



SCS
Swiss Chemical
Society

Community News

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SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

SCS Scientific Award Program 2024: Call for Nominations



As one of our four strategic pillars, SCS honors excellence in science and chemistry respectively and is proud of its renowned award program that goes back to 1936 with the ceremony of the first Werner Prizes to Dr. T. Postenak, Genève, and Prof. G. Schwarzenbach, Zurich.

The Society opened the call for nominations for the SCS Awards 2024. Nominations have to be submitted electronically to info@scg.ch. The deadline for all documents to reach the Swiss Chemical Society is September 30.

Paracelsus Prize

CHF 20'000 and medal in gold awarded to an internationally outstanding scientist for his/her lifetime achievements in chemical research.

Werner Prize

CHF 10'000 and medal in bronze. Awarded to a promising young scientist for outstanding independent chemical research.

Sandmeyer Award

CHF 10'000 for individuals or CHF 20'000 for groups. Awarded to a person or to a group for outstanding work in industrial or applied chemistry.

SCS Industrial Science Awards

This program includes awards on three career levels with cash checks of CHF 7'000, 10'000 and 15'000. It honors active industrial scientists working in Switzerland for their outstanding contributions in industrial R&D.

Green & Sustainable Chemistry Award

CHF 10'000. Honors outstanding scientific discoveries that lay the foundation for environmentally friendly approaches and products. It is supported by Syngenta as founding partner and SusChem Switzerland as hosting institution.

Grammaticakis-Neumann Award

CHF 5'000. The Prize is awarded to a promising young scientist for outstanding accomplishments in the field of experimental or theoretical photochemistry.

Balmer Prize

CHF 2'000 for individuals and CHF 2'000 for the school's chemistry department or CHF 3'000 for a group and CHF 1'000 for the school's chemistry department. Awarded to a teacher working in Switzerland at high school (gymnasium) level for innovation in chemistry teaching.

Dr. Max Lüthi Award

CHF 1'000 and medal in bronze. Presented for an outstanding diploma thesis in Chemistry conducted at a Swiss University of Applied Sciences.

METAS Award

CHF 5'000. Honors outstanding contribution to the field of metrology in chemistry and/or biology.

Cancer Drug Discovery Research Award

CHF 10'000 in total for 2–4 winners. The award (supported by RGCC International) honors outstanding scientific achievements of MSc, PhD students or Postdocs from Switzerland that are working in the field of cancer drug discovery research.

DMCCB PhD Prize

Certificate and cash check of CHF 1'500. The prize is for exceptional PhD theses in the field of Medicinal Chemistry and/or Chemical Biology completed at a Swiss University or ETH/EPF.

DIAC Fellowship Award

CHF 1'000 and lecture tour in Switzerland. The distinction is granted to distinguished scientists from Industry for significant contributions and innovations over many years in the field of industrial chemistry and chemical process technology in Switzerland.

Website: scg.ch/awards

David Spichiger as new SCS representative at scienceindustries



After six years as SCS representative on the scienceindustries Board, Hans Peter Lüthi stepped down at the scienceindustries General Assembly at the Novartis Campus, Basel, on May 26. During the dinner the evening before, scienceindustries President Matthias Leuenberger officially recognized all resigning board members with a laudation for each of

them. He also acknowledged the career of Hans Peter Lüthi and thanked him for his services in the context of the scienceindustries mandate.

David Spichiger, SCS Executive Director, was appointed to the Board as Hans Peter Lüthi's successor. In the same way as his predecessor, David Spichiger will also be a member of the Board of Directors' Education and Research Committee and will ensure that education and research are key subjects for strengthening Switzerland's position as a business location and that networking between academia, industry and the government continues to be promoted.

scienceindustries is the Swiss Business Association Chemistry Pharma Life Sciences. More than 250 companies within the chemical, pharmaceutical, life sciences and other science-based indus-

tries operating in Switzerland are members. scienceindustries is a significant member of economiesuisse, the umbrella organization of the Swiss economy.
www.scienceindustries.ch

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



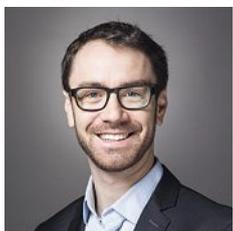
Period: 03.05.2023–01.06.2023

Kedar Abhyankar, Lausanne - Sergio Aranda Ruiz, Wallisellen - Evangelos Balanikas, Geneva - Sara Bassetta, Crissier - Nora Bernet, Zurich - Federico Cambiè, Baden-Dättwil - Dongping Chen, Basel - Tae-Lim Choi, Zurich - Carmen Rosa Cori Calizaya,

