



SCS
Swiss Chemical
Society

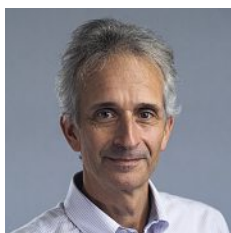
Community News

www.scg.ch

www.chemanager-online.com

SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The President's Word 2023



Dear members of the SCS,

I wish all of you and your relatives an excellent year 2023, full of joy, good health and, of course, great successes in chemistry!

Last year started with quite bright perspectives, most of the pandemic behind us, and we were aiming for the 'return to normal' that we were waiting for since so long. Unfortunately, it seems now that we are riding from one crisis to another one, and the war in Ukraine brutally reminded us that peace, prosperity, and health are not given freely, and that we must work hard to preserve them. The SCS, with the help of its SCS Foundation and generous sponsors took several actions to help scientists from Ukraine, ranging from free memberships to financial support to incoming students to Switzerland. I am deeply grateful to all our colleagues who made this possible.

We should however always keep our optimism, and continue doing what we do best: Science, and using it for the greater good. The year ahead is full of exciting events. It already started with the Swiss Snow Symposium and the 4th Swiss Industrial Chemistry Symposium, and the rest of the lineup is as impressive as ever, with meetings, summer schools and workshops. And last, but not least, the International Chemistry Olympiad will take place this year at the ETH Zurich.

I look forward to meeting you at one of these events, and I wish you again a very nice year 2023 in chemistry!

Prof. Christian Bochet, SCS President
University of Fribourg, christian.bochet@unifr.ch
Bern, January 2023

Invitation to the SCS General Assembly 2023



The Board of Directors invites all members of the Swiss Chemical Society and the delegates of its associated societies to join the 33rd General Assembly.

SCS General Assembly 2023
April 14, 2023, 13.30–14.00 (lunch break of the SCS Spring Meeting 2023). University of Zurich, Irchel Campus

Agenda GA 2023 (provisional)

- Welcome and approval of the agenda
- Election of the vote counters
- Minutes of the 32nd General Assembly from April 22, 2022 (published in *CHIMIA* 5/2022, A496)
- Annual Report 2022 (published in *CHIMIA* 1-2/2023)

- Financial statement 2022 incl. audit report (a summary of the financial statement 2022 and the asset allocation per network and funds is available for member on the website after the formal audit (login required))
 - Discharge the Board
 - Elections for the ExB and the BoD. Election of the auditors
 - News and strategic projects
 - Outlook 2023/2024
 - Varia
- Motions to the assembly can be submitted until March 31, 2023 to info@scg.ch

Chemistry Travel Award 2023 – Call for Applications



The award includes a contribution of CHF 1'000 towards the cost of an active participation (poster or oral presentation) at an international conference between 15 May 2023 and 14 May 2024 in any field of the chemical sciences.

Up to 45 doctoral students from Swiss research institutions will be awarded.

Selection will be based primarily on scientific accomplishments and on the submitted conference abstract.

Deadline for applications: March 31, 2023

More information: chem.scnat.ch/en/travel_award

New EuChemS Executive Board Members began their terms on 1st January 2023



President-Elect Angela Agostiano and Treasurer Hans Peter Lüthi were elected by the EuChemS General Assembly in Lisbon in 2022. Angela Agostiano will serve one year as President-Elect, after which she will succeed Floris Rutjes as the President of EuChemS. She is a Full Professor at the University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy. Her area of expertise

is chemical-physical processes. She was also the first woman President of the Italian Chemical Society, where she focused on connecting different disciplinary areas and societal challenges.

Hans Peter Lüthi was an adjunct professor at the ETH Zurich Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences, Switzerland. He also served as a Treasurer for the Swiss Chemical Society (SCS) as well as the Director of its foundation. He succeeded Eckart Rühl as EuChemS Treasurer.

Helen Pain, CEO of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) began her first term as an appointed Executive Board member. She is a Chartered Chemist and a Chartered Scientist. Joana Amaral started in the same capacity, representing EuChemS Professional Networks. She is an Adjunct Professor at the Department of Chemical and Biological Technology of the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, Portugal, and the Chair of EuChemS Division

of Food Chemistry. Patrick Guiry, Full Professor of synthetic organic chemistry at University College Dublin became an appointed member, representing the Irish Chemical Society, the host of the 10th EuChemS Chemistry Congress (ECC10) in Dublin, to be held in 2024.

With the end of 2022, the term of Pilar Goya as Vice President, as well as the term of Eckart Rühl as Treasurer ended. In addition, the EuChemS community also bid farewell to Robert Parker (RSC) and Péter Szalay (Chair of EuChemS Division of Computational and Theoretical Chemistry) as appointed members. EuChemS warmly thanks them for their hard work for and impactful contributions towards European chemistry. More information: magazine.euchems.eu

EuChemS Magazine Launched



With the beginning of 2023, EuChemS established the brand new Serial Publication of the European Chemical Society, EuChemS Magazine, succeeding Chemistry in Europe and Brussels News Updates. EuChemS President Floris Rutjes officially announced EuChemS Magazine in the 4th – and last – issue of Chemistry

in Europe. The key rationale behind the new publication is to create a more streamlined reading experience, to provide the most up to date and informative content to our readers and to prioritize the EuChemS brand. The new EuChemS Magazine is a fresh, modern publication, which contains the latest key briefings from EU science policy and breaking updates about EuChemS. Every three months, EuChemS Magazine Plus will also be released (starting from this March), with more in depth analytical research policy and perspective articles, editorials and interviews. We invite all to contribute to EuChemS Magazine Plus. If you are subscribed to either of the previous newsletters, you don't have to worry – your subscription is automatically transferred to EuChemS Magazine.

