

# Editorial



Christof Sparr

Chemical research is advancing at an enormous pace and contributes both to fundamental knowledge and to the growing needs of a modern society. The value of collaborations and research partnerships is thereby recognized more than ever, or as Henry Ford set forth: *“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”* Innovative research with increasing specialization often requires teamwork across the different sectors. This special issue representatively highlights outstanding scientific partnerships between industrial and academic groups, with the aim to sustain the awareness *“of what others are doing, applaud their efforts, acknowledge their successes, and encourage them in their pursuits.”* – Jim Stovall

**Christoph Boss** of Idorsia Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and **Sergio Wittlin** of the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute describe their extraordinary pathway to identify the novel antimalarial drug ACT-451840, which shows therapeutic effects in an experimental human malaria infection model.

**Christoph Taeschler et al.** of Arxada AG (formerly Lonza Solutions AG) and the group of **Matthias Beller** of the Leibniz Institute for Catalysis report their strategies to render key fluoroalkylation reactions amenable for large-scale processes by developing innovative dithionite-initiated and catalytic methodologies.

**Yves P. Auberson** and colleagues of Novartis present an astonishing overview of fruitful academia–industry collaborations in the areas of C–H functionalization, fluorination, biocatalysis, chemical tools, automation, sustainability and compound screening.

**Florian Bächle** and **Achim Link** of Solvias AG and the group of **Anis Tiili** of the Claude Bernard University Lyon 1 report the design, synthesis and application of most advanced air-stable Ni(II)/Josiphos complexes for diverse cross-coupling reactions at low catalyst loadings.

**Michael K. Levis et al.** of Siegrid AG and the group of **Andreas Zogg** of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW) describe a particularly innovative scale-up technology for hydrogenations based on computational simulations in combination with scale-down experiments.

**Jonathan A. Medlock** and coworkers of the Chemical Process Research and Development at DSM Nutritional Products summarize the accomplishments of a decade of collaborations to conceive modern synthetic routes, chemical transformations and reactor concepts to manufacture industrially relevant compounds.

**Olivier Baudoin** of the University of Basel describes a selection of highly innovative industrial-academic collaborations in the area of C(sp<sup>3</sup>)–H bond activation for the synthesis of benzocyclobutene, indane and arylcyclopropane motifs relevant to active pharmaceutical and agrochemical ingredients.

**Kurt Püntener** and **Stephan Bachmann** of F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd. and the group of **Marco Ranocchiari** of the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) report their development of novel heterogeneous metal-organic framework catalysts for successful industrial applications of Suzuki-Miyaura cross-couplings.

**Olivier Loiseleur** and **Camille Le Chapelain** of Syngenta Crop Protection AG, **Radka Snajdrova** and **Kirsten Schroer** of Novartis and the group of **Rebecca Buller** of the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) will present their very recent collaborative efforts in one of the next CHIMIA issues.

I hope you will enjoy these success stories of industry–academia partnerships, which are by no means comprehensive but provide an insight into the many invaluable cross-sectorial collaborations within the Swiss Chemical Society and beyond. Combining our aims to innovate, to discover, to progress, to unravel, to sustain, to accelerate and to educate, through the exchange of ideas, encouragements, shared enthusiasm and mutual inspiration, will greatly enrich our profession and the pivotal impact of our contributions.

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It is with great pleasure that the Editorial Board of CHIMIA thanks the guest editor Prof. Christof Sparr for the successful realisation of this special issue on Industrial-Academic Partnerships demonstrating the synergy and potential that can arise from combining the best of Industry and Academia.

The image on the front cover is by Jaan Künnap, entitled ‘Climbers ascending at Ullu-Tau Range in Caucasus Mountains, Kabardino-Balkaria, Russia’, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons.