

CH Information

News – Honors – Workshops – Conferences – Lectures

NEWS

(source *CHEManager*)

04.09.2015. After emerging relatively unscathed from Monsanto's bear hug, **Syngenta** is tossing a bone to shareholders who may have preferred it to be more open to a merger with the US rival. Along with a scheme to buy back more than \$2 billion in shares, the Basel-based company, world's largest producer of chemical crop protectants, has simultaneously announced plans to "accelerate shareholder value creation through unlocking the considerable inherent worth in its global seeds portfolio to boost stock market value." Syngenta plans to divest its global vegetable seeds business, which it said is industry-leading, has high margins, a significant global footprint and a wide array of best-in-class varieties. Syngenta's entire seeds business, which includes corn, soybeans and other field crops, had sales of \$3.6 billion last year. Shortly before the collapse of the deal with Monsanto, the company announced it would sell its premium flower seeds business belonging to its lawn and garden operating unit. The vegetable seeds arm is regarded as one of Syngenta's most profitable, with gross margins of well above 60% in 2015, compared with about 45% for all seeds. Although the business had sales of only \$663 million in 2014, chief financial officer John Ramsay told the news agency Reuters that "valuation multiples in vegetable seeds are quite easily" in the 3–6 times sales range. In the midst of the Monsanto's pursuit of Syngenta, several other industry players, most notably BASF, had been seen as poised to take any activities a merged company might have to divest. In the event of a successful takeover, Monsanto was said to plan to divest the bulk of the Swiss company's seeds assets in exchange for antitrust approval.

03.09.2015. **Novartis** has announced it will cooperate with US biopharmaceutical group Amgen to develop and sell neuroscience treatments for conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and migraine headaches. Under the terms of the arrangement, financial terms of which were not disclosed, the two companies will share responsibility for development and commercialization of the Novartis BACE inhibitor program. Novartis' oral therapy CNP520 – said to have potential to prevent, slow or delay symptoms of Alzheimer's – will be the lead molecule. Amgen will make an upfront payment and milestone payments as well as covering disproportional R&D costs for an agreed-upon period followed by a 50:50 cost and profit share arrangement. For compounds in the migraine field, Novartis will receive global co-development rights and commercial rights outside the US, Canada and Japan to the investigative molecules in Amgen's migraine portfolio. The migraine collaboration will focus on Amgen's AMG 334 in phase III and AMG 301 in phase I. The companies will also have an option to commercialize an additional early-stage Amgen molecule in these territories. Novartis will fund disproportional global R&D expenses for an agreed period on the migraine programs and will pay Amgen double-digit royalties on sales.

03.09.2015. A federal administrative court in Switzerland has upheld the right of the family that controls construction chemicals producer **Sika** to sell its stake to France's Saint-Gobain for around

\$2.8 billion without consulting the remaining shareholders. The feud between Burkhard family – which through its Schenker-Winkler Holding controls Sika despite not having a majority shareholding – arose late last year. Large shareholders opposing the so-called opt-out clause allowing such a procedure are the Gates foundation trust of Microsoft founder Bill Gates and his wife, Melinda, along with Cascade. Urs Burkhard, spokesman for the family who are related to Sika's founder Kaspar Winkler, said the court's decision strengthens the case for proceeding with the sale, which also has been opposed by Sika's board of directors and employees. He added that it also strengthens the family's "determination to succeed in carrying out an industrial project that would allow Sika and Saint-Gobain to increase their sales and profitability, thereby creating value for all their shareholders and other stakeholders involved." The Gates foundation trust and Cascade have said they will "continue to defend their shareholder rights and oppose the ill-advised planned transaction that was structured to serve only the interests of Schenker-Winkler Holding and Saint-Gobain." In their view, the sale "makes no strategic sense, is an affront to good corporate governance and is not in the interest of Sika's business, employees, customers or public bearer shareholders." Those opposing the deal maintain that the sale of the family-owned stake of 16%, which carries voting rights equal to 52%, would be tantamount to Saint-Gobain taking over the entire company. The French rival has offered a 78% premium for the Burkard stake but has stressed that it does not intend to bid for the rest of the company's shares, prompting claims of unfair treatment. The family argues, however, that all investors should have been aware of the legal situation. In December 2014, the holding unsuccessfully sought to circumvent internal opposition by removing the three directors opposing a sale, thereby prompting a lawsuit by the other shareholders. The family is now trying to have decisions taken with the votes of the three directors voided. Due to the dispute, Saint-Gobain and the family have been forced to extend the deadline for completing the transaction from the end of 2015 to mid-2016.

