



SCS  
Swiss Chemical  
Society

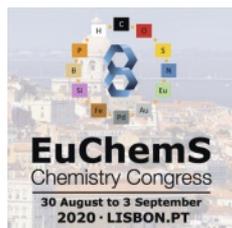
## Community News

[www.scg.ch](http://www.scg.ch)

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

### SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

#### Call for Inputs for the ECC8 in Lisbon 2020



In the name of the scientific committee of ECC8 (Lisbon, 2020), Luisa De Cola, Professor at the University of Strasbourg, France, is asking for your thoughts and proposals for some matters of the next ECC conference. The conference will take place in Lisbon (Lisbon Congress Center), from August 30 to September 3, 2020.

The 8<sup>th</sup> EuChemS Chemistry Congress (ECC8) will be built under the unifying theme of Chemistry the Central Science, providing an exciting scientific program led by world class experts, and will focus on the central role of chemistry at the interfaces with biology, material and environmental sciences, both for the progress of humankind and for the solution of fundamental problems of modern societies. The program will reflect the best research done in Europe and its world impact. A balance with respect to all forms of diversity will of course be a guiding principle in the choice of speakers. Young researchers will be supported both in financial terms as well as with respect to presentation opportunities.

Current proposal for the ECC8 scientific themes are:

- Advances in Synthetic Organic Methodologies
- Metal-Containing Compounds and Solids: Properties and Applications
- Chemistry Meets Biology
- Colloids and Nanomaterials
- Biomaterials and Medicinal Chemistry
- Catalysis -Spectroscopic and Analytical Tools / Advances in Physical Chemistry

The ECC8 scientific committee would be most grateful on your thoughts about the provisional themes and on new proposals.

A new feature of ECC8 are the three transversal themes, bringing together different areas with implications in common topics: Imaging and Devices – Energy and Sustainability – Molecules in Motion.

The themes (and subthemes) will run in parallel sessions in the morning, whereas the transversal themes will occupy the afternoons (one per day) in sessions common to all participants (see list above). Any other thoughts and suggestions, including possible plenary lecturers, possible special activities, sponsors, are welcome.

Please reply not later than December 7, 2018 via the online form on <https://scg.ch/ecc8-input>

The ECC8 Scientific Committee members are: Luisa De Cola – Chair, Univ. Strasbourg, France; Mário Berberan-Santos – Co-Chair, Univ. Lisbon, Portugal; Artur M. S. Silva – Portuguese Chemical Society, Univ. Aveiro, Portugal; Alice Soldà, European

Young Chemists' Network – Technical Univ. Munich, Germany; Katharina M. Fromm, Univ. Fribourg, Switzerland; Piotr Stepnowski, Univ. Gdansk, Poland; Paolo Melchiorre, ICIQ, Tarragona, Spain; Roland Winter, Technical Univ. Dortmund; Rene Janssen, Univ. Eindhoven, Netherlands; Oren Scherman, Univ. Cambridge, UK; John Cassidy, Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland; Maria Lucia Curri, Univ Bari, Italy; Looking forward to receiving your important contributions.

#### Call for applications for a JSP fellowship at the Bùrgerstock Conference 2019



The 'SCS Conference on Stereochemistry', better known as 'Bùrgerstock Conference', is an outstanding international chemistry meeting of high scientific quality, with an optimal setting for intense inter-disciplinary discussion.

The 54<sup>th</sup> 'Bùrgerstock Conference' will take place in Brunnen, May 5–9, 2019 at Seehotel Waldstätterhof Brunnen.

#### Junior Scientists Participation Fellowships – The Scientific Leaders of the Next Generation!

Thanks to the Division of Fundamental Research of the Swiss Chemical Society and the support of the industrial participants, every year 12–16 young promising European scientists (including Russia and Israel) at the beginning of their academic careers have received a fellowship to participate in the Bùrgerstock conference. The intense interactions between junior and senior scientists have inspired much frontier research and are at the origin of many fruitful scientific collaborations.

The Organizing Committee asks leading scientists, former Presidents of the 'Bùrgerstock Conferences', as well as Presidents of National Academies of Science to nominate candidates at the beginning of their career (less than 5 years as independent group leader) for supported participation. The (typically) long list of candidates, complemented by spontaneous applications of interested young researchers, is reviewed by the President together with the Organizing Committee. They select a group of 12–16 junior scientists for support based on scientific excellence and diversity. A successfully completed PhD thesis is a prerequisite for consideration.