More information: magazine.euchems.eu

EurJIC-Wöhler Young Investigator Prize 2023: Call for Nominations



The Wöhler Association for Inorganic Chemistry, a division of the GDCh, and the European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry (EurJIC) are pleased to announce the Call for Nominations for the EurJIC-Wöhler Young Investigator Prize 2023!

The prize will be awarded to an early career researcher of any nationality who has completed a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in Chemistry, for an excellent scientific publication in a field within inorganic chemistry. The selected original research article, in which the candidate appears as one of the correspondence authors, should have been published within two years before the nomination. The nominee will be an independent researcher, but not yet in an established (or tenured) academic or industrial position. The prize comprises a certificate and €1500.- and will be awarded at the Symposium "Highlights in Inorganic Chemistry" of the GDCh-Wissenschaftsforum Chemie to be held in Leipzig, September 4-6, 2023.

Nominations should be submitted by March 30, 2023.

More information: chemistry-europe.onlinelibrary.wiley.com

Become a Volunteer for the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO), Zurich, in July 2023!



From July 16–25, 2023, more than 900 participants, mentors and volunteers from approximately 90 countries and areas are expected to attend the International Chemistry Olympiad 2023. Besides two chemistry exams the young talents will experience a wide range of cultural activities, Swiss business and lifestyle as well as the picturesque landscape of

Switzerland.

The International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) is an annual international competition for talented young students in secondary schools and colleges. The first IChO took place in Prague in 1968. Since 1987, Switzerland has sent delegations to more than 30 IChOs but has never been a host country itself. The time has come in 2023! The Swiss Chemistry Olympiad Association (SwissChO) and ETH Zurich have been awarded the contract to host the event in Switzerland.

Contributing your time and energy to the IChO will also bring you in touch with dozens of co-minded volunteers and up to 350 brightest minds in Chemistry. It will be rewarded by team building activities for volunteers and a work certificate you can use for your CV.

Your expenses like accommodation, meals, and transport expenses will be covered. Above all, it will be ten days of fun and science feasts organized by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology – ETH Zurich and its partners.

More information and registration: icho2023.ch

Patenting in Life Sciences & Chemistry 2023: Up to 24 registrations sponsored by IGE.IPI



The IGE.IPI will support up to 24 candidates (PhD students, post docs) covering their registration fee and accommodation in a double room for the upcoming Patenting in Life Sciences & Chemistry Workshop for PhD students & Postdocs 2023. The event, a two-day hands-on workshop for doctoral students and post-docs in Life Sciences & Chemistry, takes place at Centre Loewenber, Murten on June 12-13, 2023.

Whether you plan an academic research career, a move into the pharmaceutical or biotech industries or a switch to a research support role, there is a high chance that you will be confronted with questions related to intellectual property and patenting. Over the last decades, life sciences have become a productive source of technological innovation, leading to commercial products and new markets. Along with this ongoing development, issues in intellectual property are becoming more and more important for researchers in biosciences.

The course consists of a series of lectures (see attached "Meeting program") on intellectual property protection and patent law, challenges related to intellectual property in an academic environment and a spin-off company and ethical considerations. You will also discover new job opportunities in the field of intellectual property management.

Importantly, you will have the opportunity to participate in workshops where you can gain hands-on experience in the topics described.

Grant application deadline: 8th March 2023

Registration deadline: 27th March 2023

More information: meetings.ls2.ch/patenting-2023

Happy Birthday!

Several of our senior SCS members will celebrate special birthdays in 2023. This gives us the opportunity to warmly congratulate them and wish them many more years with us!

95 Years

Rudolf Zahradnik, Prague

90 Years

Roland Darms, Therwil
Paul Doswald, Reinach

85 Years

Peter Keller, Reinach
Toni Rihs, Villars-sur-Glâne
Walter Ruch, Spiegel
Jean-Jacques Salzmann, Bottmingen
Rolf Schurter, Allschwil
Branko Stanovnik, Vrhnika
Roland Wenger, Riehen
Kurt Wüthrich, La Jolla

80 Years

Hans-Ulrich Blaser, St. Gallen
Roland P. Bühlmann, Schönenbuch
Ursula Bünzli-Trepp, Cugy
Rober Egli, Stein am Rhein
Emanuel Escher, Sherbrooke, QC
Hans T. Frei, Merlischachen
Kurt Geiger, Bronschofen
Walter Giger, Zurich
Erich Hunziker, Buchs
Urs Krähenbühl, Belp
Jakob Kuhn, Bachs
Michel Pelletier, Genève
Paul S. Pregosin, Zurich
Laurent Rivier, Lausanne
Urs Séquin, Ettingen
Andrea Vasella, Farschno

