



SCS
Swiss Chemical
Society

Community News

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SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Minutes of the 30th General Assembly of the SCS



June 24, 2020, 16:30–17:10h,
Online meeting via Zoom.

1. Welcome; Approval of the Agenda

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the SCS Spring Meeting as platform for the 2020 General Assembly (GA) was cancelled and the GA had to be postponed from April 3 to June 24. Restrictions for

onsite meetings that were still in place in middle of June forced us to hold the assembly as a video conference (Zoom platform). David Spichiger, SCS Executive Director, opened the GA and welcomed all members/attendees. Legal formalities were all fulfilled, even if the assembly had to be postponed. The assembly was quorate. The agenda was approved.

2. Election of the vote counters

10 SCS members joined the virtual assembly. The director proposed Stephanie Linker as vote counter. She was confirmed with no objection.

3. Minutes from the 29th GA from April 5, 2019

The minutes was published in CHIMIA (2019, 73, No. 5, A430). It was approved unanimously.

4. Annual report 2019

The annual report was published in CHIMIA (2020, 74, No. 1–2, A89ff). It was approved unanimously.

5. Financial report 2019 and audit report

David Spichiger presented the financial statement. Incomes of CHF 1'566'040 and expenses of CHF –1'646'342 result in an operating loss before taxes of CHF –80'302. The portfolio at Bank von Graffenried performed very positively and resulted in a value increase of CHF 533'519. Taking into account the increase of the fluctuation buffer from CHF 50'000 to CHF 450'000, taxes and non-periodic income and expenses, an overall surplus of CHF 70'467 resulted.

The SCS funds could also profit from the positive development of the stock markets and an overall surplus of CHF + 151'871 for all funds resulted.

As of 31.12.2019 the assets summed up to CHF 4'438'767.

Audit Report:

In the audit report from March 13, 2020, provided by BDO AG, Bern, no inconsistencies are mentioned, and the financial statement fulfills the legal requirements according to the SCS bylaws and the Swiss Civil law.

The assembly approved the financial statement 2019 and the audit report unanimously.

6. Discharge the Organs of the Society

The assembly discharged the board members and the financial audit unanimously with no abstention.

7. Elections (Changes in the SCS Board of Directors, BoD)

The assembly confirmed all members of the BoD (elected or ex officio). Five persons joined the BoD as of 2020 ex officio as Division Presidents.

Members of the BoD that are not yet registered in the commercial register (*) will be added to the personal data list:

- Dr. Alain De Mesmaeker, President, joint signature at two
- Prof. Christian Bochet*, Vice President, joint signature at two
- Dr. Hans Peter Lüthi, Member and Treasurer, joint signature at two
- David Spichiger, Member and Manager, joint signature at two
- Dr. Gillian Harvey*, Member, joint signature at two
- Prof. Christoph Copéret*, Member, no signature
- Dr. Sandrine Gerber*, Member, no signature
- Dr. Martin Vollmer*, Member, no signature
- Dr. Bernhard Urwyler*, Member, no signature
- Prof. Stefan Willitsch*, Member, no signature, new as of 2020
- Prof. Jean-Louis Reymond*, Member, no signature, new as of 2020
- Prof. Harm-Anton Klok*, Member, no signature, new as of 2020
- Prof. Eric Bakker*#, Member, no signature, new as of 2020
- Dr. Jan Cvengros*, Member, no signature, new as of 2020

#elected with reservation as the Division of Analytical Sciences did not confirm the appointment so far. Due to Covid-19 the DAS GA had to be postponed.

The entry in the commercial register of Roland Kunz who stepped down in 2018 will be deleted.

The assembly confirmed BDO AG, Bern unanimously as audit instance for the financial statement 2020.

8. Membership fees

The annual membership fees 2021 were approved unanimously:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| – Regular member | CHF 150.00 |
| – Student member | CHF 50.00 |
| – Retired member / unemployed members | CHF 80.00 |
| – Institutional member (institutions) | CHF 800.00 |
| – SCS Partnership (institutions) | |

Additional Fees for Divisions

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| – Industrial & 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. Update of the SCS Bylaws

The assembly approved unanimously the completion of the bylaws and agreed with the recommendation of the Executive Board and the Board of Directors:

- Include an additional paragraph in Article 2, “Purpose”:
2.2 The Society actively supports equality for all its members.
- Include an additional paragraph in Article 4, “Joining the Society”
4.2 Membership is open to everyone who identifies with the aims and values of the Society.

10. News and Strategic Projects

The Board of Directors decided on the following, strategic initiatives that will be pushed the coming months:

- Material Chemistry (Lead Alain De Mesmaeker)
- Flow Chemistry (Lead Claudio Battilocchio)
- New SCS Website (Lead David Spichiger)
- Industry jobs for PhD, Internships for MSc (Lead Hans Peter Lüthi)
- SCS Partnership / SCS Industrial Science Awards (Lead David Spichiger)
- AI / Computational Chemistry (Lead Hans Peter Lüthi)
- Cross-link SwissCat (Lead Javier Pérez-Ramírez, David Spichiger)

10a. Renaming of the Swiss Young Chemists' Association

The Board of the Swiss Young Chemists' Association proposed a renaming of their section as the old name is clumsy and sounds outmoded. The GA approved the proposal with reservation that there is no formal stumbling block, and the section will be renamed to 'youngSCS'. The SCS Head Office will formally lead the renaming, including the implementation of a new logo.

11. Outlook 2020/21

- In 2020 seven conferences and symposia took place or will take place either onsite or online under the direct organization of SCS. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 5 events are postponed to 2021 and two events were cancelled
- So far, seventeen major events are planned for 2021. Also in 2021, the SCS will invite scientists from abroad to give a SCS Lectureships and the portfolio of the Further education in analytical sciences will be reviewed.
- The list of all events is updated regularly and is available on <http://scg.ch/events>.

12. Varia

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

Bern, June 25, 2020

Prof. Christian Bochet
Vice-President

David Spichiger
Executive Director

SCS Awards 2021: Call for Nominations



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 1936 with the ceremony of the first Werner Prizes to Dr. T. Posternak, Genève, and Prof. G. Schwarzenbach, Zurich.

The society hereby calls for nominations for the 2021 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, 2020. For specific award information and a list of required documents please visit our website: scg.ch/awards

Werner Prize

CHF 10'000 and medal in bronze

The Werner Prize is awarded to promising young Swiss scientists or young foreign scientists working in Switzerland for outstanding research in the field of chemistry. Selection of the winners is not restricted to candidates working at a university. On the deadline for submission of nominations, the candidate must be under 40 years old (*i.e.* 40th birthday after the deadline) and may not be a tenured professor or hold a managerial position in industry. The prize is awarded annually.

Grammaticakis-Neumann Prize

CHF 5'000

The Prize is awarded to a promising young scientist for outstanding accomplishments in the field of experimental or theoretical photochemistry. The prize is announced internationally and is not restricted to persons affiliated with academic institutions. On the deadline for submission of nominations, the candidate must be under 40 years old (*i.e.* 40th birthday after the deadline) and may not be a tenured professor or hold a managerial position in industry.

The prize is awarded every two years.

METAS Award

CHF 5'000

METAS honors with this award a promising scientist working in Switzerland for an outstanding contribution to the field of metrology in chemistry and/or biology. The price is announced nationally and is restricted to persons who are, at the time of the submission deadline, affiliated with Swiss academic or research institutions.

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 for innovation in chemistry teaching to a teacher working in Switzerland or to a team of teachers working at the same school at the high school level. The innovation must consist of an original didactic approach, experimental method or teaching practice and be readily applicable to everyday teaching at the high school level. The costs for materials must be modest. The prize is awarded annually.

Dr. Max Lüthi Award

CHF 1'000 and medal in bronze

The Dr. Max Lüthi Award is presented for outstanding degree thesis completed in the chemistry department of a Swiss University of Applied Sciences. Nominations must be submitted by the respective chemistry department heads. The prize is awarded annually.

Sandmeyer Award

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

The Sandmeyer Award is presented to a team or an individual for outstanding work in the field of industrial or applied chemistry. The work must have been carried out in Switzerland or abroad by a team including Swiss nationals. The award may be presented to an individual – Swiss or foreign national – if the work was carried out in Switzerland. The award may be presented to an individual for work carried out abroad if the person is Swiss. Tenured professors will not be considered for the award as individuals. In the case of foreign teams, the Swiss member must have made a substantial contribution to the work. There is no age restriction. The prize is awarded annually.

SCS Industrial Science Awards

Since 2013 the Swiss Chemical Society runs this award program with financial support from the Swiss chemical and pharmaceutical industry in order to honor R&D researchers in Switzerland. The program targets scientists from companies of any size working in the field of chemistry or chemical related sciences. There are three awards with different criteria in terms of the experience and level of research attained by the candidates. The awards are presented to active researchers working in Switzerland and are given to individuals exclusively.

Industrial Science Award

to honor successful investigators with outstanding achievements. Certificate and cash check of CHF 7'000 The prize is given on an annual basis.

Senior Industrial Science Award

to honor very successful and established investigators with outstanding achievements over many years. Certificate and cash check of CHF 10'000 The prize is given on an annual basis.

Distinguished Industrial Science Award

to honor senior scientists for their lifetime achievements in chemical research. Certificate and cash check of CHF 15'000 Reward-ed on decision by the board.

