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SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

SCS Scientific Award Program 2022: Call for Nominations



The call for nominations for the SCS Awards 2022 is open until September 30, 2021.

Please visit our Website for further details and hand in nominations electronically to info@scg.ch

Paracelsus Prize

CHF 20'000 and medal in gold. Awarded to an internationally outstanding scientist for his/her lifetime achievements in chemical research.

Werner Prize

CHF 10'000 and medal in bronze. Awarded to a promising young scientist for outstanding independent chemical research.

Sandmeyer Award

CHF 10'000 for individuals or CHF 20'000 for groups. Awarded to a person or to a group for outstanding work in industrial or applied chemistry.

SCS Industrial Science Awards

This program includes awards on three career levels with cash checks of CHF 7'000, 10'000 and 15'000. It honors active industrial scientists working in Switzerland for their outstanding contributions in industrial R&D.

Green & Sustainable Chemistry Award

CHF 10'000. Honors outstanding scientific discoveries that lay the foundation for environmentally friendly approaches and products. It is implemented in collaboration with Syngenta as founding partner and SusChem Switzerland as hosting institution.

Clariant Clean Tech Award (deadline 05.05.2021)

CHF 5'000 for the winner and CHF 5'000 for runners-up. Awarded to Master students, PhD students, and Postdocs in Switzerland in the field of Sustainable Chemistry.

Balmer Prize

CHF 2'000 for individuals and CHF 2'000 for the school's chemistry department or CHF 3'000 for a group and CHF 1'000 for the school's chemistry department. Awarded to a teacher working in Switzerland at high school (gymnasium) level for innovation in chemistry teaching.

Dr. Max Lüthi Award

CHF 1'000 and medal in bronze. Presented for an outstanding diploma thesis in chemistry conducted at a Swiss University of Applied Sciences.

Simon-Widmer Award

CHF 5'000. Honors distinguished scientists for their contribution to analytical science and the education of analytical scientists.

METAS Award

CHF 5'000. Honors outstanding contribution to the field of metrology in chemistry and/or biology.

The Grammaticakis-Neumann Prize will be awarded the next time in 2023.

More information: scg.ch/awards

Swiss CleanTech Award 2021: Call for Nominations



Clariant and the Swiss Chemical Society once again are partnering to award the Swiss CleanTech Award on the »2nd Swiss Green & Sustainable Chemistry Day« at Messe Basel on 20 October 2021.

The Swiss CleanTech Award is endowed with a total of CHF 10'000.

This award program honors outstanding scientific achievements of Master students, PhD students, and Postdocs in Switzerland in the field of Clean Technologies and Sustainable Chemistry covering topics such as resource efficiency, renewable energy, renewable raw materials or green technologies and environmental protection.

Apply by 5 September 2021 via info@scg.ch

More information: scg.ch/cleantech-award

Chemistry Rediscovered: video competition. Deadline September 30, 2021



We are happy to announce the launch of the 3rd edition of our video competition Chemistry Rediscovered, which is supported by the Wilkinson Charitable Foundation. All young chemists and interested people of 12-35 years old are invited to send in videos on the theme "Safety in Chemistry". The best videos will be awarded wonderful prizes and

the main prize will be a trip to the EuChemS Chemistry Congress in Lisbon in 2022!

All details about the competition and how to participate can be found in the Rules and Regulations on the website. For any further questions you may have, please contact Sebastian Balser. Make sure to send us your video (and the filled out submission form) before 30th of September 2021!

More information: eycn.eu

Network to intensify the interface between university education and career entry



Every year, well-educated students from Switzerland and abroad graduate from Swiss universities and are about to start their careers. They represent an enormous value for the competitiveness and innovative strength of the chemical and pharmaceutical industry.

To use the full potential, access to the next generation of chemists of all professional backgrounds is a crucial factor. However, deficits are often identified at the interface between education and the profession.

At its meeting on May 20, 2021, the Board of scienceindustries, in cooperation with the Swiss Chemical Society (SCG), therefore decided to clarify the need for the creation of a network "Interface university education - career entry" among its member companies.