75 Years

Claudio Abächerli, Visp
Rinaldo Marini Bettolo, Roma
Andres Denss, Basel
Jürgen Finter, Fribourg
Bernhard Jaun, Falläden
Rolf-Otto Klaus, Bottmingen
Bruno Lohri, Reinach
Franz-Peter Montforts, Lilienthal
Andreas Pfaltz, Binningen
Martin Quack, Pfaffhausen
Michel J. Rossi, Cossonay
Markus, Schlageter, Binningen
Gottfried Sedelmeier, Schallstadt
Paul Vesel, Reinach
Ernst Vogel, Disentis
Robert C. Wydler, Zurich

70 Years

Bernard Aebischer, Murten
Peter Comba, Heidelberg
Scott E. Denmark, Urbana, IL
Gerd Folkers, Zurich

David Gilg, Diessenhofen
Andreas Haag, Fehraltorf
Ernst P. Halder, Glis
Roger Laforce, Piazzogna
Isidro Sánchez Marcos, Salamanca
Georg Seyfang, Niederweningen
Heinz Stadler, Aadorf
Jean-Paul Stringaro, Winterthur
Wolfgang Thormann, Spiegel b. Bern
Maria Inés Velazco, Genève



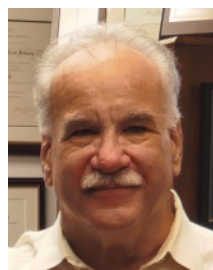
Hans-Ulrich Blaser



Ursula Bünzli



Peter Comba



Scott E. Denmark



Andres Denss



Emanuel Escher



Juergen Finter



Gerd Folkers



Kurt Geiger



Walter Giger



Erich Hunziker



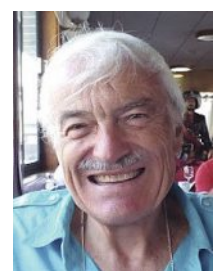
Urs Krähenbühl



Andreas Pfalz



Paul S. Pregosin



Michel J. Rossi



Markus Schlageter



Branko Stanovnik



Wolfgang Thormann



Robert C. Wydler

Welcome Message 2023 from the New SCS Academy Manager Sarah Schmitz

“Dear members of the SCS,



Having now worked as an assistant in the SCS Head-Office for over 10 years, I am looking forward to a new additional challenge by taking over the management of the SCS Academy from Esther Wolff as of the beginning of 2023. The SCS Academy of the Swiss Chemical Society (SCS) is a very important part of the education courses in various fields

of chemical and pharmaceutical sciences.”

Sarah Schmitz, Management SCS Academy
academy@scg.ch

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



Period: 22.11.2022–23.01.2023

Butrint Aliu, Basel - Sk Amanullah, Zurich - Gaetano Angelici, Pisa (IT) - Julian Baumgärtner, Zurich - Peter Bellstedt, Zurich - Pierre Bena, Colombier - Yuliia Berezovska, Zurich - Simon Berlanda, Birsfelden - Emile Brabet, Saint Louis (FR) - Maximilian Breiffeld, Basel -

Carolina Caso, Zurich - Chi Ming Cheung, Allschwil - Mickael Choury, Strasbourg (FR) - Tim Doerenkamp, Villigen - Nikolaos Droseros, Fribourg - Jérôme Eberhardt, Basel - Mateusz Fido, Zurich - José Gomes, Basel - Daria Grosheva, Basel - Veronika Hartmann, Basel - Yong Hua, Basel - Carla Huber, Brugg - Na Jin, Bern - Kjell Jorner, Zurich - Dylan Käser, Grimsuat - Soo Jung Lee, Basel - Xiangdong Li, Ecublens - Ulrich Mayerhoeffer, Visp - Christa S. Mc Ardell, Dübendorf - Arndt Meyer, Basel - Laura Monte, Bern - Ruiqing Ni, Zurich - James Race, Bern - Adrian Ramirez Galilea, Buchs ZH - Lucía Belén Reyes Méndez, Basel - Alan Robinson, Basel - Helena Roithmeyer, Oberengstringen - Nathalie Rowlinson, Bern - Stephan Schumann, Basel - Taras Sekh, Zurich - Anita Senk, Bern - Bruno Silva, Dübendorf - Vladislav Slama, Lausanne - Mariia Svyrydenko, Zurich - Damon Truffer, Zermatt - Albin Vadakkechira, Zurich - Mac Marinus Veldhuizen,

Zurich - Valentina Vogt, Zurich - Franz Waibl, Zurich - Mingming Wang, Heidelberg - Alexander Wieczorek, Dübendorf - Melis Yarar, Zurich - Jesus David Yong Sam, Zurich - Melanie Zechner, Allschwil - Qin Zhang, Zurich - Huanyu Zhang, Zurich.

HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

Simon-Widmer Award 2023 to Prof. Uwe Sauer, ETH Zurich



The international award committee of the SCS has selected **Prof. Uwe Sauer**, ETH Zurich, as the recipient of the Simon-Widmer Award 2023. Uwe Sauer receives the prize for his pioneering work in the field of metabolomics.

