



The «Platform Chemistry» of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) invites young professors and group leaders in chemistry within the first 10 years of their independent career to the



Young Faculty Meeting 2018

Hiring and getting hired

Tuesday, 5 June 2018 · Haus der Universität, Schösslistrasse 5, 3008 Bern

- 08:40 Registration and coffee
- 08:50 Welcome and round of introductions
- 09:20 **Emiliana Fabbri**, Paul Scherrer Institute
Insights into Perovskite Nano-Catalysts as Oxygen Electrodes for the Electrochemical Splitting of Water
- 09:40 **Stephan von Reuss**, University of Neuchâtel
Decoding the Chemical Language of Nematodes
- 10:00 Coffee break
- 10:30 **Alice Soldà**, University of Bologna
The European Young Chemists' Network – Connecting Young Chemists around Europe
- 11:00 **Aleix Comas-Vives**, ETH Zürich
What can Bonding Analysis and Ab Initio Molecular Dynamics tell us from Heterogeneous Catalysts?
- 11:20 **Wendy Queen**, EPFL Valais
Introduction to Metal-Organic Frameworks and their Application in Separations
- 11:40 Lunch
- 13:10 **Thomas Eichenberger**, ETH Zürich
Career Planning – or just Good Luck?
- 13:50 **Wilfred van Gunsteren**, ETH Zürich
Hiring, Supervising and Firing PhDs and Post-docs
- 14:30 **Hiring and getting hired**
Panel discussion with Thomas Eichenberger, Wilfred van Gunsteren, Sereina Riniker, and Justin Zoppe
- 15:20 Coffee break
- 15:50 **Ulrich Aschauer**, University of Bern
Defect and Surface Chemistry of Oxides and Oxyntitrides
- 16:10 **Laura Nyström**, ETH Zürich
Chemical Characterization of Dietary Fibres and Methods to Study their Health Promoting Effects
- 16:30 End

Please register by e-mail (chemistry@scnat.ch) before 25 May 2018.

sc | nat 

Chemistry
Platform of the Swiss Academy of Sciences



SCS
Swiss Chemical
Society

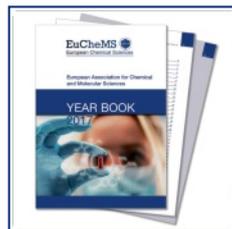
Community News

www.scg.ch

www.chemanager-online.com

SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

EuCheMS Year Book 2017



The 2017 edition of the EuCheMS Year Book is now online! The Year Book provides an insightful overview of the EuCheMS Professional Networks, policy initiatives, conferences, events and much, much more.

www.euchems.eu/about-us/year-books/

Welcome to the EuCheMS 2017 Yearbook!

David Cole-Hamilton President, EuCheMS

“It has been a great joy for me to serve as President of EuCheMS for the last 3 years and to meet so many fascinating, generous and highly motivated people.

When I was elected President-Elect in Budapest in 2013, I was warmly welcomed by the whole Executive Board and General Assembly, led by Ulrich Schubert (then President), Franco De Angelis (then Treasurer) and Nineta Hrastelj (General Secretary). Since then I have visited many of you in your Member Societies, Divisions and Working Parties and have always been greeted with great affection and support. That is the real strength of EuCheMS. It is a community of chemists from 33 different countries all with different backgrounds, problems and personalities but with a shared commitment to improving chemistry and the lives of chemists in your countries and research areas. It has been a huge privilege to be able to work with you and I am certain that you will give the same warm welcome to Pilar Goya as she starts her term as President and to Eckart Rühl, who has already taken over as Treasurer. [...]”
www.euchems.eu

DMCCB Award for PhD students and junior Post-docs



Once a year, the Division grants one PhD student or junior Post-Doc with an award (“DMCCB award for PhD students and junior Post-Docs”) in the field of medicinal chemistry or chemical biology. The award consists of a certificate and a check of 500 CHF.

The award will be selected by the DMCCB board based on the following criteria: quality, novelty and interest of the submitted publication, as well as extent of personal contribution. The deadline for applications is the same as the deadline for abstract submission of the Fall meeting.

