

# CH Information

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## NEWS

(source CHEManager)

Specialty chemicals producer **Clariant** has completed its acquisition of de-icing chemicals producer Aerochem, based in Stockholm, Sweden, for an undisclosed sum. The Swedish firm, which claims to have a leading market position in supplying de-icing fluids to the aviation and railway industries in Sweden, Norway and Denmark, has annual sales of around 20 million Swiss francs. Since 2008, Aerochem has been Clariant's exclusive partner for selling aircraft de-icing fluids to customers in the Nordic market. Clariant will integrate the acquisition into its business unit Industrial & Consumer Specialties, which claims a leading position in the aviation industry in Europe and North America.

**Clariant** has agreed to acquire Geosol's 50% stake and take full control of Brazil's Companhia Brasileira de Bentonita (CBB). Financial terms of the arrangement were not announced. Up to now, the company has been operated as a 50:50 joint venture of Clariant and Geosil, a provider of analytical services for mineral exploration. As part of the deal, which is still subject to regulatory approval, the Swiss company will gain a state-of-the-art bentonite production facility at Vitória da Conquista in the state of Bahia. According to Clariant, CBB has a strong market position for products used in Iron Ore Pelletizing (IOP), foundry, oil & mining drilling and civil engineering in Latin America. Along with providing a modern production facility for its Functional Minerals business unit in Brazil, Clariant said the transaction will allow it to secure strategic raw clay reserves for its growing bleaching earth operations in Jacareí, Brazil.

**Roche** said it would discontinue a late-stage study of investigational anti-amyloid medicine gantenerumab in pre-dementia Alzheimer's disease, following a pre-planned futility analysis and recommendation by the independent Data Monitoring Committee. The drugmaker said it was ending a late-stage study of the experimental drug after it failed to prove effective, underlining the difficulty of treating the disease and seriously pressuring the company's shares. Germany's MorphoSys is Roche's partner on the Alzheimer's project. US firm ImmunoGen also contributes technology. In the breast cancer application, Roche said that in a late-stage study in people with the previously untreated advanced HER2-positive form of the disease three of its treatments, Herceptin, Perjeta and Kadcyla, helped people live without their disease worsening. However, the two treatment arms containing Kadcyla did not significantly improve progression-free survival. Roche suffered a setback with another experimental Alzheimer's drug earlier this year, but the company said it had no plans to abandon research on this disease. Gantenerumab continues to be studied in another trial involving patients with later stage disease, and Roche has two other experimental Alzheimer's drugs in tests, *crenezumab* and *RG1577*.

Geneva, Switzerland-based **SGS Life Science Services**, a leading provider of pharmaceutical, clinical and bioanalytical contract solutions, has announced plans to more than double the size invest of its Mumbai, India, facility to 3,994 square meters.

The company said the expansion is being driven by increasing demand for Full Time Equivalent (FTE) activities for key pharmaceutical customers, as well as an increase in stability projects from both local operations of multinational companies and overseas organizations. SGS' expanded laboratory at Mumbai facility, which is focused on stability studies and dedicated FTE models, will act as a dedicated cGMP pharmaceutical testing site. Due for completion and validation in the second quarter of 2015, it will feature three new 100 cubic meter capacity stability chambers, HPLCs, dissolutions, Gas Chromatographs and additional general laboratory instruments. Paul House, managing director of SGS India, said the Mumbai laboratory will be the largest stability testing facility in the company's life science services network.

**Siegfried Group** has acquired Hameln Pharma in Germany, consisting of Hameln Pharmaceuticals and Hameln RDS, with effect from end November 2014. Hameln Pharma is located in the city of Hameln and active in the development and production of sterile liquid pharmaceutical products for international pharmaceutical companies; the Siegfried Group will therefore considerably strengthen its sterile filling segment. Under terms of the acquisition agreement, Siegfried will take over the entire staff of approx. 500 employees. For 2014, Hameln Pharma expects sales of approx. CHF 85 million. The purchase price amounts to CHF 60 million.

In a late-stage study involving 970 people with primary-progressive multiple sclerosis (PPMS), the **Novartis** drug *Gilenya* (fingolimod) failed to show any significant advantages over a placebo in a combination of disability measures the Swiss-based pharmaceutical producer said. *Gilenya* is already approved in the US and Europe as a treatment for the more common relapsing-remitting form of multiple sclerosis. It currently is being tested in Phase III trials as a treatment for pediatric MS and chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy (CIDP). There is currently no approved treatment for PPMS, a form of the disease that involves a steady worsening of brain function and affects about 10% of all people diagnosed with multiple sclerosis worldwide, some 2.3 million.