The award ceremony and lecture will take place at Euroanalysis 2023 in Geneva, August 27–31, 2023.

Since 2012, Uwe Sauer is Full Professor for Systems Biology in the Institute for Molecular Systems Biology at the ETH Zurich. His research focusses on the regulation of complex metabolic networks, in particular the interaction between metabolites and proteins. His lab has pioneered technology development in the area of metabolomics and flux analysis with isotopic tracers, and on data integration within computational models. Since 2015 he is president of the ETH Research Commission.

Source: scg.ch/simon-widmer

METAS Award 2023 to Dr. Michael Stravs, Eawag



Dr. Michael Stravs, Eawag Dübendorf receives the METAS Award of the SCS for his outstanding scientific achievements, especially the new and innovative approach to combine state-of-the-art analysis technologies, artificial intelligence and reference data in near real time that is exemplary for similar problems in chemistry and biology.

The prize is endowed with CHF 5'000 and a certificate.

The award lecture is planned at the *CHanalysis* that takes place in Beatenberg on March 29–31, 2023.

scg.ch/metas-award

SCS Cancer Drug Discovery Research Award 2023 awarded to Dr. Elena Zakharova, University of Bern



Dr. Elena Zakharova, University of Bern receives this newly implemented award of the SCS and RGCC

International for her outstanding work in discovering new peptide-based anti-cancer agents that she did during her PhD studies at University of Bern.

The prize is endowed with CHF 5'000 and a certificate and is sponsored by

RGCC International.

The award lecture took place at the DMCCB Basel Symposium in Basel on February 3, 2023.

scg.ch/cancer-award

Bert Weckhuysen Awarded the Inaugural Chemistry Europe Award



Chemistry Europe, an association of 16 chemical societies from 15 European countries publishing a family of high-quality scholarly journals and the magazine ChemistryViews, recognizes outstanding contributions to chemistry with its new Chemistry Europe Award.

The 2023 Chemistry Europe Award goes to **Prof. Bert Weckhuysen**, Utrecht

University, The Netherlands, who is being honored for his outstanding achievements and leadership in the field of sustainable chemistry and catalysis research. The award ceremony will be held in August, during the 49th IUPAC World Chemistry Congress (IUPACICAINS2023) in The Hague, The Netherlands. Bert Weckhuysen will receive the award and give a lecture.

The award is presented every two years and focuses on a specific topic each time. The theme for 2023 is Chemistry for Sustainability, Energy, Materials, Environment. The award includes prize money of EUR 10,000 and a certificate. The Chemistry Europe award is open to both members and non-members of Chemistry Europe societies from all nations.

More information: chemistry-europe.org

Vincent du Vigneaud Award for Prof. Helma Wennemers, ETH Zurich



The Vincent du Vigneaud Awards by the American Peptide Society recognize outstanding achievements in peptide research at mid-career. The du Vigneaud Awards are sponsored by Bachem, and are awarded to two deserving recipients at the biennial American Peptide Symposia. Professor Helma Wennemers, from the Laboratory

of Organic Chemistry at ETH Zurich, receives the award in 2023, together with Marcey Waters from the University of North Carolina.

Source: chab.ethz.ch

Winners of the Best Oral Presentation Awards at the Geneva Chemistry & Biochemistry Days



The 13th edition of the Geneva Chemistry & Biochemistry Days was again a great success and about 130 participants joined the event on-site in Geneva on January 12–13, 2023. In addition 60-90 participants participated via live streaming! The program of the two-day symposium organized by the University of Geneva's Department of

Chemistry included 4 Senior speakers and 21 junior speakers!

The Jury of the best oral presentations (4 Senior Speakers + Department's Directors) has attributed the following Prizes:

Best oral presentation winner: **Ms Ina Fureraj**, Physical Chemistry; 2-year membership to SCS (front)

Followers: **Mr Soroush Naseri**, Inorganic Chemistry (back left) and **Mr Simone Scaringi**, Organic Chemistry (back middle); each 1-year membership to SCS

In addition LS² sponsored the best Life Science oral Presentation award that was awarded to **Ms Victoria von Glasenapp**, best Life Science oral presentation (back right)

Congratulations to all winners and thanks to the OC for the organization of this traditional event.

Source: scg.ch

JOURNAL NEWS

Helvetica, Volume 106, Issue 1, January 2023



Reviews

Carbohydrate-Derived Dienes as Building Blocks for Pharmaceutically Relevant Molecules

Sateesh Dubbu, Jampani Santhi, Rachel Hevey

Perspectives

A Collaborative Journey towards the Late-Stage Functionalization of Added-Value Chemicals Using Engineered Halogenases

Johannes Büchler, Eimear Hegarty, Kirsten Schroer, Radka Snajdrova, Nicholas J. Turner, Olivier Loiseleur, Rebecca Buller, Camille Le Chapelain

Endometriosis, the Silent Disease: Molecular Targets, Active Principles, and Drug Delivery Systems

Sarah Teworte, Paola Luciani

Compound Specific Radiocarbon (¹⁴C) Dating of Our Colorful Past: from Theory to Practice

