



SCS  
Swiss Chemical  
Society

## Community News

[www.scg.ch](http://www.scg.ch)

[www.chemanager-online.com](http://www.chemanager-online.com)

### SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

#### Call for nominations for two EuCheMS Award



##### EuCheMS Lecture Award

Each year, the major achievements of one junior scientist working in chemistry in a country with a EuCheMS Member Organisation will be rewarded. The winner will receive a statuette and the opportunity to give a lecture at the next European Chemistry Congress (ECC) or at a conference of an EuCheMS Pro-

fessional Network (PN).

The deadline for nominations is 31 December 2017.

Please check the updated guidelines, as the rationale behind the EuCheMS Lecture Award was significantly different until 2016. [www.euchems.eu](http://www.euchems.eu)

##### European Chemistry Gold Medal

Every two years, the exceptional achievements of one scientist working in the field of chemistry in Europe will be rewarded. The winner will receive a gold medal and the opportunity to give the opening lecture at the next European Chemistry (EuCheMS) Congress (ECC). This is the first time the European Chemistry Gold Medal will be awarded.

The deadline for nominations is 31 December 2017.

The guidelines for this award can be found on the website.

[www.euchems.eu](http://www.euchems.eu)

#### Committed together – Partnership with CONCORDIA insurances



Thanks to the partnership with CONCORDIA, SCS members benefit from comprehensive and solid insurance protection. CONCORDIA is committed to providing you with the best service, so your health is in the best hands with us. We look forward to meeting you and extending a warm welcome to you.

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#### Personnel Changes in the SCS Foundation Board



The “Stiftungsrat” of the SCS Foundation elected [and welcomed] **Prof. Beat Ernst** (University of Basel), **Dr. Gerardo Ramos Tombo** (Syngenta Crop Protection AG) and **Prof. Ulrich W. Suter** (ETH Zurich and SATW) as new members of the board. These three personalities bring along an tremendous network and outstanding scientific competence,

allowing the organization and to stimulate and intensify the interaction with existing and potential partners.



##### New Director of the SCS Foundation

As of 1st September 2017, **Dr. Hans Peter Lüthi** took the position of David Spichiger as manager of the SCS Foundation. He is employed part-time (40%) through the SCS, and supports the members of the Foundation Board to further develop existing projects and to implement new initiatives. In his role as Di-

rector of the SCS Foundation, his focus will be on the following projects:

- Best Presentation Awards at the SCS Fall Meeting
- Alfred Werner Masters Scholarships
- SCS Seminars
- SCS Internships

David Spichiger will succeed Hans Peter Lüthi as Treasurer of the Foundation. Hans Peter Lüthi will remain treasurer of the SCS, and also hold a position as lecturer at ETH Zurich.

#### A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



Period: 25.08.2017 – 22.09.2017

Kristin Bauer, Rümmingen; Kamila Czechowska, Lausanne; Carlos Görner, Epfendorf-Harthausen; Ali Hashemi Gheinani, Hinterkappelen; Hans-Ulrich Lerch, Basel; Gion Michel, Pfäffikon ZH; Mike Müri, Liestal

## HONORS AND AWARDS

### Sonia de Andrade was awarded the Dr. Max-Lüthi Prize 2017

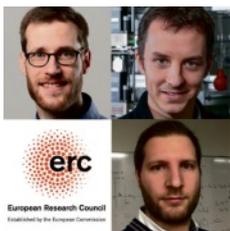


On the occasion of the BioTech 2017 conference at ZHAW in Wädenswil on September 8, 2017, Prof. Antonio Togni, President of the SCS Division of Chemical Education, awarded the Dr. Max Lüthi Award 2017 to **Sonia de Andrade**. Sonia, who did her BSc studies at ZHAW Wädenswil, received the prize in recognition of her Bachelor's thesis entitled

«Advancement and validation of printable biomaterials and their potential use as tissue models». After the ceremony, Sonia gave a short lecture about the findings of her research.

We like to take the opportunity to congratulate Sonia de Andrade again for the outstanding thesis.

### Three EPFL scientists awarded an ERC Starting Grant 2017



The 2017 ERC Starting Grant Winners include three researchers at EPFL's School of Basic Sciences.

