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Community News

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SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

DIAC Article in the Nachrichten der Chemie (NdCh): For transfer and collaboration



In the April issue of the “Nachrichten aus der Chemie”, the member journal of the German Chemical Society (GDCh), the SCS Division of Industrial and Applied Chemistry published an article highlighting the vivid and close-knit interactions between academia and industry in Switzerland, and the role

DIAC is playing to promote sustainable industrial chemistry and chemical process technology to benefit society and environment. Towards that end, the article, authored by Stefan Abele, continues to describe the programs, awards, and scientific outreach initiatives established by the DIAC in the past decade. It also provides for a succinct overview of similar activities of our sister chemical societies in France, Germany, and Italy. We hope to trigger discussions and exchange with communities in other countries pursuing common goals.

The article is accessible for free via the NdCh-App.

Source: <https://gdch.app/nachrichten-aus-der-chemie/2024-04>

SCS MatChem PhD Student Award: Call for nominations



The Division of Materials Chemistry of the SCS calls for nominations for the 2024 MatChem PhD Student Award.

Goal of the award is featuring rising stars in the fields of Materials Chemistry. PhD having defended their thesis in the area of Materials Chemistry within Switzerland between January 2023 and end of May 2024 are eligible. Candidates

are nominated by the PhD advisor. The dossier must include a nomination letter from the PhD advisor, the CV of the candidate, the best first author paper of the thesis and a seconding nomination letter by an external expert.

Nominations must be submitted to matchem@scg.ch by June 1, 2024.

The two winners as well as all candidates that could not be considered are informed on a personal basis after the evaluation committee meeting (mail and/or letter from the MatChem president). The winners get a certificate and a prize money of CHF 1'000 each and are invited to present a short talk within the MatChem session of the SCS Fall Meeting in Fribourg on September 5, 2024. The two prizes are sponsored by SIKA and VIGOR respectively.

More information: <https://scg.ch/matchem>

Ružička-Prize 2024: call for nominations



The Ružička Prize, named after the ETH professor and Nobel laureate Leopold Ružička, is considered one of the most important awards for the promotion of young scientists in the field of chemistry in Switzerland. The Ružička-Prize is intended for a young researcher (age limit 40 years) who has published an outstanding paper in the field of chemistry.

In order to be considered for the prize, the work must have been carried out either in Switzerland or by a Swiss national abroad.

Proposals for the outstanding researcher award should be sent by e-mail to ccoperet@inorg.chem.ethz.ch and manuela.caprani@chem.ethz.ch or ETH Zürich, D-CHAB, Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences at the latest until September 16, 2024.

The heads of chemical divisions, departments or industries are requested to draw attention to the Ružička-Prize 2024 in an appropriate manner.

More information: <https://chab.ethz.ch>

EFMC announces the 2nd EFMC-WuXi AppTec Award for Excellence in Chemical Biology



The “EFMC-WuXi AppTec Award for Excellence in Chemical Biology” will recognise outstanding research in the field of chemical biology as defined by EFMC in “The Chemical Biology-Medicinal Chemistry Continuum: EFMC’s Vision”, ChemBioChem 2021, 22, 2823–2825.

The Award is given biennially and consists of a diploma, € 7,500 and an invitation to present a lecture on the occasion of the European Federation for Medicinal chemistry and Chemical biology International Symposium on Chemical Biology (EFMC-ISCB).

The EFMC-ISCB 2025 will be held in Basel, Switzerland on January 29-31, 2025. The Award has been established with the support of WuXi AppTec.

Applicants should have a track record of significant research achievements in chemical biology during the last 10 years in terms of originality and significance of their research contributions. The Award shall be open to any scientist whose age does not exceed 50 years on January 1st of the year during which the Award is to be presented, and whose accomplishment has not yet been honoured by other EFMC awards. In accordance with the EFMC core values of equal opportunities and inclusiveness; Maternity leaves, as well as leaves taken for health or private reasons are considered upon making the final selection.

Deadline for submission is June 30, 2024. The Awardee will be announced in the course of September 2024.

More information: <https://www.efmc.info>

The IUPAC Fair Chemistry Cookbook



The IUPAC FAIR Chemistry Cookbook is a new living resource developed to enable the chemical sciences community to move toward sharing and reusing data, code, metadata, etc. that are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR).

Chemistry underlies both living and materials systems and chemical data are at the heart of data driven discovery and innovation across the health and environmental science sectors and in many applied engineering fields. Chemical data and analysis tools are increasingly available online and researchers and practitioners alike are increasingly involved in new ways to analyze, visualize, mine, and integrate data and information. As a result, the Cookbook content is designed to train, encourage, and enable chemistry researchers and data professionals to help support practices, workflows and data that are more FAIR.

