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SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Opportunities on the CHIMIA Editorial Board

Gillian Harvey* and Catherine E. Housecroft

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Abstract: CHIMIA is published by the Swiss Chemical Society and produced by the members of the Editorial Board (EB). Two members, the Chairperson and the Editor-in-Chief, will be leaving the EB in the near future. Here we present the main tasks of the two roles to illustrate the opportunities presented by these tasks.

CHIMIA is published by the Swiss Chemical Society (SCS) as one of its central tasks. It has been a platinum (diamond) open access journal since 2020.

The SCS Board of Directors (BoD) appoints the Editorial Board (EB) that deals with all publishing activities. The Editorial Board consists of the Chairperson, the Editor-in-Chief, a Web Editor and at least three more members with complementary subject-specific skills. The members of the EB work on a voluntary basis and the Chairperson, the Editor-in-Chief, and the Web Editor receive an honorarium. The Technical Editor and an external proofreader are employed for all production tasks. The SCS Head Office supports the Editorial Board in many tasks.

The current EB is well-established with several long-term members who jointly have a lot of experience in publishing this journal. However, the time has come for two of the members, the Chairperson and the Editor-in-Chief, to leave the EB and here we would like to give an overview of the tasks of these two roles and invite applications from anyone interested in guiding a society journal into the future.

Editor-in-Chief

The current Editor-in-Chief, Catherine E. Housecroft, joined CHIMIA with a great deal of experience in journal editorial work. She has been instrumental in producing many interesting special topic issues for CHIMIA with particular relevance to the Swiss chemistry community.

The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for planning the special topic issues on an annual basis, inviting and supporting Guest Editors and ensuring the scientific quality of the articles. He/she has the final say in whether to accept a submission. The Editor-in-Chief is also directly responsible for the two issues a year that present the work of the SCS junior and major prizewinners.

The remaining eight issues are organized and supervised by invited Guest Editors. Guest Editors also organize the peer review process.

An editorial program for the coming year is prepared by September of the previous year. This comprises a full list of topics and the Guest Editors who have committed to their respective issue. The topics are proposed and selected by the Editor-in-Chief according to his/her interests and discretion and also to reflect current interest in the chemical sciences in Switzerland – see re-

cent issues on sustainable development, AI and machine learning, academic/industrial collaborations, atmospheric chemistry and material sciences (the latter two issues are upcoming). The topics are discussed at the EB meetings with input from all EB members. The SCS Divisions are also committed to supply an issue topic and guest editor every one to two years.

The Editor-in-Chief sets up schedules for the guest editors, including intermediate and final deadlines. He/she, together with the Technical Editor, guides the guest editors through the submission and review processes on the OJS system (chimia.ch) and provides help and advice where required. The chimia.ch website, based on the Open Journal Systems (OJS), is used for all CHIMIA tasks from submission to online publication. Once an article is cleared for publication, the Technical Editor takes over the production process. The Editor-in-Chief also handles a small number of spontaneous submissions of manuscripts to CHIMIA which may be considered as Notes to the journal.

Catherine's last year as Editor-in-Chief is 2026 and ideally her replacement would start work during that year to benefit from her experience and knowledge.

The role of Editor-in-Chief would be ideal for someone with good connections throughout the Swiss chemistry community (both academic and industrial), and an interest in open access publishing, and a commitment to supporting CHIMIA and the Swiss Chemical Society in the production of a good-quality society journal.

Chairperson

The Chairperson of the CHIMIA Editorial Board has a range of administrative duties and is involved in the strategic development of the journal.

The Chairperson schedules the EB meetings (3 p.a.) together with the other EB members; he/she calls for agenda items between the meetings, writes the agenda, and chairs the EB meetings.

When a current member of the EB expresses the intention to leave, the Chairperson searches for possible replacement candidates together with the member who is leaving, the other EB members and the SCS.

The Chairperson is an *ex officio* member of the SCS Board of Directors and Executive Board where he/she represents the interests of CHIMIA on the Boards and is also involved in all other Board business. The annual budget, once agreed with the other EB members, is presented to the SCS BoD for approval. Exceptional expenditure or proposals are also brought before the SCS BoD for approval. He/she maintains close contact with SCS Head Office with respect to the running of the journal, finances, and other aspects such as future developments.