**Ulrich Lorenz**. Project: Visualizing the Conformational Dynamics of Proteins by Time-Resolved Electron Microscopy.

**Jeremy Luterbacher**. Project: Nano-structured catalyst overcoats for renewable chemical production from biomass.

**Alessandro Vichi**. Project: Charting the space of Conformal Field Theories: a combined Numerical and Analytical Approach.

ERC Starting Grants are given each year to researchers of any nationality and in any field of research with 2–7 years of experience since their PhD, with a promising scientific track record and an excellent research proposal. The application must be made from an EU or associated country, and each Starting Grant can be up to €1.5 million given over a period of five years.

Source: <http://actu.epfl.ch/>

### Two EPFL scientists win the Chorafas Prize 2017



**Edoardo Baldini** and **Konrad Domanski** have been awarded the Chorafas Prize 2017. The Prize is awarded each year by the Dimitris N. Chorafas Foundation “for outstanding work in selected fields in the engineering sciences, medicine and the natural sciences.”

Edoardo Baldini, a former PhD student with Professor Majed Chergui's lab at EPFL has been awarded a 2017 Chorafas Prize. His thesis, co-supervised by Professor Fabrizio Carbone, is titled: “Nonequilibrium Dynamics of Collective Excitations in Strongly Interacting and Correlated Quantum Systems”. Baldini received his PhD in December 2016 and is now a Postdoctoral Fellow at MIT.

Konrad Domanski is a PhD student with Professor Michael Grätzel's lab at EPFL. His research focuses on understanding and improving stability of perovskite solar cells - a new photovoltaic

technology. He is also a Senior Project Manager with Innovation Forum Lausanne, where he is responsible for organization of 2017 edition of IMAGINE IF! Startup Accelerator.

Source: <http://actu.epfl.ch/>

### IBM Research Forschungspreis 2017 for Corina Keller



**Corina Keller** is awarded the IBM Research Forschungspreis for her MSc Thesis entitled “Simulation of Dynamic Atomic Force Microscopy Images”.

In her master thesis, which she carried out in the research group of Prof. Jürg Hutter and PD Marcella Iannuzzi, she presents the development, implementation and application of methods

for the calculation of accurate AFM images at the density functional level of theory. The methods developed allow to reproduce the relevant details of high resolution images by explicit description of the electronic structure of both, tip and sample. Her method is now being used by materials research groups outside her laboratory.

Source: <http://www.chem.uzh.ch>

## JOURNAL NEWS

### Prof. Catherine Housecroft and Prof. Nathan Luedke elected as members of the CHIMIA Editorial Board



The SCS Board of Directors elected **Prof. Catherine Housecroft**, University of Basel, as successor of Prof. Clémence Cominbeuf and **Prof. Nathan Luedke**, University of Zurich, as successor of Prof. Robert Häner into the CHIMIA Editorial Board. We like to thank the two resigned board members for their valuable contributions and welcome the

new members cordially.  
[www.chimia.ch](http://www.chimia.ch)

## INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: [www.chemanager-online.com](http://www.chemanager-online.com)

### **Kolb and Stockmeier Chemie tighten partnership for distribution of nonionic surfactants in Germany**

September 1, 2017: Since October 2016, Stockmeier Chemie represents the surfactant portfolio of Kolb as its partner in Germany. After 10 months of successful business development the partnership is now made official by a contract signed by both parties. The portfolio comprises products of Kolb in Hedingen in Switzerland and Moerdijk in the Netherlands. "We've been working closely with the Stockmeier Group for a long time already, and we are confident that this strategic partnership will enhance our market presence and serve as a high-quality distribution channel," says Dr. Anja Vonderhagen, Business Director of Kolb. Brands such as Kotilen, Imbentin, Sympatens and Greenbentin have set standards in the cosmetics and cleaning segments and in several other industries. Dirk Seidel, General Manager for Specialty Chemicals at Stockmeier Chemie: "Kolb has evolved into a key partner for the Stockmeier Group, especially with its focus on Europe. Oleochemical products that are certified as sustainable will define the future in many areas of application. That makes this cooperation an important building block for the future orientation of our sales activities."