More information: <https://iupac.org>

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



Period: 26.03.2024–29.04.2024

Yasien Amer, Bern - Luca Bertossi, Fribourg - Emilie Buchs, Gumefens - Jamie Cahill, Chailly-Montreux - Damien Chen, Lausanne - Sylvaine Cren, Basel - Felix de Zwart, Zurich - Vincent Freiburghaus, Zurich - Jörg Heider, Münchwilen AG - Rémy Mariaux, Pratzde-Fort - Josephine Meibom, Lausanne -

Aliyar Mousavi, Nashua, New Hampshire (US) - Dominik Roth, Altendorf - Mia Elisa Scheidegger, Bern - Xenia Schleis, Zurich - Xuechen Tang, Innsbruck (AT) - Andrea Vezzosi, Lausanne - Angeliki Vgenopoulou, Saarbrücken (DE) - Xuejian Wang, Dübendorf - Umay Yildirim, Zurich - Valérian Zeender, Zurich - Nicolas Zeidan, Basel - Heng Zhao, Fribourg.

HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

Prix Schläfli 2024 in Chemistry awarded to Dr. Julia Reisenbauer, ETH Zurich



Dr. Julia Reisenbauer, ETH Zurich, received the Prix Schläfli 2024 in Chemistry for her contribution to “skeletal editing”. This involves targeted rebuilding of molecules so they can perform specific functions. In her dissertation at ETH, Reisenbauer has quite literally penetrated to the heart of molecules: “skeletal editing” involves modifying the molecular skeleton.

As a doctoral student, she performed this process on indoles. Indoles occur very frequently in nature and also in the human body – for example, in the side chain of tryptophan, a naturally occurring amino acid. They form the basis for many pharmaceutical and industrial applications. Reisenbauer has succeeded in extending the five-membered ring with an additional nitrogen atom. The new method could enable active ingredients to be tested and found much faster in the future, because the protracted *de novo* synthesis can be bypassed and new classes of molecules can be created directly in just a few synthesis steps.

“The feedback I already received from numerous pharmaceutical companies suggests that this powerful and easy-to-handle reaction is helping medicinal chemists to diversify their molecular libraries and ultimately rationalise the discovery of new therapeutics,” writes Reisenbauer’s supervisor Prof. Bill Morandi.

Source: <https://scnat.ch>

JOURNAL NEWS

Helvetica, Volume 107, Issue 4, April 2024



Synthetic Procedures

Evolution of the Manufacturing Route towards a Key Benzothiophen-2-yl-Boronic Acid Building Block of *Rogaratinib*

Jörg Gries, Johannes Platzek, Holger Paulsent

Research Articles

N-Methyl-*N*-Alkylaminocyclopentanes: Powerful and Selective β -D-Glucocerebrosidase Inhibitors

Patrick Weber, Roland Fischer, Seyed A. Nasseri, Bettina M. Pabst, Herwig Prasch, Arnold E. Stütz, Martin Thonhofer, Stephen G. Withers, Werner Windischhofer, Tanja M. Wrodnigg

New Selective Inhibitors of α -Glucosidase for the Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

Takwa Khanchouch, Aurélie Vallin, Urjwan Alali, Mohammed Benazza, Rym Abidi, Véronique Bonnet

Synthesis and Quantitative Analysis of Glycans Conjugated to Gold Nanoparticles

Kuo-Shiang Liao, Chih-Chuan Kung, Li-Chun Cheng, Cinya Chung, Chi-Huey Wong

Revealing the Indispensable Role of the RFamide Functionality using a Novel Acid Labile Benzofuranone based Amine (ALBA) Linker

Gemma Mudd, Megan Hendrikse, Steven Shave, Douglas R Houston, Robert P Millar, Manfred Auer

Design and Synthesis of Dialkylarylphosphine Urea Ligands and their Application in Palladium-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling Reactions

Lupita S. Aguirre, Levi T. Litwiller, Alexis N. Lugo, Andy A. Thomas

Manganese-Mediated Synthesis of NHC-Phosphine Ligand Precursors

Jérémy Willot, Sana Fatima, Carine Duhayon, Noël Lugan, Yves Canac, Dmitry A. Valyaev

Organocatalytic Enantioselective Synthesis of Chiral Spiro-indoline-pyrazolones through a formal [4+1] Annulation Reaction of 4-Bromopyrazolones and aza-*ortho*-Quinone Methides

Laura Carceller-Ferrer, Carlos Rodríguez-Arias, Marc Montesinos-Magraner, Amparo Sanz-Marco, Judit Hostalet-Romero, Gonzalo Blay, José R. Pedro, Carlos Vila

Website: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15222675>

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: www.chemanager-online.com

Wolfgang Wienand to Join Lonza as New CEO

April 2, 2024: Lonza has appointed Wolfgang Wienand as its new CEO. He will join the company during the summer of 2024 and succeed Albert M. Baehny, who took on the additional responsibility of interim CEO in October 2023 while the search for a permanent CEO took place. Baehny will remain at Lonza for a transition period during the summer, before retiring from the company. Wienand is currently CEO of the Swiss contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) Siegfried, a role he has held since 2019. Prior to this, he first served as chief scientific officer and then as chief strategy officer in Siegfried's executive leadership team. Before joining Siegfried in 2010, Wienand held a series of positions at the German specialty chemicals company Evonik.

