



SCS
Swiss Chemical
Society

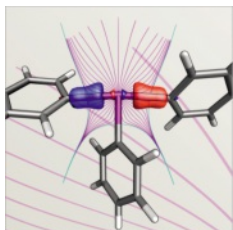
Community News

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SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

SCS Fall Meeting 2016 – Call for Contributions



The Swiss Chemical Society Fall Meeting is the largest annual scientific event in Switzerland. It offers a unique opportunity for graduate students, post-doctoral researchers and scientists of all levels, from both, academia and industry, to share the results of their research projects. It also stimulates the exchange of ideas between all generations of chemists, often creating the seeds for new projects and collaborations.

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University of Zürich, Irchel Campus
Thu, September 15, 2016, 9.00–18.30 h
<http://scg.ch/fallmeeting/2016>

The scientific program will offer invited and contributed lectures as well as poster presentations in the following areas of chemistry:

- Analytical Sciences
- Catalysis Science & Engineering
- Computational Chemistry
- Inorganic & Coordination Chemistry
- Medicinal Chemistry & Chemical Biology
- Organic Chemistry
- Physical Chemistry
- Polymers, Colloids & Interfaces.

As in previous years, the best poster presentations and oral contributions in each session will be awarded prizes. There will also be a commercial exhibition.

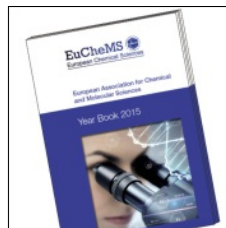
We encourage you to come to Zürich to present your research and to be part of a vibrant meeting. Apply for a poster presentation or a short talk of 15 min in one of the eight parallel sessions.

The period for abstract submissions is open from March 21 to May 20, 2016. Please submit your abstract via the SCS conference tool on <http://chemistrycongresses.ch>

Useful information to use the SCS Conference Tool

- Use your SCS login to enter the page. If you are an SCS member and have forgotten the password you can reset your credentials and send them to your registered mail address. Contact info@scg.ch if you have any problems.
- Non-SCS members have to set up a profile. If you consider becoming a member please register as SCS member and use the same login information afterwards to submit your abstract.
- The abstract preview helps you to layout your contribution to one page. Please note that abstracts will be shortened to one page automatically.

EuCheMS Year Book 2015



The year book 2015 of EuCheMS is available as pdf download on the SCS website (www.scg.ch) or on the EuCheMS website (www.euchems.eu). Read all about the following EuCheMS topics and initiatives on European level:

- EuCheMS long-term development
- Executive board and general assembly
- Policy related activities
- EuCheMS awards
- EuCheMS Chemistry congresses
- Recognised events
- Member societies and Supporting members
- Professional networks/division

www.euchems.eu

ILMAC, the Swiss fair for Process and Laboratory Technology



Matchmaking made easy: whether research and development, piloting, engineering, production or disposal – ILMAC 2016 is the interactive network platform where you can present your process and laboratory technology solutions in a highly efficient manner.

Tue, 20 to Fri, 23 September 2016,
Messe Basel
www.ilmac.ch

Laboratory technology and process technology are being presented together for the first time instead of in separate sections: at ILMAC 2016, you can showcase your competences and solutions as an overall package. This will ensure you attract greater attention from the growing number of professional visitors who plan and implement their company processes holistically rather than individually

Focal Topics

ILMAC 2016 is being staged under the motto “ILMAC 4.0” with two focal topics that you, as an exhibitor, can take up in a targeted manner. The ILMAC Forum will be looking at these topics from different perspectives during the fair. And, at the popular Lunch&Learn events, recognised experts from industry will be having their say. Our communication in the run-up to ILMAC will similarly be highlighting the following central themes.

ILMAC 4.0: Boosting efficiency – an economic necessity

If the chemical and life sciences industry is to meet up to the economic requirements in future too, it will need to boost the

efficiency of its processes and continually step up productivity while observing the highest quality standards. This will increase demand for new approaches, including particularly flexible processes and systems, automation solutions for the laboratory and for plant operation, and comprehensive global advice. And comprehensive product and employee safety must be guaranteed at all times.

