 Bern on June 24, 2020, 16.30h - 17.00h.

You can either participate onsite or via Zoom video conference platform, meeting-ID: 990 262 974, Password: 031034.

The 2021 edition of the SCS Spring Meeting will keep the topic of 'Chemistry and the Environment' and will be organized at FHNW Muttens on April 15, 2021. We hope to see you then.

EuChemS published the 2019 Year Book

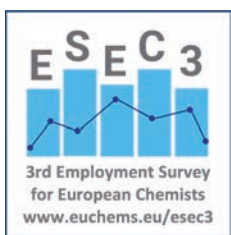


EuChemS has published the 2019 Year Book, an annual report which looks back on the activities and achievements carried out by the European Chemical Society and its community over the year. The Year Book includes an editorial by EuChemS President Pilar Goya, and articles by former President David Cole-Hamilton, Secretary General Nineta Hrstelj,

and former Science Communication and Policy Officer, Alex Schiphorst. Divided between chapters, the Year Book explores the 2019 initiatives and actions in policy areas, meetings and events, as well as awards and the International Year of the Periodic Table, with much more besides.

euchems.eu/euchems-publishes-2019-year-book/

ESEC3 – The 3rd employment Survey for European Chemists



The 3rd Employment Survey for European Chemists of the European Chemical Society (EuChemS) is open until 30 April 2020. This survey is open for all chemists and chemical engineers. Participation in this Europe-wide survey will help build a broad yet precise picture of the employment and salary situation of chemists and possibly reveal other cross-cutting issues.

EuChemS invites you to complete the questionnaire and to share it.

ESEC3 is jointly organised with the 2020 Comprehensive Salary and Employment Survey of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and supported by the European Young Chemists' Network (EYCN), European Chemistry Thematic Network Association (ECTN), the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic), and by the European Federation of Managerial Staff in the Chemical and Allied Industries (FECCIA).

euchems.eu/esec3/

ECHA launched the EU Chemicals Legislation Finder



The EU Chemicals Legislation Finder (EUCLEF) is the European Chemicals Agency – ECHA's new online service to access an overview of 40 pieces of EU chemicals legislation. This online service was launched on 11 March and is free to access.

The purpose of EUCLEF is to offer organizations a better understanding on their obligations across different UE laws, by compiling them in one place. It includes legislations on occupational health and safety, environment, product control and many more. EUCLEF also comes with a dedicated regulatory advice service that helps companies on the content of different legislation and related regulatory obligations.

echa.europa.eu

Call for Nominations: Ruzicka-Prize 2020



The Ruzicka-Prize is awarded each year to a young scientist for her/his outstanding, published contribution in the field of chemistry, achieved either in Switzerland or by a Swiss citizen abroad.

Proposals for candidates (age limit 40 years) may be submitted written or e-mail until September 6th, 2020 (date of receipt) to the

ETH Zurich
Departement Chemie und Angewandte Biowissenschaften
D-CHAB

Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Altmann

Vladimir-Prelog-Weg 2

HCI H 207/209

CH-8093 Zurich

karl-heinz.altmann@pharma.ethz.ch

chab.ethz.ch/outreach/oeffentlichkeitsarbeit/ruzicka-preis.html

Call for Nominations: European Young Chemist Award 2020

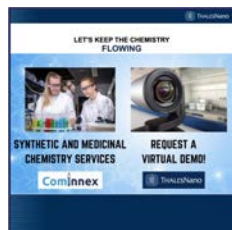


The aim of the European Young Chemist Award (EYCA) is to showcase and recognize the excellent research being carried out by young scientists working in the chemical sciences. In particular the award is intended to honor and encourage younger chemists whose current research displays a high level of excellence and distinction. It seeks to recognize and reward younger chemists of exceptional ability who show promise for substantial future achievements in chemistry-related research fields.

The European Young Chemist Awards (EYCA), which are sponsored by the Italian Chemical Society, the Italian Consiglio Nazionale dei Chimici and EuChemS (European Chemical Society), are given every two years during the EuChemS Chemistry Congress.