Green & Sustainable Chemistry Award

CHF 10'000

This new prize that will be awarded the first time in 2021 is implemented in collaboration with Syngenta as founding partner and SusChem Switzerland as hosting institution. It targets young professors that are working in the field of Green and Sustainable Chemistry and recognizes outstanding scientific discoveries that lay the foundation for environmentally-friendly approaches and products. The award is given annually.

Clariant CleanTech Awards Switzerland

CHF 5'000 for the winner and CHF 10'000 in total including the runners-up

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

The prizes are awarded every two years.

Please note that the deadline for this award series is May 2021 and candidates will have to submit their dossiers *via* the website of the 2nd Swiss SusChem Days 2021.

More information on all the award programs is available on our website: scg.ch/awards

EuChemS celebrated 50th anniversary online!



On Friday, 3 July 2020, at 10:00 CEST, people from all around the world gathered to celebrate the 50th birthday of EuChemS.

We were delighted to welcome many live speakers: Nobel Laureates, EuChemS Executive Board members, Presidents of EuChemS Member Societies and Supporting Members, Chairs

of EuChemS Professional Networks, and Presidents of Friend Organizations. The list of all the live speakers is available on the EuChemS website.

We are very proud to have welcomed almost 200 attendees whose birthday wishes during the celebration were truly tremendous, and who used the #50yearsuechems hashtag in all social media. If you were not able to join our celebration live, we invite you to look at the recording on the EuChemS YouTube channel!

The celebration programme was prepared by the Task Group chaired by Pilar Goya (EuChemS President), while the diverse preparations for the event, as well as the coordination of the on-line celebration itself, were in the capable hands of Jelena Ladic, EuChemS Science Communication and Policy Officer.

Source: euchems.eu

Update of the SCS Bylaws



On June 24, 2020, the SCS General Assembly approved unanimously the completion of the bylaws and agreed to underline the society's efforts for equality of all its members. SCS members come from diverse cultures and we welcome and value the varied experiences that they bring with them. Inclusivity and diversity form the basis of the vibrant field

that we work in and this must be promoted both at individual and institutional levels to allow the chemical sciences in Switzerland to prosper and grow.

The two following paragraphs were included in the bylaws:

Article 2, "Purpose":

2.2 The Society actively supports equality for all its members.

Article 4, "Joining the Society"

4.2 Membership is open to everyone who identifies with the aims and values of the Society.

scg.ch/about

Free Access to Kudos Pro



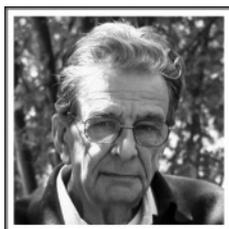
Kudos, the award-winning service for accelerating research impact, has announced that it has extended the sign-up period for complimentary access to Kudos Pro, after more than 5,000 researchers signed up in the first wave.

Kudos Pro comprises a toolkit for showcasing research to broad audiences.

Researchers can quickly create profile pages to explain their work, generate briefings for specific audience groups, connect outputs that are distributed across other websites, and track communications across a range of media. Results are collated for easy reporting and analysis. The company provides full guidance and support to assist researchers in maximizing the reach and uptake of their work.

Researchers need to register and activate their 60 days' free access: growkudos.com/hub/projects

Obituary: Prof. em. Duilio Arigoni (1928–2020)



Dear members of the Swiss Chemical Community

It is with deep mourning that we have to communicate the passing of one of our Honorary Members, Prof. em. Duilio Arigoni, on June 10, 2020. Our thoughts and hearts reach out to his family and friends.

Prof. Arigoni was recognized as a scientist with sharp intellect and visionary thinking. He pioneered fundamentally innovative approaches to elucidate biosynthetic pathways by which nature produces the endless diversity of bioactive secondary metabolites. Prof. Arigoni was recognized as a gifted teacher and a talented lecturer and will also be remembered for his charm and wit along with a breadth of knowledge that extended into many other areas, such as fine arts, music, literature, and history. Prof. Arigoni was one of the key figures in creating the global success story of the Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences at ETH Zurich.

Born in Lugano (Ticino) in Switzerland in 1928, Duilio Arigoni moved to Zurich for his Master and PhD studies in chemistry at ETH Zurich. After completing his PhD, he became professor at ETH Zurich in 1967. He was also a visiting professor at Harvard University and Cambridge University and worked as a professor at ETH Zurich for over fifty years. He was officially retired in 1996 but continued his research until old age.

Duilio Arigoni received many scientific distinctions. Amongst others he got the Davy Medal (1983), Welch Award (1985), Cope Award (1986), Wolf Prize (1989) and the Marcel-Benoist-Preis (1991). In 2010 he was appointed Honorary Member of the Swiss Chemical Society.