Laura Hendriks, Cyril Portmann

Opportunities and Limitations of Nanoagrochemicals

Fabienne Schwab

Synthetic Procedures

Large-Scale Synthesis of 4-Methyl-2-(2H-1,2,3-triazol-2-yl)benzoic Acid – A Key Fragment of Single Orexin Receptor Antagonist ACT-539313 – through Cu₂O-Catalyzed, Ligand-Free Ullmann–Goldberg Coupling

Tony Fleischer, Gabriel Schäfer

Research Articles

May We Use Chemical Arguments to Distinguish between Possible Space-Groups? Description of the Crystal Structure of an Inclusion Compound in Space Groups *P1* or *P-1*

Menahem Kaftory, Irena Zouev, Mark Botoshansky, Natalia Fridman, Bruce M. Foxman

Exploring Photoredox-Catalyzed (Re)functionalizations with Core-Modified Benziodoxolones

Stephanie G. E. Amos, Franck Le Vaillant, Jerome Waser

Halocyclopropenium-Halide Halogen-Bonded Ion Pairs and Their Hydrogen-Bonded Halide Solvates

Mohammed S. Abdelbassit, Owen J. Curnow, Mark R. Waterland

Derivatives of 3'-Azidothymidine with 6-Cyanopyridone as Base or as Phosphoramidate Ester and their Antiretroviral Activity

Jiayang Han, Jakob Arnold, Christophe Pannecouque, Gracielela Andrei, Robert Snoeck, Clemens Richert

Stereoselective Synthesis and Biological Profile of All Stereoisomers of Lactam Analogues of Strigolactones GR24 and GR18
Pierre Quinodoz, Alexandre Lumbroso, Mathilde Lachia, Claudio Screpanti, Stefano Rendine, Beyza Horoz, Mert Bozoflu, Saron Catak, Raymonde Fonné-Pfister, Katrin Hermann, Alain De Mesmaeker

Website: onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15222675

ChemistryEurope, is now open for submissions with APCs waived until 2025!



ChemistryEurope is now open for submissions with APCs waived until 2025. ChemistryEurope is the flagship journal of Chemistry Europe. We publish high-impact, authoritative research on all aspects of chemistry and work from adjacent scientific areas that showcases chemistry's role as a central science. We serve the entire community

by bringing together the brightest minds in chemistry and by providing a platform for original and inspirational work from across the discipline.

Chemistry Europe is an association of 16 chemical societies from 15 European countries, representing over 75,000 chemists. Run by chemists, for chemists—we evaluate, publish, disseminate, and amplify the scientific excellence of chemistry researchers from around the globe.

Source: chemistry-europe.onlinelibrary.wiley.com

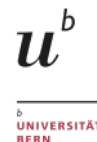
INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: www.chemanager-online.com

Germany's Merck Realigns Drug R&D Strategy

November 24, 2022: In a move to advance productivity, the healthcare division of Germany's Merck is realigning its drug discovery and launch strategy. Global healthcare research chief Danny Bar-Zohar told a conference call this week that the Darmstadt-based company will seek to strike a new balance between in-house R&D and external collaboration. While Merck intends to maintain the output of its internal discovery engine, to meet its goal of delivering one new product or major indication every year and half, Bar-Zohar said more than 50% of its future launches will result from external co-development partnerships. These could include strategic in-licensing of assets for further in-house development. "By building on our existing strengths and maximizing synergies within our in-house discovery pipeline and external assets, we will secure sustainable R&D productivity that leads to innovative medicines for patients in need," he added. Going forward, researchers will build on the company's established expertise in the underlying biology of its therapeutic focus areas of oncology, neurology and immunology and will leverage its capabilities in such fields as antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) technology.

University of Bern
 Faculty of Science



Tenure Track Assistant Professor in Inorganic Materials Chemistry 100 %

Start date of employment: December 1, 2023

The Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Bern, Switzerland, is looking to hire a Tenure Track Assistant Professor in Inorganic Materials Chemistry.

Your profile

We are seeking candidates with a competitive research program in experimental inorganic chemistry with a strong focus on materials. Possible research topics include (but are by no means limited to): metal organic frameworks, heterogeneous catalysis, f-block systems, molecular surface functionalization. Alignment of the research with the strategic goals of the University of Bern (in particular sustainability) is important. Teaching assignments in case of tenure will comprise basic and advanced inorganic chemistry including laboratory courses for students of chemistry, biochemistry, and other disciplines within the Faculty of Science.

The University of Bern has set the aim of increasing the percentage of women in leading academic positions and thus strongly encourages female scientists to apply for the position. The University of Bern values diversity and is committed to equal opportunities; applications are welcome from all suitably qualified candidates who meet the stated criteria.

Your application

Interested candidates should send their motivation letter, Curriculum Vitae, list of publications and past achievements indicating their 5 most relevant publications, synopsis of their past, current and planned re-search (max. 5 pages) as a single PDF file to the Dean's Office, email: applications@natdek.unibe.ch, and submit the completed online questionnaire, link to be found at <http://www.dcbp.unibe.ch/jobs>.

Deadline for applications is **March 26, 2023**.

