SCS Swiss Chemical Society

Community News

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SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Call for Nominations for the SCS Awards 2018

As one of our four strategic pillars, SCS awards excellence in science and chemistry respectively and is proud of its renowned award program that goes back to the age of 1936 with the ceremony of the first Werner Prizes to Dr. T. Posternak, Genève, and Prof. G. Schwarzenbach, Zürich.

The society hereby calls for nominations for the 2018 SCS Awards. Nominations have to be submitted electronically to info@scg.ch. The deadline for all documents to reach the Swiss Chemical Society is September 30, 2017.

For specific award information and required documents please visit our website *http://scg.ch/award*s

Paracelsus Prize

CHF 20'000 and medal in gold

The Paracelsus Prize is awarded to an internationally outstanding scientist for his or her lifetime achievements in chemical research. It is awarded every two years.

Werner Prize

CHF 10'000 and medal in bronze

The Werner Prize is awarded to a promising young Swiss scientist or scientist working in Switzerland for outstanding independent chemical research. At the time of the nomination deadline the candidate ought not to be older than 40 years and may not be a tenured professor or someone holding a managerial position in industry. The prize is awarded annually.

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 and medal in bronze.

The Balmer Prize is awarded to a teacher working in Switzerland at high school (gymnasium) level for innovation in chemistry teaching. The innovation must be easily applicable in current teaching and the costs for materials must be modest. The candidate may not make any claim to copyright in the innovation. The prize is awarded annually.

Dr. Max Lüthi Award

CHF 1'000 and medal in bronze

The Dr. Max Lüthi Award is presented for an outstanding diploma thesis in Chemistry conducted at a Swiss University of Applied Sciences. Nominations must be submitted by the head of the Chemistry Department of a Swiss University of Applied Sciences. The prize is awarded annually.

Sandmeyer Award

CHF 10'000 for individuals or CHF 20'000 for groups

The Sandmeyer Prize is awarded to a person – excluding tenured professors – or to a group for outstanding work in industrial or applied chemistry. The work must be completed in Switzerland or with the involvement of a Swiss national. The prize is awarded annually and supported by the Division of Industrial and Applied Chemistry of the SCS.

KGF/SCS Industrial Science Awards

The KGF/SCS Industrial Scientific Awards are given to scientists working in Switzerland that are still working in industrial R&D.

Industrial Investigator Award

Certificate and cash check of CHF 7'000

The award honors successful investigators with outstanding achievements.

Senior Industrial Investigator Award

Certificate and cash check of CHF 10'000

The award honors very successful and established investigators with outstanding achievements over many years.

Distinguished Industrial Investigator Award

Certificate and cash check of CHF 15'000

Rewarded only on decision by the board

The award honors senior scientists at the top of their research career for their lifetime achievements.

SCS Awards are sponsored and supported by the KGF

KontaktGruppe für Forschungsfragen
Contact Group for Research Matters
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Minutes of the 27th General Assembly of the SCS

SCS Swiss Chemical Society

April 21, 2017, 13.30–14.00 at University of Bern, big lecture hall basement.

1. Welcome; Approval of the Agenda

During the lunch break of the SCS Spring Meeting David Spichiger, SCS Executive Director, opened the assembly and welcomed all members/attendees. The agenda was approved.

2. Election of the vote counters

27 SCS members were present at the beginning of the assembly. At the end, there were about 80 members in the assembly room. The increase in members during the assembly had no impact on the results of the votes as all decisions were made without any dissenting votes. The director proposed Hans Peter Lüthi as vote counter. He was confirmed with no objection.

3. Minutes from the 26th GA from April 22, 2016
The minutes was published in CHIMIA (2016, 70, No. 5, A373). It was approved unanimously.

4. Annual report 2016
The annual report was published in CHIMIA (2017, 71, No. 1-2, A71 ff.). It was approved unanimously.

5. Financial report 2016 and audit report
David Spichiger presented the financial statement. Incomes of CHF 2'206'321 and expenses of CHF –2'066'583 result in an operating surplus before taxes of CHF +139'738. Taking in account the portfolio income, taxes and the transaction volume of the SCS Funds of CHF +128'118 a surplus of CHF 267'856 resulted for 2016. In addition, a value adjustment of two real estate funds in our portfolio resulted in an extraordinary increase of our book accounting value of about kCHF 140.
As of 31.12.2016 the total assets were CHF 4'124'901.65.

Audit Report:
In his audit report from March 22, 2017, T. Baumgartner from REVITREU Baumgartner, Gerzensee, proposes to the assembly to approve the financial statement with no constraint.
The assembly approved the financial statement 2016 and the audit report with one abstention and no dissenting vote.

6. Discharge the Organs of the Society
The assembly discharged the board and the financial audit unanimously with no abstention.

7. Elections (Changes in the SCS Board of Directors, BoD)
Persons leaving
- Prof Gérard Hopfgartner as president of DAS and
- Prof. Christian Bochet as president of DFR stepped down by the end of 2016. Ch. Bochet stays in the BoD as Vice President of the Society

New elected members of the BoD for 2017–2019
- Prof. Roger Alberto, University of Zurich was confirmed as DFR President.
- Dr. Marc Suter, Eawag Dübendorf, was confirmed as president of the DAS.

The GA confirmed REVITREU as audit authority also for 2017.

8. Strategy, Membership fees and News
The assembly approved the proposal of the BoD and the application of the community to form…
- the SCS/DFR Section of Catalysis (SwissCat) that will be led by Prof. Javier Pérez-Ramírez as president and Prof. Christoph Copéret as vice president and
- the SCS Division of Chemical Education (DCE) that will be led by Prof. Antonio Togni as president and Dr. Markus Müller as vice president.

The annual membership fees won't change in 2018 and were approved unanimously.

• Regular member		CHF	150.00
• Student member		CHF	50.00
• Retired member / unemployed members		CHF	80.00
• Institutional member (companies)		CHF	800.00
Additional Fees for Divisions			
• Ind. & Applied Chemistry	Regular	CHF	20.00
	Company	CHF	100.00
• Photochemistry Section	Regular	CHF	40.00
	Student	CHF	20.00

15% discount on collective memberships for university research groups.

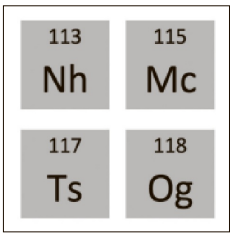
9. News and Outlook 2017/18
- SCS Fall Meeting: 21./22.08.2017, University of Bern; scg.ch/fallmeeting/2017
- ILMAC Lausanne: 04.–05.09.2017, Lausanne www.ilmac.ch/lausanne
- SCS at the Austrian Chemistry Days (GÖCH Chemietage), 25.–28.09.2017, Salzburg, Austria
- SCS-Syngenta Symposium, 05.10.17, Syngenta Research Campus, Stein (AG); "Natural Products: an ongoing success story in chemical synthesis"
- Lectures and SCS Lectureships, scg.ch/lectures; scg.ch/scs-lectureships
- Education courses in Analytical Chemistry (by DAS) scg.ch/courses

10. Varia
No votes were requested from the audience. The director thanked for the confidence and closed the assembly.

Berne, April 21, 2017

Dr. Alain De Mesmaeker	David Spichiger
President	Executive Director

IUPAC announces the names of the elements 113, 115, 117 and 118



Elements 113, 115, 117, and 118 are now formally named nihonium (Nh), moscovium (Mc), tennessine (Ts), and oganesson (Og).

Research Triangle Park, NC: On 28 November 2016, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) approved the name and symbols for four elements: nihonium (Nh), moscovium (Mc), tennessine (Ts), and oganesson (Og), respectively for element 113, 115, 117, and 118.

Following a 5-month period of public review, the names earlier proposed by the discoverers have been approved by the IUPAC Bureau. The following names and symbols are officially assigned:
- Nihonium and symbol Nh, for the element 113,
- Moscovium and symbol Mc, for the element 115,
- Tennessine and symbol Ts, for the element 117, and
- Oganesson and symbol Og, for the element 118.

In concordance with and following the earlier reports that the claims for discovery of these elements have been fulfilled [1,2]. The discoverers have been invited to propose names. Keeping with tradition, the newly discovered elements have been named after a place or geographical region, or a scientist. The ending of the names also reflects and maintains historical and chemical consistency: "-ium" for elements 113 and 115 and as for all new elements of groups 1 to 16, "-ine" for element 117 and belonging to group 17 and "-on" for element 118 element belonging to group 18[3]. The recommendations are published in the IUPAC journal Pure and Applied Chemistry[4] (see http://dx.doi.org/10.1515/pac-2016-0501).

