

EDITORIAL

Invitation to Attend the Fall Meeting of the Swiss Chemical Society in Zurich, on Friday, October 13th, 2006

Welcome to the Fall Meeting 2006 of the Swiss Chemical Society. You are invited to attend!

This year's Fall Meeting is *an outstanding event* for many reasons:

- The Fall Meeting is the annual congress of the members of the **Swiss Chemical Society**. Every interested researcher in the field of chemistry is invited to present and exchange his or her scientific results. This year the enthusiasm to participate is reflected in the truly impressive number of contributions: 459! Thank you for your interest.
- This year the Fall Meeting is 'accompanied' by the annual meeting of the **Swiss Academy of Sciences**. The conference theme is '**Chemistry of Life**' and is devoted to progress in vaccine research. We hope that there will be a lot of exchange between these two events. We have arranged these events in neighboring lecture halls to facilitate access to the presentations in all sessions.
- The 2006 meeting in Zurich is being held jointly with the **Swiss Polymer Group** for the first time ever. The contributions from the polymer group widen and enrich the topics covered in the meeting and we welcome all polymer scientists joining this meeting. We hope we can offer you ideal conditions for your meeting. For organizational reasons, Polymer Science has been treated like another Chemical Society division, which of course is not the case. However, it would extend and enrich the activities of our Society.
- Then, and also for the first time, there will be a **career center** for young researchers. We have been able to persuade quite a few of the Human Resources departments from leading chemical and pharmaceutical companies in Switzerland to attend. We hope that participants will find the time to discuss a career in industry. We think that this is an excellent service to our members and hope that not only academic careers are linked to the activities of the Swiss Chemical Society. This activity was jointly organized with the '**Jungchemikerforum**', a group run for and by young chemists within the Swiss Chemical Society.
- Last but also highly important: during this year's Fall Meeting there will be an **extraordinary general meeting of the members of the Swiss Chemical Society**. Georg Fráter, our president, has issued a separate invitation for this event, so we just mention this here and hope you will all attend.

After this long list of novelties, let me also mention some more familiar items:

The most important one is to welcome you again cordially to this meeting and invite you to attend. I say this on behalf of the Swiss Chemical Society, the local Organizing Committee and the Division of Chemical Research. But it is also my warm and personal welcome to you.

This joint meeting will be one of the largest scientific meetings in Switzerland, offering unique opportunities for graduate students, post-doctoral researchers and scientists of all levels, from both academia and industry, to share their research results. It allows the exchange of ideas, often generating the seeds for new projects and collaborations.

And as in previous years, the METTLER TOLEDO Prizes will be awarded to the best speakers during the meeting, whereas the Swiss Chemical Society honors outstanding poster contributions.

Your contributions, the invited speakers, for example in the Mini-Symposium in Inorganic Chemistry, but also in other sections and the speakers from the SCNAT meeting, make a mix that reflects world-class science, unique to Switzerland. Go there, it's all yours.

The above-mentioned METTLER TOLEDO Prize leads me to another topic I need to address. Events like the Fall Meeting do cost money, even if the Swiss Chemical Society is based primarily on volunteer work. Therefore, let me thank all our sponsors that have enabled this meeting. They are listed on our homepage as well in this issue of CHIMIA. In particular I want to thank the University of Zurich for providing the substantial infrastructure and other help in organizing this meeting. The support of the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences SCNAT is also acknowledged. And of course let me thank all the helpers in the Divisions and Sections of the Swiss Chemical Society, Mrs. Bea Spichtig, Mrs. Allegro and Mrs. Spöri in the offices, many students and helpers from the University of Zurich, the ETH and the CHIMIA team.

Looking forward to seeing you in Zurich.

Heinz Berke
Chairman
Division of Chemical Research

Ferdinand Wild
Co-Chairman
of the Organizing Committee