Application process:

To apply for a “DMCCB award”, the nomination dossier should contain:

- A short motivation letter describing the personal contribution of the nominee to the work submitted for consideration.
- A one-page curriculum vitae

- One selected first-author publication in a peer reviewed journal (co-first author also accepted)

- An abstract of the proposed award lecture

The application should be sent as a single pdf file to the DMCCB vice president (jean-louis.reymond@dcb.unibe.ch) with a copy to the DMCCB president (yves.auberson@novartis.com).

Deadline is May 12, 2018.

The DMCCB will inform the applicants of its decision on the nomination at the time the program for oral presentations at the Fall Meeting is communicated.

scg.ch/dmccb

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



Period: 28.02. – 26.03.2018

Murat Alkan-Zambada, Biel - Alexandre Anthiis, St. Gallen - Célia Bergame, Neuchâtel - Michael Bogdos, Basel - Carl Thomas Bormann, Lausanne - Anna-Bea Bornhof, Geneva - Claire Bouix Peter, Vallauris - Michael Brand, Baden - Christoph Brunken, Zurich - Dylan Dagoneau, Eiken - Kim Long Diep, Fribourg - Alberto Garbujo, Como (IT) - Charlotte Gourmel, Zurich

- Pitchnaree Kraikaew, Genève - Wu Lan, Lausanne - Irakusne Lopez, Nottingham (GB) - Dmitry Mazunin, Basel - Jasper Möhler, Zurich - Simona Mueller, Wettswil - Darryl Nater, Dietlikon - Alina Osypova, St Gallen - Allen Arturo Puente Urbina, Zurich - Rocío Rivera-Sanchez, Neuchâtel - Suphasinee Sateanchok, Genova - Nadine Schneider, Basel - Alexandre Schöpfer, Riehen - Fridtjof Schröder, Hettlingen - Peter Sennhenn, Zurich - Bettina Streckenbach, Zurich - Elke Suess, Schwerzenbach.

HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

Prof. Christoph Bostedt nominated as full Professor at PSI Villigen / EPFL Lausanne.



Prof. Christoph Bostedt was named as Full Professor of Physical Chemistry in the School of Basic Sciences (SB), EPFL, and Head of the Femtochemistry Laboratory at the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) from the 1st of April 2018.

Christoph Bostedt is an internationally renowned expert on synchrotron radiation and free-electron lasers. His

research findings have enabled significant advances to be made. Christoph Bostedt belongs to a new generation of researchers working in the field of physical chemistry on an interdisciplinary basis. His particular interests and outstanding expertise make him ideally qualified to exploit the potential of the X-ray free-electron laser SwissFEL, which is due to come into regular use at the PSI in 2019.

Source: actu.epfl.ch/news

Prof. Majed Chergui, EPFL, wins the Khwarizmi International Award 2018



Prof. Majed Chergui received the KIA 2018 in the category of Fundamental Research under the title “Unravelling the fundamentals of solar materials”. An internationally renowned expert in ultrafast spectroscopy, Professor Chergui directs EPFL’s Laboratory of Ultrafast Spectroscopy, which carries out ultrafast-UV and X-ray spectroscopy 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).

The Khwarizmi International Award (KIA) was established in 1987 in memory of Abu Jafar Muhammad Ibn Musa Al-Khwarizmi (ca. 780–850 AD), the famous Iranian mathematician, astronomer, and geographer whose name (Latinized into Algoritmi) gave us the term “algorithm”.

The KIA is given annually by the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST), which is affiliated with Iran’s Ministry of Science, Research and Technology. Originally intended to recognize outstanding achievements in science and technology by Iranian citizens, by 1997 the KIA expanded its scope to also include foreign candidates.

Source: actu.epfl.ch/news

Dr. Wolfram Höland, Ivoclar Vivadent AG, receives a GOMD Award 2018



Dr. Wolfram Höland, lecturer at the Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences at ETH Zurich and head of fundamental research on glass and ceramics at Ivoclar Vivadent AG, receives one of the four GOMD Lecture Awards 2018. He is giving a lecture at the Meeting of the Glass and Optical Materials Division of the American Ceramic Society in San Antonio, Texas, May 20–24, 2018.