Archroma to Expand Operations in South Carolina

April 3, 2024: Swiss specialty chemicals producer Archroma announced plans to expand its US operations in Martin, South Carolina. The expansion will include a \$750,000 investment in the facility and equipment at the Allendale County plant and six new jobs, with additional growth anticipated, the company said. Russell Gibson, vice president of Archroma's Global Operations and SC Excellence said: "Allendale County not only provides the perfect location for reaching our customers and markets, but also has a proven workforce with the capabilities we need to produce the quality products for which Archroma is renowned." Sameer Singla, Archroma divisional president and CEO of PP&C, and president Americas and EMEA added: "We take great pride in our longstanding presence in Allendale County, spanning over 45 years. Our commitment to this community runs deep, and we cherish the steadfast support we've received from its people these past five decades." Specializing in the production of dyes, chemicals, and optical brightening agents, Archroma's Allendale County facility serves a diverse range of markets including textiles, packaging and paper, as well as coatings, adhesives, and sealants.

Sika Acquires Concrete Refurbishment Company in the US

April 3, 2024: Swiss construction chemicals major Sika has acquired Kwik Bond Polymers (KBP), a US-based manufacturer of polymer systems for the refurbishment of concrete infrastructure. Financial details of the transaction were not disclosed. KBP has production facilities at its headquarters in Benicia, California, and additional production and warehousing near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Its portfolio includes polymer technologies for long-lasting protection of bridge decks and other concrete infrastructure applications. According to Sika, KBP's solutions contribute to an overall carbon footprint reduction in the construction industry by increasing the lifespan of construction projects. Infrastructure in the USA is facing unprecedented challenges due to lack of maintenance and under-investment over many years, Sika commented in a statement. In 2022, a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill was approved that will support decade-long funding for critical infrastructure upgrades. Mike Champion, Sika's regional manager Americas, said: "Kwik Bond is a perfect complement to Sika's current infrastructure focus and product portfolio. By preserving and extending the service-life of our concrete infrastructure, we deliver outstanding customer value and significant sustainability benefits to the construction industry."

Roquette Invests in Danish Start-up Biograil

April 9, 2024: Roquette, a French multinational supplier of pharmaceutical and nutraceutical excipients, announced an investment by its venture capital arm Roquette Ventures in Danish start-up Biograil. Copenhagen-based Biograil is developing a proprietary oral device called BIONDD for delivering biologics that would typically require injection. This advancement, Roquette said, is set to transform patient care by offering a less invasive and more accessible treatment method. Biograil's BIONDD device is contained in a standard size capsule able to deliver active therapeutics into the gastrointestinal wall to be effectively distributed in the human body. With this investment, Roquette Ventures joined a consortium that also includes Megatrend Invest (Denmark), Verve Investment (Switzerland), High-Tech Gründerfonds (Germany), Sanner Ventures (Germany), Evonik Venture Capital (Germany) and Eli Lilly (US). Roquette Ventures said it believes that this investment fits perfectly with its investment philosophy, which focuses on promoting solutions to improve health and sustainability. Furthermore, the Roquette group can contribute its expertise in pharmaceutical excipients, enhancing Biograil's efforts to advance their platform technology.

Kühne Holding Acquires Aenova from BC Partners

April 24, 2024: Kühne Holding has agreed to purchase Aenova Group, a pharma contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO), from BC Partners. BC will reinvest and retain a minority stake in Aenova. The financial terms remain undisclosed. Aenova Group, a global CDMO headquartered in Starnberg, provides comprehensive services for the development, manufacturing, and packaging of drug products. With 4,000 employees across 14 sites, it has grown into one of the world's top ten CDMOs under BC Partners' ownership and CEO Jan Kengelbach's leadership. In 2023, Aenova achieved record pro-forma revenue of € 832m, up 17% from the previous year. Dominik de Daniel, CEO at Kühne Holding, commented, "With this investment, we are taking an important strategic step to enlarge our investment portfolio to include healthcare and pharmaceutical assets with a strong financial base and long-term growth prospects. Aenova Members of the Aenova Group C.P.M. - CPR - Dragenopharm - Haupt Pharma - Swiss Caps - SwissCo - Temmler is on a great performance track, and we are excited to accelerate it even further under our ownership." BC Partners' Chairman, Raymond Svider, added, "We're pleased to see such an important German healthcare business continue its growth trajectory under the strategic ownership of Kühne Holding AG. As a firm, we have a long and successful history of partnering with families and founders across Europe, and we look forward to working closely with Kühne Holding and Aenova in this next chapter for the business." Jan Kengelbach, CEO at Aenova, said, "With the new ownership structure, we will continue to implement our strategy of making Aenova the go-to CDMO with market-leading capabilities and innovative specialty technologies in Europe. With its long-term investment horizon, Kühne Holding is a perfect fit for the business to support this strategy. It allows us to continue down the path of operational excellence in the conventional manufacturing business, while building highly sought-after technology platforms and development services to satisfy the customer demand of the future."