



youngSCS – The Young Swiss Chemical Society

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The youngSCS is a network of young scientists all over Switzerland, which includes any member of the Swiss Chemical Society aged under 35. The main goals of the association are to promote chemistry at every level and to support and empower young researchers in the early stages of their careers. It allows for young researchers to meet and exchange in an informal setting and thereby learn from one another and encourage collaborations between Swiss institutions. We also cultivate strong bonds with associations at the European and international level through youngSCS delegates in the European and International Young Chemist's Networks.

On September 8th 2022, the General Assembly of the youngSCS was held at the Irchel Campus of the University of Zurich during the SCS Fall Meeting (Fig. 1). It allowed us to present the association to young researchers attending the conference, to reflect on past events and highlight our upcoming events. These are usually articulated around three topics: Science Communication, Academia, and Industry.



Fig. 1. Members of youngSCS at the SCS Fall Meeting 2022.

We started last year with a joint event on process chemistry, which was organized together with the Division of Industrial and Applied Chemistry (DIAC). This online event gave insights into different perspectives on process chemistry within different companies. This was followed by the first edition of the UniDays, an online event providing a platform to connect professors and students within Switzerland. For one week, around 35 professors could give insights into their research to young scientists, with many participants also from abroad. In December, the youngSCS senate, composed of board members and university representatives, met in-person at the University of Bern together with David Spichiger from the SCS and Christian Heinis, one of the youngSCS mentors. The aim of the meeting was to plan the upcoming six months and ended at the Christmas market in Bern (Fig. 2).

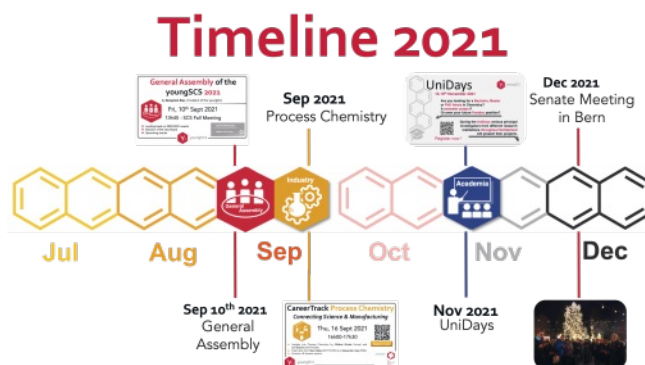


Fig. 2. Timeline of youngSCS events in the second half of 2021.

The youngSCS also had the great opportunity to participate actively in the 3rd European Young Chemist's Meeting (EYCheM), organized together with the University of Fribourg and the European Young Chemist's Network (EYCN).

Originally set in Fribourg in 2021, the conference had to be postponed to January 2022 and eventually moved online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The EYCheM was nevertheless a great success, with world-renowned speakers and over 145 participants from 25 different countries.^[1]

The EYCheM was followed by two online workshops organized by the Academia and Science Communication subgroups. The first was centered on career paths in the publishing sector, with insights from Dr. Ganna Lyashenko and Dr. Francesca Novara from Wiley-VCH, and the second focused on how to apply for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action fellowships (MSCA), with feedback from former MSCA fellows.

In May, we had the opportunity to organize an industry visit to the Bruker site in Fällanden. YoungSCS members also met each other in Zurich, where the local group enabled a visit of the UZH and ETHZ campuses. As part of the efforts of the network to promote chemistry at every level, we were able to publish a chromatographic experiment in a Swiss children's magazine, which was also published in English in CHIMIA.^[2,3]

After the General Assembly, an on-site visit of a Givaudan site in Vevey took place in October and was followed by an in-person visit of Lausanne and the EPFL campus in November. Finally, an event in collaboration with the NEO network took place at ETHZ, where three companies in the field of energy, environment and power will have the opportunity to present themselves. As in 2021, we will end the year with an in-person Senate meeting in Bern (Fig. 3).