Contact

Informal inquiries can be addressed to:
 Prof. Dr. Eva Hevia, phone +41 31 684 42 41,
 email: eva.hevia@unibe.ch

The University of Bern has signed the DORA Declaration and has been implementing it since 2016.



www.dcbp.unibe.ch/jobs

Hitting cancer at its core

Merck's oncology R&D strategy centers on its capabilities in cancer DNA, in particular key types, such as head and neck, urothelial and colorectal carcinomas. The pipeline, the research chief explained, is focused on synergistic approaches targeting key pathways involved in cancer cell survival, deploying mechanisms to "hit cancer at its core." Here, the company's approaches include delivering tumor DNA-damaging payloads directly to the cancer by utilizing the ADC technology, as well as preventing cancer cells from repairing DNA damage, through inhibition of the DNA damage response (DDR). Lead asset in the oncology pipeline is xevinapant, an investigational oral small molecule inhibitor of apoptosis protein (IAP) that was licensed from Swiss biopharma Debiopharm in March 2021 and according to Zohar builds on Merck's heritage and expertise. This is being evaluated as a treatment for locally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck, an area that has not seen significant advances in treatment in the past 20 years. The Darmstadt-based company's portfolio of selective and potent DDR inhibitors also includes several agents under development that directly inhibit DDR pathways required for cancer cell survival and are said to "tip the therapeutic balance" in difficult-to-treat cancers. Earlier this year, M9140, the first ADC developed using Merck's own technology, advanced into human trials. The ongoing Phase Ia study is assessing the substance in patients with colorectal cancer.

MS portfolio is expanding

In neurology and immunology, Merck aims to expand its multiple sclerosis (MS) portfolio with evobrutinib, an investigational, oral, CNS-penetrating, highly selective inhibitor of Bruton's tyrosine kinase (BTK) that it believes has the potential to become a best-in-class treatment option for relapsing multiple sclerosis (RMS).

The company also is seeking to expand in neurology by evaluating the potential of oral cladribine, a leukemia treatment, in neurological diseases such as generalized myasthenia gravis, where inflammation is a primary driver.

Immunology drugs for unmet needs

To diversify the pipeline with immunology and accelerate R&D, Merck is focusing on targets with "proven biology via novel modalities" and is currently conducting a Phase 2 study of the TLR7/8 inhibitor enpatoran in cutaneous and systemic lupus erythematosus. Additionally, the firm's researchers are initiating a proof-of-concept study with enpatoran in neuromuscular conditions dermatomyositis and polymyositis. Both conditions are seen as having a high unmet medical need.

Poland's Energy Group, Hynfra Partner on Green Hydrogen

November 29, 2022: Polish companies Energy Group and Hynfra have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to develop a project that would produce green hydrogen, green ammonia and methanol. The companies estimate the cost of the project to be more than €22 billion. "By combining our experience in renewable energy sources (RES) with the competences of Hynfra, a key player in the Polish hydrogen market, we have the ambition to become the leading producer of hydrogen in our region," said Marian Glita, managing director of Energy Group. Under the terms of the LoI, Energy Group will be responsible for acquiring a site and developing and preparing the renewable energy installations, while Hynfra will integrate the technology and implement the infrastructure for distributing the hydrogen, ammonia and methanol. In July this year, Hynfra signed an agreement with Swiss trading house and fertilizer producer Ameropa to develop and market renewable ammonia and methanol projects. Ameropa said the

cooperation "marks a milestone in its path to decarbonization." Hynfra said it is keen to engage with Ameropa as a potential partner to build a distribution network with global reach through long-term offtake and marketing agreements, harnessing the Swiss group's expertise in the logistics and marketing of fertilizer products.

Healiva's Cell Bank Purchase to Expedite EpiDex Launch

November 29, 2022: In a move that will advance the launch of its first cell therapy product EpiDex, Swiss biotech Healiva has acquired a qualified cell bank from B. Braun Medical, a Swiss subsidiary of the German medical and pharmaceutical device company, B. Braun. Purchased in June from Smith+Nephew, EpiDex is an autologous epidermal equivalent that provides a surgery-free approach to healing chronic venous leg ulcers (VLU) and disabling diabetic foot ulcers (DFUs). Healiva, founded in November 2020 by Priyanka Dutta-Passecker and Dutch ingredients company Bioseutica, said the cell bank, which passes the regulatory requirements for Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products, is essential for the GMP-compliant manufacturing of EpiDex, which has previously been approved for the Swiss market. "This transaction will enable Healiva to accelerate the launch of EpiDex, which is projected for Q4 2023," said Dutta-Passecker, the company's co-founder and CEO. "This will allow us to deliver our clinically proven, surgery-free, solution to patients with severe chronic wounds more promptly, shortening the path to market for EpiDex by approximately one year." The existing standard treatment for VLU and DFUs requires multiple procedures with lengthy recovery times. In severe chronic cases, surgery is required. According to Healiva, less than 50% of these wounds will heal after surgery and those that do not heal will continue to worsen, potentially leading to amputation or, in severe cases, death. Eric Rolland, Healiva's scientific lead and advisor, explains that to produce EpiDex, progenitor keratinocyte cells from a patient's hair are cultured in the presence of fibroblast feeder cells, generating small discs of autologous epidermis. These discs are then applied to the wound, where they promote the skin's growth and healing, an approach that the Lugano-based biotech said is more cost-effective than surgery and significantly preferred by patients. Once launched in Switzerland, Healiva will then introduce the skin-healing product in Germany and other countries across Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Clariant Books Impairment Charge on Sunliquid Plant