ILMAC 4.0: Trends in state-of-the-art medicine call for new approaches in R&D and production

The trend in the health sector is towards personalised medicine with the corresponding diagnostic agents and specially-targeted individual therapy with highly potent drugs. The pharmaceutical industry and its suppliers must pay due heed to this situation. The research and production of powerful active ingredients and biopharmaceuticals calls for the appropriate safety precautions and high-precision processes. Present-day laboratories must be configured and equipped with the latest generation of information technology in such a way as to permit interdisciplinary cooperation across all the different boundaries. Producing personalised, highly active drugs requires flexible, readily adaptable production lines for small batches and frequent format changes.

SCS at ILMAC: Booth and Lunch & Learn Forums

SCS will again collaborate with the Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS), ZHAW Wädenswil, FHNW Muttens and HES-SO Fribourg/Sion and will be on-site with a large booth. We will award and present successful joint projects from UAS with industrial partners and use the platform to show exciting, chemical science to a broad audience. The call for application of projects is open until June 16, 2016. More details are available on www.scg.ch/scs-fh-award

SCS in collaboration with partner societies also organizes three Lunch & Learn Sessions presenting state of the art development and a panel discussion on the following topics:

- Wed, Sep 21, 2016: "Automatization and huge data handling in Analytical Sciences", organized by the SCS Division of Analytical Sciences (DAS);
- Thu, Sep 22, 2016: "Automatization in the laboratory environment...", organized by i-net Basel and the Swiss Biotech Association (SBA);
- Fri, Sep 23, 2016: "Industry 4.0 in Process Chemistry and Engineering" organized by the SCS Division of Industrial & Applied Chemistry (DIAC), the Swiss Process and Chemical Engineers Association (SGVC) and the Association of graduate chemists UAS (SVC);

The detailed program is available on the ILMAC or the SCS website and will be published in CHIMIA 9/2016.

Clariant CleanTech Award Switzerland



Clariant, the Swiss Chemical Society and the University of Basel are partnering to award the Clariant CleanTech Award Switzerland and offer a lecture slot at the «Clariant Chemistry Day, University of Basel» on October 12, 2016. The Clariant CleanTech Award Switzerland is endowed with a total of 10 000 CHF. The

first prize is endowed with 5 000 CHF.

This award program will honor outstanding scientific achievements of Master students, PhD students, and Postdocs in Switzerland in the field of Sustainable Chemistry, in areas such as resource efficiency, renewable energy, renewable raw materials or green technologies and environmental protection.

With Research & Development the chemical industry contributes to tackle the challenges of our society by creating product and process innovation. As a company that creates value through sustainability and innovation, Clariant is particularly concerned about strengthening the knowledge base of Clean-Tech in Switzerland by sponsoring basic research and fostering the knowledge and technology transfer between industry and academia.

For Participation

The Clariant CleanTech Award Switzerland is available to successful Master students, PhD students, and Postdocs who have distinguished themselves with outstanding scientific achievements at the Departments of Chemistry and adjacent disciplines of Universities, Universities of Applied Sciences and Institutes in Switzerland in areas of Sustainable Chemistry such as resource efficiency, renewable energy, renewable raw materials or green technologies and environmental protection.

Master students, PhD students, and Postdocs will be considered with regard to their different levels of training.

Applicants are requested to submit

- their curriculum vitae,
- a brief description of the scientific results (max. 5 pages), and
- an expert assessment from a supervisor

by July 31, 2016 via the online form on <http://scg.ch/clean-tech-award>

Kay Severin appointed new President of the EPFL Research Commission



Prof. Kay Severin will take office on April 1st, 2016 and succeed to Professor Benoît Deveaud.

The mission of the EPFL Research Commission is to promote Swiss academic talents and advise the EPFL Direction on research topics and to act as an official representative of the SNSF.

