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SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

DIAC Member Meeting 2024 at Syngenta Münchwilen: Connecting Industrial Chemists



This year, the annual DIAC members' meeting took place at Syngenta in Münchwilen AG and was perfectly organized by Andrea Sting and his experienced team. Around 40 participants from industry and academia attended, providing the setting for a day full of insights in industrial process chemistry and networking opportunities.

At the start of the meeting, Dr. Andrea Sting, Head of Global Process Technology at Syngenta Crop Protection AG, welcomed the participants with an overview of Syngenta's activities. Dipl. Ing. Sebastien Stoessel, Site Manager in Münchwilen, then gave a comprehensive overview of the site and provided valuable insights into the activities and the importance of the site in the wider context of Syngenta's activities. Dr. Denis Gribkov, the DIAC Fellow from 2022, and process chemist at Syngenta Crop Protection AG, gave a talk on the topic of "Sustainable chemical process development at Syngenta". Dr Gribkov used vivid examples to demonstrate how mastering chemistry can simplify and environmentally improve industrial processes, and to illustrate Syngenta's commitment to sustainability and innovation.

Another highlight was the DIAC Fellowship award 2024 ceremony, with Dr. Florian Kleinbeck from Novartis Pharma AG receiving the prize (picture). In his short lecture, Florian Kleinbeck gave an insight and outlook on his research and work. We look forward to his lectures on "Innovative and Breakthrough Solutions in Route Design, (Bio)Catalysis, and Process Development at Novartis" at the University of Basel (21. June 2024), dsm-firmenich (12. Sep 2024) and University Fribourg (9. Oct 2024).



In the official part of the member meeting, the DIAC board members were confirmed and Dr. Niklaus Künzle, Lonza (picture), was elected as the new president, with Dr. Lucie Lovelle (Novartis Pharma) as the new vice president. A general review of the past year with many activities, including the Freiburger Symposium, the SICS in Basel, the

member meeting at Sika and the Process Research Development (PRD) colloquia at the Universities, shows the importance of DIAC as the networking platform for industrial chemistry and process technology in Switzerland.

After a delicious lunch, the participants were invited to an exciting pilot plant tour of Syngenta Münchwilen. The tour provided an insight into the impressive infrastructure and innovative processes that drive Syngenta's operations and left attendees with a deep impression for Syngenta's commitment to excellence.

Source: <https://scg.ch/diac>

youngSCS Visit to dsm-firmenich



35 members of the young Swiss Chemical Society visited dsm-firmenich's R&D center in Meyrin, Geneva, on March 22nd. The participants were invited to the site as part of dsm-firmenich's commitment to being a force for good: the company understands the importance of helping to train the next generation of chemists and enables them to make a positive impact

on the world too. In the morning, dsm-firmenich was presented to the society members, followed by short talks on career paths and scientific topics, featuring leading R&D scientists from different research domains. This was followed in the afternoon by a tour of the analytical, biotechnology and chemistry laboratories. The presentations began with an overview of the company's history, outlining its 150-year heritage of scientific discovery. Lea Schaub then told how this had evolved into today's integrated company, which boasts 88 manufacturing sites across the globe and is recognized as a leading innovator in nutrition, health, and beauty. dsm-firmenich has also been awarded several prizes for its working conditions, including the EDGE certification for gender equality.

The first technical presentation was given by Dr. Flavien Morel, an EPFL-trained chemical engineer working to develop new continuous processes for the preparation of synthetic ingredients for perfumery. This was followed by a presentation from Dr. Ana Garcia Herraiz, who is working in the company's New Ingredient Discovery Group. Her work focuses on exploiting biomass as a renewable feedstock. The third technical talk of the morning was given by Dr. Kerstin Steiner from the Biotechnology Group. She explained to the young scientists how dsm-firmenich uses biotechnological tools to synthesize complex molecules.

The participants also learned about the analytical platform in a presentation by Dr. Basile Vuichoud, who is the head of the NMR department. Then, in the final part of the morning session, the participants were given insights into the perfumery and beauty business, with talks given by Julie Cena and Jezabel Praz on regulatory affairs and perfumery.

After a networking lunch, during which students and employees engaged in lively discussions, the special guided tours of the dsm-firmenich site in Meyrin began. Following these tours — and a short closing session — the participants went home full of knowledge about dsm-firmenich's work. youngSCS, would like to thank dsm-firmenich for hosting us and Dr. Ana Garcia Herraiz & Dr. Maud Reiter for having organized the visit.