As part of a program announced to save \$1 billion annually by 2018, Swiss agrochemicals giant **Syngenta** plans to cut or relocate 1800 jobs to improve its cost base in high-priced countries such as Switzerland. Around 500 of the affected jobs are at group headquarters in Basel. Alongside Switzerland, Syngenta has bases in the UK, US, China and India. The workforce reduction of around 6% of total staffing is planned to take place mainly in 2015 and involve sales, research and manufacturing. About \$265 million savings are expected next year. Syngenta said \$115 million of the targeted savings for next year will come from a simplified marketing structure, \$50 million from consolidating research and \$100 million from measures such as moving some activities to lower-cost locations. With an EBITDA margin of 19.6% in 2013, Syngenta's profitability lags that of Monsanto (22.5%) and Bayer CropScience (25.5%). Its share price has also underperformed that of its competitors, falling 9.2% across 2014. According to unconfirmed reports, the Swiss group was the target of a takeover approach by Monsanto that was abandoned earlier this year.

## HONORS

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**Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Martin Quack**, ETH Zurich, has been elected into the presidium of the German National Academy of Sciences, the Leopoldina, Halle –Saale.

**Prof. Dr. Hans Jakob Wörner**, ETH Zurich, has been awarded the Klung-Wilhemmy Prize, endowed with 75'000 €, for his pioneering contribution to the science of electron movement in molecules at the sub-femtosecond time scale.

## CONFERENCES IN SWITZERLAND

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01.03–31.08.2015

### ContaSed 2015

08.–13.03.2015

Congressi Stefano Franscini, Monte Verità, Ascona  
Contaminated Sediments: Environmental Chemistry, Ecotoxicology and Engineering  
Conference Themes: Organic and Inorganic Contaminants - Effects and Risk Assessment - Remediation and Engineering  
<http://contased.org>

### Swiss Symposium on Lab Automation 2015

19.03.2015

HSR Hochschule für Technik, Rapperswil  
Das jährliche Swiss Symposium on Lab Automation bietet eine Plattform für Fachreferate von und für Branchenexperten aus dem Gebiet der Automation und Instrumentation im Medizinal- und Lifescience-Sektor.  
<http://www.ilt.hsr.ch>

### CHanalysis 2015

10.–11.04.2015

Dorint Hotel, Beatenberg  
The goal is to stimulate a stronger cooperation among persons working in the different areas of analytical sciences. In addition to lectures and discussions, an informal evening session is scheduled for networking and building new contacts across scientific borders.  
<https://scg.ch/chanalysis/2015>

### Freiburger Symposium by DIAC

23.–24.04.2015

Hochschule für Technik und Architektur Freiburg, Gebäude A, Auditorium Edouard Gremaud, Freiburg  
«Smart Solutions in the Chemical Process & Product Development», Case Studies from the Chemical Industry  
<http://scg.ch/freiburgersymposium/2015>

### SCS Spring Meeting 2015

24.04.2015

Universität Basel, Department of Chemistry, Basel  
«The Chemistry of Complex Systems»  
A symposium in collaboration with the National Centers of Competence in Research (NCCR).  
Invited Speakers: Prof. Stefan Matile, University of Geneva - Prof. David Leigh, University of Manchester - Prof. Itamar Willner, Jerusalem University - Prof. Jason Chin, Cambridge University - Prof. Roeland Nolte, Nijmegen University.  
<http://scg.ch/springmeeting/2015>

### Labotec 2015

06.–07.05.2015

MCH Beaulieu Lausanne, Lausanne  
Labotec 2015 is the show for technologies and services for laboratories. Keep abreast of the challenges your industry must cope with, such as advances in medicine, pricing caps, cost containment, pressure to perform and quality assurance. At Labotec you'll find the right products and solutions for your business.

### HPLC 2015

21.–25.06.2015

International Conference Center Geneva (CICG), Geneva  
42<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on high performance liquid phase separations and related techniques  
The HPLC series since its first edition in 1973 in Interlaken, Switzerland, has established itself as one of the leading conference in analytical chemistry and in particular in the field of separations sciences and related topics. The emphasis of the meeting will be around fundamentals aspects of separations sciences, sample preparation, novel developments and applications as well as hyphenation with mass spectrometry.  
<http://www.hplc2015-geneva.org/>

### Qualitative Research: Beyond the 'Fractured Future'

15.–17.07.2015

Conference Room, Neuchatel  
The theme of this conference is drawn from the notion of a historical 'moment' in qualitative research – the 'fractured future'.  
<http://www.metlab.ch/Conference>.

