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### SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

#### Minutes of the 33<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the Swiss Chemical Society



April 14, 2023, 13.30–14.00h, University of Zurich, Irchel Campus, lecture hall G40.

##### 1. Welcome; Approval of the Agenda

During the lunch break of the SCS Spring Meeting, Christian Bochet, President, and David Spichiger, Executive Director, opened the assembly and welcomed all members/attendees. The agenda was approved.

– Maud Reiter, Firmenich SA, as treasurer and member with

##### 2. Election of the Vote Counter

At the beginning 21 SCS members were present and until the end of the assembly 35 participants joined the assembly. In consideration of the manageable number of votes, David Spichiger proposed to take over the counting. The assembly approved the proposal unanimously.

##### 3. Minutes from the 32<sup>nd</sup> GA from April 22, 2022

The minutes were published in CHIMIA (2022, 76, No. 5, A496f). The minutes were approved unanimously and without abstention.

##### 4. Annual Report 2022

The annual report was published in CHIMIA (2023, 77, No. 1-2, A91ff). It was approved unanimously.

##### 5. Financial Report 2022 and Audit Report

David Spichiger presented the financial statement. Operating incomes of CHF 1'827'926 and operating expenses of CHF -1'830'336 result in an operating loss before taxes of CHF -2'410. The portfolio at Bank von Graffenried followed the trend of the financial markets and a loss of -485'330 resulted. Considering taxes, non-periodic income, cost allocation to the funds and the dissolution of 450'000 asset fluctuation buffer an overall surplus of CHF +103'921 resulted.

The assets of all SCS funds decreased by CHF -154'901.

As of 31.12.2022 the assets summed up to CHF 4'566'936.

Audit Report: In the audit report from April 4, 2023, provided by BDO AG, Bern, no inconsistencies are mentioned, and the financial statement fulfills the legal requirements according to the SCS bylaws and the Swiss Civil law.

The assembly approved the financial statement 2022 and the audit report unanimously with no abstention.

##### 6. Discharge the Organs of the Society

The assembly discharged the board members and the financial audit unanimously with four abstentions.

##### 7a. Elections: SCS Executive Board, ExB (and BoD)

The assembly confirmed unanimously

– Maud Reiter, Firmenich SA, as treasurer and member with

signing rights in twos for a second term (2024–2026). As ExB member, she also takes a seat on the Board of Directors ex-officio.

##### 7b. Elections: SCS Board of Directors, BoD, and Financial Audit

The assembly confirmed the re-elections for a second term of:

– Leslie Fendt, F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG (2024–2026)

– Corinne Jud, Agroscope (2024–2026)

The assembly elected:

– Tomas Bürgi, University of Geneva, as member (and president of the Division Fundamental Research) with no signing rights. The three elected persons accepted their election.

The following BoD member stepped down and the entry in the commercial register will be deleted with immediate effect.

– Stefan Willitsch, University of Basel.

The assembly confirmed *BDO AG, Bern* unanimously as audit instance for the financials 2023.

##### 8. Membership fees

The annual membership fees 2024 were approved unanimously:

Regular member	CHF	150.00
Student member	CHF	50.00
Retired member / unemployed members	CHF	80.00
Institutional member (institutions)	CHF	800.00
SCS Partnership (institutions)	CHF	3'000.00

##### Additional Fees for Divisions

Industrial & Applied Chemistry – Regular/Student	CHF	20.00
– Company	CHF	100.00
Photochemistry Section – Regular	CHF	40.00
– Student	CHF	20.00

15% discount on collective memberships for university research groups.

##### 9. News and Strategic Projects

The Board of Directors decided on the following, strategic initiatives that will be pushed in the coming months:

– Establish the network to stimulate industry jobs for Ph.D. students and internships for MSc.

– Further strengthen relationship to industry and include industrial speakers in teaching at Universities and Summer Schools.

– Implement SCS Mentoring Program to accelerate the personal and professional development of mentees. The focus of the SCS Mentoring Program is on career development.

– Merger of the Division Polymers, Colloids and Interfaces with the Materials Chemistry network as of January 2024.