In 2010, CHIMIA published an interview with Prof. Arigoni: "Chemiker müssen Lust am Abenteuer haben!"
CHIMIA 2010, 64, No. 4. doi:10.2533/chimia.2010.269

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



Period: 19.05.–14.07.2020

Jan Alfke, Zürich – Peter Alpert, Bruff – Guido Barzano, Zürich – Daniel Beck, Kutzenhausen – Alina Begley, Zurich – Maurice Biedermann, Zürich – Emanuel Billeter, Zürich – Leonie Bole, Bern – Sascha Bollhalder, Goldach – Charlotte Bopp, Dübendorf – Nadine Borduas-Dedekind, Zurich – Julien

Borrel, Lausanne – Antoine Chauveau, Basel – Jingfeng Chen, Villigen – Doris Cherppanath, Goldach – Fadri Christoffel, Basel – Thibaut Cossart, Ambérieu-en-Bugey – Katja Csizi, Zürich – Coenraad de Koning, Bern – Marzia Dell'Aera, Bern – Jing Dou, Zürich – Lionel Doumampoum-Metoul, Kembs – Lara Dürr, Basel – Solene Dussauge, Sierentz – Daniel Earley, Zürich – Steffen Eller, Biel – Chiara Favaretto, Umiken – Jose Garcia Calvo, Geneva – Theophile Gaudin, Zürich – Christopher Geinitz, Goldach – Jose Maria Gil-Negrete, Bern – Marie-Line Goude, Bartenheim – Nadege Graveleau, Basel – Stephanie Grimmel, Zürich – Amaury Guillou, Zürich – Yousuf Hemani, Dübendorf – Isabel Hilber, Zürich – Joanna Houska, Dübendorf – Corinne Hugentobler, Goldach – Paul Ionescu, Villigen PSI – Martin Jones, Zürich – Tobias Kämpfer, Burgdorf – Kevin Kraft, Altendorf – Charlotte Kress, Basel – Carsten Kroll, Basel – Anne-Laure Le Goff, Muespach Le Haut – Seonwoo Lee, Ecublens – Fabio Lima, Saint-Louis – Qinlei Liu, Zurich – Lewis Maddock, Bern – Alexander Marziale, Basel – Pasquale Mastropierro, Bern – Pierre Mateo, Bern – Thomas Matt, Barbengo-Lugano – Claire Meyer, Basel – Ugo Molteni, Wettingen – Anna Morales Melgares, Lausanne – Maximilian Mörchen, Zürich – Livia Müller, Winterthur – Moritz Muthwill, Freiburg im Breisgau – Mariia Naumenko, Zurich – Suren Nemat, Basel – Leo Nicholls, Baden – Pierre Nimsgern, Basel – Fernanda Nunes, Baden – Irina Oganessian, Zürich – Rachele Ossola, Zürich – Miguel Paraja, Geneve – Simone Pieber, Dübendorf – Vincent Pirenne, Lausanne – Ludger Ploenes, Basel – Santiago Luis Pons Alles, Neuchâtel – Di Qu, Dübendorf – Daniela Rechsteiner, Zürich – Stephanie Remke, Dübendorf – Judith Riedo, Zürich – João Rodrigues Pereira Santos, Geneve – Mikolaj Roguski, Basel – Louisa Savereide, Saint-Sulpice – Christian Schellhaas, Zürich – Carina Schönsee, Zürich – Andreas Schuster, Münchenstein – Carolin Seller, Zürich – Aleksandr Shlykov, Basel – Inga Shybeka, Geneva – Birk Stange, Lörrach – Jin Fay Tan, Lausanne – Shabnam Tarvirdipour, Basel – Jasmin Terreni, Dietikon – Milen Todorov, Rosenau – Fabian Tolle, Weil am Rhein – Alessandra Toniato, Thalwil – Sigita Trabesinger, Baden – Oscar Urquidi Gandarillas, Bernex – Nicholas van der Meulen, Schinznach Dorf – Koenraad Vanhessche, Feigères – Alain Vaucher, Zürich – Mario Veicht, Villigen PSI – Bettina Wicki, Goldach – Chung-Che Wu, Zurich – Lei Xu, Basel – Peter Zimmermann, Zürich.



GAINING INNOVATION MOMENTUM THROUGH DATA ANALYTICS

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HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

2020 European Chemistry Gold Medal awarded to Prof. Michele Parrinello, ETH Zurich and Università della Svizzera Italiana Lugano



The 2020 European Chemistry Gold Medal will be awarded to **Prof. Michele Parrinello** for exceptional achievements in the field of chemistry in Europe. Professor Parrinello will be presented with the Gold Medal during the 8th EuChemS Chemistry Congress in Lisbon, Portugal. In addition, he will also give a plenary lecture during the ECC8.

Every two years, the exceptional achievements of one scientist working in the field of chemistry in Europe are rewarded. The winner receives a gold medal and the opportunity to give the opening lecture at the next European Chemistry Congress (ECC).