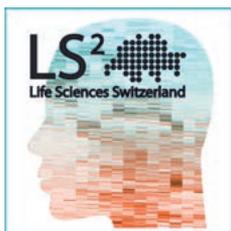
This network should involve representatives of the member companies, university career centers, student organizations, and study delegates from the universities. Its goal is to foster communication and cooperation between the participant groups and, whenever necessary, to make (educational) policy recommendations to the scienceindustries Board of Directors.

The network is to be constituted in the current year, provided that the need exists to a sufficient extent. As central topics we see the promotion of communication between students and companies, labor market transparency, corporate branding, talent acquisition and practical orientation as part of the studies.

scienceindustries started an evaluation among its members and will communicate the outcome in due time. SCS and the youngSCS will be strongly involved in the follow-up actions.

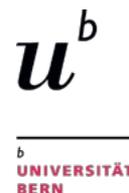
More information: scienceindustries.ch and scg.ch

LS² Annual Meeting 2022: Call for applications to the "PIs of tomorrow: The Future of Swiss Research"



LS² opened the call for applications to the "PIs of tomorrow: The Future of Swiss Research" session at the next LS² Annual Meeting 2022 which will be held in Geneva, 17-18 February 2022. This session offers postdocs interested in an academic career an opportunity to present a plenary talk similar in format to a professorship interview seminar.

Selected participants will have the chance to get a slot for a 15-minute presentation, which should appeal to a broad audience and in which the achievements accomplished and the proposed future research is to be explained. The talk will be followed by a 10-minute discussion on various aspects of the proposed activity, as well as on career-oriented aspects of the presenter. A knowledgeable jury panel of professors will evaluate the presentations. More information: ls2.ch



University of Bern
Faculty of Science

The Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Bern, Switzerland, is looking to hire a

Tenure Track Assistant Professor in Organic Chemistry (100 %)

Start date of employment: August 1, 2022

We are seeking candidates with a competitive research program in organic synthesis. Possible research topics include (but are not limited to): sustainable synthetic methods, green chemistry, enantioselective catalysis, flow chemistry, photoredox catalysis, biocatalysis, electrochemistry, natural product synthesis. Alignment of the research with the strategic goals of the University of Bern (in particular sustainability, and health and medicine) is important. The candidate is envisioned to become the successor of Prof. Dr. Philippe Renaud. Teaching assignments in case of tenure will comprise basic and advanced organic chemistry including laboratory courses for students of chemistry, biochemistry, pharmacy and other disciplines within the Faculty of Science.

The University of Bern has set the aim of increasing the percentage of women in leading academic positions and thus strongly encourages female scientists to apply for the position.

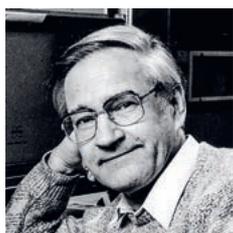
Interested candidates should send their motivation letter, Curriculum Vitae, list of publications and past achievements indicating their 5 most relevant publications, synopsis of their past, current and planned research (max. 5 pages) as a single PDF file to the Dean's Office (email: applications@natdek.unibe.ch) and submit the completed online questionnaire (link to be found at <http://www.dcbp.unibe.ch/jobs>). The Deadline for applications is October 15, 2021.

Informal inquiries can be addressed to Prof. Dr. Francesca Paradisi, phone +41 31 684 40 02, email: francesca.paradisi@unibe.ch



<http://www.dcbp.unibe.ch/jobs>

Obituary Prof. Richard R. Ernst (1933–2021)



Dear members of the Swiss Chemical Community,

It is with deep mourning that we have to communicate the passing of one of our most appreciated members and honorary member, Prof. em. Richard R. Ernst, on June 4, 2021.

Richard Robert Ernst was born in Winterthur, Switzerland, in 1933. At the age of 13 he developed a passion for chemistry after having found a box of chemicals in the attic of his parents house. Ernst studied chemistry at ETH Zurich in the late 1950s and received his PhD from the same institution in 1962. He then worked as a research chemist for Varian Associates in California, US, which was one of Silicon Valley's first high-tech companies. Ernst launched his career at ETH Zurich in 1970 as an assistant chemistry professor where he remained until his retirement in 1998.

