



SCS
Swiss Chemical
Society

Community News

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SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Invitation to the SCS General Assembly 2018



The Board of Directors invites all members of the Swiss Chemical Society and the delegates of its associated societies to join the 28th General Assembly.
April 6, 2018, 13.00–13.30h
University of Neuchâtel
Aula des Jeunes-Rives
Espace Louis-Agassiz 1
2000 Neuchâtel

Provisional Agenda

1. Welcome and approval of the agenda
2. Election of the vote counters
3. Minutes of the 27th General Assembly from April 21, 2017 in Bern (published in CHIMIA 6/2017, A394)
4. Annual report 2017 (published in CHIMIA 1-2/2018)
5. Financial statement 2017 incl. audit report
6. Discharge the Board
7. Elections
8. News and strategic projects
9. Outlook 2018/19
10. Varia

A summary of the financial statement 2017 is available on the website.

Swiss Chemical Society (SCS)

Dr. Alain De Mesmaeker
President

David Spichiger
Executive Director

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



Period: 30.01.2018 – 25.02.2018

Matthias Arenz, Bern - Kamal Azzaoui, Delemont - Mariia Beliaeva, Basel - Augustin Bussy, Zürich - Ahmed Elabd, Fribourg - Christel Guibourdenche, Helsingue (FR) - Edith Joseph, Neuchâtel - Mathilde Monachon, Neuchâtel - Gosia Murawska, Basel - Arshi Naqvi, Agra

(IN) - Mariel Pettersson, New Haven (US) - Barbara Preti, Capolago - Pierre Quinodoz, Saint-Louis (FR) - Aiman Rahmanudin, Lausanne - Christian Reber, Montreal (CA) - KyungSeob Song, Fribourg - Yan Zhao, Fribourg.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Prof. Majed Chergui, EPFL, elected to the Royal Academy of Sciences of Spain



Prof. Majed Chergui has been elected Foreign Member of the Royal Spanish Academy of Sciences (Real Academia de Ciencias).

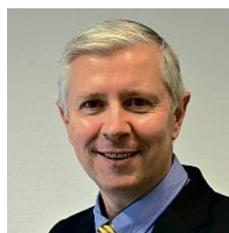
The Royal Spanish Academy of Sciences was founded in the 16th century, and currently counts 54 Full Members, 90 National Correspondents, and Foreign Correspondents, which include

several Nobel Prize winners (http://www.rac.es/2/2_3_5.php).

Professor Majed Chergui was elected as successor to Ahmed Zewail (1999 Chemistry Nobel Laureate). Professor Chergui directs EPFL's Laboratory of Ultrafast Spectroscopy, which pursues a variety of ultrafast UV and X-ray spectroscopic studies on chemical and biological systems. Chergui is also a founding Editor-in-chief of the journal *Structural Dynamics*, a flagship journal of the American Institute of Physics and the American Crystallographic Association. His lab is also part of the Lausanne Centre for Ultrafast Science (LACUS).

Source: actu.epfl.ch/news

Prof. Paul Dyson receives the 2018 European Sustainable Chemistry Award



The board members of the EuCheMS Division of Green and Sustainable Chemistry and Division of Chemistry and the Environment awards *Prof. Dyson* the first European Sustainable Chemistry Award. Paul Dyson has initiated and implemented many multidisciplinary initiatives in the field of green and sustainable chemistry in which he

combined synthetic chemistry with physics, biology, materials science and/or engineering. Thus far he has demonstrated that he is an exemplary researcher, mentor, teacher and group leader.

Prof. Dyson will give a talk and formally receive the award at the EuCheMS Congress in Liverpool on August 26–30, 2018.

The award is sponsored by Inkemia Green Chemicals to the value of 1500 EUR.

Source: scs.ch and euchems.eu

JOURNAL NEWS

ChemPubSoc sponsors SCS Events 2018



As SCS is member and co-owner of ChemPubSoc Europe the society profits not only from royalty payments of ChemPubSoc journals but also receives sponsoring contributions for its events. ChemPubSoc financially supports the below listed SCS events and journal representatives will be onsite as participants and discussion partners:

- SCS Spring Meeting, “Bio-Inspired Chemistry”, 06.04.2018, University of Neuchâtel
- SCS Seminars 2018/1, Catalysis Across Scales, 13.–15.06.2018, Interlaken
- DMCCB Basel Symposium, 14.05.2018, Basel
- SCS Fall Meeting, 07.09.2018, EPF Lausanne
- Swiss Industrial Chemistry Symposium, 19.10.2018, Basel
<http://www.chempubsoc.eu>