[1] P.J. Karol, R.C. Barber, B.M. Sherrill, E. Vardaci, T. Yamazaki, *Pure Appl. Chem.* **2016**, *88,* 139.
[2] P.J. Karol, R. C. Barber, B. M. Sherrill, E. Vardaci, T. Yamazaki, *Pure Appl. Chem.* **2016**, *88,* 155.
[3] W.H. Koppenol, J. Corish, J. Garcia-Martinez, J. Meija, J. Reedijk, *Pure Appl. Chem.* **2016**, *88,* 401.
[4] L. Öhrström, J. Reedijk, *Pure Appl. Chem*. **2016**, *88*, 1225

Bezeichnungen der Elemente im deutschsprachigen Raum

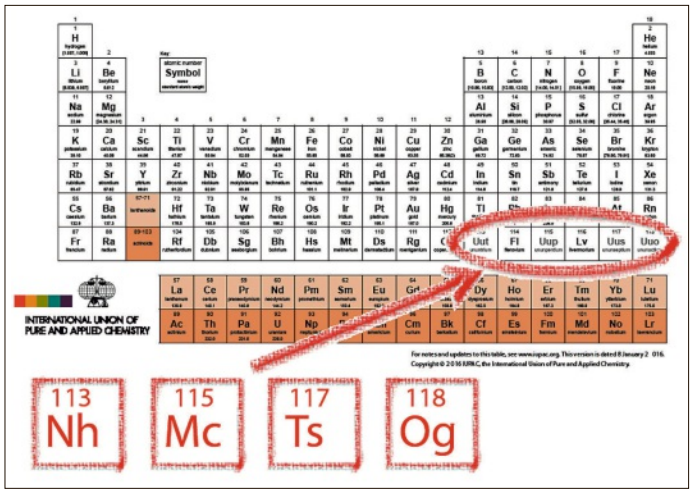
Die Expertenrunde (Mitglieder s. Tabelle) zur deutschen Nomenklatur der neuen Elemente 113, 115, 117 und 118 einschliesslich der Vertreter der deutschen, österreichischen und schweizerischen IUPAC-Mitgliedsorganisationen tagte auf Einladung der GDCh am 10. April 2017 in der GDCh-Geschäftsstelle in Frankfurt am Main. Die Sitzungsleitung hatte Dr. Karl-Heinz Hellwich, Präsident der IUPAC-Division „Chemical Nomenclature and Structure Representation", inne.

Gab es bei Tennessine bereits vor der Annahme durch die IUPAC kontroverse Diskussionen über den Namen und vor allem das Elementsymbol (Ts) selbst, stellte sich nun die Frage, wie diese Elemente in der deutschen Sprache heissen sollten. Bezüglich der Elemente Nihonium (Nh), Moscovium (Mc) und Oganesson (Og) bestand dabei kein Problem. Diese werden auf Empfehlung der Expertenrunde unverändert ins Deutsche übernommen.

Im Verlauf der Diskussion einigten sich die Sitzungsteilnehmer auf den deutschen Namen Tenness, u. a. aufgrund der folgenden Überlegungen:

Tenness folgt der bisherigen Logik der Halogennamen im Deutschen (vgl. Fluorine -> Fluor, Chlorine -> Chlor usw.) und vermeidet somit die Einführung zusätzlicher Ausnahmen im Periodensystem;

Chemikerinnen und Chemiker werden (in erster Linie theoretisch) mit Tenness in Form seiner Verbindungen (z. B. Interhalogenverbindungen) zu tun haben. Die entsprechenden Verbindungsnamen klingen plausibel.



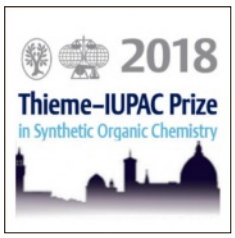
Das Elementsymbol Ts für Tenness wird trotz der Verwechslungsmöglichkeit mit der empfohlenen Abkürzung für die Tosyl-Gruppe (Ts) bestätigt. In der chemischen Literatur sollte sich der jeweilige Zusammenhang richtig ergeben. Die alternativ denkbaren Elementsymbole T, Te, Ti und Tn sind bereits vergeben, und zwar für Tritium, Tellur, Titan bzw. Thoron (historisch für ^{220}Rn).

Die Expertenrunde beschloss daher für das Element 117 den deutschen Namen Tenness (abgeleitet vom Namen des amerikanischen Bundesstaates Tennessee, daher Betonung auf der ersten Silbe, vgl. „Tennis") mit dem Elementsymbol Ts.