### **Jimenez to Quit Novartis Next Year**

September 7, 2017: Novartis CEO Joseph Jimenez has announced he will leave the Swiss-based drugmaker in early 2018, after eight years at the helm, and return to his native US. However, he will remain "available for advice and support" until his official retirement on Aug. 31, Novartis said in a statement. Jimenez will be succeeded in Basel by another American, Vasant Narasimhan, at present chief medical officer and global head of drug development. Narasimhan joined Novartis in 2005 and has held a variety of leadership positions. The current Novartis chief focused the drugmaker on leading global businesses, while divesting non-core divisions, supervisory board chairman Joerg Reinhardt said. "Under his leadership the innovation pipeline was rejuvenated, and we successfully navigated the patent expirations of our two largest products."

### **UK Court Upholds Ineos Shale Gas Order**

September 15, 2017: Britain's High Court has granted Ineos' request to renew the injunction it obtained at the end of July, prohibiting "unlawful acts" by protestors at its shale gas exploration sites. The Swiss-based group asked for the renewal as anti-fracking campaigners mounted challenges to the order. The injunction being called the most wide-ranging ever issued for the benefit of the shale industry and the first ever issued pre-emptively, puts protestors in contempt of court if they obstruct operations. It will increase the powers of police and the judicial system to detain and prosecute those regarded to be breaking the law. Ineos said it welcomes the judge's decision to renew the injunction, which will remain in force until a further hearing later in the year, adding that it looks forward to presenting its case in full at the next hearing in November. According to reports, some minor amendments were added for the sake of clarity, but the document remains unchanged in substance. The interim injunction covered eight named locations, as well as company offices and property belonging to site landowners. It also applied to routes to proposed exploration sites and to activities by Ineos employees and firms in its supply chain, including any depots, equipment, people and operations. Anti-fracking campaigners said the injunction has significantly increased the risk of protestation, particularly its po-

tential effect on most peaceful actions. The maximum penalty for slow walking, in which protestors attempt to delay deliveries by walking slowly in front of vehicles, is a £1,000 fine. The maximum penalty for contempt of court is two years in prison. UK news reports said the injunction appears to prevent the protest tactic of truck-surfing, in which campaigners climb on top of vehicles to slow operations. It also includes harassment of Ineos employees and third parties, along with criminal damage or theft, but also extends to anyone who helps another person to breach it. Joe Corré, son of fashion designer Vivienne Westwood and a member of the group Talk Fracking, said he had made submissions to Ineos' lawyers to object to the continuation of the order, along with another campaigner, Joe Boyd.

Lawyers for Corré said the protestors were told by Ineos that if they challenged the injunction and lost they would have to pay the legal fees of both sides. On the day the injunction was renewed, Boyd launched a crowdfunding drive in an attempt to recoup the £2,500 cost. According to the UK newspaper the Guardian, two days later he had raised half that sum.

### **American Vanguard Buys Grupo Agricenter**

September 18, 2017: AMVAC Netherlands, a wholly owned subsidiary of US specialty and agricultural products company American Vanguard, is to acquire Grupo Agricenter, a Costa Rica-based distributor of crop protection products operating in seven Central American and Caribbean countries. The deal will boost AMVAC's product and service offerings in the Latin American agricultural market, where it regards itself as a leader in the nematocides segment for crops such as banana and pineapple. "This acquisition will not only advance AMVAC's international expansion but will also enhance our successful track record of providing important solutions to farmers throughout the region. This newly acquired platform has enjoyed annual sales of more than \$50 million in the recent past, and we expect to build upon that foundation going forward," commented American Vanguard's chairman and CEO, Eric Wintemute. Financial terms of the transaction, which is expected to close on Oct. 2, were not disclosed. Last month, AMVAC Mexico completed the acquisition of seven selective sugar cane herbicides and eight contact fungicides from Swiss agrochemical giant Syngenta, which was required to divest certain assets in order to get clearance from Mexican regulators for the merger with ChemChina. AMVAC Chemical Corp. also completed the acquisition in June of three crop protection product lines - abamectin, chlorothalonil and paraquat - from Adama Agricultural Solutions, part of ChemChina. The US Federal Trade Commission had stipulated the sale as a condition of its approval for ChemChina's takeover of Syngenta.