Stokey Lecture of Discovery Award of the GOMD

This award recognizes an individual’s lifetime of innovative exploratory work or noteworthy contributions of outstanding research on new materials, phenomena, or processes involving glass, that have commercial significance or the potential for commercial impact.

<http://ceramics.org/gomd2018>

JOURNAL NEWS

Essential developments at ChemPubSoc Europe: The European publishing organization with global impact



The ChemPubSoc Europe journals are committed to publishing top-quality chemistry as rapidly and efficiently as possible. Our journals are flourishing after a jam-packed and innovative 2017. Thank you to society members, our professional scientific editors, board members, authors, reviewers, and readers, for another record year of high-quality publishing in the chemical sciences. Read about the progress of ChemPubSoc Europe here.

To learn more about the affiliation between our 15 quality publications and 16 continental European chemical societies, visit our webpage: chempubsoc.eu

Joined at the hip: EurJOC and EurJIC celebrate 20 years of publishing



In 2018 the European Journals of Organic and Inorganic Chemistry (EurJOC and EurJIC) celebrate their 20th Anniversary with two new editors at the helm: Doctors Anne Nijs and Preeti Vashi.

The journals have their origins in 13 European chemical journals, representing more than 1000 years of publishing in the chemical sciences when summed. At the heart of this remarkable collaboration are more than ten European chemical societies that have stimulated research within their communities since the turn of the 19th century, and earlier.

www.chemistryviews.org

First Topical Special Issue of ChemPhotoChem: Artificial Photosynthesis



This Special Issue of ChemPhotoChem highlights the current state-of-the-art in the field of Artificial Photosynthesis and identifies both barriers and promising routes for future development. With an Editorial by Professors Anthony Harman, Haruo Inoue and Licheng Sun.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>

New Journal Feature: The Nobel Legacy



Chemistry – A European Journal will start an exciting journey exploring the significance of Nobel Prizes in Chemistry for today’s research. In this new journal feature called “The Nobel Legacy”, a recurring series of invited Review-type articles, each one connected to a particular Nobel Prize in Chemistry, will be published. Read more in the Editorial

and discover the first article in this series.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: www.chemanager-online.com

Lonza Adds More Building Blocks for the Healthcare Continuum

February 27, 2018: Contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) Lonza said it exceeded its full-year 2017 guidance. The company reported sales of CHF 5.1 billion. Having closed the acquisition of Capsugel in July 2017, Lonza consolidated the Morristown, NJ-based US specialist in drug delivery technologies for nearly six months in 2017. Lonza standalone sales were CHF 4.6 billion for the full year, 10.4% up in reported currency from 2016. Including Capsugel, the Swiss company had sales of CHF 5.1 billion in 2017, a 23.5% increase compared with the previous year.

„With 120 years of company history, we are now stronger than ever,“ said Richard Ridinger, CEO of Lonza, remarking that Capsugel had already shown its potential to add to Lonza’s growth, especially as synergies were expected to materialize starting in 2018. „With such a rapid step-up in size — of our sales, employees and entities — we are now optimizing all of our processes and structures to ensure profitable growth continues well into the future,“ he added. With the \$5.5 billion acquisition of Capsugel the Swiss fine chemicals and biologics producer accelerated the consolidation trend in the global contract manufacturing industry. Aiming to become the leading integrated solutions provider for the pharmaceutical and consumer healthcare markets, Lonza has been investing heavily in its Pharma & Biotech business, which is positioned to serve customers along the healthcare value chain. Only a month after the closing of the Capsugel deal, in August in 2017, Lonza announced the takeover of Micro-Macinazione. The Monteggio-based Swiss specialist in the micronization of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and excipients extends Lonza’s capacity for particle engineering in Europe and Lonza’s existing micronization clinical and commercial manufacturing capabilities based in Quakertown, PA, USA.