Source: *youngSCS network*

Adolphe Merkle Institute joins the SCS as Institutional Member

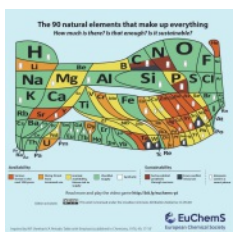


With pleasure the SCS welcomes the Adolphe Merkle Institute at University of Fribourg as new SCS Institutional Member.

The Adolphe Merkle Institute (AMI) is an interdisciplinary center of competence in soft nano- and materials science. AMI strives to be a leader in fundamental and application-oriented interdisciplinary research on soft nanoscience and educates the next generation of scientists, stimulate innovation, foster industrial competitiveness, and improve the quality of life. Since 2013 the AMI is leading the interdisciplinary National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR) for Bio-Inspired Materials and has been striving to become an internationally recognized hub for paradigm-shifting research, innovation, and education in the domain of “smart” materials whose function and design are inspired by nature. Transcending traditional disciplines, the center integrates the research activities of 21 research groups from AMI, the University of Fribourg’s departments of chemistry, medicine, biology, and physics, and partners at the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ) and Lausanne (EPFL).

More information: <https://scg.ch>

Version 2.0 of the EuChemS Periodic Table addresses sustainability



EuChemS published the updated version of its periodic table highlighting element scarcity. The new version also considers the sustainable use of chemical elements.

The EuChemS Periodic Table was initially released in 2019, on occasion of the International Year of the Periodic Table. It highlights how the resources of chemical elements that make everything up on this planet are limited. On this EuChemS Table of Chemical Elements, each chemical element is shown on a logarithmic scale, its shape depending on the abundance of the element itself, while its colour reflecting availability. Considered a “living document”, it has been updated a number of times to reflect on societal changes and scientific discussions, such as the ones held at the EuChemS Periodic Table workshops on specific elements and their uses.

The 2.0 version was approved last year, at the EuChemS Annual Meetings in Larnaca, Cyprus. The main update is the inclusion of a section on sustainability by the introduction of the deep red colour. The changes reflect the planetary boundaries and the results of the COP28 held in Dubai. With the addition of the deep red colour, the table now has 7 colours split into two categories: availability and sustainability.

Since its publication, the EuChemS Periodic Table can be disseminated freely as long as there are no changes, under the Creative Commons Attribution NoDerivs CC BY-ND. EuChemS is also happy to receive community-made translations.

All versions of the EuChemS Periodic Table in high quality, as well as instructions for submitting a community translation can be found on: <https://euchems.eu/euchems-periodic-table/>
Source: <https://euchems.eu>

Dr. Tom Kinzel started as designated executive director at the GDCh



The German Chemical Society (GDCh) announce that Dr. Tom Kinzel started his employment at the GDCh and will take over the position as GDCh’s executive director on August 1. He will succeed Prof. Wolfram Koch, who will retire on July 31 after more than 25 years of service to the GDCh. The designated executive director was welcomed by

Tom Kinzel, PhD, MBA Kinzel studied chemistry in Göttingen and completed his doctorate there in the field of organic chemistry. After a post-doctoral stay at MIT in Cambridge/USA, he began his professional career as a laboratory manager at Bayer Pharma in Wuppertal in 2011. After several professional positions, he headed the Open Innovation Centers China and Europe, which are responsible for alliances and collaborations with external partners. In 2022, he moved to Nuvisan ICB, a company that conducts research on new drugs on behalf of the pharmaceutical industry, where he headed the Services department within the Life Science Chemistry Division. In 2023, he also completed an EMBA degree at HEC Paris.

We wish Tom Kinzel a good start at the GDCh and are looking forward to continuing the successful partnership with the GDCh.