Since 2019, to promote early world-wide interactions among leading scientists of the next generation, a maximum of two fellowships each will be attributed to young scientists from North America and Asia/Oceania/Africa respectively. Nominations will be done exclusively by the Bùrgerstock speakers from these areas of the last two years. Self-nominations are not possible. The application for a JSP fellowship should include:

- a CV
- a publication list and
- at least one letter of reference

It should be sent to Prof. Jérôme Waser from the Organizing Committee ([jerome.waser@epfl.ch](mailto:jerome.waser@epfl.ch))

Deadline: December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

<https://scg.ch/buergerstock/>

## IAESTE – Your partner for international exchange



The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) is an organization for the exchange of students at higher education institutions wishing to obtain technical experience abroad.

**The aim of IAESTE is:** to provide science & engineering students with training experience abroad

that is relevant to their studies to offer Swiss employers well-qualified and motivated foreign trainees to be a source of cultural enrichment for trainees and their host employers.

### Interested in a traineeship abroad?

Are you enrolled at a Swiss university or an institute of applied science? Would you like to gain international work experience? Are you open-minded and interested in intercultural exchange? If this applies to you, an IAESTE traineeship is exactly the right choice for you.

### Interested in foreign interns?

By employing a foreign trainee...

- ...you enlarge your international network.
- ...you strengthen the intercultural competence of your team and enrich your daily working life.
- ...you contribute to the promotion of Swiss students as young professionals, as for each internship in Switzerland, one internship abroad will be available for a Swiss student.

More information on <https://www.iaeste.ch/en/>

Contact: [info@office.iaeste.ch](mailto:info@office.iaeste.ch)

## “Visit each other” at Swiss Universities Initiative



While performing your research in Switzerland, what do you know about other Swiss research institutes and their locations? If the answer is “not a lot”, then you might be interested in the new initiative by the Swiss Young Chemists' Association, that will provide a series of visits at Swiss Universities and Federal Institutes of Technologies followed by a

short city tour and a dinner.

The first event took place at EPFL in Lausanne on November 17, 2018, and in 2019 there are events planned in Zürich and Basel.

Invitations will be sent by mail to all SCS members that are younger than 36 years old and the event will also be announced on the website of the SYCA. In case of any questions or if you are interested in organizing an event at your department do not hesitate to contact Dmitry Vasilyev, SYCA President, at [dmitry.vasilyev@epfl.ch](mailto:dmitry.vasilyev@epfl.ch)  
<https://scg.ch/syca>

## Call for nominations for the 2019 Dreyfus Prize



The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation has selected Chemistry in Support of Human Health as the topic of the 2019 Dreyfus Prize in the Chemical Sciences.

The Dreyfus Prize, awarded biannually, recognizes an individual for exceptional and original research in a selected area of chemistry that has advanced the field in a major way. The prize consists

of a monetary award of \$250'000, a medal, and a certificate.

“Each Dreyfus Prize highlights major accomplishment in a different area of the chemical sciences. We consider, in addition, the promise of benefit to society,” said Matthew Tirrell, chair of the Dreyfus Foundation Scientific Affairs Committee. “In this spirit, there is no greater benefit that chemistry provides to society than the many profound contributions to the science and technology of human health. The field of the chemical sciences is rich with individuals whose work drives our understanding and betterment of human health.”

The deadline for nominations is February 28, 2019. Further details on the Prize and the nomination procedure are available on the Dreyfus website.

The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc., New York  
<https://www.dreyfus.org>

## A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



Period: 24.09. – 29.10.2018

Devi Prasad Adiyeri Saseendran, Zurich - Stephane Bernhard, Horbourg Wihr (FR) - Martin Betschart, Riehen - Patric Bieler, Sissach - Céline Calvino, Fribourg - Nicola Compagnone, Basel - Mohamed Enneymy, Mulhouse (FR) - Kathrin Fenner, Zurich - Isabelle Gallou, Basel - Adrian Gürber, Sempach

- Patrick Hauck, Rheinfelden - Megumi Hoshi, Lausanne - Yevhen Hryshunin, Saint-Sulpice - Emilie Jean-Pierre, Fribourg - Moritz Kälin, Bubikon - Florian Marquet, Marly - Flurin Mathis, Felsberg - Daniel Moser, Rheinfelden - Ksenia Reznikova, Weil am Rhein (D) - Benjamin Schroeder, Zurich - Naomi Tidten-Luksch, Allschwil - Sebastian Ulrich, St. Gallen - Quentin Weber, Corcelles - Simon Williams, Baar - Melissa Wörner, Lausanne

## HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

### Dr. Thibaud Rossel received the Balmer Prize 2018



On the occasion of the dinner during the VSN Zentralkurs Chemie in Solothurn on October 17, 2018, David Spichiger, SCS Executive Director, handed over the medal and the certificate of the Balmer Prize 2018 to **Dr. Thibaud Rossel**, Gymnase français de Bienne, École de Maturité, Spécialisée, for his very original and impressive research

program at the Gymnase Français where he teaches, using simple methods and resources. Even more impressive are the experiments that are shared with high-school students, who are happy to carry-out original research work as part of their training in chemistry.

Thibaud earned his bachelor and master degrees in biology at University Neuchâtel in 2004 and 2006 respectively. From 2006 to 2011 he was a member of the Ward group at University of Basel and got the PhD degree for his research on ‘Artificial Phosphate Transferases and Hydrogen Transferases Based on Biotin-Streptavidin Technology’. During his teaching activities at the Lycée Denis-de-Rougemont Neuchâtel in 2012–13 he earned a master of advanced studies in higher education and started his current position at the Gymnase français de Bienne filière MSP in 2013.

To illustrate the importance and innovation of Thubaud's project, Dr. Marc Creus, University of Basel, who worked together with Thibaud during his PhD thesis highlighted his work as follows: «In my opinion, it is a real pity that normally students do not have the opportunity to experience the excitement of real science early-on. Therefore, the “Chimie en Couleurs” program that Thibaud has designed and implemented is a truly pioneering and successful program that should be further encouraged.»

<https://scg.ch/balmer>

### Winners of the Clariant CleanTech Award 2018



Clariant, the Swiss Chemical Society and the University of Basel were partnering to award the Clariant CleanTech Award Switzerland and offered four lecture slots at the «Clariant Chemistry Day, University of Basel» on October 4, 2018. The Clariant CleanTech Award Switzerland is endowed with a total of 10'000 CHF.

The first prize (CHF 5'000) was given to **Dr. Ydna Marie Questell-Santiago** from EPFL Lausanne for her research on «New routes toward biomass-derived carbohydrates upgrading».

The second prize (CHF 2'500) went to **Dr. Amita Ummadisingu**, EPFL Lausanne for her project on «Fundamentals of perovskite formation for photovoltaics».

The third prize (1'500) was awarded to **Mr. Erwin Lam**, ETH Zurich for his research on «Isolated Zr Surface Sites on Silica Promote Hydrogenation of CO<sub>2</sub> to CH<sub>3</sub>OH in Supported Cu Catalysts»

The fourth prize (CHF 1'000) went to **Dr. Jan-Georg Rosenboom** and **Dr. Peter Fleckenstein**, ETH Zurich for their project on «Lord of the Renewable Rings - The Journey towards Rapid Production of Polyethylene Furanoate (PEF) from Cyclic Oligomers».

### Clariant Chemistry Award at the University of Basel



Clariant and the University of Basel jointly award the “Clariant Chemistry Award at the University of Basel” on October 4, 2018 to **Mr. Rajesh Mananacherry**, University of Basel, for his work on “Molecular Dynamic Staircases: All-Carbon Axial Chiral “Geländer” Structures”. The prize is endowed with 1'000 CHF.

### SICS'18 Best Poster Award



The organizing committee of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Swiss Industrial Chemistry Symposium (SICS), that took place at University of Basel on Friday, October 19, 2018, awarded three students with the SICS Best Poster Award 2018. 85% of the posters that were presented in one of the two sessions during lunch time came from PhD students and they completed

the lecture program that exclusively presented industrial project.

After the ceremony, the three winners gave a five minute short talk on their research. The SCS and the organizing committee like to take the opportunity to congratulate the winners again:

- **Johannes Diesel**, EPFL Lausanne  
«Nickel-Catalyzed Enantioselective Pyridone C-H Functionalizations Enabled by a Bulky N Heterocyclic Carbene Ligand»
  - **Alejandro Guarnieri Ibáñez**, University of Geneva  
«Diversity-Oriented Synthesis of Heterocycles and Macrocycles by Controlled Reactions of Oxetanes with  $\alpha$ -Iminocarbenes»
  - **Benson Jelier**, ETH Zürich  
«Radical Trifluoromethoxylation of Arenes Triggered by a Visible-Light-Mediated N–O Bond Redox Fragmentation»
- The SICS Best Poster award is endowed with a certificate and a cash cheque of CHF 100.00.