December 14, 2022: Specialty chemicals producer Clariant is taking an impairment charge of around 225 million Swiss francs on its sun-liquid branded bioethanol plant that started up at Podari, Romania, in the second quarter. In an ad-hoc announcement, the Basel-based group said the plant has not yet achieved the targeted yields and other operational parameters on an industrial scale. As result of this, management believes the charge is appropriate. Due to the "unique value" of the sunliquid technology that converts agricultural waste into second-generation bioethanol, Clariant plans to continue its commercialization, though CEO Conrad Keijzer conceded that its viability "remains challenging." The impairment, which has no impact on cash, will be booked in December 2022 and will be reflected in the full year 2022 results, due to be released on March 2, 2023. While disappointed by the plant issue, Keijzer said management is pleased with the group's strong financial performance in the first three quarters of 2022 and said the chemical producer will continue to focus on the execution of its "leading purpose-driven sustainability strategy." The cellulosic ethanol produced at Podari can be applied as a drop-in solution for fuel blending and also offers further downstream application opportunities for sustainable aviation fuel and bio-based chem-

icals, Clariant says. The proprietary technology features a fully integrated process design built on an established fundament that includes chemical-free pre-treatment, the integrated production of feedstock- and process-specific enzymes and simultaneous C5 and C6 sugar fermentation.

Sulzer Chemtech and VTT Finland Partner on PS Recycling

December 15, 2022: Swiss industrial engineering firm Sulzer Chemtech is collaborating with the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland to commercialize recycling solutions for polystyrene. The companies have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to advance the development of a fully integrated processing train that converts poorly recycled waste PS into high-purity styrene suitable to produce various grades of styrenic polymers, including food-related applications with stringent, low volatile organic compound (VOC) requirements. The system will be based on VTT's patented pyrolysis-based depolymerization process and Sulzer Chemtech's SuRe styrene purification technology. Sulzer Chemtech will act as the main licensor and provide services such as basic engineering, supply of key equipment and skid-mounted modular units. Patrick Farquet, head of renewables and bio-based applications at Sulzer Chemtech, said the technology will get the industry a step closer to making PS a fully circular product. PS manufacturers and recyclers will benefit in the near future from a complete setup to increase the range of feedstock material supported by their plants, ultimately enabling them to improve their sustainability and product quality, the partners said.

Clariant Expands Care Chemicals in China

December 16, 2022: Specialty chemicals producer Clariant said it will invest 80 million Swiss francs to increase output of existing products in the portfolio it manufactures at Daya Bay, Huizhou, China, as well as introducing new products there by the end of 2024. Clariant said its future plans see making the site into a new global hub for its healthcare business, thereby speeding up the supply of high-quality ingredients for life-changing medicines and supporting pharmaceutical, personal care, home care, and industrial application customers. In a major milestone, after successfully obtaining the drug GMP certificate, the Muttenz-based company said its Chinese site has become the country's first API manufacturer of advanced pharmaceutical ingredients with certified polyethylene glycol Polyglykol (PEG) 3350. The successful production and registration of the pharmaceutical grade PEGs are examples of Clariant's determination to grow its strategic business segment and support its customers, said Zhigang Miao, head of industrial applications in the Care Chemicals business. Clariant is also looking to expand existing production capacity for its ethylene oxide derivatives (EODs) and broaden its chemical portfolio at Daya Bay. Here it said it wants to accelerate production of more sustainable ingredients that can help customers advance their environmental targets and create differentiated, more sustainable solutions to meet sector demands. As one example, Clariant said its EcoTain-branded mild, plant-based surfactant Hostapon supports personal care brands and formulators in developing milder, cleaner beauty in applications such as solid beauty bars, body washes and cream-type shampoos. With the new projects, Christian Vang, Head of Care Chemicals, said Clariant will advance this location to an integrated Multi-Purpose Plant / Ethylene Oxide Derivatives site, with good proximity to key manufacturing locations. The markets the Swiss company serves from Daya Bay are evolving to reflect changing sustainability targets and end-product performance needs, Vang said, and "we want to bring our own innovation and expertise closer to these customers to help drive their developments forward." In October, Clariant said it would add a second production line for halogen-free flame retardants

at the additives plant it is currently building at Daya Bay. The first line is due to open mid-2023, the second some time in 2024.

Jobs to Go at Novartis US Headquarters

December 22, 2022: As part of plans, announced in dribbles, to carve 8,000 jobs out of its global workforce to save \$1 billion, Swiss drugs giant Novartis is eliminating 285 staff positions across its headquarters sites in the US state of New Jersey. Layoffs from the staff of Novartis Services, Novartis Pharmaceuticals and Novartis Corporation in East Hanover will take effect from Jan. 29 according to a local Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act notice. Affected divisions include the company's former Pharmaceuticals and Oncology divisions, certain functions of Global Drug Development and business units that were part of Customer Technology. Additionally, employees in communications, compliance, finance, legal and other units are due to face the axe, as outlined in Novartis' April 2022 announcement that it planned to merge its pharmaceuticals and oncology businesses into a new unit called Innovative Medicines (IM) and at the same time create separate US and International commercial organizations. The Swiss drugmaker said it would support staff faced with layoffs with help to include finding new jobs and obtaining career counseling or new positions.