More information: <https://gdch.app>

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



Period: 30.04.2024–28.05.2024

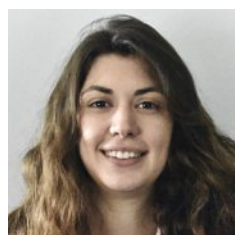
S. Narjes Abdollahi, Basel - Semih Afyon, Rheinfelden - Fink Alke, Fribourg - Misagh Allahdadlalouni, Teheran (IR) - Arianna Balestri, Basel - Felix Bayard, Geneva - Milan Beljkaš, Belgrade (RS) - Llorenç Benavent, Wabern - Lucie Bertolaso, Lausanne - Aditya Bhardwaj, Zurich - Elisabetta Bonaglia, Ecublens -

Yannick Brägger, Zurich - Pieter Brongers, Basel - Emmanouil Broumidis, Bern - Duncan Brownsey, Renens VD - Joel Brügger, Frutigen - Anton Budeev, Basel - Fabienne Bühler, Bern - Shu-Yu Chen, Zurich - Teofana Chonova, Dübendorf - Wyatt Curtis, Lausanne - John Mark Christian Dela Cruz, Brugg - Jia Ding, Basel - Ionel Adrian Dinu, Basel - Ole Dressler, Zurich - Tanguy Englert, Aïre - Yves Erdin, Binningen - Maren Flasshoff, Ostermundigen - Roman Mmanda Fortunatus, Fribourg - Adrian Friedmann, Hofstetten - Vera Giulimondi, Zurich - Damian Graf, Basel - Shenyi Guo, Geneva - Moritz Häffner, Fribourg - Maxime Hedou, Fribourg - Luis Ignacio Hernandez Segura, Zurich - Karel Hornak, Zurich - Subha Jana, Lausanne - Nils Jansen, Geneva - Aliénor Jeandin, Zurich - Chiel Kaal, Zurich - Hrishikesan Kalpakassery Pattam, Fribourg - Seok Kim, Dübendorf - Mathias Kissling, Bönigen - Daniel Klose, Zurich - Xuandong Kou, Villigen - Fabian Kröninger, Lausanne - Wangsik Lee, Fribourg - Yang Li, Fribourg - Matteo Lisibach, Zug - Yiheng Lu, Riehen - José Antonio Merkelj, Basel - Monika Mielniczuk, Villigen - Jesus Ruben Miron Garcia, Basel - Elinor Morris, Basel - Tom Nelis, Morges - Adriana Neves Vieira, Zurich - Florence Piffaretti, Gattikon - Karina Pivnic, Zurich - Jirachaya Pongnoppa, Bern - Maria Porteiro Figueiras, Fribourg - Diana Potes Vecini, Fribourg - Jiwoon Ra, Dübendorf - Aswin Ravindran, Basel - Matthew Rayment, Zurich - Christopher Reilly, Lausanne - Anies Rösch, Allschwil - Atzin Ruiz-Lera, Geneva - Elias Salvisberg, Basel - Iulia Scarlat, Fribourg - Liliana Schefer,

Münchenstein - Tobias Schöberl, Zurich - Andrey Sinyavskiy, Zurich - Ludmilla Sturm, Geneva - Nanditha Sunil Kumar, Basel - Kalman Szenes, Zurich - Patricia Taladriz, Fribourg - Jerwin Jay Taping, Villigen - Marc Thiede, Bern - Muhammed Trawally, Istanbul (TR) - Alex Truong, Oberwangen b. Bern - Barbara Umfahrer, Winterthur - Ajmal Roshan Unniram Parambil, Basel - Zachary VanOrman, Grimisuat - Anna Vulpetti, Basel - Lara Wild, Geneva - Tyrone Wyss, Bern - Navadheer Yalamanchili, Cheseaux sur Lausanne - Yue Zhang, Bern - Kailin Zhang, Basel - Qingxia Zhang, Geneva - Mengqiong Zhu, Fribourg - Chenglian Zhu, Zurich - Vladislav Zobnin, Villigen.

HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

9th Polymer International-IUPAC Award goes to Athina Anastasaki, ETH Zurich



The SCI[®] (Society of Chemical Industry), the Editorial Board of Polymer International and the IUPAC Polymer Division are delighted to announce that Athina Anastasaki, Assistant Professor of Polymeric Materials at ETH Zurich, Switzerland, is the winner of the 9th Polymer International-IUPAC award for Creativity in Applied Polymer Science.

In polymer synthesis, she has been able to settle a long-lasting misconception in controlled radical polymerization whereby polymers with high dispersity have been traditionally associated with low livingness and increased termination, thus limiting several applications. Her in-depth knowledge and understanding in polymerization mechanisms led her group to develop a number of ATRP and RAFT polymerization approaches in which the initiation and deactivation steps were elegantly regulated, unambiguously showing that extremely high end-group fidelity can be maintained regardless of the targeted dispersity.

The award celebrates the outstanding contributions that Professor Anastasaki has made to polymer chemistry where she has developed an outstanding, independent, innovative, and highly visible research profile spanning across the broad areas of polymer synthesis, polymer self-assembly and depolymerization leading the next generation of polymer chemists.