The application form will be open until 15 May, 2020.
[euchems.eu/awards/european-young-chemists-award/](https://www.euchems.eu/awards/european-young-chemists-award/)

Two new online programs: Let's Keep the Chemistry flowing



Even in these historic times we at ThalesNano and its sister company ComInnex believe that we should make everything in our power to keep the chemistry flowing and prepare for the world that comes after the Covid-19 pandemic. For this reason, we are launching two programs:

- At ThalesNano: We have established a new virtual demo team. With interactive live-streamed chemistry demonstrations we are able to help you make an informed decision about selecting the right instrument for their needs. We also offer video install guides and virtual, remote installation remote services for our customers. For details please contact us at sales@thalesnano.com!
- At ComInnex: Synthetic and medicinal chemistry services to keep projects moving. Our labs are so far operating normally so if you are having to put projects on hold we can help. To facilitate this we guarantee rapid onboarding with 24-hour contract or quote turnaround, projects of any size (small or large) on FTE or fixed fee basis, preferential rates. Please contact sales@cominnex.com for more information.

thalesnano.com

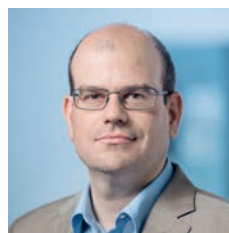
A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



Period: 25.02.–24.03.2020
 Pascal Becker, Zurich - Ihor Cherniukh, Zurich - Jonathan De Roo, Basel - Patrick Walter Fritz, Fribourg - Felix Harttrampf, Basel - Patrick Müller, Wädenswil - Geoffroy Rose, Eschentzwiller - Joanna Rupacher, Dübendorf - Xiaoyu Zhou, Zurich.

HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

Prof. Katharina Fromm, University of Fribourg, and Prof. Karl Gademann, University of Zurich, awarded the Chemistry Europe Fellowship



Chemistry Europe (CE) announce 37 new Fellows, who are nominated to honour their extraordinary support and service to CE and the societies. The Fellowship is the highest award given by Chemistry Europe and this year the nomination of the Fellows will be celebrated at a reception during the 8th EuChemS Chemistry Congress in Lisbon.

Please meet the Chemistry Europe Fellows, Class 2018/2019:

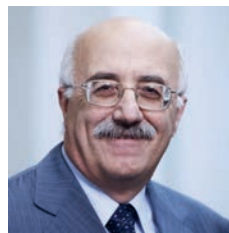
Ana Albéniz (Spain), Annette Beck-Sickinger (Germany), Matthias Bickelhaupt (Netherlands), Silvia Bordiga (Italy), Uwe T. Bornscheuer (Germany), Bas de Bruin (Belgium), Anthony J. Burke (Portugal), Gilberte Chambaud (France), Benoît Champagne (Belgium),

Iris Cornet (Belgium), Pier Giorgio Cozzi (Italy), Gianluca Farinola (Italy), Ivana Fleischer (Slovakia), **Katharina Fromm (Switzerland)**, **Karl Gademann (Switzerland)**, Piet Herdewyn (Belgium), Nicola Hüsing (Austria), Lene Hviid, (Netherlands), Ferenc Joó (Hungary), Karl Anker Jørgensen (Denmark), Burkhard König (Germany), Martin Kotora, (Czech Republic), Mário Nuno de Matos Sequeira Berberan E Santos (Portugal), Ronald Micura (Austria), Viktor Milata (Slovakia), Jean-François Nierengarten (France), Marcin Opałło (Polen), Pedro J. Pérez (Spain), Amélia Pilar Rauter (Portugal), Vladimír Šindelár (Czech Republic), Agneta Sjögren (Sweden), Matthieu Solligoub (France), Peter Somfai (Sweden), Sir J. Fraser Stoddart (US), Nikos Tagmatarchis (Greece), Tomás Torres (Spain), Anna Trzeciak (Polen).

The Chemistry Europe Fellows Program was established in 2015 under the name ChemPubSoc Europe Fellowship. In that year 35 chemists were honoured; in 2018 another 37 chemists were recognized for their outstanding support as authors, advisors, guest editors, referees as well as their service to their national chemical societies.

Source: chemistry-europe.org

Benjamin Franklin Medal for Prof. Michele Parrinello, ETH Zurich



Prof. Michele Parrinello, Professor for Computational Science at ETH Zurich, has received the 2020 Benjamin Franklin Medal together with Roberto Car from Princeton University for inventing an efficient computational method by combining molecular dynamics simulation and electronic structure calculations.

Since 1824, the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia honors researchers for their outstanding and pioneering achievements in science, industry and engineering.

Source: chab.ethz.ch

JOURNAL NEWS

ChemPubSoc Europe becomes Chemistry Europe: a new look for a new future



ChemPubSoc Europe announced the re-branding to Chemistry Europe (CE) on March 31, 2020. It is unveiling a new identity and a renewed purpose, fit for the future of chemistry and of publishing.

Founded 25 years ago with the creation of Chemistry A European Journal, now the societies' flagship publication,

Chemistry Europe is an association of 16 European chemical societies, including the Swiss Chemical Society, representing over 75,000 chemists.