The latest strategic move was announced on February 8 when Lonza Pharma & Biotech disclosed that it agreed on an exclusive partnership with Denali Therapeutics, a San Francisco, CA, USA-based biopharmaceutical company that works on discovering and developing a broad portfolio of therapeutic biologic candidates for neurodegenerative diseases.

Getting Closer to the Patient and End Consumer

The Capsugel acquisition also supports Lonza’s strategic ambition of getting closer to the patient and end consumer by offering an integrated portfolio of industry-leading technologies, from APIs through excipients to dosage forms and delivery technologies. The combined business creates a leading integrated, value-added solutions provider in drug development, formulation, delivery technologies and manufacturing for the global pharma and consumer healthcare industries. A key focus for the combined capabilities of Lonza will be highly-potent active pharmaceutical ingredients (HPAPIs), a key trend in the industry according to Christian Dowdeswell, Lonza Pharma & Biotech, head of Dosage Forms & Delivery Systems. Speaking to CHEManager’s Michael Reubold he explained the strategy behind the Capsugel acquisition: “We saw three trends in the market that drove us towards making an acquisition. First, our customer base is continuing to change. Small emerging specialty companies that are driving innovation nowadays have limited internal resources and different needs when it comes to outsourcing. The second trend is an increasing complexity in what a customer is producing, and that complexity cuts across all aspects of the drug. It

is within the molecule itself but also includes the challenges to increase its solubility and bioavailability. And third, there is still, and increasingly a trend for high potency APIs. Those trends and challenges drove the acquisition of Capsugel.” With the further expansion of its Drug Product Services labs in Basel (CH), Lonza also expanded its footprint for parenteral dosage form development offerings, which is highly complementary to Lonza’s oral dosage form. Dowdeswell explains: “With recent acquisitions, we bring in not just our core expertise in development, production and commercialization of APIs but we extend that into drug product intermediate and into drug product.”

Capsugel Acquisition and Integration

With the acquisition of Capsugel, Lonza has added a large breadth of technologies that it believes will expand the market reach of both companies’ contract development and manufacturing as well as products businesses. After the successful closing of the transaction the post-deal integration began immediately. During 2017 Lonza set up its organizational structure to be ready for the full integration of Capsugel and to align the segments for further growth in the future. From Jan. 1, 2018 on Capsugel has been integrated into both Lonza segments — Pharma & Biotech and Specialty Ingredients. Within the Pharma & Biotech segment, Capsugel’s drug product intermediate, development and manufacturing offerings, as well as its bioavailability and targeted release expertise, synergistically complement Lonza’s drug substance development and manufacturing capabilities. This addition has further strengthened the breadth and depth of Lonza’s offerings for small molecules.

Further Investments in Growth

In July 2017, Lonza announced the creation of IbeX Solutions, a new large-scale biologics campus embedded in the company’s existing manufacturing ecosystem in Visp, Switzerland. When completed, the modular complex of five buildings will offer 100’000 m² of flexible biomanufacturing space and could reduce time to market by 12 months or more. One of the two first buildings, due to be completed in the summer of this year and fully operational by 2020, will be built and operated as a joint venture with French drugmaker Sanofi. Shortly afterwards, in October, the Swiss CDMO acquired Shire’s clinical-stage mammalian manufacturing site in Hayward, CA, USA, boosting its cGMP capacity and supplementing existing assets in Slough, UK. Also, in 2017 Lonza acquired PharmaCell, a Dutch cell-and-gene-therapy contract manufacturer, to strengthen its offering and global footprint in this area. The acquisition adds to the ongoing construction of the world’s largest dedicated cell-and-gene-therapy facility in Pearland, TX, USA, which is expected to come on-stream before the end of the first quarter of 2018. To support and accelerate the growth of this priority area and advance the company’s strategy of being a leading, integrated solutions providers along the healthcare continuum, Lonza will establish centers of excellence for cell and gene therapy as announced mid-February 2018. These centers will include the Lonza sites in Pearland, TX, and Portsmouth, NH, US, Geleen/Maastricht, NL, and Singapore. The focus on cell- and gene-therapy centers of excellence will shift Lonza’s cell-therapy operations out of Walkersville, MD, USA, and enable the Walkersville site to focus entirely on the Bioscience Solutions business.

