SCS
Swiss Chemical
Society

Community News

www.scg.ch

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SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

SCS Partnerships: five companies joined the program in the past months

In 2020 the SCS implemented the SCS Partnership program as a new strategic tool to strengthen the collaboration with industrial partners and to align the Society's activities to the community's requirements. Starting with 13 partner companies in spring 2020 the program includes 24 partners as of March 2023.

Please contact the SCS Head Office if you are interested in a SCS Partnership as well (CHF 3'000 p.a.).

In the past 12 months five companies signed the partnership agreement and joined the program. We are happy and proud to welcome the following companies:

- Arxada AG, Basel: global specialty chemicals business
- Bachem AG, Bubendorf: manufacture of peptides and oligonucleotides
- Carbogen Amcis, Bubendorf: drug development and commercialisation services
- Firmenich SA, Satigny: fragrances, flavors and ingredients
- IBM Research Europe, Zürich: cutting-edge research for tomorrow's information technology

SCS Partnership Program

Make the difference as an Institutional Partner through

- active involvement in the strategic alignment of the society (board-, committee- and jury-membership)
- Becoming a Industrial Science Award Program Stakeholder (fomer KGF/SISF Program)
- VIP guests/delegates at the Swiss Chemistry Science Night

... and also enjoying the benefits of a "classical" corporate membership:

- Free CHIMIA subscription
- publication of Company Reports in CHIMIA
- advertising at reduced rates, and
- logo presence on SCS documents (print, digital)

More information: *scg.ch/network*

EuChemS Historical Landmark celebrated at the Jungfraujoch

On Friday, February 17, 20923, the EuChemS Historical Landmark Award plaquette was revealed at the Jungfraujoch High Altitude Research Station, Switzerland. A delegation of international guests, including representatives from EuChemS, ambassadors and politicians from involved partner countries, scientists from across Europe and the Swiss Government joined the event on the 'Top of Europe' and not only enjoyed the historical moment during the ceremony but also the unpredictable mountain weather.

The day before the official ceremony on the Jungfraujoch, the SCS in collaboration with the University of Bern organized an international symposium on the topic «Chemistry of the Atmosphere» at the Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Bern. The program included nine talks of renowned international speakers. See the website (*ehla23.scg.ch*) for more information and the abstracts of the talks.

History and Significance of the Research Station

In the early last century, pioneering scientists in Switzerland set up an international research center initiative for atmospheric and environmental science issues, combining chemical and physical measurements in an innovative manner. After having finished the railway from Kleine Scheidegg to the Jungfraujoch, which is still the highest railway station in Europe, the conditions for the construction of the station were met. Influenced not least by the events of World War I, it took almost 10 years until 1922 for the project to be officially approved and implemented with the establishment of the international foundation. Another 10 years later, in 1931, the research station was officially inaugurated. From the very beginning, international cooperation was given high priority, so it is not surprising that the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft (now Max Planck Society) from Germany and the Austrian Academy of Sciences, among others, were founding members of the foundation. Based on this 100-year cooperation, both the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh) and the Gesellschaft Österreichischer Chemiker (GÖCH) supported this nomination. The cooperation of the three Alpine countries as well as seven other European countries is underlined by the Virtual Alpine Observatory (VAO) initiative and the regular symposia that guarantee scientific exchange throughout the community.

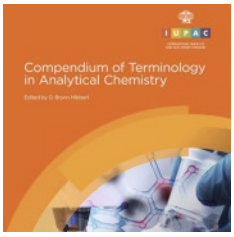
The International collaboration has been and still is the key of the success of the Jungfraujoch Research Station. This award is in particular granted in recognition of the pioneering work and exceptional "liaison réussie" between the research group of Prof. Marcel Migeotte (1912–1992) with collaborators from the University of Liège, Belgium, and the International Foundation of the High Altitude Research Stations Jungfraujoch and Gornergrat (HFSJG), Switzerland.

History was made at this alpine site in terms of the early identification and first fundamental measurements of harmful atmospheric constituents, such as anthropogenic greenhouse gases, and evidence of how their presence in our atmosphere has changed over the last 70 years. Our current understanding of atmospheric chemistry and physics in the context of Earth's climate system would not be possible without their visionary approach.

www.scg.ch

www.euchems.eu/awards/euchems-historical-landmarks

Compendium of Terminology in Analytical Chemistry – 2023 Edition

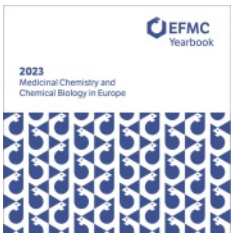


More than two decades after the third edition, the fourth edition of the so-called IUPAC Orange Book has been released in February 2023 by RSC.