Further administrative tasks include the preparation of an editorial programme for each issue, checking the monthly invoices from FO-Druck, our print partner, for correctness, and checking the quarterly invoices from CrossRef (digital object identifiers (doi), similarity searches, membership fees).

In addition to these administrative duties, the Chairperson is involved in the strategic development of CHIMIA. The most significant and far-reaching recent change to the journal was the decision to flip CHIMIA to a platinum open access system. This

means that neither the author nor the reader is required to pay any fees to access the journal. Platinum (or diamond) OA is gaining in acceptance in academic publishing as a viable alternative to the gold OA system provided by commercial publishers. Although this decision was unquestionably the right one for CHIMIA, it did result in an increased financial burden for the SCS since subscribers were lost. It is hoped that the Swiss National Foundation and swissuniversities will back up their expressed support for diamond OA in the near future by providing funding.

The Chairperson is involved in the OA discussions currently ongoing in Switzerland and Europe and ensures that CHIMIA is recognised and acknowledged as a well-run diamond OA journal that has a great deal to contribute to the Swiss publishing ecosystem.

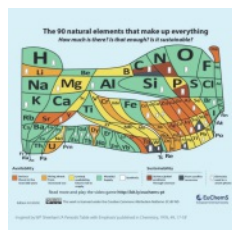
Many other strategic considerations such as alternative forms of funding, print/no print, wider recognition, *etc.* also form part of the Chairperson's portfolio.

The current Chairperson, Gillian Harvey, will be leaving at the end of 2025. Her replacement would ideally join the EB during 2025 to gain from Gillian's many years of experience working for CHIMIA.

The role of Chairperson of the CHIMIA Editorial Board would be ideal for someone interested in the day-to-day running of a scientific journal and in particular to someone keen to guide and influence the future of the Swiss Chemical Society journal.

If you are interested in either of these two important roles and would like to know more, please contact Gillian Harvey (harvey@scg.ch) the current Chairperson of the EB or Catherine Housecroft (catherine.housecroft@unibas.ch) the current Editor-in-Chief. We look forward to hearing from you!

Updated EuChemS Table of Chemical Elements



As a contribution to the celebrations of the International Year of the Periodic Table in 2019, EuChemS introduced a new version of the Periodic Table highlighting availability (area occupied by each element) and lifetime (colour). Also highlighted were the elements in smart phones and elements that can come from areas where wars are fought over the mines or the proceeds from the mines are used to fund wars – so-called conflict minerals.

In 2024, they have released an updated version of the table v2.0 (2023), which still highlights these important concepts, but also emphasizes issues concerning sustainability.

These changes follow up on the EuChemS scientific workshops on carbon (2021), lithium (2021) nitrogen (2022) and phosphorus (2023). A new color (deep red) has been introduced for nitrogen, phosphorus and carbon. This color highlights the overturning of the biogeochemical cycles of these elements, which is severely affecting the biosphere. The massive release of CO₂ into the atmosphere as a result of fossil fuel burning – as well as of nitrogen and phosphorus into the soil and water bodies – has already largely overtaken the so-called planetary boundaries. The red color, previously inserted for carbon, has been removed because the global pledge of transitioning away from fossil fuels within 2050, signed at the COP 28 in Dubai, certifies that, time-wise, the problem with fossil fuels is no longer their availability.

For the sake of clarity, the legend now contains two groups of colors, related to availability and sustainability. Moreover, the icon depicted in elements making up smartphones has been made more evident. More information: <https://euchems.eu>

IUPAC Calls for Nominations for Three Awards



2025 IUPAC Awards in Analytical Chemistry – Call for Nominations

The Analytical Chemistry Division of IUPAC is inviting nominations for two awards, including:

- The IUPAC Emerging Innovator Award in Analytical Chemistry – an award to recognize outstanding work undertaken by an emerging analytical

scientist that corresponds to the aims of the Analytical Chemistry Division.

- The IUPAC Analytical Chemistry Medal – an award to recognize significant lifetime contribution to the aims of the Analytical Chemistry Division.