Professor Parrinello's interests in Science are interdisciplinary. Together with Professor Car, he is still developing and applying the Car-Parrinello molecular dynamics method. This computational Chemistry software looks at the motion of individual atoms. This method has broad applications in physics and chemistry and allows scientists to understand atomic behavior in various range applications. Among them, the Car-Parrinello method helped studying the behavior of water near a hydrophobic graphene sheet, solving the heat transfer problems between Si/Ge superlattices, evaluating the critical point of aluminum and much more.

Source: euchems.eu

Prof. Paul Dyson, EPFL, receives the RSC Green Chemistry Award 2020



The Royal Society of Chemistry awards the 2020 RSC Green Chemistry Award to **Prof. Paul Dyson** from EPFL Lausanne for his major advances in the catalytic transformations of renewable substrates leading to industrial processes and products.

The goal of Professor Dyson's team is to replace chemicals derived from fossil resources with chemicals derived from renewable materials and other waste streams to facilitate the transition towards a sustainable circular economy.

To achieve this goal they need to understand how these renewable materials are transformed at a molecular level, and armed with this knowledge, they are able identify bottlenecks and then design new catalysts that overcome these bottlenecks.

In his own words, "Basically, we have a lot of fun, learn a lot, create new knowledge and occasionally discover something useful."

Source: rsc.org

Prof. Philippe Moreillon, EPFL Lausanne, neuer Präsident der Akademie der Naturwissenschaften



Prof. Philippe Moreillon wurde an der virtuellen Delegiertenversammlung der SCNAT vom 29. Mai 2020 zum neuen Präsidenten gewählt. Er folgte per 1. Juli auf Marcel Tanner, der neu das Präsidium des Dachverbandes Akademien der Wissenschaften Schweiz übernommen hat.

Der neu ernannte Präsident betonte, wir müssten die künftigen Herausforderungen inter- und transdisziplinär angehen. Nur so, zusammen mit den Akademien der Wissenschaften, könnten wir die Gesellschaft unterstützen, eine lebenswerte Zukunft zu schaffen. Als bisheriger Vizepräsident sorgt Philippe Moreillon für Kontinuität in der strategischen Führung der SCNAT. Der renommierte Mikrobiologe wirkte als Professor und Vizerektor an der Universität Lausanne.

Source: naturalsciences.ch

Prof. Jean-Christophe Leroux, ETH Zurich, elected member of the European Academy of Sciences



The European Academy of Sciences has elected Prof. Jean-Christophe Leroux, Professor at the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences at ETH Zurich, as a member. The European Academy of Sciences was founded in 2003 and aims to promote fundamental research and excellence in science and technology.

Prof. Leroux was born in Montreal (Canada) in 1969. He received his B.Pharm. from the University of Montreal, followed by a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences (1995) from the University of Geneva (Switzerland). From 1996 to 1997 he completed a postdoctoral training at the University of California, San Francisco and then joined the University of Montreal as an assistant professor. He was promoted to the ranks of associate professor in 2002 and full professor in 2007.

His research interests include the design of novel biopolymers, stimuli-responsive drug delivery systems (liposomes, micelles and gels) and the targeting of anticancer drugs.

Source: chab.ethz.ch

Best Presentation Awards at the SCS Online Photochemistry Symposium 2020



The symposium, that took place on Friday, 19 June 2020, was an initiative of the Photochemistry Section of the Swiss Chemical Society to promote the exchange within the photochemistry community in Switzerland and beyond.

Helvetica sponsored the Best Presentation Awards at the 2020 SCS Photochemistry Symposium and Dr. Richard

Smith handed over the „virtual“ certificates and prize money to the following presenters:

Best Contributed Talk, Certificate and CHF 200

Sara Cembellín, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

“Metal Free and Visible Light Promoted Synthesis of Isothiazoles”

Best Elevator Speech (1), Certificate and CHF 100
Steffy Becht, Ruprecht-Karls University Heidelberg
 “Formation of triazole photoswitches on azide modified structures via click reaction”

Best Elevator Speech (2), Certificate and CHF 100
João Avó, University of Lisbon
 “Nanomaterials with thermally-activated delayed fluorescence for live-cell imaging”
 Source: scg.ch/pcs

JOURNAL NEWS

25 years Chemistry – A European Journal



2020 marks the 25th anniversary of Chemistry — A European Journal. Chemistry Europe will be celebrating this throughout the year with special article collections (such as Science Voices), games, competitions, and much more.

See the infographic on the website to learn more about the exciting development of the journal over the past 25 years. How did it all start? Who are the key people? How did the journal respond to changing demands of researchers and the chemical community?

Create your own video about your research published in Chemistry – A European Journal during the last 25 years and get a chance to win up to 500 euros and much more! The deadline is October 30, find out more about how to participate on the website.

Since 2014 the Swiss Chemical Society is co-owner of the journal and holds 5% of its shares. We are proud and happy to be part of this success story and wish WILEY-VCH and the CEJ editors all the best for at least the next 25 years.