The new year will start with the traditional Swiss Snow Symposium (SSS). After two years of absence, the 19th SSS will be held from the 20–22th January 2023, in Saas-Fee. This 3-day conference will include talks from professors and industry representatives as well as workshops. It will also give opportunities to young scientists to present their work as contributed talks or posters. But what makes this conference unique is that it includes free time to enjoy snow activities on the slopes of the Allalin mountain, combining the perfect balance of science, networking and fun! Many more events are in preparation for 2023 and will be disclosed in due time.

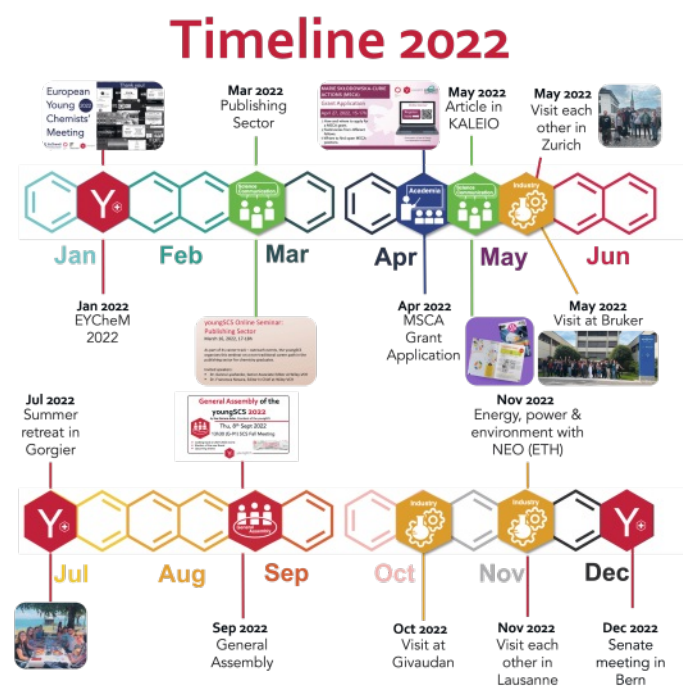


Fig. 3. Timeline of youngSCS events in 2022.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the board members of the 2021–2022 mandate and to welcome the new board for the year 2022–2023 (Fig. 4). Leaving the board were President Lluc Farrera-Soler and Vice-President Eva Vandaele. Former Communication Responsible, Marie Perrin, was elected as President, former Secretary, Marie-Désirée Scheidt, became Vice-President and Patrick W. Fritz switched from EYCN Delegate to Head-of-Communication. For the year to come, Stephanie Linker and Tara Forrest kept their positions as IYCN Delegate and Treasurer, respectively. The board welcomed two new additions for this year: Chrysanthi Papadimou as EYCN Delegate and Xingguang Geo Cai as Administrator (former Secretary).



Fig. 4. Board of the youngSCS in 2022–2023.

The youngSCS also has local representatives in the following Swiss institutions: Adolphe Merkle Institute (AMI), EPFL, EMPA, ETHZ, HES-SO, Paul Scherrer Institut (PSI), University of Basel, University of Bern, University of Fribourg, University of Geneva, University of Applied Science Northwestern Switzerland, University of Neuchâtel and University of Zurich (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5. Representatives of the youngSCS in 2022–2023.

To keep in touch with what is happening around the youngSCS, you can follow our social media channels, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. And if you are interested in becoming an active part of the network, you can contact your local university representative or send an email to youngscs@scg.ch.



- [1] M.-D. Scheidt, A. Elabd, C. Papadimou, P. Fritz, L. Farrera Soler, J. Milic, M. Perrin, *Chimia* **2022**, 76, 264, <https://doi.org/10.2533/chimia.2022.264>.
- [2] *Kaleio magazine*, **2022**, 9, 28, <https://kaleiomag.ch/kaleio-magazin-nr-9-regenbogen/>
- [3] M. Gut, M.-D. Scheidt, C. Papadimou, S. Linker, *Chimia* **2022**, 76, 602, <https://doi.org/10.2533/chimia.2022.602>.