NEWS

• In this year’s Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), released by the Center for World-Class Universities of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, the Chemistry Department of ETH claims a top position (# 5). Rated among the top 200 in Chemistry are also the following Swiss universities: EPF Lausanne (# 38), University of Basel (# 101-150) and University of Berne (# 151-200).

• The world’s largest agrochemicals company Syngenta announced that it would acquire DuPont’s professional products insecticide business for $125 million in cash to expand the Swiss company’s range of pest-control products.

• Due to lower costs for raw materials in Drug Substance business the Siegfried Group successfully maintained revenue growth and increased profitability during the first half of 2012. Net profit for the first half of the year 2011 was CHF 13.2 million. Siegfried plans to further improve its competitiveness with a new production facility in the Nantong Industrial Park northwest of Shanghai, China.

• The world’s largest fragrance and flavors maker Givaudan reported for the first half of 2012 a net profit of CHF 201 million, which is an increase of 68% year on year. Sales rose to 2.1 billion CHF, driven by strong demand from Asia and Latin America, with fragrances sales growing by 7% and flavors by 5%. The company still suffers from huge debts it incurred with its 2006 acquisition of Quest International from ICI.

• India’s Supreme Court deals with Novartis’ appeal to India’s patent office refusal to grant a patent on the company’s cancer drug Glivec on the grounds that it is not a new medicine but an amended version of a known compound. Novartis’ drug was approved in 2001 in the United States, where it is sold under the trade name Gleevec and can cost $70,000 a year. A patent would give Novartis exclusive marketing rights and stop cheaper versions being produced by India’s generic drugmakers. Indian generic versions cost about $2,500 a year.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/SYMPOSIA

5th Siegfried Symposium 2012 (organized by SCS)
Rounding out the full day event in honor of chemistry ‘on scale’, outstanding speakers from several leading companies will delve into the world of process development.
October 5, 2012; Zurich, Switzerland
http://www.siegfried.ch/about-siegfried/events/

The Complex Life of mRNA (EMBL Conference Series)
The Symposium will bring leaders in the mRNA field together with post-docs and students, with the aim of disseminating and discussing the most recent results.
October 7-10, 2012; Heidelberg, Germany
http://www.embo-embl-symposia.org/symposia/2012/EE

EuCheMS General assembly
Annual Assembly of all EuCheMS member societies.
October 11-12, 2012; Dublin, Ireland
http://www.euchems.eu

Germline – Immortality through Totipotency (EMBL Conference Series)
What does immortality mean at the molecular, cellular, transgenerational and evolutionary level?
October 13-16, 2012; Heidelberg, Germany
http://www.embo-embl-symposia.org/symposia/2012/EE

10th Swiss Course on Medicinal Chemistry (organized by SCS)
A further training course organised by the SCS Division of Medicinal Chemistry.
October 14-19, 2012; Leysin, Switzerland
http://www.swiss-chem-soc.ch/smc/leysin/leysin.htm

Experimental Approaches to Evolution and Ecology using Yeast (EMBL Conference Series)
The cellular and molecular basis of life is the outcome of a long process of evolution governed by variation and selection.
October 17-21, 2012; Heidelberg, Germany
http://www.embl.de/training/events/2012/EAE12-01/

European Detergents Conference (EDC)
Fachgruppe Chemie des Waschens und SEPAWA
October 23-25, 2012; Fulda, Germany
http://www.sepawa.com

29th LC/MS Montreux Symposium
November 7-9, 2012, Montreux, Switzerland
http://www.lcms-montreux.com

Biodiversity in the Balance: Causes and Consequences (EMBL Conference Series)
The main aim of these joint meetings is to present important areas of life science research in a manner accessible to all, and to promote reflection on their implications.
November 9-10, 2012; Heidelberg, Germany
http://www.embl.de/training/events/2012/SNS12-01/

From Functional Genomics to Systems Biology (EMBL Conference Series)
The main objective of this conference is to bring people together from these diverse disciplines to exchange ideas, promote cross-disciplinary collaborations and to form a synthesis of appropriate systems-level approaches.
November 17-20, 2012; Heidelberg, Germany
http://www.embl.de/training/events/2012/OMX12-01/

MedChem 2012 Symposium
Annual One-Day Meeting on Medicinal Chemistry of SRC & KVCV
November 30th, 2012; Château de Colonster, Liège, Belgium
http://www.medchem.be
Lectures

Department Chemie der Universität Basel
Anorganische und Organische Chemie
Kleiner Hörsaal Organische Chemie, Basler Chemische Gesellschaft, c/o Departement Chemie, Universität Basel, St. Johans-Ring 19, CH-4056 Basel
Montag, 17.30 h

8.10.2012

Prof. Dr. Gregory A. Petsko
Brandeis University, Boston, MA, USA
‘Exploring chemical, structural and genetic space to fight neurodegenerative diseases’

Department für Chemie und Biochemie der Universität Bern
Anorganische, Analytische und Physikalische Chemie
Hörsaal S481, Freiestrasse 3, CH-3012 Bern
Donnerstag, 11.15 h

4.10.2012

Prof. Dr. Jürg Osterwalder
Physik-Institut, Universität Zürich
‘Molecular monolayers on well defined surfaces: structure, bonding and dynamics’

Organic Chemistry Institute, University of Zurich
Lecture Hall 60, Irchel Campus
Monday, 13.30-18.45 h

8.10.2012

7th Annual Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin Symposium
Barbara Albert
Technische Universität Darmstadt, D
‘Materials emerging from inorganic solid-state chemistry & Emerging women in chemistry’

Véronique Gouverneur
University of Oxford, UK
‘Molecular Editing with Fluorine’

Vicki H. Grassian
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Novartis Chemistry Lectureship
Horburg Auditorium, WKL-430.320, Müllheimerstrasse 195, CH-4057 Basel
Tuesday, 10.30 h, coffee and get-together at 10.00 h

16.10.2012

Prof. Melanie Sanford
University of Michigan, USA
‘New Palladium Catalyzed Reactions for Organic Synthesis’

CHIMIA
Call for an Editorial Board Member

CHIMIA is a peer-reviewed journal of chemistry and the membership journal of the Swiss Chemical Society. It is published 10 times a year.

CHIMIA is seeking a managing editor. This voluntary position serves at the interface to the printers, to the technical editor, to the editor-in-chief, and to the treasurer.

Major responsibilities of the managing editor include:

– Oversee the production of the journal and ensure all deadlines are met;
– Gather contents from various sources;
– Write an editorial program per issue and keep the advertisement agency informed about the contents;
– Determine print run and check the printers’ invoice;
– Provide the treasurer with all information needed for invoicing customers;
– Attend all editorial board meetings and report to the EB and to the chair;
– Determine the annual program/schedule with the printers and editor-in-chief;
– Communicate the program to the advertisement agency and check the media data.

Persons familiar with the field of academic advising and publishing in peer-reviewed journals who are interested in seeking membership on the editorial board of CHIMIA should submit an email message including a short professional resume to the chairman:

Dr. Roland W. Kunz, kunz@oci.uzh.ch