How do you describe an analytical method, measure the purity of the new chemical that you have just synthesized, or report the proper units of measurement? For analytical chemists, the principal tool of the trade, or source of terms, is this book – the so-called Orange Book. First published in 1978, this latest edition edited by D. Brynn Hibbert takes into account the explosion of new analytical procedures and, at the same time, the diversity of techniques and the quality and performance characteristics of the procedures that are the focus of interest.

The scope of analytical chemistry has widened, new types of instrumental techniques have emerged and automation has taken over. Answers can now be shared, not only on the chemical composition and structure of the sample, but also changes in composition and structure in space and time. New chapters on chemometrics, bio-analytical methods of analysis, and sample treatment and preparation have been added. The terminology of metrology and quality assurance is now up to date with the latest ISO and JCGM standards. This new volume will be an indispensable reference resource for the coming decade, revising and updating accepted terminology, and providing the official language of analytical chemistry.
Source: *iupac.org*

EFMC Yearbook 2023 is now available



"Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology in Europe" launched in 2002 as the official yearbook of the EFMC, represents a valuable instrument for those people who are interested in quickly finding information related to the activities and composition of member societies, corporate members and on the activities and events of EFMC and its committees.

With an audience of more than 7,500 European scientists, "Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology in Europe", is very broadly distributed in the community.
More information: *efmc.info*

Wind of change in the Chemical Industry

Recently, the European Commission launched their transition pathway for the European chemical industry. This document supports the transformation of the industry until 2050, which is a big need since there are huge challenges ahead. How can we drive the transition forward and why is the chemical industry an interesting career path for young people? Find out watching the discussion of Alena Budinská, SSCI fellow and PhD student at ETH (Wennemers Group), and Dr. Martin Brudermüller from BASF.
Source: *chab.ethz.ch*

ILMAC 2023 in Basel offers a platform for startups and newcomers (free of charge!)

Benefit from over 10'000 opportunities to make personal contacts at ILMAC – the international trade fair and expert conference for laboratory, measurement technology and automation in the chemical industry at the pharmaceutical hub in Basel. Test the trade fair marketing instrument with our appealing all-inclusive offer.

Benefits at a glance:

- Introduction to ILMAC
- Compact stand space
- Minimal planning effort thanks to the all-inclusive package
- Special mention in the exhibitor directory
- Specific communication services for the Startup-Area

The ILMAC Basel 2023 takes place on September 26–28, 2023 at the Basel Exhibition Centre.
More information: *ilmac.ch*

Two new Members joined the Board of DIAC

As of January 2023, two new members joined the Board of the SCS Division Industrial & Applied Chemistry. We are happy to welcome:

Dr. Lucie Lovelle, Novartis Pharma AG

Lucie Lovelle is an Associate Director in the Chemical and Analytical Development organization of Novartis. Lucie earned her PhD in Organic Chemistry from the University of Montreal (Canada), where she worked, under the supervision of Prof. André B. Charette, on the diastereo- and enantioselective synthesis of 1,2,3-trisubstituted cyclopropanes. In 2010, she moved to ETH Zürich (Switzerland) to complete her post-doctoral studies in the group of Prof. Ryan Gilmour, leveraging from the gauche effect to design and synthesize various fluorinated organocatalysts. Lucie was recruited a year later by Janssen, pharmaceutical companies of Johnson & Johnson (Schaffhausen, Switzerland) to work on, among other projects, the development of bedaquiline, an approved marketed drug to treat multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). Since 2015, Lucie is working at Novartis in process research & development for drug candidates across indications and phases of clinical development.
and

Dr. Stefan Abele, Idorsia Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Stefan Abele studied chemistry at the Universities of Konstanz and Grenoble, did his diploma with Prof. R. R. Schmidt on carbohydrate synthesis, and received his PhD in synthetic organic chemistry at the ETH Zurich (Prof. D. Seebach) in 1999. He joined Carbogen-Amcis where he held positions of growing responsibility in R&D and GMP manufacturing of Drug Substances for pharma customers worldwide. He was involved in the GMP production of more than 80 Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients. In 2006, Stefan set up a fully integrated Chemistry Process R&D department at Actelion where he and his teams received the 2015 Sandmeyer Award. Since the inception of Idorsia in 2017, Stefan is responsible for

chemical Process R&D and manufacturing from the preclinical phase to launch and global commercial supplies. As Head of Chemical Development and Commercial Manufacturing (CDCM) he is part of the Idorsia Leadership Team. Stefan is an enthusiastic chemist and actively engaged in sharing the fantastic world of process chemistry and scale-up with the scientific community.