##### 10. Event Outlook 2023

In 2023 twenty-nine conferences and symposia took place or will take place under the direct organization of SCS. In addition, four SCS Lectureship are planned and a dozen of smaller, local, events will be organized.

The list of SCS events is updated regularly and is available on <http://scg.ch/events>.

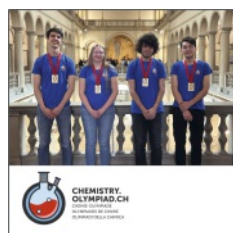
## 11. Varia

No requests to speak were requested from the audience. The President thanked for the confidence and closed the meeting.

Zurich, April 14, 2023  
Prof. Christian Bochet  
President

David Spichiger  
Executive Director

### Four young Talents will represent Switzerland at the International Chemistry Olympiad in Zurich



On April 15, the four winners of this year's Swiss Chemistry Olympiad were awarded gold medals at ETH Zurich. They are among more than 300 young people from around 90 countries who will compete in the International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO) in July. The competition will be held in Switzerland for the first time in 2023.

- Vivian Michael Huber, Allgemeine Gewerbeschule Basel
- Sabine Isabelle Neuhaus, Berufsbildungszentrum IDM Thun
- Alex Martinetti, Centro professionale tecnico Lugano-Trevano
- Andrin Hauenstein, Kantonsschule Uster

The four winners will receive the Swiss Chemical Society Sponsorship Award, which is endowed with CHF 500 per person and is intended to support them as they begin their studies.

For the first time in nine years, the Principality of Liechtenstein will also be represented at the International Chemistry Olympiad:

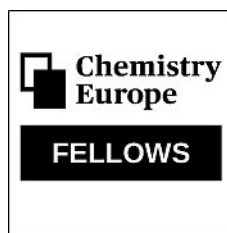
- Merlin Vogt, Liechtenstein Gymnasium (FL)

472 young people took part in the Swiss Chemistry Olympiad this year. The top 15 took part in the national finals from April 11–15, where they demonstrated their theoretical and practical knowledge of chemistry during two three-hour exams. Beforehand, they trained intensively for three days. In the mornings, the high school students attended lectures on topics such as organic chemistry or spectroscopy, and in the afternoons they had to apply what they had learned in the laboratory. "During the lessons, PhD students taught us useful tricks," says bronze winner Noah. The result came as a surprise to him, says first-place winner Vivian, who is doing an apprenticeship at Roche. "I didn't expect to get this far!"

Meetings with like-minded people from all over the world now await the four Swiss champions. In other years, they would have had to travel to another country for this – in 2023, the world is coming to them. From July 16–25, the International Chemistry Olympiad will take place on the Höggerberg campus of ETH Zurich. More than 300 young chemists\* from around 90 countries will travel to Zurich to make contacts, look for clever solutions and get to know Switzerland. "My expectations for ICHO are to learn even more about chemistry and make new friends," says Alex, a vocational student from Ticino. "I'm looking forward to showing Switzerland to people from all over the world," says Sabine, who completed her apprenticeship as a chemical lab technician at Lonza last year and is now taking her Matura.

Source: [chemistry.olympiad.ch](http://chemistry.olympiad.ch)

## Call for Nominations: Chemistry Europe Fellows 2023



The Chemistry Europe Fellows Program was established in 2015 by the Chemistry Europe Presidents and Representatives to recognize members of the Chemistry Europe societies for their outstanding achievements and contributions to Chemistry Europe and their service to at least one member society.

The program is established to foster the identity of Chemistry Europe within continental Europe but is not limited to that continent. It is the highest honor given by Chemistry Europe.

Fellows receive a certificate and retain the designation as Chemistry Europe Fellow for life.

The Chemistry Europe Fellows will be announced and honored at the biannual EuChemS conference or during appropriate national meetings in the years in-between.

