



The Young Swiss Chemical Society:

A Perspective

Marie-Désirée Schlemper-Scheidt*

*Correspondence: M.-D. Schlemper-Scheidt, E-mail: marie-desiree.schlemper-scheidt@unine.ch; youngscs@scg.ch
 Institute de Chimie, Université de Neuchâtel

Keywords: Career · General assembly · Mentoring · Outreach · youngSCS

Introduction

On August 24th, I took over the lead of the youngSCS, a network of young scientists (Fig. 1) aged under 35 years from the Swiss Chemical Society. Our aim is to support and empower young scientists by providing platforms for exchange, personal growth and safe environments. Furthermore, we try to keep strong relationships to the European and International Young Chemist's Networks (EYCN/IYCN), to allow for exchange with non-Swiss-based scientists. Here, I am reporting how the youngSCS has evolved in the past year and what its future directions will be.

Outreach

Last September, the youngSCS launched a new series on Social Media called 'Where do you see Chemistry?'. The aim was to explain everyday phenomena in short and simple terms with the help of pictures. We had several themes, such as autumn, Christmas, fireworks, love, Easter and many more (Fig. 2). This series will also continue for the next term, so watch out on the youngSCS Social Media accounts for the upcoming posts!

Furthermore, we published several articles in collaboration with SimplySciences.^[1-7] As scientific outreach is an important topic, the youngSCS will be gradually increasing its efforts in this area. Young chemists will therefore get a chance to start early on learning how to communicate scientific topics to a broader audi-



Fig. 1. Some youngSCS members at the Fall Meeting 2024 with our guest from the JCF André-Marcel Weßeling. Photo credit: Marie-Désirée Schlemper-Scheidt.

ence, a skill which is increasingly more sought after, also in Grant applications for academic careers.

Workshops

In the last year, the youngSCS held three workshops. We started off with a lecture on 'Effective Writing', in which *Dr. David Peralta* gave some tips and tricks on writing, which is a big portion of every PhD and PostDocs daily life. Then we had an instructional workshop on the Reaxys software from Elsevier and just after the General Assembly a discussion on Science Policy and Diplomacy, hereafter Science Policy. Science Policy is often not discussed in schools and universities, even though, it is an important societal topic. There are mutual interactions between the two. There is

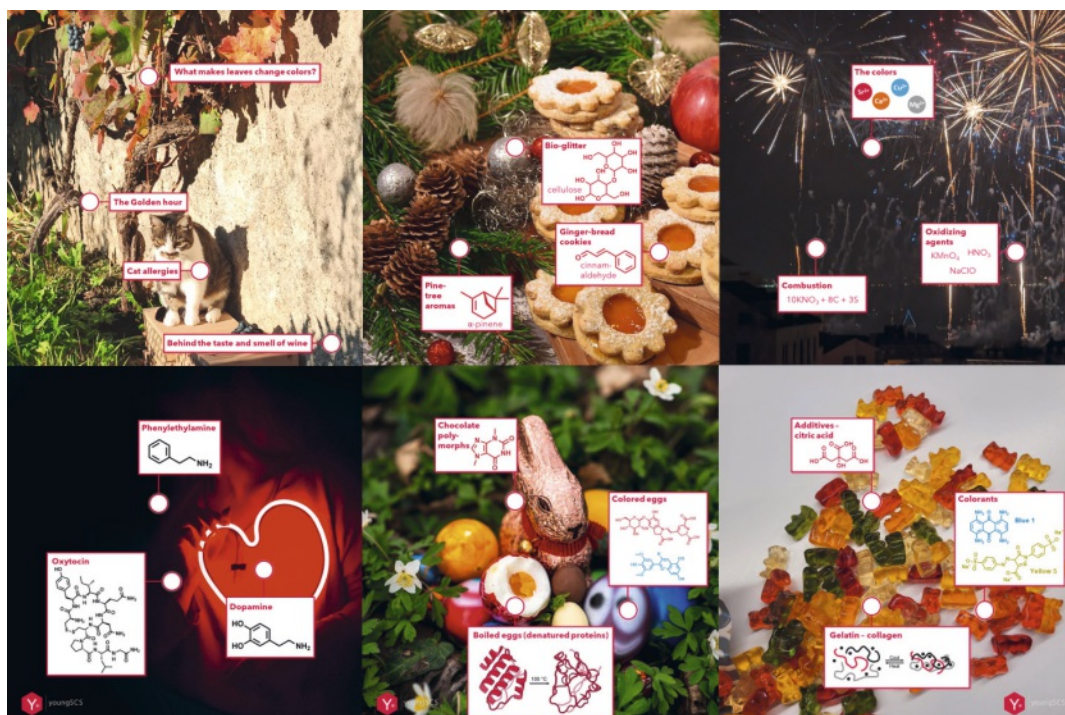


Fig. 2. Impressions of the 'Where do you see Chemistry?' series.

no Science without rules and regulations (policy) and no policy making without input from research, which makes it an important topic to understand for all people studying sciences.