28.08.2015. **Sika** is bringing on stream new plants in Russia for concrete admixtures to meet high demand and further increase its market share. In Volgograd, southern Russia, a plant to produce concrete admixtures, as well as a mortar factory, are being opened. In addition, a new plant to manufacture polymers for concrete admixtures is starting up at Sika's existing site in Lobnya, north of Moscow. Sika also operates plants in Saint Petersburg and Rzhnev and these, together with the Lobnya facility, will supply customers in northwest and central Russia. The Volgograd plant will supply product technology to the construction industry in southern Russia.

HONORS

The Leopoldina, the National Academy of Sciences, awarded **Prof. Dr. Hans Jakob Wörner** the Carus Medal for excellent research in the field of physicochemical research. The medal was awarded at the Annual Assembly of the Leopoldina on 18.–19. September 2015 in Halle (Saale), Germany. The Carus Medal has been awarded to junior scientists since 1896 in recognition of important scientific discoveries or achievements in a field

represented by the Leopoldina. Medal winners have included the biochemist and later Nobel laureate Jacques Monod (1965), the biologist and later Nobel laureate Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard (1989) and the physicist and later Nobel laureate Stefan W. Hell (2013).

Martin Jinek, tenure track assistant professor for biochemistry at the University of Zurich received the Vallee Young Investor Award. Endowed with 250 000 US\$, this international prize awards young researchers for outstanding achievements in the field of biomedicine.

CONFERENCES IN SWITZERLAND

01.11.2015 – 30.04.2016

From Solar Light to Chemical Energy

27.11.2015

University of Zurich, Campus Irchel, Zürich

Symposium on the occasion of the 2015 International Year of Light.

The main objectives of the URPP Solar Light to Chemical Energy Conversion are to discover and develop new molecules, materials and processes for the direct storage of solar light energy in chemical bonds.

<http://www.lightchec.uzh.ch>

17th IIER International Conference on Chemical and Biochemical Engineering (ICCBE)

26.12.2015

Hotel Allegra, Kloten

This conference aims to be one of the leading international conferences for presenting novel and fundamental advances in the fields of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering. It also serves to foster communication among researchers and practitioners working in a wide variety of scientific areas with a common interest in improving Chemical and Biochemical Engineering related techniques.

<http://theiier.org/Conference/Switzerland/3/ICCBE/>

14th Swiss Snow Symposium 2016 by SYCA

22.–24.01.2016

Panorama Hotel Alphubel, Saas-Fee

Science meets Snow! Symposium for young chemists up to 36 years with a interesting combination of science, networking, fun & sports.

<http://scg.ch/snows Symposium/2016>

20th SASP 2016

07.–12.02.2016

Sunstar Parkhotel Davos, Davos

The Symposium on Atomic, Cluster and Surface Physics (SASP) is one in a continuing biennial series of conferences (the last one was held in Obergurgl, Austria in 2014) that promotes the growth of scientific knowledge and exchange of information among scientists in the field of atomic, molecular, and surface physics.

<http://icbc.zhaw.ch/de/science/institute-zentren/icbc/sasp-2016.html>

23rd International Academic Conference on Development in Science and Technology (IACDST)

11.02.2016

Hotel Allegra, Kloten

IACDST aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results about all aspects of

Development in Science and Technology. It also provides the premier interdisciplinary forum for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns, practical challenges encountered and the solutions adopted in the fields of Development in Science and Technology.

<http://academicsworld.org/Conference/Switzerland2016/IACDST/>

23rd International Conference on Environmental Science and Development (ICESD)

12.02.2016

Hotel Allegra, Kloten

ICESD aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results about all aspects of Environmental Science and Development. It also provides the premier interdisciplinary forum for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns, practical challenges encountered and the solutions adopted in the fields of Environmental Science and Development.

36th International Conference on Environment and Natural Science (ICENS)

04.04.2016

Hotel Allegra, Kloten

The idea of the conference is for the scientists, scholars, engineers and students from the Universities all around the world and the industry to present ongoing research activities, and hence to foster research relations between the Universities and industry. This conference provides opportunities for the delegates to exchange new ideas and application experiences face to face, to establish business or research relations and to find global partners for future collaboration.

<http://iserd.co/Conference/Zurich-Switzerland/ICENS/>

SCS Spring Meeting 2016

22.04.2016

University of Zurich, Irchel Campus, Zurich

Symposium topic: «Green Chemistry»

The SCS Spring Meeting is a one-day symposium and provides a high quality program with national and international speakers of a certain topic. It is also the platform for the Werner Price Ceremony and the Werner Award Lecture.