The awards are open worldwide to researchers working in the field of analytical chemistry. Application deadline an 31 December 2024.

Distinguished Women in Chemistry/Chemical Engineering Award – Call for Nominations

IUPAC is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the 2025 Distinguished Women in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering Awards. Awardees will be selected based on excellence in basic or applied research, distinguished accomplishments in teaching or education, or demonstrated leadership or managerial excellence in the chemical sciences. The Awards Committee is particularly interested in nominees with a history of leadership and/or community service during their careers.

The award ceremony will take place during the 2025 IUPAC Congress in July in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Nominations should be received by 1 November 2024.

IUPAC-Zhejiang NHU International Award for Advancements in Green Chemistry – Call for Nominations

IUPAC-Zhejiang NHU International Award has been established to emphasize the importance of advancements in Green Chemistry and the value of sciences to human progress, and to encourage young and experienced chemists. The award covers all the topics of Green Chemistry, such as Green and Renewable Feedstocks, Green Synthetic Routes, Green Solvents, Green Catalysis, Green products, Green Energy, and as broadly defined by OECD as Sustainable Chemistry.

The IUPAC-Zhejiang NHU International Award includes three prizes to be awarded to three early career chemists and one prize will be awarded to an experienced chemist. The awards will be presented at the 2025 IUPAC World Chemistry Congress. Applications deadline 31 October 2024.

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

ChemSkills: survey to evaluate the necessary skills for SSbD



ChemSkills (<https://www.chemskills.eu/>) is a newly initiated EU-funded project aimed at addressing current green and digital skills requirements while fostering expertise in producing “safe and sustainable by design” chemicals. The project partners have launched a questionnaire to collect comprehensive data on digital and green skills in the chemical industry, focusing on plastics, consumer chemicals, fertilizers, rubber, pharmaceuticals, and petrochemicals.

The survey aims to evaluate current trends and factors driving change, while identifying the necessary skills and competencies.

The results will help identify gaps between the skills needed and the training and courses offered by various educational institutions. If you are a stakeholder working in one of the chemical industry's sub-sectors, please take the time to complete the survey.

The survey is open for submissions until 27 October 2024.

Contact

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Innovation Department, Senior Innovation Manager

eks@cefic.be

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

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



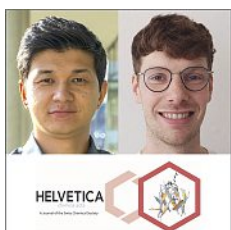
Period: 09.07.2024–26.08.2024

Sandro Agostini, Wollishofen - Celal Bahtiyar, Givisier - Carlo Baldassari, Lausanne - Cesare Berton, Zurich - Yuri Cho, Lausanne - Nelson Alonso Correa Rojas, Lausanne - Tatiana Da Silva-Ferreira, Zurich - Maedeh Darsaraee, Bern - Samaneh Davoudi, Lausanne - Tejas Deshpande, Lausanne

- Matteo Doudin, Lausanne - Ralf Dumler, Gland - Yasaman Fathali, Basel - Viviane Furrer, Luzern - Jiajie Gao, Lausanne - Aline Hartgers, Zurich - Jasmin Huber, Zurich - Florian Keller, Olten - Rangsiman Ketkaew, Zurich - Jan Klopfenstein, Muttenz - David Kodr, Zurich - Olivier Kränzlin, Uitikon-Waldegg - Ivana Krtolica, Novi Sad (RS) - Alina Kutlushina, Basel - Xiao-Yu Li, Basel - Lennart Lindner, Zurich - Xinyi Liu, Bern - Loris Lombardo, Sion - Jana Lukic, Zurich - Xueqing Ma, Geneva - Maryna Mazur, Urdorf - ZiXuan Ng, Lausanne - Derek Ong, Wallisellen - Mauro Andrea Pappagallo, Zurich - Sumant Phadke, Brugg AG - Helena Pickford, Basel - Carolina Pierucci, Fribourg - Xiao-Hua Qin, Opfikon - Michael Rappleye, Zurich - Victor Sabanza Gil, - Johannes Schörgenhuber, Zurich - Cheng Shi, Dübendorf - Markus Siebenhaar, Lieboch (AT) - Arina Starostina, Carouge - Maja Stevanoska, Zurich - Anne Stoppel, Basel - Abinaya Subramaniam, Fribourg - Vakıl Takhaveev, Zurich - Stefan Vuckovic, Fribourg - Yang Wang, Ecublens VD - Franziska Weissbach, Zurich - Chongnan Ye, Sion - Amine Yücekul, Basel - Lorena Zara, Zurich - Jian Zhang, Bern.

HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

Helvetica Prize of the Swiss Chemical Society 2024



On the occasion of the SCS Fall Meeting 2024, Helvetica, represented by its editors in chief, *Prof. Eva Hevia* and *Prof. Jérôme Waser*, as well as Helvetica Executive Editor *Dr. Richard Smith*, awarded the Helvetica Prize of the Swiss Chemical Society for the best published papers of PhD/Postdocs 2023/24 in Helvetica Chimica Acta. The prize is endowed

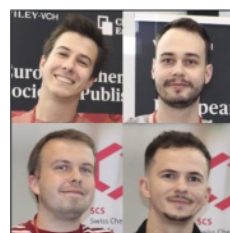
with CHF 1'000 for the winner and CHF 500 for the runner-up.

- 1st Price 2024: **Timur Ashirov**, University of Fribourg, Group of Prof. Ali Coskun
«Eutectic Molten Salt Synthesis of Highly Microporous Macrocyclic Porous Organic Polymers for CO₂ Capture»
- 2nd Price 2024: **Joël F. Keller**, University of Basel, Group of Prof. Marcel Mayor
«Selective Recognition of Aromatic Amino Acids by a Molecular Clef in Water»

We congratulate the winners and hope this motivates many of our members to hand in their next manuscript to Helvetica, a journal of the SCS.

More information: <https://scg.ch> or <http://helvchimacta.ch>

Best Contributed Talk and Best Presentation Award Winners at the Peptide Therapeutics Forum 2024



As part of the 2024 edition of the Peptide Therapeutics Forum 2024, taking place at the Biozentrum, University of Basel, the SCS offered the opportunity for students to present a poster or a contributed talk. The best contributions were honored with the “Helvetica” Best Contributed Talk Award and the Best Poster Presentation Award by Chemistry

Europe. Dr. Richard Smith, Executive Editor of Helvetica and Dr. Yuzhu Song, Deputy Editor of ChemMedChem and Chemistry & Biodiversity by Chemistry Europe handed over the certificates to the winners.

Best Contributed Talk

- 1st place: **Alexander John Lander**, University of Basel
«Development of a Leech-Inspired Bivalent Peptide to Inhibit Complement-Initiating Proteases»
- Runner-up: **Xing-Yu Liu**, EPFL
«Peptide Hypervalent Iodine Conjugates: Enabling Peptide Functionalization and Macrocyclization»
- Runner-up: **Kevin Schiefelbein**, University of Zurich
«Exploring the Chemical Space of Lasso Peptides by Merging Flow Synthesis and Enzymatic Transformation»

Best Poster Presentation

- **Gregoire Menoud**, EPFL
«High-throughput synthesis and screening of mixture of cyclic peptides»
- **Balint Tamas**, University of Zurich
«Development of a self-optimizing platform for flow-based peptide synthesis»

Additional information about the event is available on the website of the symposium: <https://ptf24.scg.ch>

Chemistry Olympiad in Saudi Arabia: one bronze and honorary mentions for Switzerland



The International Chemistry Olympiad took place in Saudi Arabia from July 21 to 30. 327 young people from 84 countries, including four Swiss and one from Liechtenstein, took to the lab bench in the hope of winning medals. “It’s like cooking without tasting,” says Ruben Locher from the Valais Vocational College, who won the bronze medal.

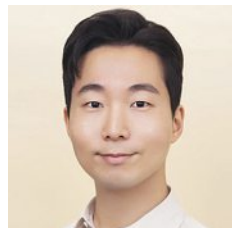
Andrin Hauenstein (Kantonsschule Uster, ZH), Carl-Philipp Cachej (Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliches Gymnasium Rämibühl, ZH) and Stanislaw Bektaş, International School of Schaffhausen) were awarded honorary mentions. Giulio Vogt from Liechtensteinisches Gymnasium competed for Liechtenstein. Team leader Jasmin Frei is very pleased with the result: “It is rare that all Swiss participants win a distinction and compared to last year it is a big improvement”.