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!

Period: 24.01.2023–28.02.2023

Gladwin Suryatin Alim, Basel - Nicolas Bukowiecki, Muri b. Bern - Cecile Cadoux, Geneva - Sergio Cirelli, Bern - Fabian Dankert, Bern - Lorena De Luca, Kemptthal - Edoardo Domenichini, Gaillard (FR) - Meriem Fikry, Windisch - Peter Finkbeiner, Stein - Julien Freudenreich, Visp - Benjamin Gfeller, Basel - Lauriane Jacot-Descombes, Zürich - Matthias Klimpel, Dübendorf - Xiao-Yu Li, Basel - Kevin Lorenzo Marra, Stans - Iris Martyn, Basel - Emmanuel Meyer, Allschwil - Lucía Belén Reyes Méndez, Basel - Jordan Rio, Lyon (FR) - Steven Roldan Gomez, Lyon (FR) - Valerie Runtz-Schmitt, Basel - Emmanuel Schaad, Bern - Mathilde Schneider, Strasbourg (FR) - Stepan Stepanovic, Geneva - Giustino Sulpizio, Stäfa - Bálint Tamás, Zürich - Andreas Tosstorff, Basel - Luca Vedani, Lyss - Carl Cesar Weber, Villigen.

HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

Best Poster Prize Winners at the 4th Swiss Industrial Chemistry Symposium 2023

Congratulations to
Carolina Caso, ETH Zurich,
«Studies Towards the Total Synthesis of Griseoviridin»,
Robin Lescure, University of Zurich,
«Understanding aggregation during peptide synthesis using in-line UV analysis» and
Salome Püntener, EPFL Lausanne,
«Single-Molecule Peptide Identification using Fluorescence Blinking Fingerprints». The three young researchers received the Helvetica Best Poster Award that was handed over by Dr. Fabrice Gallou, member of the organizing committee.

Best Poster Prize Winners at the DMCCB Basel Symposium 2023

Congratulations to ***Hana Janekova***, University of Zurich and ***Koder Dagher,*** University of Basel for their outstanding poster presentation at the DMCCB Basel Symposium 2023. The two young researchers received the Best Poster Award that was handed over by Dr. Christoph Sager, chair of the symposium.

Karl Heinz Altmann, ETH Zurich, gives Ole Gisvold Lecture

Prof. Karl Heinz Altmann, ETH Zurich, received the honor to give the Ole Gisvold Lecture in Medicinal Chemistry and provided insights into "Total Synthesis and Functional Exploration of Macrocyclic Natural Products".

Through this lecture the Department of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Minnesota recognizes scientists who have made outstanding contributions to medicinal and natural products chemistry.
Source: *chab.ethz.ch*

Moulton Medal for Gonzalo Guillen-Gosalbez, ETH Zurich, & Co-authors

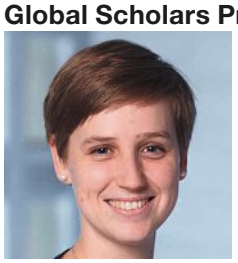
The Senior Moulton Medal is awarded to the author, or authors, of the most meritorious paper published by IChemE during the last year.

The authors were awarded this medal for their paper: Sustainable Production and Consumption, 2021, 28, 877-892 paper. The authors used linear programming-based multi-objective optimisation to evaluate various scenarios for dietary patterns in the UK. The outcome of the work is potentially life changing and was noted as being important for consideration by people that make decisions at government level.
Source: *chab.ethz.ch*

Kathrin Fenner was promoted by the University of Zurich to full professor

Environmental chemist ***Kathrin Fenner*** was promoted by the University of Zurich to full professor ad personam of environmental chemistry on 1 January 2023, having already held the same position as associate professor since 2017. At Eawag, Fenner has headed the "Environmental Fate Modelling" research group since 2010. In her research, she focuses on the environmental behaviour of chemicals, in particular their degradation by microbial communities, for example in waste water treatments plants, in surface waters and in soils. Since its implementation in 2019, Katrin Fenner also chairs the Network Chemistry and the Environment of the SCS and was guest editor of CHIMIA issue 3/2020.
Source: *chem.uzh.ch, eawag.ch, chimia.ch*