The Swiss fine chemicals and biologics producer also announced an investment in the former Capsugel site in Edinburgh, Scotland, in December 2017, less than half a year after Lonza acquired Capsugel, to improve anti-counterfeiting security for the global supply chain specific, in this case, to the liquid-filled hard capsules. This investment came three months after Capsugel had expanded the clinical trial capabilities at its Edinburgh facility. The expansion – initially announced in 2015 – also includes ad-

ditional high-containment capabilities for handling highly potent and cytotoxic compounds at all stages of product development and manufacturing. Commercial integration is also progressing, according to Dowdeswell, with the first joint-product offerings in consumer health and nutrition and positive customer response to the combined Lonza-Capsugel value proposition. Dowdeswell confirms: “With Capsugel now being an integral part of Lonza, we have a real strength and breadth of technology and a strong compelling value proposition. Customers are looking for people to solve problems. We have changed fundamentally the way we do business with our customers in that we found ways to be more responsive and to add even more value and speed to market. Our customers trust us to do things right and to do them in short time.”

Navigating in the VUCA Business Environment

February 28, 2018: Times are changing, and we are changing in them. An old saying that goes back to Ovid - but still true today. The business world has become more VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex, ambiguous) than ever. Just look around - changes wherever you look: globalization, digitalization, circular economy, commodization of knowledge. How are we to meet all these challenges? By adapting to new markets, developing new businesses, inventing new products - by changing, but in a way that creates value - in short by innovating. But not only by innovating on the product side - also in the area of business models. Often more value is created by new business models than through great product improvements - think of Google, Facebook, Uber...

How can chemical companies turn these challenges into business opportunities? What are the best ways to do this? What can the chemical industry learn from other industries? These and other questions were the main theme of the recent conference on the topic ‘Wertschöpfung im Wandel’ (Changing Value Creation) organized by the Association for Chemistry and Industry (VCW) on January 26, 2018 at the Campus Kronberg near Frankfurt, Germany. VCW is a network at the interface between chemistry and business within the German Chemical Society. Together with the conference’s sponsor Accenture the VCW organized a forum to share learnings and experiences. The delegates discussed issues with and answered questions of over 100 participating researchers and executives from the chemical industry on new ways of value creation. The discussions quickly centered on a couple of key themes: Artificial intelligence (AI) and its future role in the chemical industry, digitalization, (big) data, and company culture and its impact on company performance. Some insights I took away: AI is not a hype. AI is coming to the chemical industry - may be more slowly than in other industry sectors but nevertheless. Many chemical companies however still sit on the fence adopting a wait-and-see attitude, in particular business leaders. That’s a risky position to take because the AI trains are leaving the stations everywhere. AI opens new business dimensions in particular by learning and improving business and technical processes as you run them rather than by analyzing past performance and implementing learnings in the future. The chemical industry needs to not only play to learn the use of AI but fight the must-win battles before other players - most likely not from the chemical industry - can gain a lasting competitive advantage on them.

Data is the new oil. The chemical industry is slow in comprehending that they produce two very different outputs: materials and data. They know how to sell materials but are not leading the way in marketing data. If they wait for too long to take a lead here, others will step in and do it for them and cash in.

Digital performance pays. A recent study by Accenture demonstrates that companies versed in digital business aspects and commanding digital capabilities deliver significantly better business performance than digital laggards.

Company culture is a critical success factor. ‘Culture eats strategy for breakfast!’ That’s for how strong the famous economist Peter Drucker estimated the power of culture and its potential impact on business performance to be. Because culture provides a strong frame for the mindset of an organization which enables them to focus but limits them to look sideways. But that’s where most of the new business opportunities can be found.