The Research Commission is comprised of fourteen members, whose global competences span all fields of research at EPFL, and reviews over 100 application files per year for grants and awards such as EPFL awards, SNSF grants, and MSCA "EPFL Fellows".

Kay Severin is professor at the EPFL within the Institute of chemical sciences and engineering where he is head of the laboratory of supramolecular chemistry.

Picture: <http://lcs.epfl.ch/severin>

Source: <http://actu.epfl.ch/search/sb/>

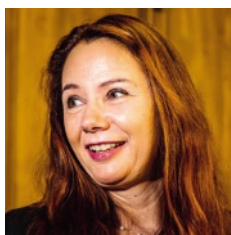
A warm welcome to our new members!

Period: 26.02.2016 – 28.03.2016

Richard Bernitzky, Zürich – Massimiliano Conti, Rüşchlikon – Derek Crawford, Basel – Vincent Fäseke, Basel – Patrick Hemberger, Villigen – Dominik Kinschel, Ecublens – Alessandro Piazzoli, Sursee – Michelle Schaffer, Sugiez – Anja Stampfli, Basel.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Ursula Röthlisberger, EPF Lausanne, has won one of the two 2016 Doron Prizes



The Doron prizes have been awarded for 31 years, granted by the Swiss Foundation for the Doron Prize, based in Zug. The awards, which include a sum of 100'000 CHF, honor "outstanding activities in the fields of culture, public interest and science." There have been 79 award winners to date, including foundations, public organizations, and private individuals.

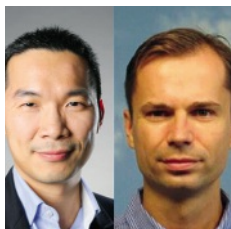
Prof. Ursula Röthlisberger has won one of the two Prizes this year. She directs the Laboratory of Computational Chemistry and Biochemistry at EPFL. Her research focuses on developing density functional-based mixed QM/MM simulations for ground and excited states, and applying them to solve problems in biology and materials science.

The Foundation's press release states that she is rewarded for "her work in the field of computer-assisted chemistry."

© picture: The Swiss Foundation for the Doron Prize – Stefano Schröter

Source: <http://actu.epfl.ch/search/sb/>

Xile Hu and Jiri Vanicek from EPF Lausanne win ERC grants



The European Research Council's (ERC) Consolidator Grants are given annually to researchers of any nationality with 7–12 years of research experience after completion of their PhD, for "a scientific track record showing scientific talent and an excellent research proposal".

The Consolidator Grants, which generally provide funding for 5 years, are part of the ERC's commitment to support "the highest quality research in Europe with competition-based financing", with the ultimate aim "to establish and solidify European research as cutting-edge research."

The 2015 ERC Consolidator grants amounted to €585 million awarded to a total of 302 mid-career scientists of 34 different nationalities. Six winners, two of which are from the School of Basic Sciences, represented EPFL:

- **Prof. Xile Hu:** Fundamentals and applications of inorganic oxygen evolution catalysts
- **Prof. Jiri Vanicek:** Unraveling molecular quantum dynamics with accelerated ab initio algorithms

Picture: <http://lcs.epfl.ch/severin>

Source: <http://actu.epfl.ch/search/sb/>

ERC Consolidator Grant to Prof. Gilles Gasser from University of Zurich



Prof. Gilles Gasser from the Department of Chemistry has just been awarded an ERC Consolidator Grant (2'000'000 €) for the project «Towards Novel Inert (Photo-)toxic Ru(II) Polypyridyl Complexes». In his project, Gilles intends to investigate the clinical potential of a different class of anticancer agents than

those already on the market, namely inert Ruthenium(II) polypyridyl complexes. Gilles aims to focus his attention not only on an improved biological effectiveness under different clinically relevant conditions, but also on the reduction of side-effects compared to existing drugs. The results of this project may constitute the basis for a new generation of powerful and safe antitumor chemotherapeutics.