More information: chemistry.olympiad.ch

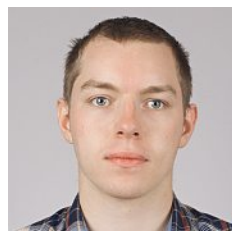
Winners of the MatChem PhD Student Award 2024

The Division of Materials Chemistry of the SCS is happy and proud to announce the winners of the MatChem PhD Student Award 2024. The prizes are given for outstanding PhD thesis' that were performed in the area of materials chemistry within Switzerland between January 2023 and May 2024.

The MatChem PhD Student Award is given to researchers that defended a PhD in the area of materials chemistry within Switzerland between January 2023 and May 2024. The prize includes a certificate and a prize money of CHF 1'000 and the winner is invited to give an elevator talk in the MatChem Session of the SCS Fall Meeting 2024.



Dr. Hyun Suk Wang, ETH Zurich for his outstanding work during his PhD focusing on Controlled Radical Depolymerization: Structural Differentiation and Molecular Weight Control.



Dr. Mikalai Artsiusheuski, ETH Zurich for his outstanding PhD thesis focusing on copper-containing zeolites – materials with unique combination of redox, sorption and catalytic properties.



Dr. Paradis Adams, University of Zurich for her outstanding PhD thesis “Enhancing the Efficiency of Antimony Selenide Photocathodes Towards Solar Hydrogen Production”.

Sika, Vigor and ETH Zurich sponsor one of the three prizes each. Source: scg.ch

Team “Medicinal Chemistry” from ETH Zurich wins Merck Innovation Cup



Ann-Sophie Paschke (ETH Zurich), **Marius Lutz** (ETH Zurich Alumnus / University Tokyo), **Daniel Crusius** (University of Oxford), **Gregory Kyro** (Yale University), **Janine Gray** (Imperial College London), **Ludwig Bauer** (University of Oxford), **Marius Lutz** (University of Tokyo, Alumnus ETH Zurich) and alumni coach **Stacey-Lynn**

Paiva (Springer Nature) won the Merck Innovation Cup 2024. As team “Medicinal Chemistry”, they won the jury over with their innovative business model and were awarded 20,000 euros.

The annual Merck Innovation Cup was conceived to promote innovation and entrepreneurship among young people. This year, for the 14th time, postgraduate students from all over the world gathered to compete for recognition and prizes.

More information: chab.ethz.ch

JOURNAL NEWS

Helvetica, Volume 107, Issue 8, August 2024



Perspective

Potential of miRNA as Imaging Targets for PET

Simon H. Zientek, Stephen Thompson, Franklin I. Aigbirhio, Selena Milicevic Sephton

Research Articles

Nickel(II)-Catalyzed Hydrocarbonylation of Alkynes with Formamides towards Unsaturated Amides

Tiangui Li, Shiyang Wang, Zongxiang Xia, Jinbo Zhao, Dongyue Zhang, Yuanqi Wu, Yu Liu

Elastomers Based on Polynorbornene with Polar Polysiloxane Brushes for Soft Transducer Applications

Yeerlan Adeli, Thulasinath Raman Venkatesan, Frank A. Nüesch, Dorina M. Opris

Diversity of Structures and Bonding in Alkali Metal Ureaphosphanes

Michelle H. Crabbe, Alan R. Kennedy, Catherine E. Weetman, Robert E. Mulvey

The Relation between Nature and Stability of H₂-Dissociating Sites and Propene Selectivity in Silica-Supported (Ga,Al)₂O₃ Mixed Oxide Propane Dehydrogenation Catalysts

Pedro Castro-Fernández, Alexander I. Serykh, Melis Yazar, Deni Mance, Paula M. Abdala, Christophe Copéret, Alexey Fedorov, Christoph R. Müller

Cost-Effective and Scalable Enzyme-Mediated Preparation of Short-Chain Primary Amines