Source and website: chemeurj.org/25

Helvetica, Volume 103, Issue 6, June 2020



Essays

Perovskite: Name Puzzle and German-Russian Odyssey of Discovery
Eugene A. Katz

Communications

Derailed *Ohira-Bestmann* Reaction of γ, δ -Unsaturated Aldehydes for the Stereoselective Synthesis of Cyclopenta[*c*]

pyrazoles

Tobias Sandmeier, Niels Sievertsen, Erick M. Carreira

Full Papers

Optimizing the Atomic Layer Deposition of Alumina on Perovskite Nanocrystal Films by Using O₂ As a Molecular Probe
Seryio Saris, Sanduni T. Dona, Valerie Niemann, Anna Loiodice, Raffaella Buonsanti

Understanding Surface Recombination Processes Using Intensity-Modulated Photovoltage Spectroscopy on Hematite Photoanodes for Solar Water Splitting
Yongpeng Liu, Néstor Guijarro, Kevin Sivula

Syntheses of Molybdenum and Tungsten Imido Alkylidene Complexes that Contain a Bidentate Oxo/Thiolato Ligand

Hosein Tafazolian, Sudarsan VenkatRamani, Charlene Tsay, Richard R. Schrock, Peter Müller

Metal-Surface Interactions and Surface Heterogeneity in ‘Well-Defined’ Silica-Supported Alkene Metathesis Catalysts: Evidences and Consequences

Margherita Pucino, Wei-Chih Liao, Ka Wing Chan, Erwin Lam, Roman Schowner, Pavel A. Zhizhko, Michael R. Buchmeiser, Christophe Copéret

onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15222675/

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: www.chemanager-online.com

Corden Expands Pact with Moderna

01.06.2020 – German Contract Development & Manufacturing Organization CordenPharma has expanded its strategic manufacturing services agreement with Moderna to include the supply of lipid excipients for the US biotech’s mRNA-1273 Covid-19 vaccine candidate.

CordenPharma Switzerland originally signed the manufacturing pact with Moderna in 2016. The amended agreement, which takes effect immediately, now includes CordenPharma Chenôve in France and CordenPharma Colorado in the US.

The new terms call for production of larger-scale volumes of lipids, while continuing to draw upon CordenPharma Switzerland’s position as a leader in specialized lipid manufacturing, the company said.

CordenPharma is the global pharmaceutical manufacturing platform of the International Chemicals Investor Group (ICIG), a full-service CDMO for APIs, drug products and packaging.

The company’s cMP facilities across Europe and the US are organized under four Technology Platforms – Peptides, Lipids & Carbohydrates, Injectables, Highly Potent & Oncology and Small Molecules.

Moderna has now begun Phase 2 studies with its vaccine candidate, in which it will evaluate the safety, reactogenicity and immunogenicity of two vaccinations given 28 days apart.

Altogether 600 people are expected to take part in the study, divided evenly into two age groups, of 18 and 55 years old and people over the 55 respectively. Both groups will be tracked over 12 months. Last month, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted mRNA-1273 “fast track” designation.

The US biotech expects to collaborate with the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) on a Phase 3 study by July. Moderna and NIAID also collaborated on Phase 1, which is being prepared for peer review.

Pierre-Alain Ruffieux new CEO of Lonza

09.06.2020 – Pierre-Alain Ruffieux has been appointed CEO of Swiss CDMO Lonza, with effect from 1 November 2020. The new chief executive will succeed Marc Funk, who led the company from March to November 2019 following the departure of Richard Ridinger. The latter held the position from April 2012 until the end of February 2019.

Ruffieux currently heads of global pharma technical operations at Roche, where he and his 12,000-member team oversee all aspects of pharmaceutical commercial manufacturing and supply chain operations, including technical, quality assurance and regulatory functions.

Before his term at Roche, the new Lonza appointee spent 12 years at Novartis, before joining Roche in 2015, and can look back on more than 20 years’ experience in biopharmaceuticals.

With “unrivalled experience” in manufacturing and process excellence at two of the world’s largest pharmaceutical companies, supervisory board chairman Albert Baehny said Ruffieux will also be a great asset to the Lonza group.

In November, Baehny will step down as CEO ad interim and return to his role as non-executive chairman.

New chief to execute vaccine pact with Moderna

One of Ruffieux’s tasks will be executing Lonza’s 10-year contract to help Moderna make its, mRNA-1273, the US biotech’s Covid-19 vaccine candidate, US pharma trade journal Fierce Pharma said, commenting on the Swiss appointment.

The Lonza-Moderna partnership hopes to start batch production of active components of the vaccine in July, when Moderna expects to start a large-scale phase 3 trial with 30,000 participants.