Industrial Visits

Showing industrial sites and interacting with the chemical industry is a key aim for the youngSCS. The vast majority of graduates will one day work in a company. To aid our members in gaining insights into the different companies and career paths available to them, we organize visits to chemical companies with different specialities. In the past year we had the opportunity to visit Dottikon,^[8] a CDMO, and dsm-firmenich,^[9] F&F company (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3. Visit to dsm-Firmenich in March 2024. Photo credit: Annabelle English.

SCS Mentoring Program

Last year, the SCS Foundation launched a new mentoring program, supported by the SCS Head Office and the young SCS.^[10] Contrary to other mentoring programs it is not based on 1:1 mentor-mentee matching, but rather a group of mentees that is assigned to a group of mentors, who discuss diverse topics on personal and professional development, with individual follow ups. The youngSCS is a key partner for the program, as it targets our members. We therefore recruit the managers of the different regions, which coordinate the mentors and mentees through their journey. The first edition was very successful, and its second edition started in September 2024. A detailed report is available in CHIMIA.^[11]

Other Activities

Apart from our core activities, we held several smaller events, such as the 2nd BeNeFri Spring Symposium^[12] and the RetrosynETHon. Additionally, we were able to sponsor prizes for the best contributions at the PCC Christmas Symposium^[13] and the ChemPosium.

Through our contributions to the European and International Young Chemist's Networks (EYCN/IYCN), we had the opportunity to send two delegates to the EYCN Delegate Assembly in London, as well as send two delegates to the 9th EuChemS Chemistry Congress, where they chaired sessions of the young program.

Outlook and Conclusions

In the next months, you can look forward to more events and activities, especially the Swiss Snow Symposium in January 2025. My goal is to ensure a lasting engagement of the youngSCS in those main pillars and that we will be the contact for young scientists in Switzerland. I wish the next board, which starts its work on January 1st 2025, the best of luck and that they can keep the network growing and build on these last years.

To keep up to date, follow the youngSCS on social media, and if you are interested in actively contributing, please contact me under youngscs@scg.ch.



Fig. 4. Board and Senate Members for the 2023-2024 term.

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge all our active members, without whose contributions none of this would be possible. As well as all the senate and board members (Fig. 4) who govern the association and advertise our activities to our members. Special thanks go to the SCS Head Office and Foundation for their invaluable support. And of course, to all of our other generous supporters.

Received: October 9, 2024

- <https://www.simplyscience.ch/teens/wissen/wie-computertechnologie-die-chemie-der-zukunft-revolutioniert>.
- <https://www.simplyscience.ch/teens/wissen/die-chemie-der-schokolade>.
- <https://www.simplyscience.ch/teens/wissen/alfred-werner-vater-der-komplexchemie>.
- <https://www.simplyscience.ch/teens/wissen/paul-karrer-und-die-entschlueselung-der-farben-der-natur>.
- <https://www.simplyscience.ch/teens/wissen/vladimir-prelog-und-die-struktur-chiraler-molekuele>.
- <https://www.simplyscience.ch/teens/wissen/richard-ernst-der-mann-der-die-nmr-spektroskopie-verbesserte>.
- <https://www.simplyscience.ch/teens/wissen/jacques-dubochet-humorvoller-legastheniker-biophysiker-nobelpreistraeger>.
- D. Spichiger, *CHIMIA*, **2024**, *78*, 76, youngSCS visit to Dottikon by Anton Kudashev, Marie-Désirée Schlemper-Scheidt.
- D. Spichiger, *CHIMIA*, **2024**, *78*, 454, youngSCS visit to dsm-Firmenich by youngSCS.
- <https://foundation.scg.ch/mentoring>.
- T. Dörenkamp, G. F. Geraci, A. Kudashev, M. López-Tena, A. Ostertag, O. Pant, M. Perrin, T. Fidelis Wuermeling, M. D. Schlemper-Scheidt, *CHIMIA* **2024**, *78*, 629, <https://doi.org/10.2533/chimia.2024.629>.
- A. Etourneau, M. Oggioni, S. Belrhomari, *CHIMIA* **2024**, *78*, 564, <https://doi.org/10.2533/chimia.2024.564>.
- G. Suryatin Alim, T.-C. Chang Chien, J. Coats, I. Friedländer, S. Heim, B. Higginson, A. Huber, C. Kress, A. Kudashev, E. Maksimova, E. Morris, L. Müller, A. Ostertag, M. Parvizian, C. Seno, D. Wagner, J. Wellauer, *CHIMIA* **2024**, *78*, 172, <https://doi.org/10.2533/chimia.2024.172>.