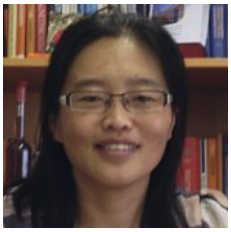
Sereina Riniker, ETH Zurich, is recipient of the NIBR Global Scholars Program 2022



The NIBR Global Scholars Program (NGSP) is a competitive program designed for innovators from invited institutions to gain funding for breakthrough science not covered by traditional grant support. NIBR supports projects focused on novel science with the objective of be-

ing translated to drug discovery and/or clinical research. Sereina Riniker (LPC) is a recipient of the NGSP 2022 and will receive up to 1 million USD funding over 3 years along with expertise from NIBR scientific collaborators.
Source: *chab.ethz.ch*

Successful Sinergia Application for Dr. Shi-Xia Lu, University of Bern



PD ***Dr. Shi-Xia Liu*** from the Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Bern together with her colleagues Prof. Thomas Feurer (Laser Physics, University of Bern), Prof. Ernst Meyer (Nanophysics, University of Basel) and Prof. Ursula Röthlisberger (Computational Chemistry, EPFL) will receive 3 million CHF for their new SNSF Sinergia project "Exploring New Building Blocks for Molecular Electronics: Charged and Excited States of Molecules on Surfaces".

A Sinergia project fosters interdisciplinary collaboration that leads to breakthrough research results. In this specific case, laser physics (time domain) is combined with nanoscale imaging (space domain) of molecular systems synthesized by the Liu team, all supported by theory. In particular, the control of the charge state of molecular arrays by local fields is of interest for the realization of quantum dots and their lattice arrangements, with wide-ranging applications from molecular electronics to quantum computing.
Source: *dcbp.unibe.ch*

JOURNAL NEWS

Helvetica, Volume 106, Issue 2, February 2023

Perspectives
Improving the Accuracy of Small-Molecule Crystal Structures Solved from Powder X-Ray Diffraction Data by Using External Sources
Dubravka Šišak Jung, Stipe Lukin, Ivan Halasz

Research Articles
Diels–Alder Additions to 2,2'-Biaceanthrylene
Yachu Du, Krishna Pandey, Kyle N. Plunkett
An Unusual Fullerene–Carbene Adduct: Thermal Motion, Disorder, or Both?
Abel Carreras, Andreas Lorbach, Guillermo C. Bazan, Pere Alemany, Guang Wu, Miguel A. Garcia-Garibay, Emily F. Maverick
Conformational Diversity in Partially Fluorinated N-Alkyl Pipecolic Acid Amide Derivatives
Nils Trapp, Michael Wörle, Bernd Kuhn, Paul Gerber, Raffael Vorberg, Erick M. Carreira, Klaus Müller
Solid-State Confinement Effects in Selective *exo*-H/D Exchange in the Rhodium σ-Norbornane Complex $[(Cy_2PCH_2CH_2PCy_2)Rh(\eta^2{:}\eta^2\text{-}C_7H_{12})][BAr^F{}_4]$
Tobias Krämer, F. Mark Chadwick, Stuart A. Macgregor, Andrew S. Weller
Indolyl Phosphine Nickel(II) Fluorido Complexes: Synthesis and Intermediates in *Suzuki–Miyaura* Cross-Coupling Reactions
Ouchan He, Beatrice Cula, Thomas Braun
Solution, Crystal and *in Silico* Structures of the Organometallic Vitamin B_{12}-Derivative Acetylcobalamin and of its Novel Rhodium-Analogue Acetylrhodibalamin
Markus Wiedemair, Christoph Kieninger, Klaus Wurst, Maren Podewitz, Evelyne Deery, Michael D. Paxhia, Martin J. Warren, Bernhard Kräutler
Engineering Te-Containing Recognition Modules for Chalcogen Bonding: Towards Supramolecular Polymeric Materials
Deborah Romito, Davide Bonifazi
Structural Flexibility of Metal Chelate Complexes and Its Relation to Supramolecular Chemistry
Andrew W. Maverick
Hydrogenation of Epoxides to *Anti-Markovnikov* Alcohols over a Nickel Heterogenous Catalyst Prepared from Biomass (Rice) Waste
Felix Unglaube, Hanan Atia, Stephan Bartling, Carsten R. Kreyenschulte, Esteban Mejía
Prevalence and Significance of Approximate Symmetry in Organic *Pc* Structures
Carolyn Pratt Brock
Synthesis of the Multidrug Reversal Agent Ko143 and Its Parent Natural Product Fumitremorgin C
Melanie Zechner, Karl-Heinz Altmann
Does Perdeuteration Increase the Polarity of Janus Face Cycloalkanes?
Zeguo Fang, Cihang Yu, Michael Bühl, David O'Hagan