Basel - Nathan De Sadeleer, Renens - Morgane Delattre, Chavannes-près-Renens - Andrea Doderò, Fribourg - Xiaoyong Du, Zurich - Jindra Dušek, Zurich - Anthony Fernandes, Fribourg - Lindsey Frederiksen, Crissier - Marie Gabriel, Rolle - Nina Glaser, Wallisellen - Vincent Goëlo, Morges - Chinju Govind, Geneva - Paul Gri, Lausanne - Salome Gruchola, Bern - Chao He, Basel - Philipp Heckmeier, Zurich - Salome Heim, Basel - Maxime Holdener, Zurich - Yawen Hu, Zurich - Livia Hunkeler, Zurich - Nikolai Huwa, Dübendorf - Krittapas Jantarug, Zurich - Daniel Kaech, Zurich - Peter Pal Kalapos, Zurich - Anil kumar Kanuri, Malaya (MY) - Nathan Khosla, Zurich - Hwangseok Kim, Zurich - Luca Knecht, Bern - Amy Knorpp, Wallisellen - Jonas Knurr, Döttingen - Bruno Lainer, Strasbourg (FR) - Erwin Lam, Zurich - Henriette Lämmermann, Zurich - Yebin Lee, Lausanne - Chuen-Ru Li, Ecublens - Niko Lindlar, Kreuzlingen - Ankita Mandal, Fribourg - María Victoria Martín Arroyo, Dübendorf - Jaime Martín González, Zurich - Dagmara Maye, Renens - Lingshen Meng, Zurich - Livia Müller, Basel - Abhinandan Nabera, - Chiamaka Onyia, Zurich - Junmo Park, Zurich - Hyun Woo Park, Zurich - Sarah Partanen, Uitikon Waldegg - Lara Perren, Münchenstein - Dominique Roberge, Sierre - Jan Romano-deGea, Lausanne - Hanseul Ryu, Zurich - Adélaïde Savoy, St-Gallen - Antoine Scalabre, Fribourg - Florian Schenk, Zurich - Tanno Schmidt, Basel - Joel Schmitz, Opfikon - Angela Steinauer, Morges - Mateusz Suchodol, Saint Sulpice - Juliette Swit, Bonnefontaine - Juan Francisco Tamez Fernandez, Zurich - Florian Täschler, Oberwil - Luka Tatarashvili, Zurich - Eirini Toutoudaki, Zurich - Kim Trösch, Wetzikon - Roland Turnell-Ritson, Lausanne - Battist Utinger, - Eva Vandaele, Zurich - Rafael Vasconcelos de Melo Freire, Marly - Jelle Verdonck, Lichtaart (BE) - Sophie Webb, Geneva - Johannes Wega, Thônex - Matthieu Wendling, Lausanne - Lionel Wettstein, Zurich - Tak Hin Wong, Préverenges - Chunlin Yuan, Basel - Namkyu Yun, Zurich - Diego Zenhäusern, Bürchen.

HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

Teaching Excellence Award 2023 for Michael Nash, University of Basel



For the fifth time, the University of Basel has recognized outstanding achievements in the field of teaching with the Teaching Excellence Awards. Vice President Professor Thomas Grob presented the Teaching Excellence Awards in a ceremony on 25 May in the Kollégienhaus, among others also to **Prof.**

Michael Nash from the University of Basel, Department of Chemistry.

In the category “Strong Foundations” the jury, consisting of teaching staff with a Certificate of Teaching in Higher Education from the University of Basel, chose Dr. Caroline Ballebye Sørensen, lecturer in Nordic Languages and Literatures in the Department of Languages and Literatures and Professor Michael Nash from the Department of Chemistry.

The jury placed particular value on the interactive methods used in Nash’s courses, which are very well-attended. His patience and open, relaxed manner allow students to approach him on equal footing and give them the opportunity to share their own thought processes with other students, which helps them connect with the material more quickly. Students also appreciate his use of lively examples in lectures and his interactive surveys, which allow for immediate application of newly-learned materials to real-world questions and make it easier to quickly identify comprehension problems.