If you would like to nominate someone, please fill in the form before September 30, 2023. Self-nominations are not accepted. More information: [chemistryviews.org/fellows](http://chemistryviews.org/fellows)

### A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



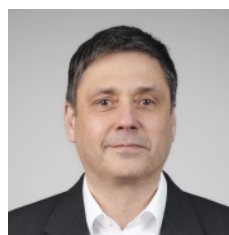
Period: 29.03.2023–02.05.2023

Ayush Agarwal, Windisch – Wilfrido Eliot Almaraz Ortiz, Lausanne – Lorraine Andrade Malaspina, Bern – Daniel Biner, Burgistein – Weicheng Cao, Zurich – Kanghyun Chu, Bern – Jose Andres Cordero Solano, Dübendorf – Valentin Gallier, Ruelisheim (FR) – Simon

Grabowsky, Bern – Fatos Hoxha, Schlieren – Wenyu Klingler-Wu, Niederwil bei Gossau – Dhananjey Kumaar, Zurich – Najung Lee, Seoul (KR) – Markus Löweneck, Dielsdorf – Salem Majouri, Fribourg – Magoti Masota, Lausanne – Ruairí Mc Court, Bern – Alissia Meyer, Goldiwil (Thun) – Veronica Francesca Michel, Zurich – Cyril Portmann, Fribourg – Johannes Schorr, Zurich – Yu-Chun Shen, Basel – Ritik Singhal, Reinach BL – Gregor Wasser, Grosshöchstetten – Cheng Zhang, Geneva.

## HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

### DIAC Fellowship 2023 awarded to Kurt Püntener, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Basel



The SCS Division of Industrial & Applied Chemistry (DIAC) awards the DIAC Fellowship 2023 to **Dr. Kurt Püntener**, from F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG, Basel, for his tremendous impact on process chemistry and outstanding contributions in delivering innovative and breakthrough solutions in route design, (bio)catalysis, and process development

for more than 100 Roche pipeline molecules, including Oligo-nucleotides and Peptides.

Dr. Kurt Püntener received the certificate at the DIAC Annual Meeting at Sika in Zurich on May 22, 2023.

The three lectures with the title «Catalysis at Roche – the key en-

abler towards sustainable processes for our pipeline molecules» are planned as follows:

8. September 2023, 10.45h, Syngenta Research Center, Stein (AG)  
14. November 2023, 16.30h, University Zurich, Irchel Campus  
20. November 2023, 17.30h, University Geneva, Sciences II

### About the DIAC Fellowship Program

The nomination as DIAC Fellow is granted to distinguished scientists from Industry for significant contributions and innovations over many years in the field of industrial chemistry and chemical process technology in Switzerland. The yearly award is sponsored by the Division of Industrial & Applied Chemistry (DIAC) of the Swiss Chemical Society and consists of a prize sum of CHF 1'000 as well an invitation to give lectures at Swiss academic and industrial institutions.

Submit your nominations for the DIAC Fellowship 2024 to [info@scg.ch](mailto:info@scg.ch) by September 30, 2023. The dossier should include a nomination letter (self-nominations are not accepted), the CV and a list of the most important publications of the candidate.

Source: [scg.ch/diac-fellowship](http://scg.ch/diac-fellowship)

### Best Poster Prize Winners at the Spring School on Digital Chemistry 2023



Congratulations to Junior poster presenter: **Ariel Francis Perez Mellor**, University of Geneva «Using Graph Theory to Unravel Born-Oppenheimer Molecular Dynamics and Replica-Exchange Monte Carlo Simulation»

Senior poster presenter: **Bálint Tamás**,

University of Zurich

«Development of a self-optimizing platform for flow-based peptide synthesis»

and

**Gerald Keller**, University of Würzburg

«Interpreting and improving residence times of protein kinase A ligands by means of T-random accelerated molecular dynamics simulations»

for their outstanding poster presentation at the SCS Spring School on Digital Chemistry 2023.

The prize was sponsored by Syngenta and Idorsia in the two categories “junior poster presenter” and “senior poster presenter”. A special prize was given in recognition of a special contribution to Paula Linh Kramer.

Source: [aisem23.scg.ch](http://aisem23.scg.ch)

### Best Poster Prize Winners at the 16. Freiburger Symposium 2023



The symposium offered an excellent platform to exchange research results in form of posters. The two best student presentations were awarded with the Best Poster Award, that includes a certificate and prize money of 200 CHF each.