Website: *onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15222675*

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: *www.chemanager-online.com*

UK Exempts Farmers from Bans on Neonics

January 26, 2023: Days after the European Court of Justice ruled that EU member states could no longer grant temporary exemptions to farmers wanting to use expressly banned bee-toxic neonicotinoid pesticides, the brexited UK government granted emergency authorization for the neonicotinoid thiamethoxam to be used on sugar beet seeds. The pesticide is made by Swiss agrochemicals producer Syngenta. Commenting on the derogation granted against the advice of an independent panel of pesticide experts, environmental NGO Friends of the Earth called it "incredibly brazen." In contrast, the national farmers' union Sugar board, said it was "relieved" by the decision, as the British sugar beet crop continues to be threatened by "virus yellows" disease, which in recent years has caused crop losses of up to 80%. The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), which authorized the planting, said "strict conditions" would be put in place, and the treated seeds could only be used if independent modelling predicted a yellows virus incidence of 63% or above. If that threshold were upheld, unspecified "other" conditions would minimize the risks to the environment, DEFRA said, without further elaboration. At the same time, the government agency said the overall ban on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides remains in place. UK farming minister, Mark Spencer, said the emergency use was allowed after "careful consideration" and as "a necessary measure to protect the industry." Spencer said the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the independent UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP) and DEFRA's own chief scientific adviser had been informed of the plans. The ECP said it did not support the authorization, as the risk assessment showed a potential reduction in survival of honeybees, and the HSE agreed that the

risks to bees foraging on pollen and nectar from flowering crops planted in fields after treated sugar beet were a "potential concern." The DEFRA adviser, however, said risks could be avoided with a 32-month moratorium on planting of flowering crop, even while adding that "there is clear and abundant evidence that these neonicotinoids are harmful to species other than those they are intended to control, and particularly to pollinators, including bees." According to reports, this is the third consecutive year the UK has given emergency authorization to use neonics on bee-attractive crops. Even when still an EU member state, it continuously allowed British farmers opportunities the circumnavigate the bans. In 2021, the British nature protection group Wildlife Trusts said it planned to take legal action against the UK government over its decision to allow a pesticide that is almost entirely banned in the EU.

HH2E Plans Second German Hydrogen Plant

January 27, 2023: Green energy company HH2E is planning to develop a second large-scale green hydrogen plant in Germany, as it embarks on its ambition to become one of the largest producers in Europe. Named Thierbach, the project will be located in the Borna region near Leipzig and have an input capacity of 100 megawatts (MW) by 2025, which will be scalable to more than 1 GW by 2030. Phase one of the project is being supported by two "substantial" London-based investment groups – Foresight and HydrogenOne. Ineos Energy invested £25 million in HydrogenOne in July 2021. The investment companies and HH2E have formed a consortium to develop the Thierbach project and have already approved a preliminary investment decision – initial funds will be used for detailed engineering design and the procurement of long-lead items. A final investment decision is expected in 2023, shortly before construction starts. HH2E will build and operate the plant under a newly formed company called HH2E Werk Thierbach, serving leading players in the mobility sector and large-scale energy and industrial consumers such as the chemical industry and commercial air and road transport operators. The plans follow HH2E's announcement last June to develop one of Europe's largest green hydrogen plants at Lubmin on the German Baltic coast. Together with the Swiss MET Group, HH2E plans to construct a power-to-X plant with capacity to produce about 6,000 t/y of green hydrogen in an initial phase, expandable to more than 60,000 t/y in a second phase. Construction on the Lubmin project is scheduled to start in 2023, with a total investment of more than €200 million. Commissioning is planned for 2025. A second stage is scheduled to be commissioned in 2030. HHE2 said total investment in this project could exceed €1 billion. HH2E's goal is to have 4 GW of green hydrogen capacity in Germany by 2030. To support its aims, the Hamburg-based company in May 2022 agreed a financing package with Foresight and HydrogenOne, which took minority stakes in HH2E, expected to total at least €12 million. "This financing agreement enables a massive acceleration of our development plans and a substantial portion of the €2.7 billion we expect to deploy on sites in the next 5-6 years," said Mark Page, HH2E co-founder and board member. Over the next few years, the emphasis will be on decarbonizing existing industrial sites, but HH2E will also develop greenfield projects. Alexander Voigt, HH2E's co-founder and board member said the company has identified 15 other "ideal" locations in Germany for green hydrogen production.

