

**SCG**Schweizerische
Chemische
Gesellschaft**SSC**Société
Suisse
de Chimie**SCS**Swiss
Chemical
Societywww.scg.ch

Society News and Announcements

DEAR SCS MEMBER



After some four years as the Executive Director of the Swiss Chemical Society I have decided to take the next step in my professional career. I am leaving the SCS Head Office at the end of June.

It was a pleasure and an honour to serve the Swiss chemists. The chemical and pharmaceutical industry is the first sector of our export industry, with Nestle, Novartis and Roche at the top, whose combined annual business volume amounts to 200 billion Swiss francs, followed by a plethora of other fine names. For every Swiss franc our top ten companies earn from their sales in Switzerland they spend 2.60 francs on research in this country, making a significant contribution to its intellectual performance and liveliness. The Chemistry Departments at our universities make a great effort to educate our future work force and conduct academic research on the highest level.

One is tempted to take all this for granted. But in a globalized world, success is never guaranteed. It is the fruit of smart and hard work and continued investment.

In contrast to what chemists (you!) achieve, the Swiss Chemical Society has never been a big player in this country. It doesn't need to since its performance is not measured in Swiss francs or some impact factor. The focus of my work has always been the individual chemist or, at best, the community of chemists. Do they have the support they need? Do they receive the services they wish for? Do they feel sufficiently appreciated as chemists? With these questions in mind I modernized the Head Office, introduced a corporate design and new printed material, enlarged the network and intensified cooperation with our partners, increased information dissemination and intensified press work. Interviews like the one with Jack Dunitz (p. 440) were particularly fun to make. They were aimed at honouring great chemists and highlighting the intellectually and personally fascinating side of chemistry. I take a special pride to have brought about an increase in members after years of decline. This is the fruit of a couple of measures aimed at strengthening ties with our members. Much of this success is owed to Marie-Claire Lauster, a gem of a secretary, whom I wish to thank first and foremost.

I also thank the many SCS volunteers: the President, Peter Kündig, and his predecessor, Georg Fráter, the Committee members, the organisers of SCS events and the producers of CHIMIA, the partners and subcontractors and all who contribute to the vigour and spirit of this Society. Last but not least I wish luck to my successor (not yet known when this letter was written). Farewell and all the best, Swiss Chemical Society!

Dr. Lukas Weber

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Daniela Abgottspon, Basel – Aurelien Bigot, Cambridge, Great Britain – Laetitia Bomble, Lausanne – Nils Brauer, Les Sciernes d'Albeuve – Fan Chen, Zürich – Dragana Cubrilovic, Zürich – Takuya Den, Bern – Yun Ding, Zürich – Olivier Enger, Basel – Bérenger Gans, Zürich – Markus Gantenbein, Basel – Andreas Glöss, Zürich – Antoine Gomila, Genève – Tais Gratieri, Genève – Sabrina Gschwind, Brugg – Gero Harzmann, Basel – Dominikus Heift, Zürich – Anne-Flore Ibao, Neuchâtel – Zuzana Kadlecova, Chavannes-près-Renens – Udo Kielmann, Zürich – Tanya Kumanova Yordanova, Lausanne – Anne Landwehr, Schaffhausen – Thomas Lemmin, Ecublens – Frederico Lima, Wettingen – Mi Liu, Zürich – Ye Lu, Zürich – Birgit Mollwitz, Lausanne – Franziska Morganti, Wädenswil – Florian Nanteuil, Lausanne – Thomas Nauser, Zürich – Yazmin Minerva Osornio Pichardo, Zürich – Prodipta Pal, Genève – Bernardo Pezzati, Genève – Anca Pordea, Neuchâtel – Magdalena Priebe, Fribourg – Michel Rickhaus, Wahlen – Rainer Riedl, Wädenswil – Pavel Sagulenko, Zürich – Michelle Franziska Schaffer, Sugiez – Maren Schulze, Fribourg – Alexandra Senger, Basel – Damien Simond, Genève – Gleb Sorohhov, Bern – Mathieu Soutrenon, Lausanne – Christian Starkenmann, Onex – Marco Stenta, Lausanne – Caroline Sugnaux, Ecublens – Samer Sulieman, Therwil – Alexander Szentkuti, Horgen – Kiichiro Totani, Tokyo, Japan – Massimo Varisco, Chiasso – Simon Wyss, Horgen – Yuzhen Zhang, Zürich