Source: <https://iupac.org>

JOURNAL NEWS

Helvetica, Volume 107, Issue 5, May 2024



Reviews

Does the Central Nitrogen Atom Make a Difference? A Comparison of Non-Coordinating Pyridine and Benzene Spacers in Multitopic Ligands
Catherine E. Housecroft, Edwin C. Constable

Synthetic Procedures

Isolation of Fidaxomicin and Shunt Metabolites from *Actinoplanes deccanensis*
Erik Jung, Maja Hunter, Andrea Dorst, Alexander Major, Tatjana Teofilovic, Rolf Müller, Karl Gademann

Research Articles

A Fluorogenic Substrate for Quinoline Reduction: Pnictogen-Bonding Catalysis in Aqueous Systems
Giacomo Renno, Qing-Xia Zhang, Antonio Frontera, Naomi Sakai, Stefan Matile

Protocol for the Photocatalytic Hydroxyalkenylation of Alkenes Using 1,2-Bis(phenylsulfonyl)ethylene and Water
Chen-Yang Tsai, Chun-Yu Chen, Yen-Ku Wu, Ilhyong Ryu

Submonomer Synthesis of Inverse Polyamidoamine (i-PAMAM) Dendrimer Antibacterials
Hippolyte Personne, Xiaoling Hu, Etienne Bonvin, Jérémie Reusser, Jean-Louis Reymond

Website: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15222675>

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: www.chemanager-online.com

Wolfgang Wienand to Join Lonza as New CEO

April 2, 2024: Lonza has appointed Wolfgang Wienand as its new CEO. He will join the company during the summer of 2024 and succeed Albert M. Baehny, who took on the additional responsibility of interim CEO in October 2023 while the search for a permanent CEO took place. Baehny will remain at Lonza for a transition period during the summer, before retiring from the company. Wienand is currently CEO of the Swiss contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) Siegfried, a role he has held since 2019. Prior to this, he first served as chief scientific officer and then as chief strategy officer in Siegfried's executive leadership team. Before joining Siegfried in 2010, Wienand held a series of positions at the German specialty chemicals company Evonik.

Archroma to Expand Operations in South Carolina

April 3, 2024: Swiss specialty chemicals producer Archroma announced plans to expand its US operations in Martin, South Carolina. The expansion will include a \$750,000 investment in the facility and equipment at the Allendale County plant and six new jobs, with additional growth anticipated, the company said. Russell Gibson, vice president of Archroma's Global Operations and SC Excellence said: "Allendale County not only provides the perfect location for reaching our customers and markets, but also has a proven workforce with the capabilities we need to produce the quality products for which Archroma is renowned." Sameer Singla, Archroma divisional president and CEO of PP&C, and president Americas and EMEA added: "We take great pride in our longstanding presence in Allendale County, spanning over 45 years. Our commitment to this community runs deep, and we cherish the steadfast support we've received from its people these past five decades." Specializing in the production of dyes, chemicals, and optical brightening agents, Archroma's Allendale County facility serves a diverse range of markets including textiles, packaging and paper, as well as coatings, adhesives, and sealants.

Sika Acquires Concrete Refurbishment Company in the US

April 3, 2024: Swiss construction chemicals major Sika has acquired Kwik Bond Polymers (KBP), a US-based manufacturer of polymer systems for the refurbishment of concrete infrastructure. Financial details of the transaction were not disclosed. KBP has production facilities at its headquarters in Benicia, California, and

additional production and warehousing near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Its portfolio includes polymer technologies for long-lasting protection of bridge decks and other concrete infrastructure applications. According to Sika, KBP's solutions contribute to an overall carbon footprint reduction in the construction industry by increasing the lifespan of construction projects. Infrastructure in the USA is facing unprecedented challenges due to lack of maintenance and under-investment over many years, Sika commented in a statement. In 2022, a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill was approved that will support decade-long funding for critical infrastructure upgrades. Mike Campion, Sika's regional manager Americas, said: "Kwik Bond is a perfect complement to Sika's current infrastructure focus and product portfolio. By preserving and extending the service-life of our concrete infrastructure, we deliver outstanding customer value and significant sustainability benefits to the construction industry."