Source: <http://www.chem.uzh.ch/en/research/news.html>

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: www.chemmanager-online.com

Breakthrough Drug Status for Roche and AstraZeneca

Feb. 19, 2016: Major drug makers Roche and AstraZeneca have been granted breakthrough therapy designations (BTD) by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treatments in multiple sclerosis (MS) and bladder cancer, respectively.

Roche's Ocrevus (ocrelizumab) is the first investigational drug to receive the designation for MS. Ocrelizumab, a human monoclonal antibody, is designed to selectively target specific immune cells – CD20-positive B cells – which are thought to be a key contributor to nerve damage. The drug treats primary progressive MS (PPMS), a debilitating form of the disease characterized by steadily worsening symptoms with no approved treatment. Roche said it will submit Phase III data to global regulators in the first half of this year.

AstraZeneca's durvalumab (MED14736) is also an investigational human monoclonal antibody directed against programmed death ligand-1 (PD-L1) for treating patients with advanced metastatic forms of bladder cancer, but also other cancers. The company said patients suffering from metastatic bladder cancer have a five-year overall survival rate of less than 15%.

The BTD, which is the third the FDA has granted AstraZeneca for oncology treatments to date, is based on early clinical data from a Phase I trial of patients. In addition to bladder cancer, durvalumab is also being investigated for treatment of lung, head and neck, liver and blood cancers.

Breakthrough designation is designed to expedite the development of new drugs for treating serious conditions where they have shown encouraging results from early clinical trials.

ICIG to Take Sandoz' Frankfurt Base

Feb. 25, 2016: In a transaction expected to close on Apr. 1, Frankfurt, Germany-based private equity company International Chemical Investors Group (ICIG) has agreed with Swiss pharmaceutical producer Novartis to acquire all of the shares in Sandoz Industrial Products, a manufacturer of enzyme-based fermentation products for antibiotics based at the Höchst chemical park in Frankfurt.

Following the Novartis group's decision in May 2015 to end production of intermediates for 7-ACA antibiotics for external customers and relocate captive production to Austria, the plant's then-306 employees had feared production would be shut down.

Under the plan unveiled this week, Sandoz Industrial Products and its meanwhile 270 employees will be integrated into CordenPharma Group, the pharma platform of ICIG.

The business will be complementary to both ICIG's pharma activities and its fine chemicals activities managed as part of the WeylChem Group, which also has a production base at the site once belonging to the erstwhile German chemical giant Hoechst.

ICIG said the Frankfurt site constitutes an important building block for its further expansion into fermentation-based production technology. CordenPharma will use the fermentation products produced there in its own proprietary antibiotics value chain at Latina, Italy.

Achim Riemann, managing director of ICIG, said the new production site will expand CordenPharma's operations, growing its enzymes-based manufacturing portfolio and dedicated antibiotics technology platform while at the same time adding state-of-the-art capabilities in microbial fermentation and enzymatic reactions to WeylChem's extensive non-GMP production capabilities.

AstraZeneca Sells Moventig Rights to ProStrakan

Mar. 08, 2016: UK-Swedish drugs maker AstraZeneca has agreed to sell the European rights for Moventig to ProStrakan, a subsidiary of Japanese life sciences company Kyowa Hakko Kirin. The drug is the first peripherally-acting mu-opioid receptor antagonist (Pamora) approved in Europe to treat opioid-induced constipation (OIC) in adults who have not responded well to laxatives. OIC can be an uncomfortable side-effect of using opioids, or painkillers.

ProStrakan will make an upfront payment of \$70 million to AstraZeneca to gain the rights to sell and develop Moventig in the EU, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Additional payments will be made depending on access to certain European markets, as well as tiered double-digit royalties on sales and sales milestones. AstraZeneca said that, in line with its interest in Moventig globally, certain strategic decisions in Europe will be made jointly with ProStrakan.

Luke Miels, AstraZeneca's executive vice president, global product and portfolio strategy, said the agreement reflects the company's strategy to focus resources within its three main therapy areas while unlocking value from important medicines in its portfolio. He added that the deal complements AstraZeneca's commitment with Daiichi Sankyo to build the market and co-commercialize the drug in the US.