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: www.chemanager-online.com

Clariant and Shanghai Huaxi in Hydrogen Pact

February 6, 2018: Clariant's catalysts business has formed a strategic alliance with Shanghai Huaxi Chemical Industry Science & Technology Co. for hydrogen projects in China. Under the agreement, Clariant will provide a range of catalysts for the Shanghai-based company's medium temperature shift (MTS) technology licenses, including reforming, hydrodesulfurization and water gas shift processes. Clariant's ReforMax series catalysts will be recommended for the reforming process while its HDMax catalysts will be used for the hydrodesulfurization of feed streams. For the water gas shift process, Shanghai Huaxi will endorse the Swiss group's high-performance ShiftMax 300, a copper/zinc MTS catalyst that enables high reaction rates at temperatures as low as 185°C and offers high sulfur resistance. Thomas Wenger, head of Clariant's catalysts business in China, said the alliance intensifies the partnership between the two companies following an agreement earlier in 2017 to collaborate on several hydrogen projects. “Our combined strengths in MTS hydrogen production will bring significant advantages to Chinese customers,” he said. The Basel-headquartered group has been focused on boosting its growth in China through a stronger local presence. To that end, the company opened a new office for its catalysts business in Qingdao, Shandong province, in December 2017, to better serve customers in central and northern China. This was preceded in July 2017 by the opening of an office in Yinchuan city, capital of the Ningxia Hui autonomous region. Clariant said the region in northwest China is home to a majority of the country's coal-to-chemicals producers as well as numerous syngas and polyolefin companies. Clariant has two catalyst plants in China, one in the Jinshan district of Shanghai and the other in Panjin City, Liaoning province. Late last month, Saudi chemicals and plastics producer Sabic announced it had bought a 24.99% stake in Clariant from US hedge funds Corvex and 40 North.

Interest in Consumer Drug Buys Waning?

February 6, 2018: Pharmaceutical companies' interest in buying consumer health businesses is waning, with more players interested in shedding the activities than acquiring them, reports suggest. According to the news agency Reuters, Nestle has stepped back as leader in a deal to buy Merck KGaA's consumer health businesses. At the same time, only GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Reckitt Benckiser are said to be still interested in the Pfizer assets. While GSK has not commented recently, at the end of last year its ardor for taking on the Pfizer portfolio appeared to have cooled. A spokesperson for Merck told Reuters that “the process of evaluating options for our consumer health business is well on track.” The news agency said, however, that Nestle had backed away from a deal as expectations that the unit should bring up to 20 times core earnings would put the price at about €4 billion (just under \$5 billion). The business has annual sales of about \$1 billion. In addition to price, the trade journal Fierce Pharma commented that Nestle's apparent withdrawal may have been triggered by activist investor Dan Loeb, whose Third Point hedge fund last year made a \$3.5 billion investment in the Swiss group. Loeb has pushed Nestle to look for deals in high-growing areas such as pet care and bottled water. The journal added that Reckitt Benckiser may be more interested in Pfizer's consumer business than in Merck's. Bloomberg, meanwhile, citing unnamed sources, suggested that both Nestle and Johnson & Johnson have dropped out as potential bidders for Pfizer's consumer unit, which is expected to fetch \$15-20 billion. The deadline for non-binding bids has now passed and final bids are expected in a few weeks. A Pfizer spokeswoman told Bloomberg the US pharmaceutical giant is still considering all its options for the consumer unit, including a swap or a spinoff, but also may decide to retain it.

Syngenta Completes Nidera Seeds Buy

February 9, 2018: Swiss agrochemicals group Syngenta has completed the acquisition of Nidera Seeds, the crop seeds business of Chinese grains trader COFCO International. Terms of the acquisition were not announced. Nidera Seeds is an important player in the South American seeds market, diversified across crops, with a pool of proprietary germplasm and a relevant presence in key countries including Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. Syngenta CEO Erik Fyrwald said these capabilities will enhance the Chinese-owned, Swiss-based player's competitiveness in the relevant markets. According to the news agency Reuters, COFCO spent more than \$3 billion buying the former Dutch seeds trader Nidera, along with Noble Agri, over the past three years.