At the university, he headed a research group focused on magnetic resonance spectroscopy and served at one point as director of the physical chemistry lab. In 2009, ETH Zurich even named a lecture series after him.

Ernst served as president of ETH Zurich's Research Council, as a member of the Swiss Science Council and sat on the editorial boards of 10 scientific journals. He also belonged to the US National Academy of Sciences, the UK's Royal Society, the German National Academy of Natural Sciences Leopoldina, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Korean Academy of Science and Technology and the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences.

It was in 1991 when Prof. Richard Ernst received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his contributions to the development of the methodology of high resolution nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy.

Working in the mid-1960s at the then leading manufacturer of NMR instrumentation, the Varian Company in Palo Alto, California, Ernst experimented with applying a single, hard pulse that excites the entire spectrum, instead of sweeping the NMR spectra with weak continuous irradiation. He then subjected the resulting signal to Fourier transformation to generate a high-resolution spectrum.

Neither the materials used in NMR instruments nor the computer facilities of the 1960s were up to the demands of the new technique. So it took another decade before FT-NMR found applications in chemistry and structural biology. FT-NMR also provided the foundation for the more-informative 2D NMR in the late 1970s; related mathematical procedures made MRI efficient for medical diagnosis. These underpin applications to both to chemistry with NMR spectroscopy and to medicine with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Besides being a chemistry Nobel Prize winner, Ernst also received the Wolf Prize in Chemistry in 1991 for 'revolutionary contributions to NMR spectroscopy, especially Fourier-transform and two-dimensional NMR'.

Richard R. Ernst was awarded the Swiss Chemical Society Honorary Membership in 2003 together with Kurt Wüthrich.

Besides chemistry, the other passion of Ernst's youth was music. He played the cello, and even considering becoming a composer.

With Richard Ernst we lose a multi-talented and dedicated personality who rendered exceptionally outstanding contributions to ETH Zurich, to science and to society. His passion for chemistry and its meaningful application for the benefit of society will continue to be a role model for us after his passing.

Sources:

R.R. Ernst, *Autobiographie, Hier und Jetzt* - Verlag für Kultur und Geschichte, 2020

K. Wüthrich, *Obituary Richard R. Ernst (1933—2021)*, *Nature* 595, 645 (2021)

The Nobel Foundation, Stockholm, www.nobelprize.org

S. Lemonick, *Chemical & Engineering News*, Vol 99, Issue 22

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



Period: 02.06.–26.07.2021

Blanca Alonso Alvarez, Satigny - Andrej Antalik, Lausanne - Fernanda B. V. Martins, Zurich - Yaser Balmohammadi, Bern - Lise Benoist, Bern - Francesco Bernasconi, Zurich - Sonja Borchert, Satigny - Claire Laura Bourmaud, Lausanne - Cyrill Brunner, Affoltern am Albis - Ye Buehler, Bern - Yixuan Cao,

Lausanne - Julien Coulomb, Satigny - Alexandria Deliz Liang, Zurich - Laura Etchenausia, Satigny - Isabella Ferrara, Zurich - Cedric Fung, Renens - Jérémie Geinoz, Geneva - Melanie Giger, Seewen - Anastasiia Gitlina, Lausanne - Manuel Gnägi-Lux, Herrenschwanden - Chalupat Jindakun, Zurich - Paco Laveille, Zurich - Mikail Levasseur, Zurich - Sungeun Lim, Oberengstringen - Helmut Maecke, Lörrach (DE) - Rosalba Mansi, Basel - Emmanuel Matabaro, Zurich - Sooyeon Moon, Zurich - Vu Trung Tin Nguyen, Lausanne - Titia Rixt Oppewal, Groningen (NL) - Jagadish Pabba, Udaipur (IN) - Pierre Palamini, Lausanne - Christoph Sager, Allschwil - Gulsana Sissengaliyeva, Bern - Kerstin Steiner, Satigny - Julie Tolu, Gockghausen - Bram Van Den Bossche, Lausanne - Lennard Wendlinger, Lausanne - Christopher Whitehead, Basel - XinBang Wu, Lausanne - Xue-mei Yang, Lausanne - Wei Zhou, Zurich.