Stefania Gianolio, Beatrice Rassati, Francesca Paradisi

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

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: www.chemanager-online.com

Marcel Imwinkelried Appointed New Siegfried CEO

July 11, 2024: The Board of Directors of Siegfried Holding has elected COO Marcel Imwinkelried as the new CEO effective September 1, 2024. He will succeed Reto Suter, who has led the Siegfried Group as CEO ad interim since the departure of Wolfgang Wienand on May 1, 2024. Suter will now focus on his role as Chief Financial Officer for Siegfried. Wienand will become CEO of Swiss competitor Lonza. Marcel Imwinkelried joined the Siegfried Group in January 2021 as Multi-Site Head for the Drug Products sites in Barbera del Valle s and El Masnou (Barcelona) and Irvine (California) and was appointed Chief Operating Officer Drug Products in October 2021. Previously, he had worked for Novartis since 2005 in various roles with increasing responsibility and was appointed Global Head Technical Operations Solids in 2018. “Over the past three months, we have conducted intensive interviews with qualified external and internal candidates,” commented Andreas Casutt, Chairman of the Board of Directors. “Marcel impressed us not only with his

professional track record, but also with his personality and strong leadership skills. As COO of our Drug Products division and a member of the Executive Board, he has already made significant contributions to Siegfried's success over the past three years. I am convinced that under his leadership Siegfried will continue its journey of growth."

Dren Bio, Novartis to Develop Bispecific Cancer Antibodies

July 26, 2024: US biopharmaceutical company Dren Bio, a developer of novel antibody therapeutics, has entered into a collaboration with Novartis Pharma, a subsidiary of Novartis. The collaboration will focus on the discovery and development of therapeutic bispecific antibodies for cancer using Dren Bio's proprietary targeted myeloid engager and phagocytosis platform. Under the terms of the agreement, Dren Bio will receive a total upfront consideration of \$150 million from Novartis, which includes a \$25 million equity investment in the company. Dren Bio is also eligible to receive up to \$2.85 billion in preclinical, clinical, regulatory and commercial milestone payments, as well as tiered royalties on future net sales of any commercialized products resulting from the collaboration. "Our agreement with Dren Bio is a promising opportunity to discover novel bispecific antibody therapies for cancer, building on our longstanding expertise in immuno-oncology science at Novartis," commented Shiva Malek, global head of Oncology for Biomedical Research at Novartis. Nenad Tomasevic, CEO of Dren Bio, said: "Combining the proven capabilities of Novartis in oncology drug development with Dren Bio's novel platform could enable the advancement of important new therapies for patients." Amit Mehta, chief operating officer and chief business officer of Dren Bio, added: "Dren Bio's targeted myeloid engager and phagocytosis platform is designed to deplete various disease-causing agents and has led to a rich and diverse pipeline. This collaboration will benefit from Novartis' impressive track record of developing novel medicines and help further expand the reach of our platform." Dren Bio and Novartis plan to advance selected targeted myeloid engager programs in oncology through clinical candidate selection, at which point Novartis will assume full responsibility for all remaining development, manufacturing, regulatory, and commercialization activities. The agreement is subject to customary closing conditions including regulatory clearance.

GSK and Flagship Pioneering Collaborate on Novel Medicines and Vaccines

July 30, 2024: GSK and innovation company Flagship Pioneering have entered a collaboration to develop a portfolio of new medicines and vaccines, starting in respiratory and immunology. Flagship's ecosystem comprises 40 bioplatfrom companies, including Moderna. GSK and Flagship will initially fund up to €150 million upfront to support an exploratory phase to identify the most promising concepts for further research and development with Flagship's bioplatfrom companies. Based on these explorations, the partners plan to identify a portfolio of up to 10 novel drugs and vaccines, each with an exclusive option for further clinical development by GSK. Under the terms of the agreement, Flagship and its bioplatfrom companies will be eligible to receive up to \$720 million in upfront, development and commercial milestones from GSK, as well as preclinical funding and tiered royalties, for each acquired program. Tony Wood, GSK's chief scientific officer, said: "Together with Flagship, we will use science and technology to deliver best-in-class innovation at pace." Paul Biondi, general partner at Flagship and president, Pioneering Medicines, added: "Flagship and GSK have a shared focus on delivering breakthrough medicines for patients. This collaboration is the latest example of Flagship's Innovation

Supply Chain Partnership model, which is designed to generate transformational medicines together with our pharma partners by leveraging our ecosystem of first-in-category bioplatfroms to create a sustainable source of treatments for patients with the greatest unmet needs."