<https://scg.ch/sics/2018>

### Prof. Bode, ETHZ, receives the Mukaiyama Award 2018



The Mukaiyama Award 2018 by the Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Japan, goes to **Prof. Jeffrey W. Bode** from ETH Zurich. The purpose of the award is to recognize and encourage outstanding contributions to the field of synthetic organic chemistry.

The Mukaiyama Award is administered by The Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Japan, and is awarded to individuals who are 45 years old or younger for exceptional contributions to the field of synthetic organic chemistry. The award comprises \$5'000, a medallion, and a certificate, and the awardees are invited to present an award lecture. The winner of the 2018 Mukaiyama Award is, among others, Jeffrey W. Bode ETH Zurich. The purpose of the award is to recognize and encourage outstanding contributions to synthetic organic chemistry. The awarded contributions of Jeffrey W. Bode are: Enantioselective N-heterocyclic carbene catalysis, KAHA ligation, the chemical synthesis of proteins, SnAP and SLAP reagents for the preparation of saturated N-heterocycles, potassium acyltrifluoroboronates (KATs) for amide and amine synthesis.

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

### Prof. Riniker receives the ETH Zurich Latsis Prize 2018



**Prof. Sereina Riniker** receives the prize for her groundbreaking contributions to the methodological development and applications of molecular dynamics simulations.

Every year, the Fondation Latsis Internationale awards the «ETH Zurich Latsis Prize» to acknowledge independent, excellent and completed scientific contributions by young researchers at ETH Zurich. Prof. Sereina Riniker was awarded the Latsis Prize on October 9 in Geneva for her groundbreaking contributions to the methodological development and applications of molecular dynamics simulations.

Established in 1985, the ETH Zurich Latsis Prize recognizes scientific work of particular excellence from all fields of research undertaken at the ETH Zurich.

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

## Rainer Beck and Christoph Bostedt, EPFL, elected APS Fellows



This year, the APS has elected into its Fellows Prof. Rainer Beck and Prof. Christoph Bostedt at EPFL's Institute of Chemical Sciences and Engineering (ISIC). **Prof. Rainer Beck's** research focuses the elementary steps of chemical reactions between gas-phase molecules and solid surfaces. His lab uses molecular beams and laser radiation to probe

reaction processes at a molecular level by performing quantum state resolved reactivity measurements. The APS citation for Professor Beck reads: "For pioneering experimental studies of quantum-state-resolved of gas-surface reaction dynamics".



**Prof. Christoph Bostedt** is an expert on ultrafast X-ray sciences with applications to physical chemistry. He uses intense, femtosecond X-ray pulses from novel free-electron laser sources to image the structure and non-equilibrium dynamics in nanometer-sized particles and he develops novel non-linear X-ray spectroscopy approaches to investigate

electronic and nuclear dynamics in atoms, molecules, and clusters. The APS citation for Professor Bostedt reads: "For pioneering studies that elucidate the mechanisms and dynamics of high-intensity X-ray interactions with nanoparticles".

Source: <http://actu.epfl.ch>

## JOURNAL NEWS

### Call for Nominations: EurJIC – Wöhler Young Investigator Prize 2019

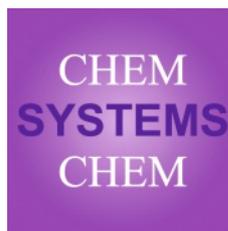


Nominations are open for the fourth EurJIC – Wöhler Young Investigator Prize, which will be presented at the GDCh-Wissenschaftsforum Chemie in Aachen, September 15–18, 2019.

This award honors a young investigator in the field of Inorganic Chemistry for an excellent scientific publication in which the candidate is a correspondence author.

Due date for applications and nominations: 30 March 2019  
<https://www.chemistryviews.org/view/eurjicwoehler2019.html>

## ChemSystemsChem– Your new home for high-impact research in systems chemistry



ChemSystemsChem is the latest addition to the ChemPubSoc Europe family of journals. It covers all aspects of emergence and complexity in chemical systems, including artificial cells, responsive materials and reaction networks. Visit the journal homepage for more information and submit now!