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HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

Membership of the Academia Europaea for Christophe Copéret, ETHZ



The Academia Europaea is the Pan-European Academy of Sciences Humanities and Letters. Its aim is the advancement and propagation of scientific excellence. Membership is by invitation. The members are scientists and scholars who aim to promote learning, education and research. Amongst them are 72 Nobel Laureates, several of whom were elected

to the Academia before they received the prize. Now **Prof. Christophe Copéret**, ETH Zürich and SCS Board Member has also become an ordinary member of the Academia Europaea.

Text and picture: chab.ethz.ch

Académie nationale de Pharmacie honors Jean-Christophe Leroux



The Grand Prix de l'Académie nationale de Pharmacie is awarded to pharmacists under 60 who set an example through the quality of their work and achievements in their professional lives. Now **Prof. Jean-Christophe Leroux**, professor of drug delivery at ETH Zurich, has received the award. For more than 20 years, his group has been interested in

the development of innovative materials, new therapeutic entities and, more recently, of polymeric “inks”, enabling the production of tailored, biodegradable stents.

Text and picture: chab.ethz.ch

2021 Coblentz Award for Prof. Sandra Luber, University of Zurich



The Coblentz Society is pleased to announce that **Prof. Sandra Luber** of the University of Zurich has been selected as the recipient of the 2021 Coblentz Award. The Coblentz Award is presented annually to an outstanding young molecular spectroscopist and is the Society's original and most prestigious award. Due to complications arising

from the COVID-19 situation, the date and place of the award presentation has not yet been determined.

Sandra Luber's research deals with the development and application of novel computational methods, among others, with focus on absorption and vibrational spectroscopy. Aside from purpose-driven static methods for molecular vibrational spectra, she has put emphasis on dynamic first-principles methods (e.g., by means of ab initio molecular dynamics) in order to simulate gas and condensed phase systems in a sophisticated manner. Examples include novel approaches for the modelling of vibrational spectra for chiral systems or interfaces via efficient density functional perturbation theory as well as electron dynamics via real time propagation and its application to electronic and vibrational (resonance) spectroscopy. Moreover, methods for nonadiabatic dynamics in the condensed phase have been explored recently. Text and picture: coblentz.org

Winners of the Helvetica Prize of the Swiss Chemical Society 2021



Helvetica and the Swiss Chemical Society are proud to announce the 2021 winners of the Helvetica Prize of the Swiss Chemical Society for the best published papers of PhD/Postdocs 2020/21 in Helvetica Chimica Acta. The prize is endowed with CHF 1'000 for the winner and CHF 500 for the runner up. The prize was implemented in 2019 to honor

outstanding publications of young researchers in Switzerland. The award ceremony takes place at the virtual SCS Fall Meeting 2021 on September 10, 2021 and the winners will present their paper in a 3min short presentation at 17.50h.

1st Prize: **Daniel Hernandez-Valdés**, University of Zürich (Group of Prof. Roger Alberto)

«CO₂ to CO: Photo- and Electrocatalytic Conversion Based on Re(I) Bis-Arene Frameworks: Synergisms Between Catalytic Subunits»

DOI: doi.org/10.1002/hlca.202000147

2nd Prize: **Nadja E. Niggli**, University of Basel (Group of Prof. Olivier Baudoin)

«Design of Chiral NHC-Carboxylates as Potential Ligands for Pd-Catalyzed Enantioselective C–H Activation»

DOI: doi.org/10.1002/hlca.202100015

Helvetica and SCS congratulate Daniel and Nadja for their excellent publications.

