

# Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology Highlights

## Division of Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology

A Division of the Swiss Chemical Society

### The Partnership of DMCCB and LS<sup>2</sup>

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#### Partnership

The members of the Division of Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology (DMCCB, [www.scg.ch](http://www.scg.ch)) are involved in the design, synthesis, optimization and use of pharmacologically active molecules to characterize and influence biological systems. As such, their interests are closely intertwined with the natural sciences. In the same way, life scientists rely on biologically active molecules, imaging agents and optimized tool compounds to explore biological systems and models of disease. It was therefore a natural development that Life Sciences Switzerland (LS<sup>2</sup>, [www.ls2.ch](http://www.ls2.ch)) and the DMCCB establish a partnership. LS<sup>2</sup> is the largest Life Sciences Society in Switzerland, with disciplines ranging from biochemistry to physiology.

The partnership between the DMCCB and LS<sup>2</sup> officially started in 2016, with both societies supporting one another and exchanging sessions at their respective annual meetings. Past events that the two societies had co-organized were a chemical biology session at the LS<sup>2</sup> Annual Meeting 2016 in Lausanne, a LS<sup>2</sup> satellite meeting for PhD students and post-docs at the Frontiers in Medicinal Chemistry Meeting 2017 in Bern, and a 'Future Leaders on Stage' session at the SCS Fall Meeting 2017 in Bern. Members of the partner society are warmly encouraged to attend these events, and are offered regular member registration discounts. Information exchange between both societies facilitates the interactions and the use of each other's networks and know-how.

#### Chemical Biology & Drug Development talk session at the LS<sup>2</sup> Annual Meeting, 15 February 2019, Campus Irchel, University of Zurich

The next collaborative project between the LS<sup>2</sup> and DMCCB will be a jointly organized session entitled *Chemical Biology & Drug Development*. The session will be chaired by Radka Snajdrova (Novartis Pharma AG) and Christian Heinis (EPFL). It will take place on the second day of the LS<sup>2</sup> Annual Meeting 2019. Speakers will discuss diverse topics across the fields of chemical biology and medicinal chemistry. We are happy to announce the two invited speakers, Prof. Thomas Ward from the University of Basel and Prof. Sabine Flitsch from the University of Manchester (Fig. 1). Thomas Ward will talk about the impressive research that his lab has conducted on artificial metalloenzymes, including the embedding of metal catalysts in protein scaffolds. Sabine Flitsch will present her exciting studies to develop biosynthetic pathways *de novo*.

A further presentation will be given by Dr. Reka Nagy from Promega, adding an industry's perspective to the session. She will present a tool based on bioluminescence for monitoring protein degradation in live cells.

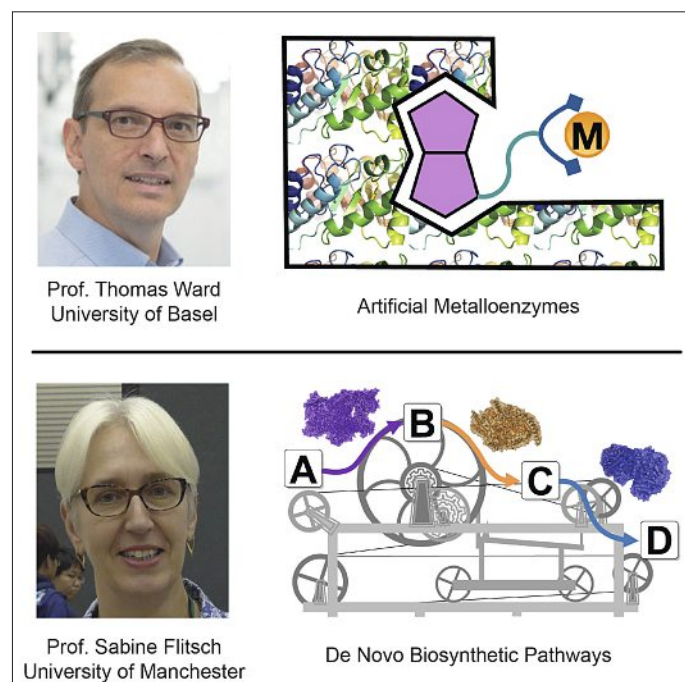


Fig. 1. Speakers of the Chemical Biology & Drug Development talk session at the LS<sup>2</sup> Annual Meeting 2019, 15 February 2019, Zurich