The redefining of our core values and visual representation of our identity has been in motion since June 2018, driven by a team made up of stakeholders from our societies, our Council and from our publishing partner Wiley-VCH. During the project, researchers and society members were asked about what they value and what they need from their scientific community, learned societies and scholarly journals: the result is Chemistry Europe.

'To ensure we continue to grow our successful publishing partnership into the future, we have been working together, to redefine our identity and to reflect on our core values and mission. Our aim is to maximise the impact of Chemistry Europe and its journals now and into the future by sharing the broadest range of quality chemistry research to researchers and practitioners across the globe.' Jan-Willem Toering, Director of KNCV, the Royal Netherlands Chemical Society, and member of the Chemistry Europe Council.

'Our 16 journals are at the heart of what we do and what we stand for, so to be launching their new identity is a landmark occasion for us. It clearly showcases the journals as a family, encompassing a very broad range of chemistry disciplines, offering vital research to address global issues such as climate change and energy consumption.' Professor Dr Wolfram Koch, Executive Director of GDCh, the German Chemical Society, and member of the Chemistry Europe Council.

'We are delighted to have worked so closely with the societies on this project and feel privileged to have been publishing partners for 25 years. We move forwards together ready to embrace the open future of science, chemistry and publishing.' Guido Herrmann, VP and Managing Director, Wiley-VCH.

About Chemistry Europe

Founded in 1995 as ChemPubSoc Europe, Chemistry Europe is an association of 16 European chemical societies, representing over 75,000 chemists. Our mission is to evaluate, publish, disseminate and amplify the scientific excellence of chemistry researchers from around the globe in high-quality publications. We support our members at every stage of their careers as they strive to solve the challenges that impact humankind. We value integrity, openness, diversity, cooperation and freedom of thought. chemistry-europe.org.

Helvetica, Volume 103, Issue 3, March 2020



Full Papers

The Enantiomers of Trinorbornane and Derivatives Thereof

Lorenzo Delarue Bizzini, Thomas Bürgi, Marcel Mayor

Synthesis and Incorporation of k^2U into RNA

Thomas Carell, Milda Nainytė

onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15222675/

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: www.chemanager-online.com

DSM Acquires Denmark's Glycom

February 25, 2020: DSM has agreed to buy Danish biotech Glycom for €765 million. The Horsholm-headquartered company regards itself as the world's leading supplier of human milk oligosaccharides (HMOs). The transaction is expected to close in the second quarter of 2020. Glycom operates a manufacturing plant in Esbjerg, which it said is the world's largest HMO facility. The company also operates a small plant at an undisclosed location in the US. HMOs are a collection of carbohydrate structures found in human breast milk that act as prebiotics in infants, serving as feed for good bacteria in the intestine. With a staff of more than 150 employees, Glycom posted sales of €74 million in 2019, predominantly generated with food and beverage giant Nestlé. The Swiss group is a "strategic" stakeholder in Glycom along with its founders, Danica Pension and various other, mostly Danish, individual investors. DSM said Nestlé will continue to be an important customer in the future with a "mutually benefi-

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cial” long-term contract in place and firmly committed volumes covering the mid-term horizon. “Our companies have a great fit together, with a shared passion for purpose-led and science-based solutions in Nutrition & Health. This acquisition is an attractive and logical next step for DSM enabling us to provide our customers with innovative early life nutrition solutions in our Human Nutrition business,” said DSM co-CEOs Geraldine Matchett and Dimitri de Vreeze. The Dutch group sees the deal as highly synergistic for both companies. DSM said it can accelerate the growth of Glycom by offering HMO products to its broad global customer base as well as boosting product development by leveraging its strong R&D platform and clinical competencies. It also can introduce HMOs in other segments outside the early life nutrition market, such as for toddlers, children and adults, as well as for medical nutrition and pet food. Glycom secured approvals in 2015 from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for its HMOs.

The company has two GlyCare HMO products commercially available and expects to launch four more during 2020. DSM noted that there is emerging evidence for HMO benefits in adults. These include functional gastrointestinal diseases including irritable bowel syndrome, a chronic digestive disorder that affects 10-15% of adults; metabolic diseases such as obesity and co-morbidities; reducing the consequences of antibiotic treatment; and helping allergies and intolerances. In November 2019, Jennewein Biotechnologie sued Glycom for infringing its intellectual property relating to the fermentation of HMOs. The German biotech said that having tried unsuccessfully to chemically synthesize HMOs, Glycom is now imitating its proprietary process. Jennewein claims to be the first commercial vendor of HMOs since bringing its HMO 2'-fucosyllactose to the market in 2015. Jennewein said it had already obtained a seizure order against Glycom along with additional evidence that will further substantiate infringement of its European patent. “Besides the infringement of said patent, we see a number of additional infringements of our intellectual property rights by Glycom,” said Andreas Hübel, Jennewein’s director IP. More recently, on Jan. 9, Jennewein also filed a patent infringement suit with the regional court in Mannheim, Germany, against Nestlé Nutrition and its holding company Nestlé Deutschland. Nestlé offers for sale in Germany its infant formula Beba Supreme that contains two HMOs. Jennewein asserts these HMOs are produced by its proprietary process. Neither Glycom nor Nestlé has commented on the cases.