As part of its arrangement with Moderna, Lonza is moving quickly to get two planned commercial production on stream to make the necessary doses. One of the lines, at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, could be completed this, a second at Visp, Switzerland, is by December, Baehny recently told the Reuters news agency.

The board chairman said Lonza is spending \$60-70 million on the first Visp line, with Moderna footing the bill for the first US line and potentially three more. The goal is to make enough ingredients for 600 million to 1 billion doses of the vaccine annually.

Another major decision Ruffieux will make, observers noted, is the future of Lonza’s chemicals business, where growth clearly lags the custom drugs segment. The activities have been spun off into a standalone unit pending a decision on whether to sell or keep.

TechnipFMC Joins Clariant on ACN Catalyst

03.07.2020 – Major construction and engineering group TechnipFMC has entered into a joint development agreement with Clariant Catalysts to commercialize the Swiss company’s new AcryloMax propylene ammoxidation catalyst to produce fiber intermediate acrylonitrile (ACN).

The deal combines TechnipFMC’s expertise in fluid bed technologies and process development with Clariant’s knowhow in developing and manufacturing catalysts for the petrochemical industry.

Technip Energies’ Research Center in Weymouth, Massachusetts, USA, will soon commission a large demonstration reactor to test the technology.

“For producers of acrylonitrile, this combination of catalyst and process technology know-how will open the door to exciting new opportunities,” said Stefan Heuser, senior vice president & general manager at Clariant Catalysts.

According to Clariant, AcryloMax allows more profitable and efficient production of ACN, as the route can deliver up to several percent yield gains compared with other catalysts on the market. Other benefits of the technology include high selectivity to ammonium nitrate and hydrogen cyanide at “excellent conversion rates under a number of different process conditions.”

The technology is also compatible with Sohio-type ACN plants. Sohio – Standard Oil of Ohio – developed an ACN propylene ammoxidation process based on a bismuth phosphomolybdate catalyst in the 1950s. Sohio eventually became part of BP, which sold the nitrile business to Ineos in 2005.

In separate news, Clariant is launching its next-generation phthalate-free olefin polymerization catalysts. Developed in partnership with McDermott’s Lummus Novolen technology, Clariant said the new PolyMax 600 series “answer the market’s increasing need for safer polypropylene solutions.”

“Performance is the key difference with our new PolyMax 600 series catalysts,” commented Stefan Heuser. “The innovative

technology, which allows customers to achieve higher productivity rates and reduced process fluctuations, is delivering excellent results – with one major polypropylene producer now estimating economic benefits to exceed \$8 million annually,” he said.

The Swiss group added that the improved performance comes from new proprietary technology that increases catalyst activity up to 25% compared with phthalate-based catalysts, resulting in not only higher plant productivity, but also superior polymer properties, such as increased impact strength for better durability.

PolyMax 600 catalysts are a drop-in replacement for phthalate-based polyolefin catalysts and are designed to suit a broad range of process requirements in applications ranging from food packaging to engineered automotive parts.

Syngenta Group Launches

03.07.2020 – Syngenta Group was officially launched on Jun. 18. Swiss-based and Chinese-owned, the group consists of four business units: Syngenta Crop Protection headquartered in Switzerland; Syngenta Seeds headquartered in the US; Adama headquartered in Israel; and Syngenta Group China.

With 48,000 employees in more than 100 countries and sales of \$23 billion in 2019, the group is the global market leader in crop protection, the China fertilizer market leader and the global number three in seeds. With its Modern Agriculture Platform (MAP) Farmer Solution Centers, Syngenta said it is also the leading provider of agriculture services in China.

Erik Fyrwald, formerly CEO of Syngenta AG, is CEO of the new entity while Chen Lichtenstein, Adama’s former CEO, takes over as chief financial officer.

“I am pleased that our new organization is ready to bring the diversity and expertise of our teams to deliver the broadest range of sustainable and competitive products,” said Fyrwald. “Customers will continue to get the full attention of the businesses as they currently serve them, but the capabilities each brings will be enhanced where it adds value by collaboration across the Syngenta Group.”

The group intends to announce its new Good Growth Plan later this month. This will be its first major initiative after launch and will address the shifting challenges faced by farmers around the world as well as society’s changing expectations of agricultural technology and sustainability.

Novartis Settles US Fines Topping \$1 Billion

07.07.2020 – On Jul. 1, Novartis agreed to pay \$729 million to resolve a seven-year dispute over kickbacks it allegedly paid to doctors, along with other schemes designed to boost sales of its products.

In an unrelated Jun. 25 settlement, the company agreed to pay a total of \$347 million for violating the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). This adds to the \$195 million Novartis paid earlier this year to wrap up a US price fixing lawsuit against generics makers.

The pharmaceutical giant has already made financial provisions for all of the fines in its accounting.