Navigating in the new, VUCA business environment is hard work. This was succinctly summarized by one speaker quoting a Swiss poet: ‘There is no elevator to success. We all have to use the stairs.’ It takes long-term commitments and persistent and consistent leadership to succeed. Let’s move faster!

Syngenta and Nippon Soda Agree Seeds Deal

February 28, 2018: Swiss seeds specialist Syngenta, part of the ChemChina group since June 2017, has entered into a global licensing agreement with Nippon Soda for Picarbutrazox, a fungicide with a novel mode of action that has been developed by the Japanese company. Chinami Yokota, director of Nippon Soda’s development department, said the deal with Syngenta will broaden the use of Picarbutrazox beyond foliar application. According to the companies, Picarbutrazox shows “robust and reliable performance” for controlling Pythium and seedling blight diseases under many different cropping systems. Pythium, also known as root rot, damping off or water mold, is a fungus-like organism that affects hydroponic crops. Tackling Pythium, they said, allows farmers to adopt reduced or no-tillage cropping systems protecting the soil, avoid the costs of replanting and benefit from better germination, strong stand establishment and higher yields. “Picarbutrazox will strengthen Syngenta’s leading Pythium-control portfolio Mefenoxam and Azoxystrobin technology in corn, soybeans, canola, oilseed rape, cereals and other crops,” said Ioana Tudor, global head of Syngenta Seedcare. The first commercial launch of Picarbutrazox for seed treatment is expected in the US and Canada in 2019.

Lonza Expands in US, Moves Some Production

March 6, 2018: Swiss fine chemicals producer and pharmaceutical industry supplier Lonza is expanding one production facility in the US while downsizing another. The company said earlier the expansion of its late-stage clinical and commercial encapsulation capabilities for solid oral and inhaled dosage forms at Tampa, Florida, was due to be completed by the end of February. In Walkersville, Maryland, Lonza plans to move cell-therapy work out of facility that reports said received an FDA warning letter last year. Company officials told local media, however, that some of the employees may be retained as it expands other work. Among investments at the Florida site, the Swiss company planned to add a new Harro Höfliger Modu-C MS encapsulation unit in a move to improve speed-to-market capabilities. The specialized drum-dosing technology is used for powder-in-capsule (PIC) filling for oral solid dosage forms including dry powder inhaler (DPI) applications. Lonza said the investment strengthens its full-service product-development capabilities and capacity to support process development, clinical trial and commercial scale manufacturing utilizing encapsulation while also complementing its participation in PIC studies based on the company’s Xcelodose Precision Powder Micro-Dosing Systems. The Tampa site already has Xcelodose capacity. By May of this year, the company expects to complete a new dispensing area and two new processing suites at Tampa, broadening capabilities for the handling of highly potent active pharmaceutical ingredients (HPAPIs). Finally, a new suite will also be added that facilitates encapsulation of highly potent compounds. In future, Lonza wants to concentrate its gene and cell therapy work at centers of excellence. Sites in Pearland, Texas, USA, and Geleen/Maastricht, the Netherlands, would handle process and analytical

development, as well as clinical and commercial supply, while sites in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA, and Singapore would handle clinical and commercial manufacturing. At Walkersville, the Basel-based firm plans to concentrate on bioscience solutions work, providing custom and off-the-shelf media solutions.

The FDA issued a warning letter for the plant last year after Lonza was forced to halt some production because of sterility problems with a cell therapy product it was producing for a client. The company said it first learned about the issue after a product end-user notified the FDA of the issue.