Mitglieder der D-A-CH-Expertenrunde

- Dr. Markus Becker, Deutsche Wikipedia-Redaktion Chemie
- Dr. Karl-Heinz Hellwich, Beilstein-Institut, IUPAC (Präsident der Nomenklatur-Division)
- Prof. Dr. Evamarie Hey-Hawkins, Universität Leipzig; GDCh-Vorstand
- Dr. Manfred Köhl, Georg Thieme Verlag; RÖMPP
- Prof. Dr. Florian Kraus, Universität Marburg
- Prof. Dr. Ulrich Schubert, TU Wien; Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften ÖAW; (GÖCH)
- Prof. Dr Jürgen Stohner, ZHAW Wädenswil; Sekretär IUPAC Interdivisional Committee on Terminology, Nomenclature and Symbols (ICTNS); Chair Commission I.1 (IUPAC Green Book); SCG
- Dr. Elisabeth Weber, Wiley-VCH; Angewandte Chemie
- Dr. Hans-Georg Weinig, GDCh; Deutscher Zentralausschuss für Chemie DZfCh

Thieme-IUPAC Prize 2018 – Call for Nominations



Thieme Chemistry, IUPAC, and the Editors of SYNTHESIS, SYNLETT, SYNFACTS, and Science of Synthesis announce the Thieme–IUPAC Prize for 2018.

This award is presented every two years on the occasion of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry – International Conference on Organic Synthesis (IUPAC–ICOS). In 2018, ICOS will be in Florence, Italy.

The prize is awarded to a scientist who must be under 40 years of age as of January 1 of the year in which the prize is awarded. The candidate's research must have had a major impact in synthetic organic chemistry.
The prize will be awarded on the basis of scientific merit for independent research dealing with synthesis in the broadest context of organic chemistry, including organometallic chemistry, medicinal and biological chemistry, designed molecules, and materials.
For more details see *https://www.thieme.de* or download Flyer PDF.
Deadline for nominations: 9 December 2017

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!

Period: 29.04.2017 – 30.05.2017

Sébastien Alazet, Echandens - Marcello Anzola, Genève - Josep Arús-Pous, Bern - Mahsa Asadniaye Fardjahromi, Geneva - Ulrich Aschauer, Tägertschi - Alexander Aster, Geneve - Benoit Audic, Lausanne - Martins Balodis, Lausanne - Giovanni Bassolino, Zurich - Maria Bespalova, Zurich - Léonard Bezinge, Ormône (Savièse) - Francesco Bizzotto, Bern - Maria Bouri, Bolligen - Frauke Breitgoff, Zurich - Jan Bucher, Bern - Joël Bultel, Genève - Roxan Calvo, Zurich - Philip Caspari, Zurich - Pedro Castro, Zurich - Lu Chen, Ecublens - Nicolas Chuard, Geneva - Gustavo Ciardi, Zurich - Fabien Cougnon, Genève - Francisca de Bruijn, Eglisau - Jordan De Jesus Silva, Zurich - Jan Dedic, Lausanne - Abhijit Dutta, Bern - Thomas Edwardson, Zurich - Christine Egli, Zurich - Lara Selina Eiffert, Wallisellen - Radmila Faizova, Lausanne - Thibault Fovanna, Baden - Martin Gaugg, Zurich - Elinam Gayi, Geneva - Alexandre Genoux, Zurich - Eleftheria Girousi, Basel - Simon Glauser, Zurich - Erik Gubler, Zurich - Alexander Gundlach-Graham, Zurich - Christoph Guntlin, Kloten - Elias Halabi, Zurich - Joseph Hamill, Bern - Nils Hanik, Grimisuat - Sima Heidari, Zurich - Irene Hernandez Delgado, Vetraz Monthoux - Patrick Herr, Basel - Alexandre Homberg, Châtelaine - Zhangjun Huang, Lausanne - Anna Katarina Huba, Watt