Congratulations to **Dario Poier**, HEIA Fribourg

«Single-atom catalysts applied in fine chemical synthesis» and **Fabio Casanova**, Firmenich SA

«A Key Perfumery Ingredient from batch to continuous» for their outstanding poster presentation at the 16. Freiburger Symposium 2023.

The prize was handed over by Dr. Richard Smith, Executive Editor Wiley-VHCA.

Source: [fs23.scg.ch](http://fs23.scg.ch)

### The Bioconjugate Chemistry Lectureship Award 2023 was awarded to Dr. Jean-Christophe Leroux, ETH Zurich



**Prof. Jean-Christophe Leroux**, ETH Zurich received the Bioconjugate Chemistry Lectureship Award 2023.

Bioconjugate Chemistry and the ACS Division of Polymeric Materials: Science and Engineering present the 2023 Award, which recognizes the contributions of an individual who has made a major impact working at the interface

between the synthetic and biological worlds. Prof. Jean-Christophe Leroux is full professor in Drug Formulation and Delivery and head of the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences at ETH Zurich.

The award will be presented at ACS Fall 2023 in San Francisco, from August 13–17. Leroux will be presenting a lecture as part of the Bioconjugate Chemistry Lectureship Symposium at the meeting, along with other prominent researchers in the field. Time, date, and location of the Lectureship Symposium will be announced at a later date.

Source: [chab.ethz.ch](http://chab.ethz.ch)

## JOURNAL NEWS

### Helvetica, Volume 106, Issue 4, April 2023



#### Reviews

Advances in Biohybridized Planar Polymer Membranes and Membrane-like Matrices

*Olivia M. Eggenberger, Piotr Jaško, Shabnam Tarvirdipour, Cora-Ann Schoenenberger, Cornelia G. Palivan*

Ruthenium Catalysis in Biological

Habitats

*Alejandro Gutiérrez-González, Fernando López, José L. Mascareñas*

#### Perspectives

Science and Arts, Philosophy and Science: Why after All? Why Not?

*Martin Quack*

#### Synthetic Procedures

Preparation of 3-Bromo-1,2,4,5-tetrazine

*Lukas V. Hoff, Simon D. Schnell, Elie Benchimol, Fabio Pereira Foutinho, Andrea Tomio, Michel Rickhaus, Karl Gademann*

#### Research Articles

Lewis Acid-mediated Ring Contraction of 2,4-Diaryl-2,3-dihydro-1H-1,5-benzodiazepines: Access to 2-Aryl-1-styrylbenzimidazoles

Long Lin, Xiaogang Peng, Emilie Voirin, Bertrand Donnio, Mircea V. Rastei, Bertrand Vileno, Jean-Louis Gallani

Nickel-Photoredox-Catalyzed Synthesis of  $sp^2$ - $sp^3$  Fragments and the Impact of Bicycloalkane Isosteric Replacement on Their Physical-Chemical Properties

Quentin Lefebvre, Mina Bocu, Christophe Giorgiutti, Thomas C. Fessard

Controlled Growth of Hybrid Halide Perovskites by Crown Ether Complexation for Perovskite Solar Cells

Sun Ju Kim, Ramesh Kumar Chitumalla, Jong-Min Kim, Joonkyung Jang, Jin-Woo Oh, Jovana V. Milić, Ji-Youn Seo

Synthesizing Strained Azatriseptane Frameworks

Kai Zhang, Mélissa El Bitar Nehme, Philip A. Hope, Michel Rickhaus

Synthesis and Reversible  $H_2$  Activation by Coordinatively Unsaturated Rhodium NHC Complexes

Jonathan Trouvé, Rafael Gramage-Doria

A Cross-shaped Monomer as Building Block for Molecular Textiles

Camiel C. E. Kroonen, Adriano D'Addio, Alessandro Prescimone, Olaf Fuhr, Dieter Fenske, Marcel Mayor

Website: [onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15222675](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15222675)

## INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: [www.chemanager-online.com](http://www.chemanager-online.com)