#### Other Highlights of the LS<sup>2</sup> Annual Meeting 2019

Further to the Chemistry session, the two-day LS<sup>2</sup> conference will feature four international plenary speakers: Leonie Ringrose (Humboldt University, Berlin), Anne Bertolotti (MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge/UK), Jodie Rosenblatt (University of Utah/US) and Anna Akhmanova (Utrecht University/NL).

In addition, seven scientific symposia will be organized by different LS<sup>2</sup> sections, LS<sup>2</sup> partner societies, and guest societies. As in the previous years, student/postdoc presentations selected from abstracts will complete the symposia. Two poster sessions, a Jubilee Apéro riche and a large industry exhibition will celebrate the 50 years of USGEB/LS<sup>2</sup>. The Jubilee Apéro riche will be a social event to enhance networking and exchange. The LS<sup>2</sup> organizers will invite colleagues and friends of LS<sup>2</sup> who had helped to shape and run the society from the early days onwards.

For younger researchers, we will again offer the traditional forum for postdoc presentations called 'PIs of Tomorrow: The Future of Swiss Research'. For the first time, this will be a stand-alone plenary session (<https://annual-meeting.ls2.ch/pis->

#### Can you show us your Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology Highlight?

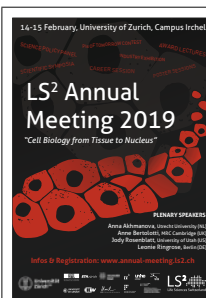
Please contact: Dr. Cornelia Zumbrunn, Idorsia Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Hegenheimermattweg 91, CH-4123 Allschwil, E-mail: [cornelia.zumbrunn@idorsia.com](mailto:cornelia.zumbrunn@idorsia.com)

*of-tomorrow*). It will be complemented by an interactive Career workshop organized by the University of Zurich (UZH) Careers Services.

Of particular note is the public Science Policy panel discussion on 'Is merit (gender) biased? Advancement in Academia', chaired by the EMBO deputy director & program manager Dr. Gerlind Wallon. Attendance is free of charge, but requires a prior confirmation e-mail to [info@ls2.ch](mailto:info@ls2.ch). Invited panelists are Dr. Britt Dahmen (Head of Department for Gender Equality and Diversity, University of Cologne/DE) and Prof. Dr. Marieke van den Brink (Radboud Gender & Diversity Studies, Radboud University, Nijmegen/NL). This session will explore how gender biases can influence the evaluation of merit, and thereby the outcome of selection processes in academia and elsewhere, and how these issues can be addressed. The chairwoman and panelists will each give a short talk followed by a panel discussion.

Finally, we are looking forward to celebrating the winners of the prestigious 'Lelio Orci Award' and the 'Friedrich-Miescher-Award'.

All information pertaining to the conference can be found on: [www.annual-meeting.ls2.ch](http://www.annual-meeting.ls2.ch). The DMCCB and LS<sup>2</sup> board members would like to especially encourage the young scientists to submit an abstract for this exciting meeting - many abstracts will be selected for talks!



LS<sup>2</sup> Annual Meeting 2019  
Cell Biology from Tissue to Nucleus  
14 – 15 February 2019  
University of Zurich, Campus Irchel  
Program: <https://annual-meeting.ls2.ch/program>.  
Abstract submission deadline:  
30.11.2018, general registration until  
20.12.2018  
Chemical Biology & Drug Development  
talk session:  
Friday, 15. February, 10:30 – 12:30