[www.chemsystemschem.org](http://www.chemsystemschem.org)

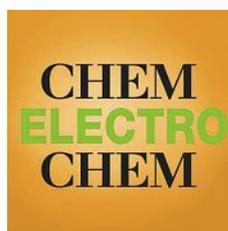
## EurJIC and EurJOC: Highlighting LIKAT in Our Recently Introduced Series: European Institute Features



The second top European institute to be featured in this series is the Leibniz-Institut für Katalyse (LIKAT) in Rostock, Germany. EurJIC and EurJOC are pleased to bring you a joint virtual issue highlighting the excellent research performed at the institute. The issue is rounded by a Guest Editorial written by the director of the institute, Matthias Beller. Discover more.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com>

## PhemElectroChem: Special Issue on Single-Entity Electrochemistry



This growing, exciting, and captivating field is represented by 25 original contributions and focused topical reviews on single-entity electrochemistry research in this Special Issue of ChemElectroChem, guest-edited by Yi-Tao Long, Patrick R. Unwin, and Lane A. Baker.

Topics include theoretical and fundamental studies, development of new methods, and analytical assays for various applications.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/21960216>

## 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

# Advion

For more information:  
[central-europe@advion.com](mailto:central-europe@advion.com)  
[www.expressioncms.com](http://www.expressioncms.com)

## INDUSTRIAL NEWS

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

### Clariant Takes SABIC's Occhiello as CEO

September 23, 2018: Clariant has named SABIC's specialties executive vice president Ernesto Occhiello as CEO following the Saudi giant's acquisition of a 24.99% stake in the Swiss company. The deal closed earlier this month making SABIC Clariant's largest shareholder behind former shareholders of Süd-Chemie, acquired by Clariant in 2011. Occhiello will take over from current CEO Hariolf Kottmann on Oct. 16. Kottmann, who has been Clariant's CEO for 10 years, will become chairman of the board. SABIC will also gain four seats on Clariant's board and the proposed members – Abdullah Mohammed Alissa, Calum MacLean, Geoffery Merszei and Khaled Hamza Nahas – will be voted on at the extraordinary general meeting to be held on Oct. 16. Two current Clariant board members – Rudolf Wehrli and Peter Chen – will resign effective Oct. 16. The changes are part of a joint governance agreement that both companies signed on Sept. 18. Clariant said the agreement determines the principles of its future governance, defines SABIC's position as a strategic anchor shareholder and confirms its independence as a publicly listed company under Swiss corporate rules. Just last week, the two companies signed a Memorandum of Understanding to create a new stand-alone High Performance Materials business within Clariant, combining SABIC's specialties business with the Swiss group's additives and high-end masterbatch portfolio.

### Rehau and MB Barter & Trading to Merge

September 24, 2018: Swiss polymer companies Rehau Verwaltungszentrale and MB Barter & Trading have agreed a merger of equals, combining their operations in a new, independent company with sales of \$2.5 billion. The deal, which includes Rehau in Muri bei Bern, Switzerland, as well as the global subsidiaries of MB Barter & Trading, is expected to close by the end of this year, subject to antitrust approval and the usual closing conditions. Rehau said the merger will strengthen its competencies in polymer-based solutions, allowing it to offer more competitive prices as well as more efficient and optimized trading and distribution services. It will also offer significant opportunities for digitalization, recycling solutions and global expansion, the company added. "Joining forces allows the new company to respond more quickly to changing market conditions, innovate faster, become more efficient and create higher value for not only the customers, but also for employees and stakeholders alike," said Stefan Girschik, deputy CEO at Rehau, and future CEO of the new company. A name for the new company has not been disclosed but will be revealed "at a later point in time," said Rehau.

### Mitsubishi Sells Lucite PMMA to Schweiter

September 26, 2018: Japan's Mitsubishi Chemical Corp. (MCC) is selling its Lucite European polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) sheet business and UK distribution company Perspex Distribution Ltd. (PDL) to Switzerland's Schweiter Technologies Group. The Tokyo-headquartered group has been a long-term supplier of MMA monomer to the Swiss group. The transaction, at an agreed enterprise value of £92 million (\$121 million) for the businesses, will be completed following regulatory approval and the carve-out of the production activities into a new legal entity. The Lucite business, which includes a manufacturing site in Darwen, Lancashire, UK, had net sales of £126 million in the fiscal year ending Mar. 31, 2018. Lucite is one of Europe's leading acrylic sheet and composites producers. Its Perspex general purpose sheets are used by the display, visual communication and related industries and are sold through a distribution network

that includes PDL along with other long-established partners in Europe, Africa and elsewhere. Schweiter said the incorporation of Lucite into its 3A Composites division will create significant opportunities for further development and expansion outside the UK. The 3A Composites acrylic sheet business, with its Crylon, Akrylon and Crylux product ranges, has production plants in Germany, Spain and Slovakia. The company bought Irish plastic sheeting manufacturers Athlone Extrusions and Polycasa in July 2017 and March 2015, respectively.