### Clariant Closes Sale of Land Oil Business to Dorf Ketal

April 6, 2023: Clariant closed on Apr. 3 the sale of its North American land oil business to Indian specialty chemicals manufacturer Dorf Ketal for \$14.5 million. The Swiss group said the divestment is a further step to structurally improve its portfolio and sustainability profile. The land oil business, which generated sales of \$115 million in 2022, provides chemical technologies and services to the North American oil and gas industry. After strong growth in 2018–2019, the global oil industry entered a crisis in 2020, which prompted a strategic review, Clariant said. It concluded that the land oil business would not reach the profitability levels expected for a specialty chemicals portfolio. “Clariant is a true specialty chemicals company whereas the North American land oil business is primarily a distribution and service business,” said Clariant CEO Conrad Keijzer. “We are therefore glad that, with Dorf Ketal, we have found the right owner for our customers and our employees.” The business employs 180 workers in the US and Canada. In January, Dorf Ketal made another acquisition, this time taking the global modified and synthetic acid business of Canada’s Fluid Energy. The business reported a turnover of more than C\$80 million in 2022.

### First Shipment with Lightweight Active Container

April 17, 2023: Collaboration between Swiss Airtainer, Swiss WorldCargo and B.P.L. Biotech & Pharma Logistics  
Swiss WorldCargo, Swiss Airtainer, and B.P.L. have announced the launch of a self-sustaining airfreight container for life-saving medicine that brings significant weight reduction of 250 kgs and thereby less fuel consumption. This achievement seeks to revolutionize the cold chain logistics by providing a sustainable and innovative solution for the transportation of life-saving medicine. The first shipment with this container recently took place from Basel via Zurich to San Francisco. Lorenzo Stoll, Head of Cargo at Swiss International Air Lines states: “We are excited to be a part of this innovation, which has the potential to significantly impact the transportation of life-saving medicine. The self-sustaining airfreight container is a game-changer for the industry, and we are highly committed to its success.” “B.P.L. are thrilled to be partnering with Swiss WorldCargo and Swiss Airtainer on this first joint shipment. This joint initiative is a great opportunity to explore innovative ways we can reduce our carbon footprint,” said Urs Suter, General Manager at B.P.L. Switzerland. “Our partnership with Swiss WorldCargo is a testament to our shared commitment to sustainability and innovation in the airfreight industry. Together, we are redefining the possibilities of cold chain logistics, and the successful completion of our first joint shipment marks a revolutionary milestone in our journey towards a greener and more efficient future,” said Eduard Seligman, CEO of Swiss Airtainer. The container utilizes solar energy to feed the battery, allowing the thermal unit to maintain the required temperature range without the need for an external power source. This process allows for a simplification of the cold chain and makes the container an ideal solution for transporting medicine to remote and underdeveloped areas, where access to cold chain infrastructure can be limited. The container is made of sustainable and eco-friendly materials in line with minimizing our environmental impact. Additionally, advanced temperature and humidity control systems and smart technology were incorporated which provide real-time tracking and monitoring of the cargo, ensuring that vaccines and other medical supplies arrive at their destination safely and securely. Swiss Airtainer’s airfreight container weights 250 kg less than its competitors and has re-

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ceived the full certifications required, including the one from the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which confirms the safety and reliability of the product. Swiss Airtainer has also received strong support from the Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA) and from the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO, further validating the company's efforts to innovate and improve the airfreight industry. The project has already received positive feedback from the industry and is set to make a significant impact on the transportation of life-saving medicine. Swiss WorldCargo, Swiss Airtainer, and B.P.L., three Switzerland based companies, are committed to creating sustainable solutions for the logistics industry and are excited to be at the forefront of this innovative project. All parties involved share the same Swiss values and look forward to the positive impact the collaboration will have on the industry and the communities it serves.