Warren Buffett Invests in Teva

February 20, 2018: Berkshire Hathaway, the investment vehicle of US billionaire Warren Buffett, has acquired 18.9 million American Depositary Receipts (ADRs) of embattled Israeli generics maker Teva. The stake said to represent about 1.9% of Teva's US-traded shares is worth close to \$358 million. It makes Berkshire the tenth largest shareholder of the world's biggest generics manufacturer. The stock purchase is the second major move by Buffett into the healthcare sector this year. At the end of January, the investor announced plans to team up with Amazon and JPMorgan Chase to create a technology-driven healthcare provider for the employees of all three companies, “free from profit-making incentives and constraints.” Buffett said the plan would “check the rise in health costs” that acts as a “hungry tapeworm on the American economy.” The billionaire did not publicly comment on the Teva purchase, but observers said he was evidently impressed by the \$3 billion turnaround plan rolled out by new CEO Kåre Schultz late last year. Reports circulating last autumn suggested that another billionaire, Len Blavatnik,

whose investment vehicle Access Industries was the last owner of LyondellBasell before it filed for bankruptcy at the beginning of 2009, was interested in investing \$3 billion in Teva. The investment apparently did not materialize. Analysts have been talking up the Israeli drugmaker in recent weeks, with Credit Suisse upgrading the company's share on the news of the restructuring plan that is set to claim a quarter of the workforce while reducing the \$31.4 billion debt burden. "We expect the focus on healthcare spending and, in particular, increased drug spending, to lead to greater utilization of generic drugs both in the US and outside the US, and this is something that should ultimately be a positive for Teva and other large generic manufacturers," the bank wrote. In another comment, analysts at Raymond James & Associates said: "Drug costs continue to escalate, Trump is all over prices, and Teva, along with the rest of the generics industry, is part of the solution."

Roche to Buy New York's Flatiron Health

February 21, 2018: Swiss drugmaker Roche has agreed to acquire all of Flatiron Health, a privately held healthcare technology and services company headquartered in New York City, in which it currently holds a 12.6% stake. The transaction is expected to close in the first half of this year, subject to customary closing conditions. The US company is a provider of oncology-specific electronic health record (EHR) software, as well as curation and development of "real-world" evidence for cancer research to companies and institutions engaged in healthcare. With a network of community oncology practices and academic medical centers across the US, Flatiron works to develop new approaches using the evidence gleaned in regulatory decision-making, including the design and validation of novel endpoints. Under the terms of the agreement, Roche will make a payment of \$1.9 billion to Flatiron Health on a fully diluted basis, subject to certain adjustments. The plan is for the US firm to continue its current business model, network of partnerships and overall objectives. The integrity of segregated patient protected health information will be preserved, as will dedicated sales and marketing, provider-facing and life science business activities, the Swiss drugmaker said. Daniel O'Day, CEO of Roche Pharmaceuticals, said the acquisition is "an important step in our personalized healthcare strategy for Roche, as we believe that regulatory-grade real-world evidence is a key ingredient to accelerate the development of, and access to new cancer treatments."

Archer Daniels Midland and Syngenta Settle Lawsuit

February 22, 2018: US grain merchant Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) and Swiss agrochemicals group Syngenta have settled a lawsuit over Syngenta's launch of a biotech corn strain that had negative effects on the US company's grain exports to China. The settlement was reached in December 2017, according to a filing by ADM with the US stock market watchdog US Securities and Exchange Commission recently picked up by news agencies. ADM sued Syngenta in 2013 for selling the corn variety Agrisure Viptera, or MIR 162, in China before the government had approved it for import. As a result, China rejected US corn cargoes containing the unauthorized strain. This led to losses amounting to "tens of millions of dollars" for ADM, the company has claimed. The Swiss group was also sued by another major US grain dealer and ADM competitor, Cargill, as well as by US corn growers. The agrochemicals producer now owned by ChemChina reached a \$1.5bn settlement with the growers in September of last year, reports said. The Cargill case is set to be heard in this September of this year. Syngenta said it "continues to defend itself" against the claims of other exporters. The Swiss producer told Reuters that it "continues to believe that American farmers should have access to the latest US-approved technologies to help them increase their productivity and crop yield." The news agency said US growers are also suing ADM, claiming the company was negligent in failing to screen for biotech corn. China's refusal to accept the shipments caused corn prices to plummet. According to the SEC filing, ADM remains a defendant in court actions in the US state of Illinois, which it has tried unsuccessfully to dismiss. China approved imports of Viptera corn in 2014.

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