Clariant & OMV to Collaborate on Low Carbon Footprint Ethylene

July 31, 2024: Clariant and OMV today announced their intended collaboration for lower carbon footprint ethylene supply. To address growing demand for sustainable options in Europe, this partnership will help both companies meet their sustainability targets and support their customers' carbon reduction strategies. "We are continuously working on solutions for our customers' journeys towards the use of lower carbon footprint ethoxylates and this cooperation is an important step forward to reach this goal," said Christian Vang, Business President Care Chemicals and Americas, Member of the Executive Steering Committee at Clariant. "Renewable low-carbon footprint ethylene from OMV will enable us to grow our bio-based ethylene oxide derivatives portfolio, as well as strengthen the supply chain with production in Europe, for Europe." For Clariant, this is a further step in supporting their global customer base with low carbon footprint ethoxylates. Since 2022, Clariant has been providing customers worldwide with segregated bio-based ethoxylates through Clariant India Glycols Specialty Company Ltd. (CISC). "There is a broad application base for ethylene oxide and derivatives, and we are dedicated to enabling sustainable transformations for our customers as well as for OMV. By fostering the supply of circular feedstock, we are reinforcing our commitment to a circular economy and sustainability. This agreement is an important contribution to the progress we are making towards our Strategy 2030 ambitions," said Daniela Vlad, Executive Vice President Chemicals and Member of the Executive Board of OMV. Clariant and OMV plan to explore and develop new strategies to meet sustainability targets in the ethylene supply chain. As part of this cooperation, both companies will share their research findings, adopt a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology for unified approaches and define detailed CO2 reduction roadmaps. This will include the joint analysis of collaboration potential for the Ethanol-to-Ethylene (E2E) technology. Clariant and OMV are members of the UN Global Compact, the world's largest corporate sustainability and corporate social responsibility initiative.

Novartis and Versant Launch Borealis Biosciences

August 23, 2024: Novartis announced it has partnered with Versant Ventures to form Borealis Biosciences, an independent, discovery-stage biotechnology company based in Vancouver, Canada, focused on developing next-generation xRNA-based medicines for kidney diseases. A core technology platform for Novartis, xRNA can target the body's natural mRNA to modulate the production of proteins that cause disease. Borealis emerged from the success of Chinook Therapeutics, a kidney disease company founded by Versant in 2019 and acquired by Novartis in 2023. Following the acquisition, Novartis said it quickly recognized the significant scientific potential of Chinook's early stage research talent as well as the facilities and capabilities of the Vancouver site and subsequently decided to fund the launch of Borealis "Accelerating science is our north star at Novartis. The creation of Borealis as an independent follow-on company to Chinook represents a creative approach to deal-structuring as a means to furthering innovative scientific discovery," said Ronny Gal, chief strategy & growth officer of Novartis. "A first of its kind for Novartis, this three-part transaction of divestment, collaboration and investment is a testament to our company's unwavering focus on advancing renal science." Borealis has emerged from stealth with a combined Series A financing from Novartis

and Versant, and Novartis has transferred certain employees and the Vancouver site to Borealis, enabling the continuation of drug discovery research by certain former Chinook researchers.

According to the funding partners, this will allow for opportunity to create an environment best positioned for the founding team to progress cutting-edge renal and xRNA science, ultimately, increasing the possibility and speed of successful discovery of new medicines in renal diseases. An additional part of this deal, Novartis said, includes a near-term research funding agreement,

which provides the company the option to acquire two future development-ready programs under pre-agreed terms, complementing its core strategic priorities in renal medicine and xRNA technology platform innovation. “Working with leading pharmaceutical players to launch biotechs and form early collaborations is an important pillar of Versant’s investment strategy,” said Jerel Davis, managing director at Versant. “Together with Novartis, we look forward to advancing this emerging field of innovation for patients.”

Chromatography

MACHEREY-NAGEL

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35 %
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