<http://scg.ch/springmeeting/2016>

LECTURES

01.11.2015–30.11.2015

Universität Basel, Anorganische und Organische Chemie Kleiner Hörsaal Organische Chemie

06.11.2015 *Prof. Dr. A. Dieter Schlüter, ETH Zürich*
10.45h «Synthesis of Two-Dimensional Polymers»

13.11.2015 *Prof. Dr. A. Stephen K. Hashmi, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg, D*
10.45h Title to be announced

20.11.2015 *Prof. Dr. Paul J. Dyson, EPFL Lausanne*
10.45h «The Development of Organometallic
Antitumor Drugs based on Ruthenium»

Universität Basel, Pharmazeutische Wissenschaften

Lecture Hall 1, Pharmazentrum

- 04.11.2015 17.00h *Dr. Atanas Koulov, Pharma Technical Development Europe (Biologics) F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, Basel*
«Challenges in formulations of protein therapeutics: protein aggregation and subvisible particles»
- 18.11.2015 17.00h *Prof. Dr. Leonardo Scapozza, Pharmaceutical Biochemistry/Chemistry, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Geneva*
Title to be announced
- 25.11.2015 17.00h *Prof. Dr. Gerrit Borchard, Section of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Biopharmaceutical Sciences, University of Geneva*
«Epithelial tight junction regulation: the role of the innate immune system»

Universität Basel, Physikalische Chemie

Physikalische Chemie, Departement Chemie, Universität Basel, Kleiner Hörsaal, Raum 4.04., 2. Stock

- 11.11.2015 16.30h *Prof. Dr. Karsten W. Jacobsen, Department of Physics, Technical University of Denmark, Kongens Lyngby*
«Computational Screening of Materials»
- 18.11.2015 16.30h *Prof. Dr. Nisanth N. Nair, Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, India*
«Revealing the Mechanism of Antibiotic Resistance through Supercomputing»
- 25.11.2015 16.30h *Prof. Dr. Carmen Herrmann, Theoretische Chemie, Universität Hamburg, Deutschland*
«Theoretical Description of Switchable Molecular Bridges»

University of Fribourg

Big Lecture Hall, Chemistry Department

- 03.11.2015 17.15h *Dr. Simon Drescher, Biophysical Pharmacy, Martin-Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, D*
«Synthesis, self-assembly, and mixing behavior of bolaamphiphiles – formation of stable liposomes for oral drug delivery»
- 10.11.2015 17.15h *Prof. Dr. Carsten Streb, University of Ulm, D*
«Building functional materials from molecular metal oxides»

Université Genève; Société Chimique de Genève

Université de Genève – Bâtiment Sciences II Auditoire A. Pictet A100

- 16.11.2015 17.30h *Dr. Thomas Spangenberg, Merck Serono Global Health, Coinsins, CH*
«Antimalarial Drug Discovery»

Université Genève, Chimie organique

Auditoire A-100

- 12.11.2015 17.30h *Dr. Henry Dube, Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, D*
«In Control of Molecular Motions: From Photoswitches to Molecular Machines»
- 19.11.2015 16.30h *Prof. Mark Bradley, University of Edinburgh, UK*
«Two Adventures in Chemical Biology - Palladium Medicated in Situ Synthesis and in Vivo Optical Imaging in Man»
- 26.11.2015 16.30h *Prof. Christian Olsen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark*
«Substrates and Inhibitors of the Human Histone Deacetylases (HDACs)»

ETH Zurich, Laboratorium für Physikalische Chemie

ETH Hönggerberg, HCI J 3

- 10.11.2015 16.45h *Prof. Dr. Michel Herman, Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium*
«High resolution overtone spectroscopy and dynamics of small molecules: trends and challenges»
- 17.11.2015 16.45–17.15h *Minisymposium Doktorierende / Minisymposium PhD Students Andrin Doll*
«Frequency-swept microwave pulses for electron spin resonance»
- 17.15–17.45h *Kong Ooi Tan*
«The Theory of Designing Improved NMR Pulse Sequences»
- 17.45–18.15h *Michael Friedmann*
Title to be announced

University of Zurich, Department of Chemistry

Lecture hall Y15-G-19

- 03.11.2015 17.00h *Prof. Dr. Henning D. Mootz, Universität Münster, D*
«Engineering split inteins for new adventures in peptide and protein chemistry»
- 10.11.2015 17.00h *Prof. Dr. Michael Schaepman, University of Zurich*
«Light-vegetation interactions – remotely sensing photosynthesis and the plant pigment system»
- 17.11.2015 17.00h *Prof. Dr. Tony S. Travis, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel*
«Capturing Nitrogen in War and Peace, 1900–1930»

- 27.11.2015 09.00h *URPP LightChEC Symposium*
«From Solar Light to Chemical Energy: a Look into the Future»
Theatersaal Y21-F-65A <http://www.lightchec.uzh.ch/symposium.html>

The complete and updated lecture calendar is available on www.scg.ch/lectures