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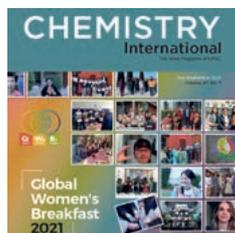
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JOURNAL NEWS

eTOC 'Chemistry International' – July-Sep 2021



A new issue of Chemistry International is now available. Chemistry International Volume 43, Issue 3, July 2021

Some Highlights of this Issue

IUPAC first Virtual World Chemistry Congress and General Assembly, by Neil Burford

Strategies for Success as an Industrial

Chemist, by Carolyn Ribes

Diversity in Science at the Global Women's Breakfast Network, by Mary J. Garson, Laura L. McConnell, and Lynn M. Soby

FAIR and Open Data in Science: The Opportunity for IUPAC, by Ian Bruno, Simon Coles, Wolfram Koch, Leah McEwen, Fabienne Meyers, and Shelley Stall

IUPAC Focus on Digital Health

by Helle Moller Johannessen and Ulla Magdal Petersen

COMEST: Ethical Advice across Scientific and Geographic Borders, by Leiv K. Sydnes

and other news and announcements

Source: iupac.org/etoc-chemistry-international-july-sep-2021

Helvetica, Volume 104, Issue 6, June 2021



Communications

Stereoselective Synthesis of 4,5-Dihydroisoxazole Derivatives from 1,1-Dicyanocyclopropanes and Hydroxylamine Hydrochloride

Yue Zhang, Junhu Xin, Cunde Wang

Synthesis Efforts of Acyclic Bis(monooalkylamino)maleonitriles and Macrocylic Bis(dialkylamino)maleonitriles as Fluorescent Probes for Cations and a New Colorimetric Copper(II) Chemodosimeter

Thomas Schwarze, Eric Sperlich, Thomas Müller, Alexandra Kelling, Hans-Jürgen Holdt

Full Papers

Impact of Solvent and Their Contaminants on Pd/C Catalyzed Suzuki-Miyaura Cross-Coupling Reactions

Alexandre de Lambert de Boisjan, Christophe Allemann, Luca Fadini

[Rh₂(MEPY)₄] and [BiRh(MEPY)₄]: Convenient Syntheses and Computational Analysis of Strikingly Dissimilar Siblings

Lorenz E. Löffler, Michael Buchsteiner, Lee R. Collins, Fabio P. Caló, Santanu Singha, Alois Fürstner

Strained Ruthenium Complexes Bearing Tridentate Guanidine-Derived Ligands

Eden-Taylor Wilkinson, Fernando Viguri, Ricardo Rodríguez, José A. López, Pilar García-Orduña, Fernando J. Lahoz, Pilar Lamata, Daniel Carmona

Helvetica, Volume 104, Issue 7, July 2021

Communications

Fe-Catalyzed Intramolecular Cross-Dehydrogenative Arylation (CDA), Efficient Synthesis of 1-Arylnaphthalenes and

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- Benefit from reduced fees for further training courses of the SCS Academy.
- Apply for student travel grants to participate in an international scientific conference.
- Get access to RÖMPP online for a reduced fee of CHF 175 for regular members or CHF 75 for students respectively.
- Benefit from reduced fees for a lot of the Chemistry Europe offers and profit from special offers as a member of a participating society.

Membership fees in CHF

Regular membership	150.00
Membership for retired persons	80.00
Membership for bachelor, master and PhD students	50.00
Membership for companies/universities	800.00
Groups Membership for Universities	15% discount on total amount

Additional fees for divisional services in CHF

Division of Industrial & Applied Chemistry (DIAC)	
Individual members	20.00
Institutional members	100.00
Photochemistry Section (PCS)*	
Regular and retired members	40.00
Student members	20.00
all other divisions and networks	free of charge

* The Photochemistry Section acts as the Swiss section of the European Photochemistry Association (EPA)..