ProStrakan's CEO, Tom Stratford, said Moventig complements its existing breakthrough cancer pain products, Abstral and PecFent, and will open up broader opportunities to serve both cancer and non-cancer patients suffering from chronic pain.

Biesterfeld to Distribute Laurel's Additives in Europe

Mar. 14, 2016: Germany's Biesterfeld Spezialchemie has taken over the Europe-wide distribution of fluoropolymer additives for US manufacturer Laurel Products. The agreement includes the countries of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Turkey, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary.

Elverson, Pennsylvania-based Laurel Products specializes in producing micronized fluoropolymer additives based on polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP) and perfluoroalkoxy polymers. The additives are offered both in powder form as well as in various carrier fluids.

Laurel markets its standard fluoropolymers under the Ultraflon trademark, with modified variants sold as Marzon and the mica-fluorinated additive under the name Thor.

Martin Liebenau, marketing manager at Biesterfeld Spezialchemie, said the cooperation with Laurel Products is an ideal opportunity to expand its offering, adding that initial inquiries had already indicated great interest from customers.

Dottikon Boosts Swiss API Capacities

Mar. 15, 2016: Swiss fine chemical company Dottikon is investing more than 100 million Swiss francs (\$101 million) at its site in Aargau to add chemical process development and production capacities for active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs).

Multi-tonne API drying facilities will go into operation in the fourth quarter of 2016, while additional multi-purpose production capacities for sophisticated chemistry will become operational in the first half of 2017. In addition, Dottikon will build a new laboratory and office building, which will be ready in 2018.

The company specializing in hazardous reactions, said it is positioning itself as a strategic development and manufacturing partner. The company added 45 new jobs in the 2015-2016 financial year, 90% of them in chemical production. Dottikon said it expects to create a similar amount of new jobs in the coming business year.

Blueprint and Roche in Cancer Immunotherapy Deal

Mar. 17, 2016: US biotechnology company Blueprint Medicines is collaborating with Swiss drugs giant Roche on the discovery, development and commercialization of up to five cancer immunotherapies. The alliance, which will focus on small molecule therapeutics targeting kinases, could be worth more than \$1 billion.

Immunokinases are known to regulate numerous aspects of immune response and offer the opportunity to find ways to boost the immune system's ability to recognize and kill tumor cells.

The collaboration is looking to develop new mechanisms of modulating the tumor immune response by targeting immunokinases with the goal of enhancing response rates and broadening the scope of treatment. To date, most cancer immunotherapies have focused on antibodies or combinations with existing approved treatments and have not yet targeted immunokinases with small molecules.

Under the terms of the deal, Blueprint will receive cash upfront of \$45 million and be eligible for additional payments of up to \$965 million in option fees and milestone payments relating to specific milestones across all five programs. Approximately \$215 million of the total contingent payments are for option fees and milestone payments for research, preclinical and clinical development prior to licensing. In addition, the agreement provides for specified royalties and cost sharing.

Roche's rights are structured as an option, triggered upon achieving Phase 1 proof of concept, for an exclusive license to each drug candidate developed. If Roche exercises an option, then it will be responsible for subsequent global development through registrational clinical trials.

Blueprint will retain worldwide rights to any drug candidates for which Roche decides not to take up the option. It will lead preclinical research and development through Phase 1 proof of concept for all five programs and retain US commercial rights for two of them.

Jeff Albers, CEO of Blueprint Medicines, said: "We believe Blueprint Medicines' proprietary drug discovery platform and expertise in immunokinases, combined with our proven ability to move quickly through drug discovery, is a perfect complement to Roche's expertise with cancer immunotherapy biology and in developing and commercializing innovative therapies."

Omya Opens Laboratory in Switzerland

Mar. 21, 2016: Swiss specialty chemicals producer and distributor Omya has opened a new pharmaceutical and nutraceutical laboratory at its headquarters in Oftringen, gaining the capability to carry out product development in-house.