- Heorhii Humeniuk, Geneva - Tamara Husch, Zurich - Maria Ibáñez Sabaté, Zurich - Jerick Imbao, Zurich - Brankica Jankovic, Küsnacht - Kristýna Kantnerová, Zurich - Katharina Keller, Zurich - Marie Kopp, Zurich - Kostiantyn Kravchyk, Zurich - Agrawal Kumar Varoon, Sion - Christopher Larsen, Basel - Le Liu, Geneva - Mariano Macchione, Geneva - Mattia Maceroni, Geneva - Takuya Machida, Geneva - Giulia Mangione, Lausanne - Adrien Marchand, Zurich - Marco Masiero, Basel - Joelle Medinger, Fribourg - Markus Merk, Wädenswil - Dzmitry Miarzlou, Olten - Ratan Mishra, Zurich - Dafni Moatsou, Fribourg - Levon Movsisyan, Zurich - Carlos Munoz Hernando, Adlikon b. Regensdorf - Tiziana Musso , Uster - Kyropoulou Myrto, Basel - Miquel Navarro, Bern - Christopher Newton, Lausanne - Nellie Ochs, Zurich - Yusuke Ota, Zurich - Vlad Pascanu, Zurich - Michela Pauletti, Zurich - Guillaume Pisella, Lausanne - Johannes Preindl, Ecublens VD - Daniel Probst, Finsterhennen - Brendan Quigley, Zurich - Motiar Rahaman, Basel - John Reed, Lausanne - Chiara Ricca, Bern - Pascal Richard, Mollie-Margot - Francesca Ruggeri, Zurich - Luca Sauser, Bern - Dominik Schauenburg, Zurich - Magnus Söderberg, Gaillard - Gabriele Stevanato, Lausanne - Patrik Stranak, Freiburg - Orly Tarun, Lausanne - Gökcen Tek, Zurich - Jovana Teofilovic, Zurich - Gabriella Tessitore, Bern - Alina Tirla, Zurich - Claudio von Planta, Allschwil - Fabian von Rohr, Zurich - Shou-Guo Wang, Lausanne - Jacinta Xto, Bad Zurzach - Prerna Yadav, Zurich - Sergii Yakunin, Zurich - Maxim Zabilskiy, Riniken - Claudio Zanobini, Zurich - Melanie Zechner, Zurich - Shanyu Zhao, Dübendorf - Patrick Zwick, Weil am Rhein (D).

Honors and Awards

Dr. Veronika Ruth Meyer, EMPA, receives IUPAC 2017 Distinguished Women in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering Award

To celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2017, IUPAC announced the awardees of the IUPAC 2017 Distinguished Women in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering:

- ***Prof. Misako Aida***, Hiroshima University, Japan
- ***Prof. Lifeng Chi,*** Soochow University, Suzhou, China
- ***Prof. M. Concepción Gimeno***, Institute of Chemical Synthesis and Homogeneous Catalysis (ISQCH), CSIC-University of Zaragoza, Spain
- ***Dr. Jaqueline Kiplinger***, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM, United States
- ***Prof. Zafra Lerman***, Malta Conferences Foundation, Evanston, IL, United States
- ***Prof. Thisbe K. Lindhorst***, Universität Kiel, Germany
- ***Prof. Ekaterina Lokteva***, M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
- ***Prof. Yvonne Mascarenhas***, University of Sao Paulo, Sao Carlos, Brazil
- ***Dr. Veronika Ruth Meyer***, Empa St. Gallen (retired), Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology, Switzerland
- ***Prof. Ingrid Montes-González***, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- ***Prof. Frances Separovic***, University of Melbourne, Australia
- ***Prof. Jihong Yu***, Jilin University, China

The awards program, initiated as part of the 2011 International Year of Chemistry celebrations, was created to acknowledge and promote the work of women chemists/chemical engineers worldwide. These 12 awardees have been selected based on excellence in basic or applied research, distinguished accomplishments in teaching or education, or demonstrated leadership or managerial excellence in the chemical sciences. The Awards Committee has been particularly interested in nominees with a history of leadership and/or community service during their careers.

An award ceremony will take place during the IUPAC World Chemistry Congress in São Paulo, Brazil, coinciding with the special symposium on Women in Chemistry and reception in honor of the recipients. See *www.iupac2017.org* for details.

Professor Vanderlan da S. Bolzani, co-chair of the special symposium, remarked: "We are especially pleased with this year's awardees and eager to recognize their contribution in a special session organized for the 2017 IUPAC Congress. Each year since 2011, the award has gained more attention in the community. During this year's Congress and with the help of IUPAC leadership, we plan to continue this trend. My hope is to make every day International Women's Day!"
https://iupac.org

SCS congratulates Veronika R. Meyer for this prestigious award

Following an apprenticeship as laboratory assistant, ***Veronika R. Meyer*** studied chemistry at the University of Applied Sciences in Burgdorf, Switzerland. From 1976 to 1998 she studied and worked at University of Bern, where she completed in 1989 her PhD thesis in chemistry. Afterwards she spent postdoctoral stays at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, and at the University of Delaware, USA. In 1996 she submitted her habilitation at the University of Bern, where she was teaching various topics of analytical chemistry in particular on High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC). From 1998 to 2015 she worked at Empa, the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research in St. Gallen.