Source: chemie.unibas.ch

Prix Schläfli 2023 award for the four best dissertations in natural sciences



On May 23, **Simone Bavera** (Astronomy), **Joël Bloch** (Biology), **Michelle Frei** (Chemistry) and **Ariadni Afroditi Georgatou** (Geosciences) were honoured with the Prix Schläfli 2023 for findings made in the context of their dissertations. Through this prize, the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) singles out the four most significant insights of

young researchers at Swiss universities. The Prix Schläfli has been awarded since 1866.

Michelle Frei – Illuminating cells

Prix Schläfli 2023 for Chemistry: Her work could revolutionise fluorescence microscopy. Michelle Frei has developed a new method to render processes in living cells visible at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne and the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research in Heidelberg.

Source: scnat.ch

JOURNAL NEWS

Helvetica, Volume 106, Issue 5, May 2023



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Chiral Crystals, Jack, Conductivity and Magnetism
Bart Kahr, Yongfan Yang, St. John Whittaker, Alexander G. Shtukenberg, Stephanie Lee

No Life on this Planet without PHB
Dieter Seebach

Structural Insights into Electrophiles and Electrophilic Metabolites Sensing and Signaling: The Missing Information
Chloé Rogg, Yimon Aye

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Claire E. Schmit, Gregory S. Girolami

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Ionic Liquid Crystalline Calixarene with Photo-Switchable Proton Conduction

Alberto Concellón, Iván Marín, Joaquín Barberá, Mercedes Marcos, José L. Serrano

Mechanochemical Synthesis and Reactivity of a Stable Nickel Borohydride

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Boosting Efficiency for the Synthesis of Dimethyl Oxalate over Pd/MgAl₂O₄: Effect of Different Preparation Methods for MgAl₂O₄ Supports

Peng Liu, Xin Zhang, Yuan-Yuan Huang, Geng-Wei Liu, Chen-Jie Li, Pin-Mei Yan, Ye-Yan Qin, Rong Guo, Si-Qi Wu, Yun-Yun Zeng, Peng-Bin Pan, Yuan-Gen Yao

Website: onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15222675

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: www.chemanager-online.com

Siegfried Takes Majority Stake in Dinamiqs

May 9, 2023: Swiss CDMO Siegfried has acquired a 95% stake in Dinamiqs, a compatriot biotech focused on developing and manufacturing viral vectors for cell and gene therapies. Initially, Dinamiqs will continue to operate under its own name and as a largely independent company within the Siegfried Group. In this way, said Siegfried, Dinamiqs will retain its high agility and flexibility while at the same time being supported by Siegfried's global network. Dinamiqs and its customers will also benefit from the integration of drug production into Siegfried's competencies and capabilities for aseptic filling of complex biological active ingredients at sites in Hamelin, Germany, and Irvine, California, USA. As part of the deal, Siegfried will build a commercial-scale GMP-compliant production facility with flexible capacities of up to 500 liters. The plant will be located at Dinamiqs' site in the Bio-Technopark in Zurich-Schlieren and is scheduled to go online in 2025. "With this acquisition, we are entering the fast-growing market of cell and gene therapies, where the majority of clinical candidates in the well-filled development pipeline rely on viral vector-based technologies," said Siegfried CEO Wolfgang Wienand. "The path we have chosen of a manageable investment in a very powerful technology platform and its further flexible expansion through follow-up investments in line with market needs and technology trends gives us access to considerable value potential, and at reasonable entry costs," he

added. Siegfried's total investment, including building the new production facility, will be a mid-double-digit million sum (in Swiss francs) and will be financed with existing cash and credit lines. Five years after the transaction closes, Siegfried will have the option to acquire the remaining 5% shareholding owned by Dinamiqs parent Dinaqor.