EMA Reviewing Approval of Novartis' Adakveo

January 31, 2023: The European Medicines Agency (EMA) said its Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) has begun reviewing its marketing authorization for Novartis' Adakveo, a medicine to prevent vaso-occlusive pain crises in patients with sickle cell disease. EMA said its review was prompted by preliminary results from the drugmaker's ongoing global phase-3 STAND study in patients with the disease. These indicated that after one year of treatment Adakveo did not reduce the number of painful crises leading to a healthcare visit, compared with a placebo. In October 2020, the regulator approved the drug for sickle cell disease patients ages 16 and older. EMA has stressed that the review, which it requested, is part of the marketing authorization process. The agency said it will look at the study's findings in the context of all available data and assess their impact on the benefit-risk balance of Adakveo in its approved indication before deciding whether marketing authorization should be amended. The Swiss drugmaker said the study's results do not suggest any new safety concerns for the drug, and that the results are "inconsistent" with those of a prior study called SUSTAIN. This showed that Adakveo could lower the median annual rate of the crises by 45% compared with a placebo. Administered monthly, the drug Novartis gained with its $665 million acquisition of Selexys Pharmaceuticals in 2016 is aimed at reducing pain crises associated with sickle cell disease by inhibiting the P-selectin protein. Despite "high uncertainty" about its long-term effectiveness and cost-effectiveness, the UK's National Institute for Heath and Care Excellence (NICE) in 2021 inked a deal with Novartis to sell Adakveo in England as the first new therapy for sickle cell disease in 20 years. The terms were said to include an unquantified discount. Keeping the drug on the market could be crucial to the Basel-based pharma giant, analysts said, in particular as it now has a competitor in Pfizer, which recently bought Global Blood Therapeutic (GBT). That company developed a sickle cell disease-related medicine called Oxbryta that is approved in the EU to treat hemolytic anemia in sickle cell disease patients aged 12 and older. Oxbryta, however, has cost issues of its own. In 2020, US drug pricing watchdog, Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER), said the sickle cell disease drugs from GBT, Novartis and Emmaus Medical were all too expensive to meet traditional cost-effectiveness measures, and the companies should "dramatically cut" their prices.

Christian Dowdeswell Joins Siegfried from Lonza

February 6, 2023: As part of its growth strategy, Siegfried strengthens its management team and appoints Christian Dowdeswell as Chief Business Officer Drug Substances and member of the executive board. Dowdeswell, who joins Siegfried from Lonza, will become Chief Business Officer for the Drug Substances segment at the Swiss contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) and a member of the executive committee. The actual start date s has not yet been announced. He supports Marianne Späne, who was previously responsible for business development for both segments – Drug Substances and Drug Products – and who will remain in charge of finished dosage forms. Dowdeswell holds a PhD in organic chemistry from Teesside University, UK. He began his career at Maybridge Chemicals, followed by positions at Synprotec and Contract Chemicals. In 1998, he started at Dishman Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals. In 2014, he joined Lonza as sales manager Europe, where he subsequently led commercial development for chemical and microbial manufacturing and the Dosage Form and Delivery Systems business unit before being appointed vice president and global head of Commercial Development for Lonza's small molecule custom manufacturing business in 2020. Wolfgang Wienand, CEO of Siegfried, said: "In light of our ambitions to deliver long-term profitable growth, we want to leverage the capabilities and capacities of our global network in the best possible way, deepen the relationships with existing customers and further expand our customer base towards new clients." Marianne Späne will focus on Drug Products, including the Covid vaccines business, which has recently experienced

strong organic growth and has been expanded through the acquisition of the two Novartis manufacturing sites in Barberà del Vallès and El Masnou, Spain.

