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Chemistry

Platform of the Swiss Academy of Sciences

**New President, New Board Member and New Chief Science Officer of the «Platform Chemistry»**

Leo Merz\*

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On December 12 the board of SCNAT confirmed the election of Prof. Dr. **Christophe Copéret** (ETH Zürich) as president of the platform chemistry. Prof. Dr. Copéret has been a member of the board since January 2013 and takes over the presidency from Prof. Dr. **Katharina Fromm** (Uni Freiburg) who will remain on the board of the platform. Additionally, the SCNAT board confirmed the election of Dr. **Klemens Koch** (Pädagogische Hochschule Bern and Gymnasium Biel-Seeland) as a new member of the board of the platform.

In addition, the General Secretariat of SCNAT appointed Dr. **Leo Merz** as Chief Science Officer of the «Platform Chemistry» as of October 2014, succeeding Dr. **Adrien Lawrence** who directed the platform from 2013 to 2014.

We would like to thank Katharina Fromm and Adrien Lawrence for their dedication and commitment in their work for the «Platform Chemistry» of the SCNAT.

Finally, we would like to welcome Klemens Koch to the board of the platform.



Dr. Klemens Koch studied chemistry at the University of Lausanne. He then obtained his PhD in organic chemistry titled 'Über strukturelle Zusammenhänge zwischen Blausäure und natürlichen Purinen und Pyrimidinen' in the group of Prof. Dr. A. Eschenmoser at the ETH Zürich. Additionally, he studied didactics in chemistry at the ETHZ.

Since then, he teaches at Gymnasium (high school) level and also at the Pädagogische Hochschule Bern. Since 2006 he is deputy headmaster of the Gymnasium Biel-Seeland and since 2010 he is the president of the Verein Schweizer Naturwissenschaftslehrerinnen und -lehrer.



Dr. Leo Merz studied chemistry at the University of Basel. He then obtained his PhD with the title 'Chemistry at the Nanoscale: Molecular Assemblies probed by Scanning Tunnelling Microscopy' in the group of Prof. Dr. H.-J. Güntherodt at the Institute of Physics of the University of Basel. After a postdoc at the Department of Biomolecular Engineering of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, he joined the Molecular Surface Science Group at Empa in Dübendorf to study reversible phase transitions in two-dimensional molecular crystals. From 2009 to 2014 he took a time-out and together with his wife sailed from Europe to French Polynesia on their sailboat.

Additional information about the «Platform Chemistry» and its activities may be found at [www.chemistry.scnat.ch](http://www.chemistry.scnat.ch)



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