IMCD Seals Two Acquisitions and a Distribution Deal

May 9, 2023: Rotterdam-based speciality chemicals distributor IMCD kicked off the month of May agreeing a major distribution partnership and two outright acquisitions. In one of the deals, subsidiary IMCD Colombia widened its pharmaceutical capabilities with the acquisition of Allianz Group International, a distributor of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) supplying the Colombian market. The Bogota-based company, with 25 employees and revenue of around €6.9 million last year, was one of the first Colombian distributors to specialize in APIs. It is certified for storage, sampling, dispensing and distribution of the ingredients on the Colombian market. This acquisition, which is subject to customary closing conditions, is expected to be completed during the current month. The Dutch distribution giant has also agreed to acquire all shares of KOI Products Solutions and Engineering. The company based in Petach Tikva, Israel, employed 13 people, reported revenue of more than € EUR 8 million in financial year 2022. KOI Products Solutions, founded in 1986, prides itself on long-standing partnerships with what it says are some of the world's leading suppliers of specialty products. The company predominantly supplies the composites, paint, cosmetics, coatings and ink markets. In a straightforward strategic distribution deal, IMCD has signed on to offer German chemicals and plastics producer Evonik's resins for medical technology. The contract, effective from May 1, covers all countries in the European Economic Area, the UK and Switzerland. Evonik's medical technology portfolio includes polyamide materials Vestamid Care ML and Vestamid Care ME, Trogamid Care MX, along with the PEEK-based Vestakeep Care and the PBT-based Vestodur polymer materials. These find application in medical tubing, dialysis parts, surgical instruments and inhalers, among other products.

Sandoz in Biosimilars Pact with Just – Evotec Biologics

May 12, 2023: As Novartis moves toward shedding generics subsidiary Sandoz, which it touts as a global leader in off-patent generic and biosimilar drugs, Sandoz has agreed a multi-year strategic partnership with Just – Evotec Biologics, the Seattle, Washington-based US subsidiary of Germany's Evotec, to develop and manufacture biosimilars. The agreement covers the development and manufacture of multiple biosimilars with an option for expansion, and Sandoz CEO Richard Saynor said it represents "the most recent step toward strengthening the Sandoz foundation as a standalone off-patent medicines company." Concretely, the deal will provide Sandoz with additional capabilities to ensure continuity in development and manufacturing while Novartis heads for the exit, Saynor said. Development of the biosimilars is planned to ramp-up over the next 12 to 18 months. Terms of the foreseen arrangement call for Just – Evotec Biologics to receive a double-digit-million-dollar sum upfront and future payments of \$640 million, dependent on successful development progress, as well as additional undisclosed payments. In an ad-hoc statement, Evotec said the strategic partnership allows Sandoz to take a non-exclusive license to use its Seattle offshoot's proprietary J.DESIGN technology for the Swiss company's own state-of-the-art 'S.POD' facility in the latter part of the current decade. Commenting on the collaboration plans, Saynor said the partnership will be built on a "strong shared sense of purpose and commitment to use disruptive technology with lower operational costs to deliver high-quality biosimilars at scale to patients

around the world.” Prior to clinching the partnership with Just – Evotec Biologics, Sandoz announced it would step up investment at its Holzkirchen, Germany, site to create a core Biopharma Technical Development hub supporting future biosimilar growth. Sandoz has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding to build a new biologics production facility in Slovenia to support increasing global demand for biosimilar medicines, at an expected investment of at least \$400 million. Full run of the plant has been penciled in for late 2026.

Messer and BASF Team up on CO₂ Recovery

May 15, 2023: German family-owned industrial gases producer Messer has announced plans to build a carbon dioxide recovery plant at an undisclosed location in Austria, leveraging in part technology from compatriot BASF. Messer said the facility, which will use BASF’s OASE blue technology, is due to start up in early 2024, recovering CO₂ from the flue gas of an undisclosed industrial company. In future, the Bad Soden-based gases producer said it wants to use its recovery and purification processes to make the gas available for reuse. Under the plans, Messer will refine the recovered CO₂ up to food grade quality and use it to increase supply reliability in western Austria, South Tyrol, eastern Switzerland and Bavaria, where it already supplies multiple customers. Up to now, the food industry has had to rely on CO₂ obtained as a byproduct from ammonia production. With its new technology, Messer said it expects to be able to offer shorter routes to supply customers with liquid CO₂ by tank truck. Chief Technology Officer Tarek El Hawary said Messer’s expertise in plant and equipment construction in combination with BASF’s OASE blue technology will enable the gases producer to build and operate energy efficient, economical production facilities that recycle CO₂. Andreas Northemann, who heads BASF’s global gas treatment activities, commented that the Ludwigshafen chemical giant’s technology will provide Messer with a reliable CO₂ removal process with low energy demand that enables the use of more sustainable technologies to reduce CO₂ emissions and environmental impact. BASF’s OASE blue, which was developed initially as an optimized large-scale carbon capture technology, is claimed to offer a customized technology package as well as highly stable, low-maintenance innovative solvent solutions for various carbon capture applications. The chemical group’s solution is used to capture flue gas carbon from sources such as fossil power generation plants, steam reformers, waste incinerators and the cement industry.

