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Community News

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SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Nomination process for IUPAC's Periodic Table of Younger Chemists running



In celebration of the 100th anniversary of IUPAC and the International Year of the Periodic Table, IUPAC and IYCN announce the creation of a Periodic Table of Younger Chemists. Beginning in July 2018 and ending in July 2019 at the World Chemistry Congress and IUPAC General Assembly, we will honor a diverse group of 118 outstanding younger chemists

from around the world who are emphatic on the mission and core values of IUPAC. The resulting periodic table will highlight the diversity of careers, creativity, and dedication of the young chemists leading us into the next century. Winners will be profiled on the IUPAC100 website and will receive a certificate from the IUPAC. Nominations are now being accepted.

Initiative co-sponsored by the International Younger Chemists Network (IYCN)

@IUPAC #IUPAC100 #YoungerChemists

<https://iupac.org/100/pt-of-chemist/>

IUPAC News: Global Women's Breakfast



Women have made enormous contributions to the advancement of chemistry over the last 100 years, but they rarely take time to celebrate these achievements. We encourage groups to organize breakfast networking events and to connect on that day with other groups around the world as a way to strengthen the bonds between women in chemistry.

We invite chemists and students from around the world to come together on February 12, 2019 for a global breakfast celebration entitled, "Empowering Women in Chemistry: A Global Networking Event".

<https://iupac.org/100/global-breakfast/>

New Name, Acronym and Logo of EuChemS



EuChemS changes its name and the logo and will, from now on, operate as European Chemical Society, EuChemS (former name: European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences, EuChemS). The official launch of the new name, acronym and logo was made at the EuChemS Chemistry Congress in August 2018 in Liverpool.

EuChemS website: <http://www.euchems.eu>

Prix Schläfli (since 1866), call for nominations



The Prix Schläfli, one of the oldest science prizes in Switzerland (since 1866), is awarded by the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) to young scientists for excellent articles resulting from PhDs in each one of the following natural sciences disciplines: Biology, Chemistry, Geosciences and Physics.

Eligible are young researchers who did their doctoral thesis at a Swiss University or Swiss nationals who did their PhD thesis abroad.

Nominations are submitted via an online form before 31 October 2018. Please consult the guidelines before applying.

scnat.ch/prixschlaefli

ScienceSearch: New search platform for scientific and technical content



ILMAC Lausanne launched a new platform for scientific and technical content in the fields of chemistry, life sciences, laboratory and process development related to the fair and its exhibitors.

To find relevant contents in the World Wide Web and, more important, to find verified and reliable information becomes more and more challenging.

ILMAC implemented a new search platform to easily get information and link them to exhibitors, providers, authors and potential customers. The search covers products and services, scientific articles, Wikipedia entries, patents, chemical agents and many other fields. If you plan to visit ILMAC in Lausanne on October 3–4, 2018, ScienceSearch supports you to prepare yourself and get most out of your day!

<https://www.ilmac.ch/sciencesearch>

Photo Competition: Colorful Chemistry



ChemViews Magazine invited its community members to share colorful photos related to chemistry. Have a look at all the beautiful pics and vote for your favorite-one. The photo receiving the most votes will receive a book prize: "Molecules That Changed The World" by K. C. Nicolaou and T. Montagnon.

More information:

https://www.chemistryviews.org/view/colorfulchemistry2018_page1.html

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



Period: 17.07. – 23.08.2018

Joel Affolter, Thunstetten - Robin Boliger, Wettingen - Pia Bruni, Bern - Oliviero Cannelli, Lausanne - Dace Cirule, Bern - Timothée Constantin, Grezieu-la-Varenne - Marco Francesco D'Elia, Zurich - Faustine d'Orchymont, Zurich - Mostapha Dakhchoune, Sion - Camille Desfeux, Genève - Adam

Eordogh, Zurich - Jose Esteban Flores, Zurich - Rachael Fay, Zurich - Melanie Gut, Zurich - Wolfgang Haap, Lörrach - Katarzyna Kubiak, Geneva - Jennifer Lamb, Zurich - Audrey Langlois, Schlierbach - Xavier Lucas, Basel - Valeria Mantella, Sion - Filippo Marangoni, Zurich - Steve Monnet, Avenches - Allan Murphy, Zurich - Christoph Neff, Wettingen - Sriharitha Rowthu, Windisch - Martin Schnurr, Zurich - Joerg Sedelmeier, Basel - Antonia Stepan, Bottmingen - Laurin Wimmer, Basel - Philippe Yep, Fribourg - Enrico Zanforlin, Unterengstringen.

HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

Prof. Peter Hamm, University of Zurich, receives the 2018 Ellis R. Lippincott Award



Prof. Peter Hamm has been named the 2018 Ellis R. Lippincott Award recipient, by the Optical Society (OSA), Coblentz Society and Society for Applied Spectroscopy (SAS). He is cited for seminal contributions to developing multidimensional infrared, Raman and Terahertz spectroscopy and pioneering studies of protein and hydrogen bonding

dynamics in molecular liquids.

To honor Ellis R. Lippincott's unique contributions to the field of vibrational spectroscopy, the three societies established the Lippincott Award in 1975. It is presented to a researcher who has made significant contributions to vibrational spectroscopy as judged by their influence on other scientists.

Source: <https://www.chem.uzh.ch> and <https://www.osa.org>

Prof. Cristina Nevado, University of Zurich, together with three other research groups from UZH gets an SNF Sinergia Grant



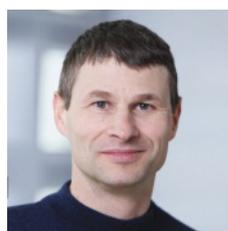
In a path-breaking project, four different research groups incl. **Cristina Nevado**, **Christian Mosimann**, **Tuncay Baubec** and **Amedeo Caflisch** from two different faculties of University of Zurich have applied successfully for an SNF Sinergia Grant. The project focuses on new epigenetic therapies for treating cancer.

Chemical modifications of histones, the proteins around which the genetic material is wrapped, provide an important regulatory layer for gene expression control. In this context, bromodomain proteins function as readers of specific chemical modifications on the histone tails. Given the direct connection between the regulation of gene expression and physiological and pathological processes, molecules interfering with readout of these modifications by the bromodomains have recently emerged as important chemical probes and clinical tools to fight cancer, inflammation and other diseases.

This project aims to provide a modular compound-generation and validation platform for rapid design, synthesis and characterization of potent and selective chemical inhibitors. Our collaboration interfaces in silico design and medicinal chemistry with functional genomics and in vivo models. The compounds resulting from our pipeline have great potential for the study of the chemical modifications that provide epigenetic modulation of transcriptional processes. Further, these small molecule modulators will be made available to the scientific community.

Source: <https://www.chem.uzh.ch>

Prof. Gunar Jeschke new Head of Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences at ETH Zurich



On August 1, **Prof. Gunnar Jeschke** takes over as Head of the Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences. He is the successor of Prof. Karl-Heinz Altmann who continues as Deputy Head of Department.

Source: <https://www.chab.ethz.ch>

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JOURNAL NEWS

ChemPlusChem: Leone Spiccia Memorial Issue



Leone Spiccia's legacy and memory is honored by his friends and colleagues with this Special Issue, guest edited by Phil Andrews, Lisa Martin and Sasha Simonov.

The focus is on three major areas of Professor Spiccia's research—Biomimicry and Diagnostic Imaging, Coordination Chemistry, and Solar Fuels. All

articles free to read until the end of August 2018.

More information:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/21926506/83/7>

Batteries & Supercaps: Inaugural Issue



Have you seen the very first issue of Batteries & Supercaps, the new journal from ChemPubSoc Europe? Browse it now and discover more about the future of electrochemical energy storage.

More information:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/25666223/2018/1/1>

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: www.chemanager-online.com

Messer Takes Linde's Americas Assets

July 18, 2018: MG Industries, a joint venture between German gases group Messer and private equity firm CVC Capital Partners Fund VII, has agreed to buy the majority of Linde's business in North America along with certain activities in South America for \$3.3 billion. The assets being acquired comprise substantially all of Linde's US bulk business and its operations in Brazil, Canada and Colombia, which together generated sales of around \$1.7 billion in 2017. Messer, which regards itself as the world's largest privately managed industrial gases specialist, will contribute to the JV its operations in western Europe, namely those in Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, France, Benelux, Denmark and Germany. These businesses employ 780 people and generated revenues of €334 million in 2017. "In creating this strategic partnership, we are seizing a unique opportunity to return to the North and South American markets and create a global player in the industrial gases sector," said Stefan Messer, owner and CEO of the Bad Soden-headquartered company. Messer sold its North American holdings to France's Air Liquide in 2004. The sale remains contingent on Linde's merger with Praxair and the receipt of outstanding regulatory approvals, which may require further divestments. The companies are still hopeful of completing the transaction in the second half of this year.

Is GSK headed for a Breakup?