David Estapé to Join CRB Group as Technology Manager Biotechnology

March 17, 2018: David Estapé, a long-time biotechnology expert who holds a doctorate in chemical engineering and has 22 years of experience, will join CRB Group as Technology Manager Biotechnology and will be based in Basel, Switzerland. Currently Technology Manager Life Sciences at M+W Group, an international plant engineering firm, Estapé has worked on major biotech projects globally, driven biotech strategy internally, gained experience in GMP and facility design for biopharma, and participated heavily in organizations like the International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering (ISPE), BioPhorum Operations Group and Parenteral Drug Association. Estapé studied Chemical Engineering at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) and received his degree in 1989. After an Erasmus exchange study at the Technical University Delft (NL) he did his PhD research at the GBF (Gesellschaft für Biotechnologische Forschung) in Braunschweig, Germany. In 1996 he received his PhD degree from the UAB and joined Life Sciences Meissner + Wurst (LSMW), a German life sciences solutions provider that later became part of M+W Group. Starting as junior engineer, in his 22-year career at M+W Estapé held various positions and eventually became Technology Manager in the global business unit Life Sciences and Chemicals. Estapé's major focus at CRB will be to provide CRB's clients with expertise in biotechnology front-end engineering, process technologies, regulatory/Good Manufacturing Practice, advanced facility design and strategic planning. While he will be based in Basel, Estapé will be available to support all 15 of CRB's offices and enhance CRB's existing capabilities in the biotechnology market.

Evonik to build new PA 12 Complex in Marl

March 20, 2018: Evonik has unveiled plans to increase its production capacity for the high-performance polymer PA 12 by 50% up to early 2021, in response to rising demand from growth markets such as automotive industry, oil and gas and 3D printing. The plans calls for construction of a new €400 million production facility at the Marl site in Germany's Westphalia region.

Evonik said the upgrade will also allow it to achieve its targeted margins on the polymer and generate an annual cash flow in the triple-digit range over the long term. New plants for PA 12 precursors are also to be part of the expansion – the group's largest capital spending project in Germany – which is expected to create about 150 new jobs. CEO Christian Kullmann said the infrastructure at Marl allows optimal synergies as well as favorable conditions to sell specialty products on a global scale as the Essen-based group sharpens its focus on specialty chemicals Kullmann sees the market for PA 12, which belongs to Evonik's growth engine Smart Materials, as growing by more than 5% annually, thus "significantly outpacing" global GDP growth. In 3D printing, management foresees double-digit growth. Evonik is by far the leading player in PA 12 worldwide, ahead of European competitors Arkema (France), Ems (Switzerland) and Japan's Ube. Arkema is currently upgrading its own PA 12 production in response to strong demand in Asia. A 25% upgrade in China will go on stream by mid-2020, slightly behind the Evonik expansion. The French company is also expanding in bio-based PA 11. Claus Rettig, CEO of offshoot Evonik Resource Efficiency, said the expansion at Marl will further strengthen the group's competitive advantage and help secure long-term availability and reliability of supply in existing as well as future applications. Evonik last expanded capacity in 2014 after a 2012 explosion at a plant for intermediate CDT at Marl severely crippled PA 12 deliveries for nine months.

Lundbeck to Acquire Prexton Therapeutics

March 21, 2018: Danish drugmaker Lundbeck has announced plans to buy Swiss drug developer Prexton Therapeutics in a deal worth up to €905 million. The deal would give Lundbeck global rights to Prexton's foliglurax, a first-in-class experimental therapy for Parkinson's disease that is currently in Phase II trials. First data from the clinical Phase II program is expected to be available in mid-2019. Foliglurax works by stimulating a specific glutamatergic target that activates a compensatory neuronal system in the brain. The aim is to treat the motor systems of Parkinson's, such as resting tremor and dyskinesia. Lundbeck said pre-clinical studies have demonstrated positive effects in models of the neurological condition, which affects around 6 million people worldwide. Under the terms of the agreement, Lundbeck will pay €100 million upfront to Prexton, plus up to €805 million on development, regulatory and sales milestones M-Ventures, the corporate venture arm of Germany's Merck KGaA, co-founded Prexton in 2012 with Francois Conquet, formerly director, licensing and business development at Merck Serono and CEO/founder of Addex Therapeutics. Prexton said it applies a new scientific approach that fully integrates molecular, behavioral and chemistry technologies to address Parkinson's disease and other brain disorders.

Mass Spectrometry for Chemists with the expression CMS



Fast reaction monitoring through analysis in seconds



Direct mass analysis from TLC-plates



With transfer unit for air-sensitive samples

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For more information:
central-europe@advion.com
www.expressioncms.com