Kontakt

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https://scg.ch

scg.ch/membership



4-Arylcoumarins

Haiyan Diao, Changcheng Wang, Zhen Zhang, Zhangjie Shi, Feng Liu

Lewis Acid-Mediated Decarboxylative Allylation of Enol Carbonates

Yoichi Dokai, Takuma Nishizawa, Kodai Saito, Tohru Yamada

Azobenzene: a Visible-Light Chemical Actinometer for the Characterization of Fluidic Photosystems

Mélanie Roseau, Vincent De Waele, Xavier Trivelli, Francois Xavier Cantrelle, Maël Penhoat, Laëtitia Chausset-Boissarie

A Molecular Analogue of the C–H Activation Intermediate of the Silica-Supported Ga(III) Single-Site Propane Dehydrogenation Catalyst: Structure and XANES Signature

Lukas Rochlitz, Keith Searles, Darryl F. Nater, Scott R. Docherty, Domenico Gioffrè, Christophe Copéret

Copper(I)-Catalyzed Highly Enantioselective [3+3]-Cycloaddition of β -Aryl/Alkyl Vinyl Diazoacetates with Nitrones

Haifeng Zheng, Isa Faghihi, Michael P. Doyle

Full Papers

Synthesis of [2.2]Paracyclophane-Based Glycidic Amides Using Chiral Ammonium Ylides

David Weinzierl, Mario Waser

On the Stability of Pt-Based Catalysts in HBr/Br₂ Solution

Qiang Liu, Hubert Meissel, Iliya Sadykov, Simon Jones, Nick Van Dijk, Przemyslaw Rzepka, Luca Artiglia, Marco Ranocchiari, Jeroen A. van Bokhoven

onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15222675/

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: www.chemanager-online.com

Moderna Mobilizes CDMOs for Covid Shot Ramp-up

June 4, 2021: As it ramps up production on three continents, US Covid-19 vaccine manufacturer Moderna is expanding its collaborations with CDMO suppliers in Europe, the US and Asia. At the beginning of June, the US biotech announced new supply agreements with Lonza and Thermo-Fisher. In late May, it inked new deals with Aldevron and Samsung Biologics in Asia to handle various stages of the mRNA shot's production.

Lonza Building new Drug Substance Line at Geleen

Expanding its work with Moderna, Swiss CDMO Lonza is building a new drug substance production line at its site in Geleen, the Netherlands. The Basel-based company, Moderna's principal European production partner, said the new line, which will have capacity for 300 million 50 μ g doses annually, will complement its existing production network for the shot and deliver a "crucial manufacturing step to increase overall drug substance output." Production at Geleen is due to start by the end of 2021. Lonza said it will leverage its existing infrastructure at the Dutch site to provide fast buildout and ramp-up of operations. As part of its 10-year strategic collaboration with the US company, Lonza has installed three production lines at Visp, Switzerland, and one at its US site in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. In April this year, the partners signed a new agreement to add three more Covid vaccine lines at Visp.

Thermo-Fisher Scientific to Handle US Fill & Finish

In the US, Thermo-Fisher Scientific is also stepping up its cooperation with Moderna on the Covid vaccine. Under the new agreement, Thermo-Fisher will use its commercial manufacturing site in Greenville, North Carolina, to handle fill & finish, labeling and packaging for “hundreds of millions of doses.” Production will begin in the third quarter of 2021. “Thermo Fisher has been a critical partner in supplying raw materials for our Covid-19 vaccine and we are now pleased to further expand our relationship as an important manufacturing partner as well,” said Juan Andres, Moderna’s chief technical operations and quality officer.

Aldevron to Supply Plasmid DNA for Vaccine

US-based Aldevron, which sees itself as “the leading provider of high-quality plasmid DNA, mRNA and recombinant proteins for vaccines, gene and cell therapy, gene editing and diagnostic applications,” has expanded its collaboration with Moderna to support the Covid-19 Vaccine and additional programs in the US biotech’s clinical development pipeline. The CDMO will supply plasmid DNA to serve as the genetic template for generating the vaccine and other investigational programs. Aldevron’s production of DNA continues to take place at its GMP facility in Fargo, North Dakota. Buildout and validation of an additional expansion to the GMP facility on Aldevron’s 14-acre Breakthrough Campus has been completed, the company said.