July 24, 2018: Speculation is running high that the board of the UK's biggest drugmaker, Glaxo SmithKline (GSK), is increasingly willing to placate activist shareholders by splitting the company and that new CEO Emma Walmsley may well play along. The British newspaper Financial Times (FT) has reported that GSK board chairman, Philip Hampton, is talking to investors about a split within two to three years. Such a move would signal a marked strategy change for the company under Walmsley's tenure. Her predecessor, Andrew Witty, stepped down from the CEO's chair last year rather than continue to debate the long-running issue. The board's willingness to discuss a split-up, the FT said, comes after "several top-10 investors" pressed it to consider spinning off the consumer division. One of the newspaper's sources said investors at present are unhappy because GSK's share price, despite having risen 18% over the course of this year, is still down more than 4.6% year-on-year. This is in spite of the dividend having been maintained at 80p for the fourth consecutive year. Another reason the impatient shareholders believe the time is now right for GSK to break into two parts, is Swiss drugmaker Novartis' decision announced in March to sell its 36.5% stake in the two drugmakers' consumer health joint venture for \$13 billion. This will for the first time give GSK the freedom to do with the business what its management – or shareholders – want. The JV was created in 2015 as part of a multibillion dollar swap arrangement that saw GSK transfer its cancer portfolio to Novartis in exchange for the Swiss drugmaker's vaccines portfolio, while the two combined their consumer drugs assets. Saying the consumer business has "very good potential for growth," GSK has forecast operating margins for the activities in the "mid-20s percentages" by 2022. Any decision to proceed with a spin-off, the FT said, would likely depend in part on how far the company can shore up its pharma division, which on the whole has produced fewer blockbuster drugs than its rivals in recent years. When Glaxo presents its Q2 2018 results next week, the drugmaker's new R&D chief, Hal Barron, is expected to deliver an update on strategy, which some analysts believe could throw more light on potential breakup plans. Barron, who did stints at Roche and Genentech and is well respected in the drugs sector is one of several new top-level hires under Walmsley's leadership. Commenting on the rationale for the mooted split in a note to clients, analysts at USB noted that consumer assets within pharma companies "do not get consumer-like multiples." But while from this viewpoint a breakup "would seem to make sense," the bank cautioned that "the dividend cover as well as the current repositioning of GSK would not allow for this for a few years to come."

Roche Links with PureTech on Exosomes

July 26, 2018: Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche has signed up to a multi-year collaboration with PureTech Health, a US clinical stage biopharma focused on the brain-immune-gut axis. The partners will advance PureTech's milk-derived exosome platform technology for the oral administration of Roche's antisense oligonucleotide platform. Under the terms of the deal, PureTech will receive up to \$36 million from Roche, including upfront payments, research support and early preclinical milestones. In addition, PureTech will be eligible to potentially receive development milestone payments of more than \$1 billion along with other sales milestones and royalties for an undisclosed number of products. The Boston, Massachusetts-based company said its milk-derived exosome technology is uniquely designed to facilitate the oral administration of complex payloads, including nucleic acids, peptides and small molecules. It is thought that these exosomes travel via lymphatic circulation and could potentially enable the targeting of immune cells in novel ways. "We are excited to accelerate the development of this promising tech-

nology from our internal lymphatic and immune cell trafficking programs. The expertise and resources that Roche is bringing to the collaboration will help us to potentially address one of the biggest challenges in oligonucleotide-based therapeutic development: oral administration of nucleic acids,” said Daphne Zohar, PureTech’s co-founder and CEO. Separately, Roche has announced that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted Breakthrough Device Designation to its Elecsys cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) immunoassays for evaluating Alzheimer’s disease (AD) or other causes of dementia. Roche said measuring biomarkers with CSF immunoassays, associated with AD pathology, increases certainty of a diagnosis of AD and can help to evaluate the progression of the disease.