SABIC Raises Clariant Shareholding

March 5, 2020: In a filing with Saudi Arabia’s Taduwul stock exchange, petrochemicals giant SABIC said it has increased its shareholding in Swiss specialty chemicals producer Clariant from 24.99% to 31.5%. The Saudi group was already Clariant’s largest shareholder. SABIC said the stock purchase is part of its strategy to achieve a leadership position in chemical specialties. The share increase – which comes despite the Saudi group taking an impairment charge of 1.5 billion riyals (\$400 million) on its Clariant investment in the 2019 third quarter – leaves SABIC positioned just below the one-third stake that would require it to make an offer for the entire company. SABIC said previously said that it had no interest in taking over Clariant completely after shelving plans to create a joint venture in high performance plastics in July last year. The basis for the JV also no longer exists. Original plans to create a diversified new plastics player foresaw combining Clariant’s market-leading masterbatch, pigments and additives assets with parts of SABIC’s specialties portfolio. Clariant meanwhile has agreed to sell the masterbatch business to US plastics compounder PolyOne for \$1.56 billion in a debt-free deal announced in December 2019. The Basel-based group is still engaged in a search for a new CEO after the abrupt resignation

of Ernest Ochiello last July. Chairman and acting CEO Hariolf Kottmann, who returned to the position after Ochiello’s brief stint, told journalists last month that the focus is on finding the right person “as soon as possible, not as fast as possible. Further corporate moves cannot until a new CEO is in place, he added. Clariant will also soon have a new CFO. Patrick Jany, who has filled the position since 2006, is leaving to join shipping and logistics giant Maersk as finance chief at the beginning of May. Stephan Lyn, who currently leads Clariant’s additives business, will take over the new role on Apr. 1.

Stada Boosts OTC Business with GSK Brands

March 5, 2020: German generics producer Stada is buying 15 over-the-counter (OTC) consumer healthcare brands from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), marking its second acquisition of branded products from the UK drugmaker within a year. The brands being acquired include Venoruton venous treatment, Coldrex cold remedy, Cetebe vitamin C supplements, Mebucaine sore throat range and Tavegyl allergy remedy. These five account for just over half of the acquired brands’ combined turnover. “The brands being acquired, and their geographic presence, are well aligned with Stada’s core countries and our organic activities”, said Stada CEO Peter Goldschmidt. “This will enable us to drive additional growth alongside our strong growth in the generics business. Under our ownership, we believe there is an excellent opportunity to revitalize and grow these consumer healthcare brands.” The brands are predominantly marketed in Europe, including France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Poland and Russia. The four countries of Germany, Spain, Poland and Russia each account for more than a tenth of the portfolio’s turnover. Also among the top 10 countries by portfolio sales are France, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Serbia and Switzerland. The transaction, which remains subject to customary conditions, is expected to close during the second quarter. Financial terms have not been disclosed. Stada bought five OTC skincare brands from GSK last June. These were Ceridal, Eurax, Oilatum, Polytar and Savlon as well as Tixylix pediatric cough medicines in Europe and selected markets in Asia-Pacific and Latin America. Last November, in its largest-ever acquisition, the German firm paid \$660 million to take some of Takeda’s OTC and prescription drugs sold in Russia, Georgia and several other countries belonging to the Commonwealth of Independent States.

DuPont Buys Lodestone Partners

March 9, 2020: DuPont Sustainable Solutions (DSS) has acquired the assets of Lodestone Partners, a Canadian consultancy focused on improving operating performance at companies in the natural resource and mining industry. Financial terms of the deal, which was effective as of Feb. 29, were not disclosed. DSS said the acquisition gives it expanded capability, deep experience and proven methodologies in operations excellence. “Combining Lodestone’s highly respected operational improvement expertise with DSS’ risk management capabilities will now enable us to deliver an integrated operations transformation capability that is not currently available in the marketplace,” said Davide Vassallo, CEO of DSS. “This acquisition significantly expands DSS’ ability to help our clients protect their people and improve operations and is a significant step forward in our strategy to accelerate growth in select geographies and industries since becoming an independent company in September,” he said Robin Schleich, former director of Lodestone Partners, added that DSS has “incredibly strong capabilities in operations risk management, capability development, data analytics and digital technology integration.” Following the takeover, Schleich is now director for operations excellence practice within DSS. The addition of Lodestone means that DSS now has more than 900 consultants operating out of 40 offices worldwide. DSS was part of DowDu-

Pont Specialty Products before it became independent in February 2019, retaining its existing management and supported by Swiss investment group Gyrus Capital. The company provides consultancy services to the oil & gas, chemicals/petrochemicals, mining and metals, and manufacturing industries.

K+S Decides to Sell Americas Unit

March 13, 2020: German potash producer K+S has decided to sell its Americas operating unit. The decision is part of moves announced last December to rapidly generate value and reduce debt. The company has mandated banks to sell the business, which includes the salt operations in North and South America. There are no plans to sell shares in the new potash mine in Bethune, Canada. K+S expects to sign a sales agreement before the end of this year. "The sale of our strong Americas salt business is a decisive step in setting the course for the future development of K+S. After intensive examination, it is the best option to achieve the urgently required reduction of the company's debt," said CEO Burkhard Lohr. Several companies are reported to be interested in the business with initial talks already being held. The sale will be accompanied by a comprehensive realignment of K+S, with all the company's sites expected to achieve a sustainable positive free cash flow. "Following the repositioning of K+S, we will be focusing on the expansion of the highly profitable fertilizer specialties business in the subsequent growth phase," Lohr said. The Kassel-headquartered group expects that the implementation of all measures will reduce debt by in excess of €2 billion by the end of 2021. As part of the package of measures, K+S sold in January its Swiss waste management subsidiary K+S Entsorgung (Schweiz) to compatriot chemical distributor Thommen-Furler for a price in the "lower single-digit million euro range".

Clariant and Floreon Collaborate on Biopolymer Applications

March 13, 2020: The Additives business of Swiss specialty chemicals producer Clariant and UK-based bioplastics producer Floreon are collaborating to extend the performance properties and market potential of biopolymers. The collaboration aims to open up additional possibilities for plastic manufacturers and brand owners to consider biopolymers as a viable, low carbon footprint alternative to fossil-based plastics for both single-use and durable applications. The partners said that markets like rigid and flexible packaging, electrical & electronic equipment, hygiene products, consumer goods and automotive could benefit from the new enhanced grades. Floreon develops and markets proprietary compounds based on polylactic acid (PLA), that contain 70-90% renewable, plant-based raw materials. The two companies plan to integrate Clariant's sustainable additives with Floreon's PLA compounds. They aim to enhance the material performance and processing characteristics of bioplastics based on Floreon's proprietary technology to meet the challenges of demanding conditions or environments. Clariant said that its wide range of bio-based additives can deliver both high performance and sustainability to the plastics value chain by closing the performance gap between biopolymers and other materials.

Drugmakers Rush to Offer US Malaria Drugs for COVID

March 23, 2020: Following controversial suggestions by US president Donald Trump that malaria drugs chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine are ready to be used as experimental treatments for the COVID-19 virus, international pharmaceutical producers are rushing to donate their excess supply to the US government. After Bayer made the first gesture last week, Novartis (Switzerland) and generics producers Teva (Israel) and Mylan (US) have followed suit, offering to deliver tens of millions of tablets. Bayer said on Mar. 19 it was donating 3 million tablets

of its chloroquine phosphate drug Resochin to the US for potential use in treating COVID-19 and is working with "appropriate agencies" on an emergency use authorization for its use in the country. Novartis has pledged a global donation of up to 130 million hydroxychloroquine tablets, while Mylan said it is ramping up production at its facility in the US state of West Virginia to be able to make 50 million tablets. Teva said it will donate 16 million tablets to hospitals around the US. All of the donations are contingent on the timely approval of the repurposed use by the US Food and Drug Administration. As yet, there are no indications that this could come in the near future. At a press conference with Trump and vice president Mike Pence on Mar. 20, Anthony Fauci, head of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which has been concentrating its efforts on finding a vaccine against the fast-spreading virus, corrected the president's comment that the FDA is ready to approve the new application for the drug. Fauci called evidence from a French trial with 24 participants infected with the virus, whose conditions showed some improvement after taking chloroquine (although 25% of still carrying the virus after six days), "anecdotal." The malaria drugs are also being tested against COVID-19 in China and Australia, but have not been approved for the application in either country. Other generics are also being trialed with an eye to their potential use against the virus.

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