Samsung Biologics Handling Asian Fill & Finish

To cover Asia, Moderna has sealed a pact with South Korean CDMO Samsung Biologics to perform large-scale, commercial fill-finish duties for the Covid vaccine at its facilities in Incheon, South Korea. Once the deal closes, the companies said technology transfer will begin “immediately.” The Samsung group company said it plans to leverage an existing finishing, labeling and packaging line to produce “hundreds of millions” of vaccine doses for countries outside the US from this year’s third quarter. CEO John Rims said that, “due to the high level of urgency in supplying the vaccine to the global population, we have set immediate action plans and schedule to make mRNA-1273 available for commercial distribution in the early second half of 2021.” On the same day as it inked the agreement with Samsung Biologics, Moderna signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the government of South Korea covering collaboration on mRNA vaccine research and exploration local manufacturing opportunities for these vaccines in South Korea.

Clariant to Merge Pigments with Heubach Group

June 15, 2021: In a somewhat unusually structured deal, Swiss specialty chemicals producer Clariant has reached a definitive agreement with a consortium of Heubach Group and private equity investor SK Capital Partners to unload most of its pigments business. Following completion of the transaction, expected in the first half of 2022, Clariant will reinvest in the business, taking a 20% share. The shares of the other partners have not been revealed. The agreement values Clariant Pigments at 805-855 million Swiss francs million on a cash and debt free basis, contingent on an earn-out payment of 50 million Swiss francs tied to the 2021 financial performance of the existing business. This represents a 10.7x to 11.4x stand-alone adjusted EBITDA multiple per April 2021 (LTM). Closing, expected in the first half of 2022, is subject to customary conditions and regulatory approvals. The share of the Clariant pigments business in Infraserv Höchst, which operates the chemical park at Frankfurt, Germany, is not part of the deal. Under the terms of the deal, Heubach’s pigments portfolio will be merged with Clariant’s slate, creating a new global player with around 3,000 employees, more than €900 million in annual sales and service and production capabilities at several global locations. By reinvesting, Clariant said it will be able to

continue benefiting from the improving profitability generated by its ongoing efficiency program as well as participate in future growth opportunities offered by synergies of the combined operation. Conrad Keijzer, CEO of Clariant, said the sale agreement represents a final step in the company’s divestment program and portfolio repositioning announced in July 2018. As a high value specialty chemicals company with above-market growth, higher profitability and stronger cash generation, he said it will be able to fully focus on growing revenue and profitability of its core business areas of Care Chemicals, Catalysis and Natural Resources. After the unanticipated collapse of its plans to collaborate closely with Saudi chemicals producer Sabic, Clariant had hoped to sell the pigments activities by 2020. However, it pulled the plug temporarily in early 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic and related concerns about the knock-on effect on the sale price. Johann Heubach, CEO of the family-owned pigments producer, called the decision to merge with the Clariant business a “major milestone” in the family’s drive to promote consolidation in the pigments industry. In terms of industry-leading technologies, a product portfolio serving a wide range of customer requirements and global production and service footprint, the fit is “perfect,” he said. The Clariant pigments business is a global provider of high-end organic pigments, pigment preparations and dyes used by the automotive industry as well as in industrial and architectural coatings and in the plastics industry. In 2020, the unit with 1,900 employees generated some 850 million Swiss francs in sales on a stand-alone adjusted basis. Heubach, with more than 200 years of experience in pigments production, is also globally oriented as a producer of organic, inorganic and anticorrosive pigments and pigment preparations headquartered in Langelsheim, Germany. In addition to Germany, the company has production sites in the US and India, along with sales offices around the world.

Lonza and SelectImmune Partner on Immunotherapy Drug

June 28, 2021: Swiss CDMO Lonza is collaborating with Swedish pharma SelectImmune to develop processes for NlpD, a novel immunotherapy protein that could provide an alternative to antibiotics, given the increasing rise in resistance to antibacterial agents. NlpD originates in beneficial bacteria present in the human microbiome and has been found to inhibit infection and inflammation in animal models. Lonza said this RNA polymerase II inhibitor can be purified in large quantities. The Basel-based company explained that rather than targeting pathogenic bacteria, the protein can boost a patient’s immune system and enhance beneficial gene expression, helping to fight against bacterial infections. SelectImmune will leverage Lonza’s early development services, which include non-GMP expression and laboratory-scale process development, to lay the groundwork for future pre-clinical studies of NlpD. Lonza will carry out early development activities at its Cambridge site in the UK. Yvette Stallwood, Lonza’s head of applied protein services, said de-risking early on can maximize chances of success further down the development and manufacturing pathway. She commented: “The collaboration with SelectImmune illustrates the value in establishing the foundation on which to build an optimized clinical development program.”