Venator in US Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Proceedings

May 22, 2023: Venator, the Huntsman spinoff that holds the family-owned business’s former titanium dioxide activities, has filed for protection from creditors under the US Chapter 11 bankruptcy code. The company, which is UK-registered but managed from the US state of Texas, said it hopes to exit Chapter 11 within approximately two months. CEO Simon Turner said Venator has reached agreement with the “overwhelming majority” of its lenders and noteholders on the terms of a comprehensive recapitalization plan that would equitize nearly all of its funded debt and strengthen its balance sheet. The agreement with creditors will significantly reduce the company’s debt burden and place it on a sound financial footing, enabling it to deliver on its strategy and capitalize on future growth opportunities, Turner added. As part of the bankruptcy proceedings, Venator expects to be de-listed from the New York Stock Exchange but continue to trade in the over-the-counter marketplace for the duration. Subsequent plans call for the shares to be canceled. While Huntsman still holds 9% of its former business, SK Praetorian Holdings is currently the largest shareholder with 39.3%, followed by Czech-based private equity investor J&T MS 1 SICAV with 14.3%. Explaining the conditions that led to the bankruptcy 11 filing, Turner said Venator has faced “unprecedented economic headwinds”

since the second half of 2022, including significantly lower product demand and higher raw material and energy costs. In its financial results for last year’s fourth quarter, the company reported a 44% year-on-year decline in sales, with only rising selling prices averting a more disastrous performance. In parallel, it posted a net loss of \$228 million for the quarter after a net profit of \$14 million in the 2021 period. The recapitalization is being funded by a debtor-in-possession (DIP) facility, which includes a commitment for \$275 million in new-money financing from supporting creditors. Venator expects the DIP financing, together with cash on hand – as well as the cash generated from ongoing operations – to provide substantial liquidity to keep the plants running and pay its global workforce, as well as all trade partners. Additionally, the company said it intends to remain in possession and control of its assets throughout the Chapter 11 process as well as retain its existing management team and board of directors. Reports nevertheless suggest it may have to shed some unprofitable businesses, including European plants in Duisburg, Germany, and Pori, Finland. TiO₂ accounts for an estimated three-quarters of Venator’s overall turnover. As part of an ongoing cost reduction drive, last autumn it sold a US pigment plant in California and signed an agreement to divest its iron ore operations. One of the smaller globally active players in the global TiO₂ market, the company was created in 2017 as Huntsman spun off its pigments and additives business in preparation for a merger with Switzerland’s Clariant. That deal subsequently was torpedoed by an activist who argued that the Swiss specialty chemicals manufacturer was worth more alone than in a combination with Huntsman.

ProductionToGo to Distribute Evonik’s 3D Printing Materials

May 31, 2023: Evonik has inked a new non-exclusive deal with compatriot ProductionToGo, covering distribution of the German specialty chemicals group’s 3D printing materials. From Jun. 1, ProductionToGo, which resells industrial and professional 3D printing solutions in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, will distribute Evonik’s photopolymers and the PEEK-based filaments of its INFINAM brand in the EU, Switzerland, Norway and the UK. With the agreement, the Karlsbad, Germany-based company said it will be able to expand its presence as a distributor in the rapidly growing market for high-performance 3D printing materials. Evonik said the partnership is aimed at increasing the availability of its products for additive manufacturing. The Essen-headquartered chemical producer launched its photopolymers 3D printing technology two years ago with its first INFINAM-branded ready-to-use resins for stereolithography (SLA), liquid crystal display (LCD) or digital light processing (DLP) printing. Since then, Evonik said it has developed and launched altogether seven specialized material formulations, thereby diversifying the additive manufacturing material landscape. Its range of 3D printing materials includes the INFINAM-branded nylon powders and elastomers, PEEK filaments and specialized photopolymers used in industrial 3D applications. Evonik touts its PA 12 powders as “the gold standard in powder bed fusion technologies,” while also claiming to have the industry’s most extensive portfolio of 3D-printable Vestakeep (PEEK) and Resimer biomaterials for medical technology, which can be used to manufacture medical device parts designed for temporary and permanent body contact. The 3D activities are bundled in Evonik’s Additive Manufacturing Innovation Growth Field, where the strategic focus is on development and manufacturing of industrial, ready-to-use high-performance materials for all major polymer-based 3D printing technologies.