Bill Anderson to Be Bayer CEO from June 1

February 10, 2023: Bowing to growing pressure from activist investors with different missions, the supervisory board of tradition-steeped German pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals player Bayer has announced the appointment of a new CEO to succeed embattled incumbent Werner Baumann — a year before the end of the current chief executive's regular term. US citizen Bill Anderson, 56, until recently pharma CEO at Switzerland's Roche, will join the Bayer managing board at beginning of April and step into the top slot on Jun. 1. In the two-month transition period, supervisory board chairman Norbert Winkeljohann said the new helmsman will work together with his predecessor, until the 60-year-old Baumann retires at the end of May. A graduate of the University of Texas with a degree in chemical engineering, Anderson also holds degrees in chemical engineering and management from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Over the past 25 years, he has held leadership positions in the life science industry in several countries, alongside Switzerland including the UK, the Netherlands and Belgium. At Roche, the future Bayer chief is credited with spearheading a comprehensive transformation program that led to the development and launch of 25 new medicines, including 15 blockbusters, and was flanked by "significant revenue growth, and greater productivity across the organization." Prior to the stint at Roche, Anderson was CEO of Roche subsidiary Genentech. Earlier in his career, he worked for Biogen and held positions at US chemical and pharmaceutical companies, calling him "the ideal candidate to lead Bayer into a new, successful chapter at a time of a disruptive innovation cycle in biology, chemistry and artificial intelligence," Winkeljohann said "Bill Anderson's mission is clear, to enable Bayer to realize its full potential and create sustainable value for our shareholders, farmers, patients, consumers, employees, and all stakeholders of the company." To fulfill that mission, voices commenting on the appointment noted that the new CEO may need the proverbial patience of Job and nerves of steel to calm investors' current jitters and smooth the waves lashing at the company's share price and public image. The unpopular $63 million acquisition of US agriculture giant Monsanto, which was Baumann's first priority after taking the reins seven years ago. has crushed the Bayer share price, and triggered US lawsuits worth millions. With the onset of litigation, activist investors began making the case for change and clamoring for Baumann's ouster. Some began pressing — and still are — for a split-up of the pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals pillars, healthcare and crop science. Over the past several months, the cries have grown louder. While the board at first appeared to oppose appointing a new leader before the current chief's term formally ends in 2024, it has now emerged that negotiations about his replacement have been in progress since mid-2022 as critics continued to stew. Since the beginning of 2023, the most vocal have been Bluebell Investment and the owner of investment fund Inclusive Capital, Jeffry Ubbens — both of which have acquired substantial shareholdings — in addition to Union Investment and Elliott Investment Management. Some commenting on Anderson's appointment said they thought his background in pharma could play a role in any decision to split up the company, or at least hive off the consumer health business, which some of the activist investors are calling for, as they successfully did at GSK. German chemical conglomerates were once considered monoliths impossible to break up, but that has changed in recent years, starting with Hoechst under Jürgen Dormann, which split into several chunks, including the petrochemicals and plastics business Celanese. Some years later, Bayer split into three parts, with petrochemicals and plastics becoming part of Lanxess and what later became Covestro. Though still a rarity, Anderson will not be Bayer's first outsider or the first non-German to head the company, whose leadership has become increasingly international. Dutch native Marijn Dekkers served as CEO of Bayer AG from Oct. 1, 2010 to Apr. 30, 2016, Irishman Liam Condon and the UK's Patrick Thomas respectively headed Bayer CropScience and Bayer MaterialScience (Covestro).

Solvay Discussing RusVinyl Sale

February 15, 2023: Solvay has announced it is in "advanced" talks to sell its 50% share of Russian PVC joint venture RusVinyl to partner Sibur. Russian government authorities have given their preliminary clearance for the transaction, which remains subject to several other regulatory approvals. The Belgian chemical company declared in March 2022 that it was suspending RusVinyl's dividend payments along with halting operations and new investments in Russia because of the war in Ukraine. RusVinyl is one of Russia's leading PVC producers, with capacity of 330,000 t/y at its site in Kstovo, Nizhny Novgorod; most of the output feeds the domestic market. Created in 2008 RusVinyl was a joint venture between SolVin — a subsidiary of Solvay and BASF — and Sibur. BASF sold its 25% stake in SolVin to Solvay in July 2015, increasing Solvay's share in the Russian PVC partnership to 50%.

