

# CH Information

News – Honors – Workshops – Conferences – Lectures

## NEWS

**Roche** Holding buys US biotech company InterMune for \$8.3 billion in cash. The Swiss drugmaker said it would pay \$74 a share for InterMune, representing a premium of 38% to the closing price on Aug. 22. Under the terms of the agreement, Roche will commence a tender offer to acquire all outstanding shares in the U.S. firm no later than Aug. 29. The acquisition, which has been recommended by the boards of both companies, is the largest by Roche since 2009, when it bought the remaining stake of Genentech for around \$47 billion. Roche CEO Severin Schwan said the deal would allow the company to broaden and strengthen its respiratory portfolio, adding that he believed there was a good strategic and cultural fit between Roche and the California-based biotech firm. Adding InterMune to its portfolio will give Roche a promising new drug, pirfenidone, for treating a progressive and ultimately fatal scarring condition of the lungs, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF). The drug already has been approved in Europe and Canada, and is undergoing US regulatory review. The FDA is due to give its verdict on whether to approve pirfenidone by Nov. 23 and Roche said it expected to launch the drug in the US this year. According to consensus forecasts compiled by Thomson Reuters Pharma, industry analysts expect the drug to have sales of \$1.04 billion in 2019. The deal is a further step by Roche to diversify away from its reliance on cancer drugs, where it is the world leader, by expanding into other disease areas, such as respiratory medicine. Roche already markets Pulmozyme for cystic fibrosis and Xolair for severe asthma in the US and has other experimental respiratory products in clinical development, including another severe asthma drug called lebrikizumab.

**Clariant** announced plans to build a new masterbatches plant in greater Sydney Area, Australia. The Basel-based company said the new plant will mainly serve the Australian market with a full range of color and additive masterbatches to meet the growing local needs. Construction on the plant is currently underway, with plans of commissioning in the fourth quarter 2014. Mathias Lütgendorf, Member of the Executive Committee: “Asia Pacific region is one of Clariant’s focal areas for future development. The new Australian masterbatches plant will support our masterbatches business to grow and to increase its customer service focus in the region.”

**Carbogen Amcis**, pharmaceutical process development and active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) manufacturer, has announced plans to take over operations of a high-containment facility at Vionnaz, 70 km east of Geneva. The high potency facility opened in December 2005 and was formerly managed by Bachem as an integrated part of that company’s Vionnaz site. The unit is said to be cGMP-compliant and inspected by Swissmedic and by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). “We are facing a significant increase in the demand for high potency services, spurred by the fast-paced growth of the antibody drug conjugates (ADCs) market,” said Carbogen Amcis CEO Mark Griffiths. “The expansion in Vionnaz will ensure we can continue to fulfil customer needs and expectations while our company continues to grow and expand.” Vionnaz is dedicated to the development

and manufacture of highly potent APIs and can accommodate projects from gram to multi-kilo scale. The facility is completely independent and features a process development laboratory, a dedicated QC laboratory and two production units fitted with reactors up to 30 L, as well as a freeze dryer for lyophilisation and chromatography. Operations involving cytotoxic compounds are performed under containment conditions. The building is self-contained and segregated from the outside. The substantial increase in development capabilities and manufacturing space for highly potent drugs in Vionnaz, along with the recent construction of a clean room dedicated to conjugation projects in Bubendorf, position the company as an outsourcing partner for complex highly potent APIs and ADCs, Griffiths said.

In the near future, the company plans to introduce additional capability for highly potent drugs at the Neuland/Hunzenschwil site to meet customer needs in chemical development and niche commercial manufacturing. Carbogen Amcis is owned by Dishman Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals of Ahmedabad, India.

Source: Chemmanager International

## CONFERENCES IN SWITZERLAND

01.10.–30.11.2014

### 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.

<http://www.sjchembio2014.unibe.ch>

### 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, commercialization 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>

### ‘Natural’ versus ‘Artificial’ in Life Sciences Law

14.11.2014

Faculty of Law, University of Basel, Pro Iure Auditorium  
Peter Merian-Weg 8, 4002, Basel

Interdisciplinary Conference: ‘Natural’ versus ‘Artificial’ in Life Sciences Law. The conference will open a debate between law, humanities and natural sciences with respect to one of the most fundamental dichotomies in our culture and society – the divide between nature.

[https://ius.unibas.ch/fileadmin/user\\_upload/fe/file/Program\\_03.pdf](https://ius.unibas.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/fe/file/Program_03.pdf)

## LECTURES

01.10.14–31.10.2014

### Universität Basel, Pharmazeutische Wissenschaften

Lecture Hall 1, Pharmazentrum

08.10.2014 17.00 h *Prof. Dr. Roméo Cechelli, Laboratoire de Physiopathologique de la Barrière Hémato-Encéphalique, Université d'Artois, Lens, France*  
‘Prediction of brain penetration of drugs in human using *in vitro* blood brain barrier model derived from stem cells’

15.10.2014 17.00 h *Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Stephan Urban, Dept. of Infectious Diseases, Molecular Virology, University of Heidelberg, Germany*  
‘Exploiting the liver tropism of the human Hepatitis B virus (HBV): From HBV Entry Inhibition to hepatocyte-specific Drug Targeting’

### Université Genève, Chimie organique

Auditoire A-100

02.10.2014 16.30 h *Dr Géraldine Masson, Institut de chimie des substances naturelles, Gif-sur-Yvette, France*  
Title to be announced

### EPFL, Institut des Sciences et Ingénierie Chimiques

EPFL, BCH 2218

08.10.2014 17.15 h *Prof. Gwilherm Evano, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium*  
‘Heterosubstituted Alkynes: Copper-Mediated Syntheses and Applications’

22.10.2014 17.15 h *Prof. Darren J. Dixon, University of Oxford, UK*  
Title to be announced

### ETH Zurich, Laboratorium für Organische Chemie

HCI J 3, ETH Zürich (Hönggerberg)

13.10.2014 16.00 h *Prof. Makoto Fujita, Department of Applied Chemistry, University of Tokyo*  
‘Crystalline Sponge Method: X-ray Structure Analysis without Crystallization on the Microgram Scale’

20.10.2014 16.00 h *Prof. Amos Smith, Department of Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA*  
‘Evolution of Anion Relay Chemistry Leading to Negishi Cross Coupling Reactions without  $ZnCl_2$ ’

The complete and updated lecture calendar is available on [www.scg.ch](http://www.scg.ch).