### Novartis Cuts Swiss Jobs, Exits Grimsby Site

September 27, 2018: Drugmaker Novartis has announced plans to cut around 2,200 jobs in Switzerland and exit its site in Grimsby, UK, as it transforms its global manufacturing network and product portfolio. "This decision has been made alongside broader changes to our business globally and as a result of the changes in our product portfolio which now focuses on more specialized medicines, reflective of today's changing health-care needs," said Haseeb Ahmad, Novartis UK country president. He added that the announcement is not linked to Brexit. The Grimsby exit, which will be handled in phases through to the end of 2020, will directly affect 395 employees as well as some additional contractors. In Switzerland, the company will cull some 1,500 positions from production sites in Basel, Stein, Locarno and Schweizerhalle, and terminate another 700 jobs from its Swiss business service operations as it transfers positions elsewhere. Novartis could, however, potentially create 450 new jobs in Stein, where it plans to build a production facility for cell and gene therapies. The drugmaker has already announced adjustments at its manufacturing units in Japan, the US, and other countries as part of its strategy announced in 2016 that places an increased emphasis on specialized and personalized medicines over high-volume products, such as those made in Grimsby.

### CRB Expands Presence in Europe

October 4, 2018: Swiss-based CRB Group, a provider of design and consulting services for the life science sector, has opened an office in Stuttgart, Germany. The office, the company's second in Europe, supports the growing need for experts in project execution to support the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry in the region, CRB said. "The opening of operations for CRB in Germany strategically aligns with our clients' growth in the region over the last decade and allows us to serve their needs locally," said CRB president, Ryan Schroeder. "In addition, Germany's commitment to research and manufacturing in the life science industry makes it a natural fit for the expertise of our team." The company has also hired Bernd Müller as the project team leader in Stuttgart. Müller previously worked at M+W group in Stuttgart, where he was the head of process department for the Bioprocess Facilities business unit. CRB said the Stuttgart office and its headquarters in Basel, Switzerland will continue to focus on life science projects in Europe. The privately held company serves markets including biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, science and technology, and food and beverage.

### Lonza and Clovis Open New Monoplat for Ovarian Cancer Drug

October 4, 2018: Lonza and Clovis Oncology have opened a new, dedicated production train for Rubraca (rucaparib), at Lonza's Visp site in Switzerland. Rubraca is Clovis' US- and EU-approved drug for several ovarian cancer indications. Clovis Oncology CEO and President Patrick Mahaffy and Lonza Pharma & Biotech COO Marc Funk toured the new facility and spoke to staff and guests and highlighted the potential of this new therapy for patients. Under a long-term agreement, the new, state-of-the-art monoplat enables security of supply and flexibility to rapidly meet changes in market demand for rucaparib. During construc-

tion of the Clovis monoplant, Lonza manufactured rucaparib in its existing production trains at Visp, providing Clovis dedicated and uninterrupted access to capacity. This tailored supply strategy supports Lonza active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) customers' specific needs during development, commercialization and ongoing market supply. Lonza constructed the new production train for rucaparib, an oral, small molecule inhibitor of PARP1, PARP2 and PARP3, using 20 years' experience in commercial-scale, high-containment manufacturing. The new facility offers leading-edge technologies including extensive automation and on-line analytical monitoring designed to enable real-time release testing. This approach facilitates process monitoring and consistency and gives Clovis Oncology faster and agile delivery, with optimized cost of goods. "This partnership is a great example of how we can support commercial stage biotech companies through innovation in manufacturing technology and flexible business models," said Marc Funk, COO Lonza Pharma & Biotech. "Lonza continues to invest in infrastructure for the safe and efficient production of highly potent active pharmaceutical ingredients (HPAPIs)."