Veronika R. Meyer is author of numerous papers in international journals resulting in a Hirsch factor of 18 as listed by Web of Science. Her papers are primarily dealing with various aspects of practical applications of HPLC and with issues of quality assurance and control of analytical methods. However, much more relevant are her textbooks for HPLC practitioners that she authored in English and German language. These single author volumes must be considered as standard texts for scientists involved with practical applications of HPLC.

Thomas Ward, University of Basel, wins Royal Society of Chemistry Award

Basel chemist ***Prof. Thomas Ward***, Professor of Bioinorganic Chemistry at the University of Basel and Director of the NCCR Molecular Systems Engineering, is the Royal Society of Chemistry Bioinorganic Chemistry Award winner for 2017.

Professor Ward's group has been combining chemical and biological tools for fifteen years. They create artificial metalloenzymes that can be used for the production of biofuels or as highly specific drugs to target and destroy diseased cells.

The Bioinorganic Chemistry Award is awarded for outstanding research in any aspect of bioinorganic chemistry. Professor Ward receives £2,000, a medal and a certificate.

He said: "I am extremely pleased and honored to be recognized by the bio-inorganic community. It feels good to be part of this great family of scientists."

Since 2008 Thomas Ward is Professor for Bioinorganic Chemistry at the University of Basel. Since 2016, he heads the directorate of the National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) Molecular Systems Engineering.
His research is centered on the exploitation of proteins as host for abiotic cofactors. The resulting artificial metalloenzymes display features reminiscent of both homogeneous catalysts and enzymes. Such systems can be optimized in vivo by Darwinian evolution schemes.
Source: *http://www.chemie.unibas.ch*

Prof. Javier Pérez-Ramírez, ETH Zurich wins the RSC Sustainable Energy Award

The 2017 Sustainable Energy Award goes to Prof. Javier Pérez-Ramírez. He is awarded for identifying and developing materials that can improve the industrial manufacture of chemicals and fuels using natural resources more efficiently and focusing more on renewable energy sources. Prof. Pérez-Ramírez is awarded for discovery of disruptive catalytic technologies for valorization of carbon dioxide and natural gas that can be applied at a practical scale and for the creation of stable single atom precious metal catalyst materials.
Source: *https://www.chab.ethz.ch/*

Prof. Sereina Riniker, ETH Zurich receives the 9th Silver Jubilee Award

The Molecular Graphics and Modelling Society (MGMS) recognises ***Prof. Sereina Riniker's*** ongoing research work on the applications of molecular dynamics in biomolecular systems with the 9th Silver Jubilee Award.
Professor Riniker studied for her PhD at that same institution with Professor Wilfred van Gunsteren, and then spent some time working with Dr Greg Landrum at Novartis in Basel and the USA before returning to Zürich in 2014. This prize recognises her contributions to the development of the RDKit open source library for chemoinformatics and the GROMOS molecular dynamics program, and her ongoing research work on the applications of molecular dynamics in biomolecular systems.
Source: *http://www.chab.ethz.ch*

JOURNAL NEWS

ChemElectroChem: Special Issue on Electrochemical Biosensing

This Special Issue of ChemElectroChem, guest-edited by Damien Arrigan, Christine Kranz, and Hye Jin Lee, aims to give a flavour of ongoing research in the area of electrochemical biosensing, ranging from the discovery and characterisation of bioelectrochemical reactions through to applications of novel devices that transfer these concepts from a laboratory environment into real-world scenarios. With contributions from: Lo Gorton, José Pingarrón, and Wolfgang Schuhmann.
http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/celc.v4.4/issuetoc

European Journal of Organic Chemistry: Special Issue on Photoredox Catalysis

This Special Issue is published together with the Asian Journal of Organic Chemistry as a virtual issue, showcasing the current state of the art in the field of photoredox catalysis. It features an introductory Essay by Guest Editor Burkhard König on the history and development of photoredox catalysis as well as future challenges.
http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ejoc.v2017.15/issuetoc

Chemistry – A European Journal: Special Issue on Cooperative Effects in Chemistry