### **US Gulf Production Starts to Recover Post Harvey**

September 21, 2017: Petrochemical plants on the US Gulf Coast are starting to resume operations after Hurricane Harvey left behind a trail of destruction. Refineries and chemical plants had been shut down prior to Harvey making landfall on the Texas coast on Aug. 25. This year has seen an unusually active hurricane season in the Atlantic with Jose, Irma and Maria following in Harvey's wake. UK-based information company IHS Markit estimates that as of Sept. 19, 15 out of 20 affected refineries were at or near normal operating rates. In addition, most base chemical assets had either restarted or were in the process of restarting. About 10% of total US ethylene production remained offline and IHS Markit expects that new ethylene plants that were planned to go online during the next six months will be delayed. In addition, with the exception of two crackers, all propylene assets are anticipated to be back to pre-storm levels by the end of September. All PP units affected by the hurricane have resumed operations and all US Gulf styrene producers were running normally, with the exception of LyondellBasell, according to IHS Markit.

On Sept. 15, ExxonMobil said that it was progressing restarts of its Baytown and Beaumont refineries and it had resumed normal operation at its Baytown olefins plant and nearby Mont Belvieu plastics facility. A restart of the chemical plant at Beaumont was ongoing and the lubricants unit was back online. Operations at Huntsman's manufacturing sites in Freeport and Houston have resumed, while plants at Chocolate Bayou, Conroe, Dayton and Port Neches were in various stages of start-up as of Sept. 8. The company, which is in the middle of merging with Swiss specialty chemicals manufacturer Clariant, estimates that its final loss from Hurricane Harvey will be in the range of \$35-40 million. WR Grace's production facilities in Pasadena, Texas, and Lake Charles and Norco in Louisiana, are said to be running normally and Enterprise Products has resumed operations at its Mont Belvieu site that houses several fractionators and propylene splitters. Dow Chemical has restarted some of its units at Seadrift and Shell Chemicals said on Sept. 14 that it was in the process of bringing back its Deer Park refinery and chemical units. Covestro is also reported to be ramping up production at its Baytown and Channelview complexes. Chevron Phillips Chemical (CP-Chem) was said to be restoring operations at Sweeny last week while many of its Texas sites including Conroe, Orange, Port Arthur and Pasadena have restarted. Oxo-products supplier Oxea has announced the successful restart of its complexes in Bay City and Bishop, Texas, although units are not yet running at full capacity. The company is currently building a new propanol unit (Propanol 2) at Bay City for completion next year. "Except for a slight schedule delay, the Propanol 2 project suffered very little impact from Hurricane Harvey," said Markus Heuwes, Propanol 2 project director at Oxea. Despite Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, the American Chemistry Council (ACC) said its Chemical Activity Barometer (CAB) remained virtually unchanged in September, registering a slip of 0.04% from August. However, it cautioned that future revisions to this month's data were likely. Compared with September 2016, the three-month moving average CAB measure is up 2.8%, representing a "marked pullback" from recent year-on-year gains, the ACC said. The CAB is a macroeconomic indicator that is designed to highlight the peaks and troughs in the US economy.

### Catalent Pays \$950 Million for Cook Pharmica

September 22, 2017: US drugmaker Catalent has agreed to buy contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) Cook Pharmica for \$950 million in cash, boosting its position in the fast-growing biologics area. The deal gives Catalent access to Cook Pharmica's facility in Bloomington, Indiana, USA, which offers capabilities in biologics development, clinical and commercial cell culture manufacture, formulation, finished-dose manufacturing and packaging. Biologics currently account for approximately 14% of Catalent's consolidated revenue but will make up about 21% of the combined group's pro-forma revenue, the New Jersey-based company said. The merger is the latest in a consolidating global contract manufacturing industry. Just last month, Swiss fine chemicals and biologics producer Lonza acquired Micro-Macinazione, a contract manufacturer providing micronization of active ingredients for the pharmaceutical and fine chemical industries. Catalent said it would pay \$750 million when the deal completes with the remainder due in four annual instalments. Cook Pharmica's revenues for its year ending Jun. 30, 2017 were \$179 million. News agency Reuters quoted Wells Fargo analyst Tim Evans as saying the acquisition is "pricey, but important", as it enables Catalent to beef up previously weak areas of manufacturing active ingredients and final dosage forms of biologic drugs. John Chiminski, Catalent's chairman and CEO, said the company plans to invest "aggressively" in the Bloomington facility as well as in its rapidly expanding development and biomanufacturing plant in Madison, Wisconsin, and the rest of its biologics network "to build a true global leader". The acquisition is expected to close in the fourth quarter of this year, subject to the usual conditions and regulatory approvals.

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