### **Gurit Boosts Wind Materials with JSB Buy**

October 5, 2018: Swiss composites company Gurit has agreed to buy JSB group from private equity owner Verdane Capital for 520 million Danish krone (\$80 million), subject to certain closing conditions. Headquartered in Ringkøbing, Denmark, JSB is the market leader for core material kits for wind turbine blades with kitting operations in Denmark, Spain, Turkey, the US, China, and a new facility to be built in Mexico. The company employs some 560 people and expects to generate a turnover of around 120 million Swiss francs in 2018. Gurit said the acquisition of JSB's downstream core kitting operations complements its full range of Kerdyn Green PET, Corecell SAN and PVC, and Balsaflex balsa wood structural core materials. Commenting on the deal, Frank Virefeldt Nielsen, JSB's CEO, said: "To support consolidation and globalization in the wind industry - scale and technology are key to add value. Combining JSB's and Gurit's capabilities into a dedicated product and supply chain powerhouse for the global wind blade industry will drive down cost of energy for our customers." Although the cost of wind power is said to have dropped significantly in recent years, the technology still requires a higher investment than that for conventional fossil-based generators. However, many countries are offering subsidies to cut the cost of installing wind turbines. Gurit expects the transaction to close by mid-October. The JSB operations will then form a new Gurit business, although it will retain its name as a product brand. Operational synergies will be exploited starting from 2019.

### **Novartis Buys US Biopharma Endocyte**

October 18, 2018: Novartis has agreed to buy US biopharma Endocyte, gaining access to radiopharmaceuticals, which the Swiss drugmaker has identified as a key growth driver of its business. Under the terms of the deal, Novartis will pay Endocyte shareholders \$24 per share, valuing the West Lafayette, Indiana-based firm at \$2.1 billion. Radiopharmaceuticals – drugs that contain radioactivity – are used clinically for both diagno-

sis and therapy. Endocyte uses drug conjugation technology to develop targeted therapies with companion imaging agents for treating cancer. The acquisition includes <sup>177</sup>Lu-PSMA-617, a potential first-in-class investigational radioligand therapy (RLT) for treating metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC), a disease that Novartis said has limited treatment options and represents an area of significant unmet medical need. The candidate therapy targets the prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) that is present in most patients with mCRPC and has shown promising Phase II data. It is also currently being investigated in a Phase III global clinical trial in men with mCRPC. Novartis said the deal would also enable it to investigate the potential development of <sup>177</sup>Lu-PSMA-617 for use in earlier lines of prostate cancer therapy. The Endocyte pipeline includes other investigational RLTs, including <sup>225</sup>Ac-PSMA-617, which is in preclinical studies for treating mCRPC. Liz Barrett, CEO of Novartis Oncology, said the proposed acquisition builds on the Swiss pharma's growing capability in radiopharmaceuticals, which is expected to be an increasingly important treatment option for patients. She added: "We are also excited about the opportunity to break into the prostate cancer arena with a near-term product that has the potential to make a meaningful impact for patients in great need of more options." Mike Sherman, president and CEO of Endocyte, commented: "The global reach and expertise of Novartis in developing and commercializing RLT therapies will be critical in efforts for patients to benefit from these therapies as quickly as possible." Completion of the transaction is expected in the first half of 2019, subject to approval by Endocyte shareholders, regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions. Endocyte's board of directors have unanimously approved the deal.

### **Ferrari Elected new CEFIC President**

October 24, 2018: Daniele Ferrari, CEO of ENI's plastics subsidiary Versalis and current president of the European plastics manufacturers association PlasticsEurope, has taken on a new responsibility. On Oct. 25, the 55-year-old Italian executive was elected President of the European Chemical Industry Council CEFIC at the organization's annual General Assembly. Ferrari succeeds Hariolf Kottmann, until earlier this month CEO of Swiss specialty chemicals producer Clariant and now chairman of that company's supervisory board. Kottman had held the CEFIC position since October 2016. Commenting on the change at the top, Marco Mensink, CEFIC's director general, said that with the challenges of Brexit, upcoming EU elections and the transition to a low-carbon economy, the industry needs a strong and capable leader. The new CEFIC president said his ambition is to promote a European environment in which the chemical industry can grow and support the transition to a sustainable circular economic model while at the same time continuing to help the industry attract investment and thrive at a global level. Ferrari will continue in his role at PlasticsEurope until handing over to a successor next month. The manager is also vice president for Europe of the Italian Chemical Association (Federchimica) and serves as a non-executive director of US chemical producer Huntsman and its spinoff Venator Materials. He is also chairman of Matrica, a renewables joint venture of Versalis and Italy's Novamont.