Cooperative effects are found in various research areas in chemistry, many of which are currently explored within the Collaborative Research Center SFB 858 in Münster.
In this Special Issue, which coincides with the 8th Münster Symposium on Cooperative Effects in Chemistry (to be held in Münster castle, May 12, 2017), the SFB investigators present selected results from their collaborative research. Two highlights: Editorials on the history of the Research Centre and cooperation between arts and science.
Special Issue: *http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/chem.v23.25/issuetoc*
History of the Research Centre: *http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/chem.201700451/full*
Cooperation between arts and science: *http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/chem.201700297/full*

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: *www.chemanager-online.com*

Syngenta Shareholders Sign Off on ChemChina Deal

May 12, 2017: ChemChina's proposed takeover of agrochemicals group Syngenta is on the road to conclusion, with 82.2% of the Swiss company's common shares and all outstanding American Depositary Shares (ADS) representing common shares having been tendered at the end of the main offer period on May 4. The success of the offer was contingent on a minimum acceptance rate of 67%. An additional acceptance period will begin on May 11 and end on May 24. Syngenta shareholders and ADS holders who did not tender their shares during the main offer period may accept the offers during the additional acceptance period and will receive the price valid in the second settlement on Jun. 7, following definitive notice of the end-result of the offer. Following closure, Syngenta shares are to be de-listed from the Swiss stock exchange SIX and its ADSs from the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). With effect from May 18, the Swiss company's board of directors will be reconstituted to reflect the new ownership structure. Four of Syngenta's existing board members are designated to become independent directors, including the company's current board chairman, Michel Demaré, who will be vice chairman and lead independent director. Jürg Witmer, Eveline Saupper – the sole woman – and Gunnar Brock

are other nominees. The independent directors will be proposed for re-election at Syngenta's annual general meeting to be held on Jun. 26. After the agm, four of the Swiss company's current directors – Vinita Bali, Eleni Gabre-Madhin, David Lawrence and Stefan Borgas – are to step down, to make room for four ChemChina nominees, including the Chinese company's current chairman, Ren Jianxin, who will become chairman of Syngenta. Other names proposed to become Syngenta directors are Chen Hongbo, Olivier T. de Clermont-Tonnerre and Dieter A. Gericke.

The independent directors will have no affiliation with ChemChina or its affiliates. Certain matters, such as any reduction in Syngenta's R&D budget below a specified level and any change in the location of its headquarters, will require the affirmative vote of at least two independent directors, the merger partners explained. Ren has been chairman of ChemChina since 2014, after having served as president of the company from 2004 to 2014. Prior to that, he was president of China Bluestar Group, a ChemChina affiliate, from 1989 to 2004. At present, he is chairman of Pirelli, in which ChemChina holds a stake. Chen Hongbo, chief strategy officer of China National Agrochemical Corporation (CNAC) since 2014, has also held senior positions in strategy and planning at other companies and institutes. He is currently secretary of the board of Adama, a non-listed Israel-based ChemChina affiliate. The Chinese company has agreed to sell part of Adama's pesticide business and take other steps in exchange for regulatory approval. Olivier T. de Clermont-Tonnerre is chief strategy and corporate development officer at Bluestar (Bluestar). Previously, he was CEO of Bluestar Silicones from 2007 to 2011 and prior to that CEO of Rhodia Silcea. Most of his early professional experience was in the Rhône-Poulenc Group in France or in the US. Within the ChemChina Group, the French national is a member of the board of Bluestar and its two subsidiaries Elkem and REC Solar. Dieter A. Gericke is a member of the board of directors of the Homburger law firm in Zurich, Switzerland, and has served for many years on the board of Gericke Holding, a private industrial group. He is also a member of the International Bar Association's Corporate/M&A and Securities Law Committees, currently serving as vice chairman of the latter.

Novartis Takes Rights to Conatus NASH Drug

May 15, 2017: Swiss pharma company Novartis has exercised an option that gives it global development and commercialization rights to a drug being developed by US biotech Conatus Pharmaceuticals to treat non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), a progressive form of fatty liver disease. Once all required antitrust approvals have been received, Novartis will pay a $7 million fee to Conatus for emricasan, an investigational, first-in-class, oral, pan-caspase inhibitor that has shown potential in treating NASH with advanced fibrosis and cirrhosis. Novartis said the collaboration could expand treatment options for people in various stages of fatty liver disease where no approved medicines currently exist. Under the alliance, Conatus will perform multiple Phase IIb trials. If results are successful, Novartis will conduct Phase III studies of emricasan as a single treatment as well as developing therapies in combination with its own Farnesoid X receptor (FXR) agonists. FXR agonists have been shown to address three of the most important aspects of NASH progression by reducing fat, inflammation and fibrosis in the liver. Novartis has two non-bile acid FXR agonists in Phase II clinical trials, both of which have Fast Track designation from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for NASH with liver fibrosis. The FDA has also given Fast Track status for developing emricasan in patients with NASH cirrhosis. The move follows another NASH collaboration that Novartis announced last month. Under this agreement, a combination of Allergan's cenicriviroc and Novartis' lead FXR agonist will undergo Phase IIb trials. According to Novartis, NASH is expected to be the primary cause of liver transplants in the US by 2020.