## LECTURES

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01.–31.03.2015

### Syngenta, Basel

Syngenta Stein, WST 810.E.75, Auditorium

12.03.2015 *Prof. Dr. André M. Beauchemin*  
University of Ottawa, Canada  
10.30 h Title to be announced

### Universität Bern, Organische und Bioorganische Chemie

Departement für Chemie und Biochemie, Hörsaal EG16

11.03.2015 *Dr. Luc Patiny*, EPF Lausanne  
17.15 h 'Swiss-knife for chemists in the web-browser'

### Société Fribourgeoise de Chimie (SFC)

Big lecture hall of chemistry department

10.03.2015 *Prof. Fabio Zobi*, Université de Fribourg  
17.15 h Title to be announced

17.03.2015 *Prof. Pierre Brodard*,  
School of Engineering and Architecture  
of Fribourg  
17.15 h Title to be announced

24.03.2015 *Prof. Jean-Pierre Métraux*,  
Biology Department, Université de Fribourg  
17.15 h Title to be announced

**University of Fribourg**

Big auditorium, Chemistry department

- 31.03.2015 *Prof. Dr. Anke Krueger*,  
University of Würzburg, Germany  
17.15 h 'Nanodiamonds, a material for many applications'

**Université de Genève, Chimie organique**

Auditoire A-100

- 12.03.2015 *Prof. Ian Fairlamb*, Department of Chemistry,  
University of York, United Kingdom  
16.30 h 'Understanding the Role played by Pd Clusters  
and Pd Nanoparticles in C-H and C-X Bond  
Functionalisation Chemistry'
- 20.03.2015 *Prof. Graham Cooks*, Department of Chemistry,  
Purdue University, Indianapolis, USA  
16.30 h Title to be announced
- 26.03.2015 *Prof. Stuart A. Macgregor*, Heriot-Watt University,  
Institute of Chemical Science, Edinburgh,  
Scotland, UK  
16.30 h Title to be announced

**University of Zurich, Department of Chemistry**

Y03-G-19, Irchel Campus

- 03.03.2015 *Prof. Joel Bernstein*, NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE &  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva,  
Israel  
17.00 h 'Polymorphism - a (partial) Retrospective'

**ETH Zürich, Laboratorium für Organische Chemie**

HCI J 3, ETH Hönggerberg

- 02.03.2015 *Prof. Rachel K. O'Reilly*, Department of  
Chemistry, University of Warwick, Coventry, UK  
16.00 h 'New Directions in Chemistry – Taking  
Inspiration from Biology'
- 09.03.2015 *Prof. Dr. Albert J.R. Heck*, Bijvoet Center for  
Biomolecular Research, Utrecht University,  
Netherlands  
16.00 h 'Protein Reaction Monitoring by Native Mass  
Spectrometry'
- 16.03.2015 *Prof. Dr. Graham J. Bodwell*, Department of  
Chemistry, Memorial University, St. John's,  
Canada  
16.00 h 'Synthesis, Properties and Chemistry of [n](2,11)  
Teropyrenophanes – Big, Bent and Beautiful  
Aromatic Systems'
- 23.03.2015 *Prof. Lyle Isaacs*, Department of Chemistry &  
Biochemistry, University of Maryland, USA  
16.00 h 'Cucurbit[n]uril Molecular Containers: From  
Basic Science to Drug Delivery'
- 30.03.2015 *Prof. Dr. Christoph A. Schalley*, Institute of  
Chemistry and Biochemistry, Freie Universität  
Berlin, Germany  
16.00 h From Walking Crowns and Switchable Rotaxanes  
on Surfaces to Logics with Gels

The complete and updated lecture calendar is available on  
[www.scg.ch](http://www.scg.ch).



## Die Welt ist voll von Halbwissen.

Wenn man sich in unbekannte Gefilde begibt, sollte man auf alles vorbereitet sein. Besonders im sensiblen beruflichen Umfeld der Chemie ist Halbwissen fehl am Platz. Deshalb arbeiten wir seit 1947 mit Leidenschaft und Akribie daran, dass evaluierte Daten und Fakten rund um das Themenfeld Chemie zur Verfügung stehen. Immer. Und ohne Ausnahme. So wurde „Der RÖMPP“ Synonym für inzwischen über 62.000 Stichwörter, auf die man sich verlassen kann. Das sollten Sie sich am besten selbst anschauen.

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