SABIC’s Purchase of Clariant Stake Delayed

July 27, 2018: Plans by Saudi Arabian petrochemicals giant SABIC to acquire a nearly 25% stake in Swiss specialty chemicals producer Clariant are being held up by outstanding anti-trust approvals, but the deal is not threatened, the Swiss group’s CEO Hariolf Kottmann said during an earnings conference call on Jul. 24. Regulatory clearance from countries such as Brazil and Mexico is still forthcoming, Kottmann said, adding that this means that management’s plans to give investors an update in September on Clariant’s future plans in light of the new ownership situation could have to be put on hold. While analysts have speculated that SABIC could be interested in buying more of Clariant, if not all of it, Kottmann said this discussion is premature, as the companies’ two sides have not yet been able to hold detailed talks. “Clariant remains the top takeover candidate in the sector,” Baader Helvea analyst Markus Mayer told the news agency Reuters. However, Kottmann said it does not appear that SABIC wants to acquire any additional shares. From the current point of view, the CEO said, talk of a complete takeover “makes no sense, because I think now we are in a much earlier stage and phase of discussions where we have the obligation to find value-creating potentials for our shareholders.” Recently confirmed plans by compatriot Saudi Aramco to acquire part of the Saudi government’s indirect 70% stake in SABIC, held by the Public Investment Fund (PIF), will not have any influence on the chemical producer’s plans for the Clariant purchase, Kottmann remarked. In January of this year, SABIC emerged as a white knight to acquire shares in the Swiss group from White Tale, the acquisition vehicle of funds Corvex and 40 North, which had torpedoed Clariant’s plans to merge with US competitor Huntsman.

EMA cuts Activities on Higher Staff Losses

August 6, 2018: The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is scaling back and suspending some activities as it loses more staff than initially anticipated in advance of its relocation from the UK to the Netherlands in March 2019. The agency said it now expects a staff loss of about 30%, with a high degree of uncertainty regarding mid-term staff retention. “Staff who will not relocate to Amsterdam have already started to leave the agency, and this trend is expected to accelerate. In addition, due to the employment rules in the Netherlands, 135 short-term contract staff will no longer be able to work for the EMA,” the agency said. Consequently, the EMA now plans to launch the next and third phase of its business continuity plan by Oct. 1, 2018 at the

latest, in order to safeguard its core activities while preparations intensify for the move. The activities being scaled back under phase three include international collaboration, the development and revision of guidelines, non-product related working parties, project governance, organization and attendance at stakeholder meetings and the publication of clinical data, which will be suspended as of Aug. 1. Detailed plans for implementing these measures will be released as soon as they are available, the EMA added. In separate news, major pharmaceutical producers are stockpiling medicines in case of supply disruptions after Brexit. French drugmaker Sanofi said last week it is increasing its stocks by four weeks to give it a 14-week lead-time. Without disclosing details Switzerland’s Novartis said it is preparing for the possibility of a no-deal Brexit and is planning to hold increased inventories across its portfolio of medicines. US Merck & Co is said to be rethinking supply routes post-Brexit as needed steps for new regulations and tariffs could add as much as two days to delivery times. Reports said the drugmaker known as MSD outside the US and Canada may hire an additional 30 employees at its Haarlem, Netherlands, facility to deal with regulatory issue. Last month, Anglo-Swedish drugmaker AstraZeneca announced it was increasing its drugs stockpile by about 20% in advance of a potential hard Brexit.

Ineos Chief Takes Flak for Monaco Move

August 14, 2018: Ineos Chairman Jim Ratcliffe appears to be growing increasingly unpopular in his native land. The 46-year-old businessman is now being sharply criticized for his announcement that he will move his legal residence to tax haven Monaco. Reports said that two other senior executives, Andy Currie and John Reece, will likely also move to the principality. The managers have not explained the move, though wagging tongues have it that Ratcliffe owns a large property on the neighboring French Riviera. The Ineos chief told British media that Ineos will remain headquartered in London “for the foreseeable future.” Since 2010, however, most of its businesses have been based at Rolle, Switzerland, near Geneva. The decision to relocate to Switzerland came after a tax dispute with the then-Labour government and the refusal of British banks to guarantee loans in the heat of the financial crisis. In 2016, as the olefins and polyolefins giant was widening its engagement in shale gas, it built a new headquarters in the British capital to house some corporate functions, including shale and vinyls producer Inovyn. Ratcliffe, who topped the 2018 Sunday Times Rich List with a fortune of £21.1 billion and also was recently knighted, has incurred the wrath of Britons in particular because he is leaving the country just as it leaves the EU. At the height of the Brexit debate he championed the move, saying the UK didn’t need Brussels to tell it what to do, after earlier remarking that Ineos could thrive either way. The UK’s wealthiest individual has also ruffled UK feathers with the decision to have a German company develop his planned successor to the iconic British Land Rover Defender off-road vehicle. The move plans would not seem to augur well for Ineos’ hopes of receiving British state aid to locate its planned vinyl acetate monomer (VAM) plant at Hull, England. The company has been widely expected to build the facility at Antwerp, but Ineos director Tom Crotty said recently that state aid might “tilt the scales.”