Lonza to Expand API Facility in China

June 30, 2021: Lonza is investing 20 million Swiss francs in an expansion of its API development and manufacturing facility at Nansha, China. The Basel-based CDMO said the expanded laboratories and manufacturing infrastructure should be operational sometime between the first and the third quarter of next year. At the start, some 70 jobs will be added to the currently 250-member staff. The higher capacity will facilitate mid-scale manufacturing to ensure a smoother transition between early-phase and large-scale commercial production and benefit the many global

emerging biotechs with which Lonza partners, said Jan Vertommen, senior director, commercial development. As part of the investment, three 1,000-liter GMP trains with an overall 12 m³ of reactor volume are being added to the facility, along with new development and GMP laboratories with capabilities to manufacture small-scale batches of highly potent APIs (HPAPIs). Lonza said its Nansha site is fully integrated into its global manufacturing network. Scientists and engineers working there focus on API development and manufacturing for customers worldwide. The team also includes specialists experienced in working with Chinese regulators throughout the drug development and scale-up process. "Global pharma and biotech companies are increasingly looking to China, both for development and manufacturing of global products and in some cases for greater access to clinical trials conducted there," Gordon Bates, president of the CDMO's Small Molecules division, noted. "With these expanded capabilities at our Nansha site, we aim to support the next generation of innovative and life-saving drug development," he said.

Lonza Specialty Ingredients Carve-Out Complete

July 5, 2021: Lonza has completed the carve-out of its Specialty Ingredients business as LSI and appointed a management team led by CEO Mark Doyle, a former DuPont and DowDuPont chief. The newly independent company with a workforce of 2,900 and a global presence in 32 countries is now owned by Herens HoldCo, an entity controlled by private equity firms Bain Capital and Cinven. LSI's focus going forward will be to strengthen the positions of both the Microbial Control Solutions (MCS) and Specialty Products Solutions (SPS) units through strategic M&A opportunities and internal investment, particularly in innovation and its production assets, thereby expanding its geographic footprint and the scale and depth of its capabilities. Customers for the company's products are in end-markets ranging from consumer-facing personal care and hygiene to industrial applications including paints and coatings, advanced composites, electronics and wood treatment. LSI said its MCS business is built on industry-leading regulatory expertise, the broadest set of bioactives and the widest range of registrations in the world, while the SPS unit is grouped into three divisions of performance intermediates and chemicals, composite materials and the custom development and manufacturing organization. The two businesses will work closely together. Doyle called the carve-out "a transformational opportunity for LSI, enabling it to accelerate its growth strategy within the microbial control and specialty chemicals markets with the strong, long-term support of its new owners." Building on the "solid foundations" created by Lonza Group, the CEO said being a separate entity will allow the business to be more responsive and agile, developing unique, innovative solutions to help customers protect their products from microbial spoilage, improve health and safety and reduce their environmental footprints. Flanking Doyle on the management team, Frank Stahl will continue to lead the MCS business as he did under Lonza, while Antje Gerber will continue to head the SPS business. Both executives have more than 20 years' experience in the specialty chemicals industry, holding leadership positions at large international companies, including Huntsman, Evonik, BASF and Cognis. The LSI board will comprise four directors from Bain Capital: David Danon, Youssef Salha, Michael Siefke and Stephen Thomas, along with four directors from Cinven: Anthony Cardona, Pontus Pettersson, Bruno Schick and Tom Thomasson. Antonio Trius, former CEO of Cognis, has been appointed as an independent director. The new company will continue to produce at Visp, Switzerland, where it will invest to enhance its technical capabilities and expand its portfolio of high-end specialty chemicals. LSI will share the site with Lonza to continue its close collaboration with the provision and the receipt of various complementary services and products.

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