



## SCS Foundation

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### Talent meets Industry – Industry meets Talent: The first online Meet&Greet Event with the Alfred Werner Scholars hosted by Novartis Pharma AG

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Figure 1: Announcement of the e-Meet & Greet event. Graphics by Alice Gallou.

Since 2013, the Alfred Werner Excellence Program of the SCS Foundation has granted more than seventy scholarships to students of chemistry from over thirty different countries around the globe. The vision of the program is to give outstanding students the opportunity to perform their MSc studies at one of the Swiss universities, thus bringing talent, different cultures and diversity to the Swiss chemistry community. The program is supported by industry and a number of private sponsors.

To introduce the students to the program-supporting companies (... and vice versa), we organized an online meeting, hosted by Novartis (Figure 1). The event involved all Alfred Werner Scholars, current and alumni, as well as researchers, hiring managers and HR specialists of Novartis and other member companies. On the agenda, there were scientific presentations of Alfred Werner Scholars, information about professional opportunities and the hiring process, plus open discussion between hosts and guests.

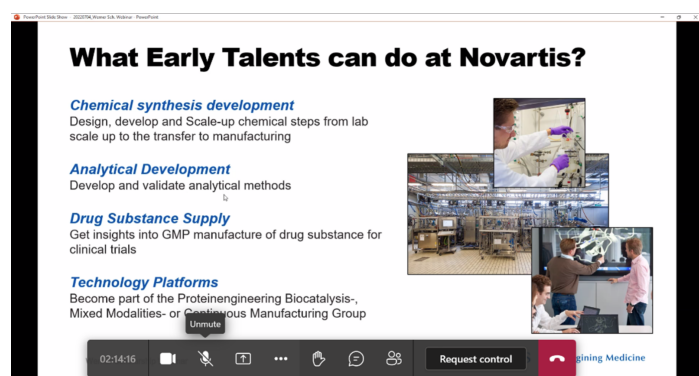


Figure 2: Possibilities to start an industrial career at Novartis

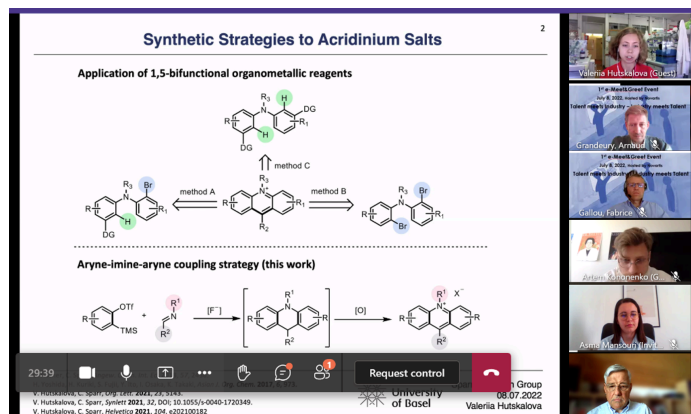


Figure 3: The Scholars presented their research in short talks and answered questions of the audience.

Meet&Greet, introduced by Dr. Christoph Täschler (Lonza) in 2016, has been integral part of the Alfred Werner Scholars' agenda: Every year, the new scholars are invited to spend a day at one of the program-supporting companies. This is a great opportunity for them to greet industry and to meet each other.

Now that the pool of scholars has grown, many of them planning their professional future, an event of this kind marks an excellent opportunity also for the industry participants looking to hire well trained and well-integrated young coworkers. Young scholars were also getting bright insights about alumni community, and all together built a unique networking opportunity.

The immediate reactions on the first online Meet&Greet event (e-Meet&Greet) were throughout positive. Still, there is space for improvement of the format of the event. An in-person event will allow much closer interaction between hosts and guests, but, on the other hand, makes participation of scholars staying abroad as post-docs, but with an interest to return to Switzerland, difficult. Similarly, the online format allows participation of company representatives from different sites while minimizing time investment of a physical event and the still experienced challenges of the COVID time.

e-Meet&Greet will continue. Apart from the hosting company, the other program-supporting companies will again be invited to take an active role.

Nearly sixty Alfred Werner Scholars completed their Master's studies. They all did very well, many of them winning awards. About two thirds of the scholars who graduated continued their career in Switzerland. The others returned to their home countries or went abroad again to explore yet more of the world.

The vision of the founders of the Alfred Werner Excellence Scholarship Program, all representatives from industry (!), came true. Now it is our turn to help this precious resource of talent transition into professional life.

For more information see:

<https://foundation.scg.ch/scholarships/werner-scholarship>  
<https://foundation.scg.ch/scholarships/e-meet-greet-events>

The 2013-2021 Impact Report on the Alfred Werner Scholarship Program can be downloaded from:

<https://foundation.scg.ch/>