Roquette Invests in Danish Start-up Biograil

April 9, 2024: Roquette, a French multinational supplier of pharmaceutical and nutraceutical excipients, announced an investment by its venture capital arm Roquette Ventures in Danish start-up Biograil. Copenhagen-based Biograil is developing a proprietary oral device called BIONDD for delivering biologics that would typically require injection. This advancement, Roquette said, is set to transform patient care by offering a less invasive and more accessible treatment method. Biograil's BIONDD device is contained in a standard size capsule able to deliver active therapeutics into the gastrointestinal wall to be effectively distributed in the human body. With this investment, Roquette Ventures joined a consortium that also includes Megatrend Invest (Denmark), Verve Investment (Switzerland), High-Tech Gründerfonds (Germany), Sanner Ventures (Germany), Evonik Venture Capital (Germany) and Eli Lilly (US). Roquette Ventures said it believes that this investment fits perfectly with its investment philosophy, which focuses on promoting solutions to improve health and sustainability. Furthermore, the Roquette group can contribute its expertise in pharmaceutical excipients, enhancing Biograil's efforts to advance their platform technology.

Kühne Holding Acquires Aenova from BC Partners

April 24, 2024: Kühne Holding has agreed to purchase Aenova Group, a pharma contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO), from BC Partners. BC will reinvest and retain a minority stake in Aenova. The financial terms remain undisclosed.

Aenova Group, a global CDMO headquartered in Starnberg, provides comprehensive services for the development, manufacturing, and packaging of drug products. With 4,000 employees across 14 sites, it has grown into one of the world's top ten CDMOs under BC Partners' ownership and CEO Jan Kengelbach's leadership. In 2023, Aenova achieved record pro-forma revenue of € 832m, up 17% from the previous year. Dominik de Daniel, CEO at Kühne Holding, commented, "With this investment, we are taking an important strategic step to enlarge our investment portfolio to include healthcare and pharmaceutical assets with a strong financial base and long-term growth prospects. Aenova Members of the Aenova Group C.P.M. - CPR - Dragenopharm - Haupt Pharma - Swiss Caps - SwissCo - Temmler is on a great performance track, and we are excited to accelerate it even further under our ownership." BC Partners' Chairman, Raymond Svider, added, "We're pleased to see such an important German healthcare business continue its growth trajectory under the strategic ownership of Kühne Holding AG. As a firm, we have a long and successful history of partnering with families and founders across Europe, and we look forward to working closely with Kühne Holding and Aenova in this next chapter for the business."

Jan Kengelbach, CEO at Aenova, said, "With the new ownership structure, we will continue to implement our strategy of making Aenova the go-to CDMO with market-leading capabilities and innovative specialty technologies in Europe. With its long-term investment horizon, Kühne Holding is a perfect fit for the business to support this strategy. It allows us to continue down the path of operational excellence in the conventional manufacturing business, while building highly sought-after technology platforms and development services to satisfy the customer demand of the future."

Novartis to Acquire Mariana Oncology

May 3, 2024: Swiss drugmaker Novartis agreed to acquire Mariana Oncology, a US biotechnology company based in Watertown, Massachusetts, that develops novel radioligand therapies (RLTs) for the treatment of cancer. Under the terms of the agreement, Novartis will make an upfront payment of \$1 billion and additional \$750 million in payments upon completion of pre-specified milestones. The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions. With the acquisition, Novartis will add what it calls a "robust portfolio of RLT programs spanning lead optimization to early development across a range of solid tumor indications such as breast, prostate and lung cancer – including development candidate MC-339, an actinium-based RLT being investigated in small cell lung cancer."

"The acquisition of Mariana Oncology reflects our commitment to radioligand therapy as one of our company's key technology platforms and strengthens our leadership in this field," said Fiona Marshall, president of Biomedical Research at Novartis. RLTs, or radiopharmaceuticals, are a form of precision medicine that combines a tumor-targeting molecule (ligand) with a therapeutic radioisotope (a radioactive particle). RLTs bind to specific receptors expressed on the surface of certain types of tumors. Once bound to a target cell, emissions from the therapeutic radioisotope cause DNA damage that can inhibit cell growth and replication and potentially trigger cell death. This targeted approach, Novartis said, enables the delivery of radiation to the tumor, while limiting damage to the surrounding cells. According to Novartis, it has currently two approved RLTs for certain patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer and for certain types of gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors. The company's early and late pipeline has several programs in or entering the clinic, including a spectrum of studies and assets for prostate cancer, as well as other preclinical and discovery programs to identify novel RLTs, the company said.