Five ophthalmic drugs to be sold to Harrow

In other US news, Novartis has agreed to sell the rights to five ophthalmic drugs (four of them spray) to US pharma Harrow for \$130 million upfront, with \$45 million to be paid out if one of them is a market hit. The five FDA-approved products are Ilevro and Nevanac to relieve eye inflammation in after cataract surgery, Vigamox to treat bacterial conjunctivitis, Maxidex, a steroid eye drop for inflammation and Triesence, an injection for treatment of certain ophthalmic diseases.

Novartis to Pay \$245 Million in 'Pay for Delay' Settlement

January 5, 2023: Novartis has agreed to pay a total of \$245 million to settle lawsuits filed by direct purchasers, indirect purchasers and retailers accusing it of colluding with Par Pharmaceutical to delay the launch of a generic version of its Exforge (valsartan/amlodipine) hypertension drug. If approved by a federal judge in the US state of New York, the settlement will "resolve all outstanding claims" from the three groups of plaintiffs in the Exforge case, the Swiss drugmaker said. According to reports, the out-of-court settlements with US drug retailers such as pharmacy chains CVS and Walgreens don't require approval and terms won't be disclosed. The lawsuits filed in 2018 center on what the plaintiffs asserted was a "classic pay to delay deal" sealed by Novartis and Par in 2011 in which the Endo subsidiary agreed not to launch a generic version of Exforge until September 2014, more than two years after the Novartis patent was due to expire. In exchange, the Basel-based pharma pledged that its subsidiary Sandoz would not launch a generic version of Exforge during the 180-day period of exclusivity the FDA would grant the Par version as the first producer of a generic. The plaintiffs argued that due to the delay of a generic copy they paid more than they should have for both the branded drug and its delayed copy. Moreover, the agreement violated federal antitrust laws. Novartis denied the allegations and under the terms of the settlement with the direct purchasers did not admit any wrongdoing. Novartis said ending the lawsuits will allow it to focus on its current business. According to court documents cited by the Reuters news agency, annual sales of Exforge in the US topped \$400 million before generic versions hit the market.

Arkema Completes Divestment of Febex

January 6, 2023: Arkema has finalized the divestment of Febex, a company specialized in phosphorus-based chemistry, as a fur-

ther step in what it calls its "dynamic portfolio management strategy." Buyer is Belgian group Prayon; the acquisition price was not disclosed. Febex is a global player in phosphorus derivatives (high purity phosphoric acid, sodium hypophosphite and derivatives), used primarily in electronics and in the pharmaceuticals industry. However, the French specialty chemicals producer said the business had "little integration" with its other activities. Part of Arkema's Performance Additives business line, Febex reported sales of around €30 million in 2021, with 59 employees and one production site, at Bex in French-speaking Switzerland. With the purchase, Prayon said it will strengthen its position in phosphorus chemistry and enter the electronics market, which it says offers strong growth potential in Europe and the US. The buy will also allow it to enter the pharmaceutical sector, gain access to the polyphosphoric acid market and broaden its range of industrial solutions downstream of purified phosphoric acid products.

Germany Opens Second LNG Import Terminal

January 17, 2023: Germany inaugurated its second liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal on Jan. 14 in the Baltic sea-coast town of Lubmin, in the presence of chancellor Olaf Scholz and Manuela Schwesig, prime minister of the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The inauguration took place less than a month after the start-up of Germany's first LNG terminal at Wilhelmshaven on the North Sea. Several more terminals are expected to go online in the coming months, including a second at Lubmin. As the shallow water port cannot handle large LNG tankers, the gas will be transferred to smaller shuttle ships before being fed into the terminal, regasified and supplied to the grid. Ingo Wagner, CEO of ReGas, said at the opening ceremony that gas from Lubmin will primarily supply the eastern German market. French energy and petrochemicals producer TotalEnergies as well as Swiss energy trader MET Group have booked capacity at the facility operated by Deutsche ReGas. Total said it has contracted capacity of 2.6 billion cbm/y for regasification. In December, the Paris-based company delivered a floating storage and regasification vessel with annual capacity of 5 billion cbm — enough to cover about 5% of German demand — and plans to steadily provide LNG from its global portfolio toward becoming one of the main suppliers. Since the beginning of the latest energy crisis, Total said it has mobilized its LNG portfolio to send available LNG to Europe and to use its 18 million t/y regasification capacity. With the start-up at Lubmin, the energy giant said it will increase its deliveries to over 20 million t/y, or about 15% of Europe's annual regasification capacity. With interests in liquefaction plants in all geographies and an integrated supply chain that includes production and transportation as well as regasification, TotalEnergies regards itself as the world's third largest LNG player with a market share of around 10% and a global portfolio of about 40 million t/y. The company said its ambition is to increase the share of natural gas in its sales mix to 50% by 2030, to reduce carbon emissions and eliminate methane emissions associated with the gas value chain, and to work with local partners to promote the transition from coal to natural gas.



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