### Clariant Officially Opens Chinese Catalyst Site

April 18, 2023: With much fanfare, Swiss specialty chemicals producer Clariant has opened a new production facility for its Catofin-branded catalysts completed late last year at Jiaxing in China's Zhejiang Province. Clariant said new plants such as this, built at a cost of 80 million Swiss francs, form a core element of its "Greater chemistry – between people and planet" philosophy and also further deepen its footprint in China, where it already produces catalysts at Jinshan and operates a catalyst R&D center at its One Clariant Campus in Shanghai. "This investment is part of our strategy to strengthen our regional footprint and increase the share of local production in China with leading catalysts technology in a strongly growing segment," said Jens Cuntze, president of Clariant Catalysts & Asia Pacific.

The Catofin PDH catalysts are used to produce olefins such as propylene. Additionally, Clariant has developed a specialty material called Heat Generating Material (HGM), which it said reduces the energy consumption of the technology by up to one-third, further highlighting the advantages of this exceptionally reliable, high-yield catalyst solution. Jace Wang, head of propylene at Clariant Catalysts, said the new Chinese facility offers "significantly more" production capacity for the popular, high-value catalyst in a market that is seeing rapidly increasing demand. The state-of-the-art plant's digitalized operations are essential to be able to continue making high-quality catalyst while boosting productivity rates, Clariant said.

### DSM in Talks to Take Adare Biome

April 21, 2023: DSM is in exclusive talks with US CDMO Adare Pharma Solutions to buy Adare Biome, a French developer and manufacture of postbiotics, for €275 million. Postbiotics is a rapidly emerging segment of the gut health market that is projected to grow strongly, according to DSM. Unlike the live bacteria in probiotics, postbiotics consist of inanimate microorganisms and/or their cellular components and metabolites that confer a health benefit to the host. A growing body of scientific evidence claims that postbiotics deliver comparable health benefits and are more stable, so have a longer shelf-life and can be used in a wider range of applications and in new ingredient combinations. Adare Biome's brand Lactéol for reliving digestive problems is well known and sold in nearly 40 countries worldwide. The company also has two other brands — LBiome and LBiotix for digestive health applications in human, pet and farm animals. The Dutch group said it anticipates being able to rapidly extend the availability of Lactéol through its i-Health business, adding that further development of the postbiotic for business-to-business opportunities will include dietary supplements, early life nutrition, medical nutrition and nutritional improvement for the under-nourished. The acquisition, DSM added, will also help establish it as a frontrunner in the growing microbiome management market for pets and expand its animal health range, where the

stability of postbiotics means they can be incorporated into its premix feed solutions. "DSM would be the ideal company to take Adare Biome to a new level and realize the growth potential of postbiotics. They have the infrastructure and strong commercialization and science capabilities to scale the significant scientific research achieved over the years and DSM's mission to create healthier lives for all will resonate strongly with the team," said Adare Pharma Solutions CEO Tom Sellig. The transaction remains subject to customary conditions and regulatory clearance. The companies did not say when they expected the deal to complete. DSM is currently undergoing a merger with Swiss flavors and fragrances group Firmenich. The companies confirmed on Apr. 4 that they now have competition clearance in all required jurisdictions and the "merger of equals" will complete on 8 May.

### Siegfried Breaks Ground for global R&D Center

April 28, 2023: Swiss-based, globally oriented CDMO Siegfried has broken ground for its new global Research and Development (R&D) Center for Drug Substances at its site in Evionnaz, Switzerland, which the company describes as a "key pillar" in its related network. The new center, costing as much as 25 million Swiss francs to build, is set to begin operations in 2024 with 100 "highly skilled specialists." Together with the research Center at its home base in Sofingen, Siegfried said the new facility will "significantly increase R&D capacity to drive future growth." With its advanced chemical and analytical facilities and state-of-the-art laboratories, the center will offer chemical process R&D and analytical development services for the entire Drug Substances network. CEO Wolfgang Wienand said the facility center will not only strengthen its site in Evionnaz, but also its global network.



## SCS Academy

Swiss Chemical Society

The SCS Academy offers further education courses in a wide range of chemical sciences:

- Analytical Sciences
- Environmental Chemistry
- Laboratory Basics
- Process Chemistry
- Intellectual Property
- Personal Skills
- Practical training for young lab professionals

From beginners to experts, all level of users are within our target group. We offer our courses in collaboration with industrial partners to ensure the relevance of application.

academy.scg.ch