Compensation for Italian sites

In separate news, Edison, the former owner of Solvay's sites in Spinetta Marengo and Bussi sul Tirino in Italy, has agreed to compensate the Brussels-based group for breaching environmental representations and warranties relating to the sale of its Ausimont subsidiary in May 2002. "Solvay acquired the Spinetta site based on representations which failed to disclose material environmental lapses. Upon discovering important deficiencies, Solvay initiated proceedings against Edison and mobilized significant technical and financial resources to undertake important remedial actions," said Marco Martinelli, country manager Italy and group industrial director. "Our actions resulted in a significant improvement in air and water quality, inside and outside the industrial site." Solvay is to receive about €91.6 million after the International Chamber of Commerce's arbitration tribunal, the Swiss Supreme Court and the Milan Court of Appeal all ruled in favor of the company in a case that has lasted for more than 10 years. The compensation relates to costs, losses and damages suffered by Solvay up to the end of 2016. Additional arbitration procedures are currently ongoing regarding costs, losses and damages suffered from January 2017 onward. Solvay said it is confident in the merits of its claim for additional significant compensation in this second phase and expects proceedings to conclude in 2024.

Lonza to Add Early Development Services in US

February 16, 2023: Swiss CMDO Lonza said it will expand its Early Development Services (EDS) offering into North America with a new laboratory in Cambridge, Massachusetts, set to open in May this year. The company said the expansion builds on its existing EDS activities at Cambridge, England, that on behalf of its customers support assessing, de-risking, and optimizing biotherapeutic drug candidates to maximize their chances of success. If caught early, potential issues can be mitigated to reduce failure risks and improve speed to clinic for biotherapeutic candidates. In the UK, Lonza provides services via a suite of in silico, early non-GMP protein expression and in vitro immunogenicity services. The new facility in Cambridge, Massachusetts will offer the same capabilities, namely early non-GMP expression and in vitro immunosafety assessment services. At the location close to the Boston biotech community, the new

Lonza facility will primarily serve preclinical stage small- to mid-sized companies in the development of biologic drug candidates from early development through to commercialization. As, on average, only one in every thousand molecules succeeds beyond Phase 1 trials, early development services are essential in mitigating risks, reducing attrition and improving the quality and safety of biologic treatments, said Jean-Christophe Hyvert, president, Biologics at Lonza. Yvette Stallwood, head of Early Development Services, said the new Massachsetts lab increases the Swiss company's flexibility to support US biotechs in advancing potentially life-saving drug candidates from late-stage discovery into the clinic and help them manage the path to commercialization for their novel therapies.

Genentech Builds Biologics Facility in California

February 17, 2023: Genentech, the US biotech arm of Swiss pharma giant Roche, is building a new small-batch biologics manufacturing facility at its Oceanside campus in California, USA. Groundbreaking took place on Feb. 10. The facility is scheduled to go into operation in early 2025, creating approximately 150 additional full-time jobs. Genentech said it will be the first location in its global manufacturing network that is designed specifically for the fast, efficient and sustainable commercial production of biologics for smaller patient populations, including rare diseases and personalized medicines. The company explained that it chose Oceanside for this latest $450 million investment because of the site's proximity to its Clinical Supply Center in South San Francisco, as well as access to world-class biotech talent. The facility will be modeled on the Clinical Supply Center and incorporate the same technologies. Genentech said that by standardizing the design of both its California plants, it will reduce the time needed to transfer production from the clinical site to its commercial facility to just a few days, rather than the usual six to 18 months.

Archroma to Close Huntsman Textile Effects Buy

February 21, 2023: Switzerland's Archroma said it has secured all regulatory approvals required to complete the acquisition of the Textile Effects portfolio of US chemical producer Huntsman and expects to close the transaction this week, on Feb. 28. The deal assigns a total enterprise value of $718 million to the business, including around $125 million in net underfunded pension liabilities as of Dec. 31, 2021. In fiscal 2022, which ended on Jun. 30, the Huntsman activities had sales of $772 million and adjusted EBITDA of $94 million. The soon to be former Huntsman business is regarded as global leader in sustainable specialty chemicals and solutions for industries such as textiles, packaging and paper and paints and coating. The agreement with Archroma was announced on August 9, 2022. Over the past several years, the Swiss firm, which was bought by US private equity investor SK Capital Partners following its 2013 spinoff from Basel-based specialty chemicals producer Clariant, has made several bolt-on acquisitions. In 2014, Archroma took a 49% stake in textile dyes and chemicals manufacturer M. Dohmen and in 2018 bought the remainder. In 2015, it added the global textile chemicals businesses of BASF and in 2019 took over the Ludwigshafen group's stilbene-based OBA business for paper applications. After closing the Huntsman deal, Heike van de Kerkhof, Archroma's group CEO, said the two sides will be able to combine their expert teams and highly complementary product portfolios to offer customers and brand partners the high performance they expect, while respecting natural resources and the planet.