European Firms to Develop Bio-isobutene Chain

May 16, 2017: Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI-JU), a public-private partnership between the EU and the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC), is backing a new project in which French renewable petrochemicals specialist Global Bioenergies in collaboration with Swiss chemical producers Clariant (Muttenz and Ineos (Rolle / Switzerland) will try to develop a new value chain for renewable bio-based isobutene. All three of the companies are technology leaders in associated fields. The project, part of the European HORIZON 2020 program for research and innovation, will be launched on Jun. 1 and will conclude 48 months later. The aim is to learn how to convert currently poorly valorized residual wheat straw into second- generation renewable isobutene for use as a feedstock to produce lubricants, rubbers, solvents, plastics or fuels. Starting point of the development chain is Clariant's Sunliquid process, which converts straw into glucose- and xylose-rich hydrolysates. Global Bioenergies will undertake to ferment the straw hydrolysates to produce bio-isobutene, and Ineos will convert the bio-isobutene to oligomers. To underpin the work, French engineering firm TechnipFMC and IPSB will conduct preliminary engineering on a hydrolysate-to-isobutene plant, which will be integrated with the straw-to-hydrolysate plant. The Energy Institute at the University of Linz in Austria will assess the sustainability and environmental benefits of the technology link-up. The program covers a total budget of €16.4 million. Altogether €9.8 million

will be provided by the BBI-JU, the remainder by the participants. Global Bioenergies will receive funding amounting to €4.4 million for its R&D activities at its Evry site, its pilot plant in Pomacle (both in France) and its demonstration plant in Leuna, Germany. The company recently scaled up the process for gaseous isobutene produced through fermentation at Leuna. The demonstration plant's new purification unit has already been approved by Germany's principal technical certification authority, and delivery of the first batches of isobutene to partners for testing is due to begin in June CEO Marc Delcourt said one of the company's major objectives for 2017 will be to come closer to commercial performances at Leuna.

Clariant and Huntsman to Merge

May 23, 2017: The new company will be called Huntsman-Clariant. HuntsmanClariant will be led by Peter Huntsman, CEO of Huntsman, while Dr. Hariolf Kottmann, CEO of Clariant, will become chairman. Another industry mega-merger has been announced, this time between Swiss specialty chemicals producer Clariant and US chemical company Huntsman. The multi-billion all-stock deal will see Clariant investors control 52% of the combined group, with Huntsman shareholders owning the remainder. "This is the perfect deal at the right time. Clariant and Huntsman are joining forces to gain much broader global reach, create more sustained innovation power and achieve new growth opportunities," said Clariant's CEO, Hariolf Kottmann. The new company will be called HuntsmanClariant and led by Peter Huntsman, CEO of Huntsman, while Kottmann will become chairman. The business will have a combined enterprise value of approximately $20 billion and will have dual listings on the Swiss and New York Stock Exchanges. Global headquarters will be in Pratteln, Switzerland, and operational headquarters will be in The Woodlands, Texas. Both boards of directors have approved the merger, which they said will create a leading global specialty chemical company with sales of around $13.2 billion and an adjusted EBITDA of $2.3 billion. The combined company is expected to create more than $3.5 billion in value through annual cost synergies in excess of $400 million, which will be achieved by reducing operational costs and improving procurement. The transaction is targeted to close by the end of 2017, subject to approvals from both companies' shareholders, as well as regulatory clearances and other customary closing conditions. Both companies have been the subject of merger rumors and speculation for many years and were reported to have held serious talks last autumn that apparently collapsed over which company would be the lead acquirer. Huntsman has improved profitability in recent years by exiting certain businesses, such as surfactants, and closing production sites, for example pigment plants in France and South Africa. The US group is currently in the process of spinning off its titanium dioxide business into a separate firm named Venator and said plans will continue for the initial public offering (IPO) to take place as previously announced in the summer.