Until now, the company has outsourced to external partners under third-party agreements which has given rise to certain challenges, in particular securing intellectual property rights. Omya said it can now ensure legal certainty for both itself and its customers and react to market needs much faster. The lab is also expected to shorten times to market for customers.

The facilities include a wet lab for product development, a dry lab for granulation, and tableting and performance analysis. Equipment includes fluid-bed technology, a roller compactor and a rotary tablet press, allowing for high-quality mineral research, development and technical support.

As the world's leading producer of calcium carbonate, Omya said developing innovative applications and maintaining ongoing natural minerals research projects in the facility would be of paramount importance.

"With the new laboratory, we are able to protect intellectual properties and further extend our specialist calcium carbonate expertise. This includes developing new structured minerals that are tailor-made for specific applications or optimizing existing products to meet the changing needs of the industry," said Stefan Lander, vice president consumer goods.

One of the company's products, Omyapharm, a functionalized calcium carbonate that allows production of granules and tablets with high mechanical strength and fast disintegration times, won the CPhI 2015 Pharma award for most innovative excipient.

Borgas Frontrunner for Syngenta CEO?

Mar. 23, 2016: Swiss agrochemicals giant Syngenta, currently in the throes of being acquired by ChemChina for \$43 billion, may soon have a new chief executive.

That is, if none of the currently circulating alternative scenarios such as the Chinese company's \$35 billion loan falling through or a Western competitor pulling off a last-minute surprise coup comes in between.

Israeli media speculated this week that Stefan Borgas, former CEO of another Swiss-based chemical company, Lonza, and currently head of Israel Chemicals (ICL), may have the inside track to lead the agrochemicals producer into its new future.

The German-born manager who also has worked for chemical giant BASF in managerial functions has served as a member of Syngenta's supervisory board since 2009.

An ICL spokesperson told the news agency Reuters, "there is no change in the role and status of Stefan Borgas."

The Israeli firm's chairman, Nir Gilad, has announced plans to step down in September of this year. A successor has not been announced.

Since the departure of former CEO Mike Mack in October 2015, two months after the company rejected a hostile takeover by US rival Monsanto, Syngenta has been run by its chief financial officer, John Ramsay.

On announcing it had accepted the Chinese takeover bid, the Swiss company said it planned to appoint its new leadership team in close cooperation with its new owner. According to the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, Borgas is currently talking to ChemChina's chairman, Ren Jianxin.

The two men met last year when ICL formed a phosphate joint venture in China with Yunnan Yuntianhua and took a 15% equity stake in the company.

Haaretz points to a reportedly tense relationship between Borgas and Idan Ofer, who controls ICL through his holding

company The Israel Corporation, over ICL's sales and earnings performance and dividend policy.

Safic-Alcan Acquires 100% of Interplast

Mar. 25, 2016: France-based international distributor Safic-Alcan has completed the acquisition of 100% of Turkish distributor Interplast after acquiring a majority shareholding in 2011.

The company said Interplast's general manager Ayhan Güler will remain in the position and will continue to actively manage the business.

Founded in 2004, the Turkish distributor, which has annual sales of €21 million, employs 30 people and serves 50 different suppliers from 20 different countries, "has developed an outstanding reputation in the distribution of technically superior quality of thermoplastics, rubber, coatings, adhesives, cosmetics, personal care and pharmaceuticals," Safic-Alcan said.

"Gaining full ownership of Interplast is part of our growth strategy. We are still exploring other acquisitions to strengthen our competitive advantage not only in Turkey but also in the neighboring areas such as the Balkans, the Middle East, the Caucasus, Central Asia and North Africa," said Martial Lecat, CEO of Safinca, the holding company of Safic-Alcan Group.

In other news, Safic-Alcan has signed an agreement with Arkema subsidiary Coatex to distribute the South Carolina, USA-based company's Rheosty products, a range of specialty rheology modifiers for cosmetics applications. The contract covers France, Italy, Germany, Benelux, Switzerland, Poland, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic and Turkey.

Coatex said the partnership with Safic-Alcan is "a decisive milestone" in its strategy to innovate and expand on the personal care market.

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