As its fine in the larger of the two-pronged dispute, Novartis and the US federal government agreed on a payout of \$591.4 million. The drugmaker also agreed to forfeit \$38.4 million and hand over an additional \$48.2 million to resolve healthcare fraud claims.

In the first part of the July settlement, concerning a whistleblower suit brought by a Novartis sales representative in 2011, US federal prosecutors said the company violated a federal statute prohibiting kickbacks.

The second part pertained to alleged offenses that included financially backing fraudulent prescription claim for Novartis products charged to the US state-sponsored healthcare programs

Medicare and Medicaid as well as claims made to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Regarding the alleged kickbacks, the prosecution said the drugmaker leveraged “tens of thousands” of sham speaker programs and events, including lavish dinners, to encourage doctors to prescribe its medicines.

“For more than a decade, Novartis spent hundreds of millions of dollars on so-called speaker programs, including speaking fees, exorbitant meals and top-shelf alcohol that were nothing more than bribes to get doctors across the country to prescribe Novartis’s drugs,” Audrey Strauss, acting US attorney for Manhattan, said.

To remedy the situation, the pharmaceutical giant meanwhile has pledged to cut back on future speaker programs as well as lower the maximum amount of money it spends on such events.

In the late June settlement, the Swiss pharma agreed to pay \$234 million to the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and \$113 million to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FPCA).

The charges here stemmed from state investigations into the company’s practices in Greece, Vietnam, South Korea and China. Prosecutors said Novartis bribed medical professionals, hospitals and clinics to prescribe its branded pharmaceuticals and use surgical products of its former subsidiary Alcon.

Greek subsidiary Novartis Hellas was accused of providing “improper benefits” to doctors between 2012 and 2015 to boost sales of its Lucentis macula degeneration treatment. In Vietnam, Alcon was charged with paying “inappropriate economic benefits” to doctors, though the company said the program was run by a distributor.

The drugmaker settled directly with US authorities over record-keeping infractions in Greece, Vietnam, South Korea and China.

In bringing to a conclusion all of the cases that predated his term of office, CEO Vasant Narasimhan said Novartis is a different company today, with new leadership, a stronger culture, and a more comprehensive commitment to ethics.

Clariant and Ineratec in Gas-to-Liquids Pact

14.07.2020 – Clariant is collaborating with Ineratec, a spin-off from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), to develop and commercialize novel technologies for producing renewable fuels and chemicals.

The Swiss specialty chemicals group will provide its catalysis expertise and broad portfolio of synthesis gas (syngas) conditioning and upgrading catalysts to support Ineratec’s gas-to-liquids technology.

Stefan Heuser, senior vice president & general manager at Clariant Catalysts, commented: “We are honored to support Ineratec in their pioneering work in sustainable fuel production. Their state-of-the-art container-sized gas-to-liquid technology has great potential for the decentralized fuel market and we are excited to contribute with our tailor-made syngas catalyst innovations.”

The key feature of Ineratec’s technology is that the entire process is achieved in transportable container units. The micro-structured core of the modular reactors provides a large surface for heat and mass transport, meaning that highly exothermic reactions, such as methanol synthesis or CO₂ hydrogenation, can be operated efficiently and safely in compact, container-sized plants, with “outstanding” reactor productivity.



The Faculty of science of the University of Geneva is opening a position of

Full or Associate Professor Position

at the Department of physical chemistry
in the domain of experimental physical chemistry

Institute: The Department of physical chemistry of the Faculty of science of the University of Geneva offers an innovative and stimulating scientific environment. Internationally recognized research of the Department includes the development and application of spectroscopic methods to study ultrafast processes, interfaces, aggregates and chiral materials as well as the preparation and study of materials for sustainable technologies and theoretical chemistry.

Assignment: The position is full time with teaching at the Bachelor and Masters levels in the field of general and physical chemistry (6 h/week). The successful candidate is expected to lead a vibrant research program at an internationally competitive level in experimental physical chemistry. The field of research should complement the existing expertise in the department and enable synergies with the priority projects of the Faculty of Science, that is, life sciences, materials sciences, and environmental science. The candidate will be involved in administrative duties in the Department of physical chemistry and in the Faculty of science.

Academic Title Requested: PhD in chemistry or equivalent. Relevant teaching experience. Track record of scientific achievements including publications in high-ranked international journals.

Starting Date: September 1st, 2021, or as agreed.

Applications including:

- Cover letter
- Detailed CV together with a list of publications
- Copy of highest degrees/diploma
- Research and teaching statements
- List of referees who may later be contacted directly by the search committee. Recommendation letters are not requested at this stage.

Applications should be submitted exclusively on-line to the following address: <https://jobs.unige.ch> before September 30th, 2020 (23:59 Geneva time). APPLICATIONS SENT BY EMAIL SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Complementary information may be obtained at the following e-mail address: scienceopenings@unige.ch.

Applications from women are particularly welcome.