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Swiss Chemical
Society

Community News

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SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Invitation to the SCS General Assembly 2025



The Board of Directors invites all members of the Swiss Chemical Society and the delegates of its associated societies to join the 35th General Assembly.

SCS General Assembly 2025

April 24, 2025, 13.45–14.15 (lunch break of the SCS Spring Meeting 2025).
University of Bern

Agenda GA 2025 (provisional)

1. Welcome and approval of the agenda
2. Election of the vote counters
3. Minutes of the 34th General Assembly from June 7, 2024, (published in CHIMIA 7-8/2024)
4. Annual Report 2024 (published in CHIMIA 1-2/2025)
5. Financial statement 2024 incl. audit report (a summary of the financial statement 2024 and the asset allocation per network and funds is available for members on the website after the formal audit (login required))
6. Discharge of the Board
7. Elections for the ExB and the BoD. Election of the auditors
8. News and strategic projects
9. Outlook 2025/26
10. Varia

Motions to the assembly can be submitted until March 16, 2025 to info@scg.ch

Chemistry Travel Award 2025: Call for Applications



The Platform Chemistry of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) and the Swiss Chemical Society (SCS) announce the 2025 Chemistry Travel Award. The award includes a contribution of CHF 1000 towards the cost of an active participation (poster or oral presentation) at an international conference between 15 May 2025 and 14 May 2026

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 application is March 31, 2025.

Source: <https://scnat.ch>

Call for Applications: 2025 “Swiss L’Oréal – UNESCO For Women in Science Award”



We are pleased to announce the opening of the 2025 “Swiss L’Oréal - UNESCO For Women in Science” Program, an initiative jointly organized by L’Oréal Switzerland, the Swiss Commission for UNESCO, and the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences SATW. This prestigious program aims to recognize and support the exceptional contributions of women scientists in Switzerland across STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics).

The program is committed to empowering women in science, fostering gender equality in research, and providing professional and financial recognition to outstanding women researchers.

Application phase: 3rd February – 31st March 2025

For this first edition, the program will award a total of CHF 100,000 distributed in 4 endowments of CHF 25,000 each to postdoctoral female researchers conducting exceptional work in STEM fields in Switzerland.

Source: <https://www.forwomeninscience.com>

Special Birthday Celebration in 2025



Several of our senior SCS members will celebrate special birthdays in 2025. This gives us the opportunity to warmly congratulate them and wish them many more years with us!

85 Years

Walter Fuhrer, Lupsingen
Bernd Giese, Fribourg
Armin Guggisberg, Schlieren
Dimiter Hadjistanov, Riehen
André E. Merbach, Pully
Manfred Schneider, Hamm (DE)
Michel Schurter-Moser, Wetzikon
Raphael F.G. Tabacchi, Cormondrèche

80 Years

Rudolf G. Baumeler, St.-Légier
Konrad Becker, Binningen
Stefan Bürki, Pfeffingen
Alex N. Eberle, Liestal
Erwin Götschi, Reinach
Steven V. Ley, FRS, Cambridge (UK)
Hans Maag, Oberammergau (DE)
Hans-Rudolf Schmutz, Augst
René Schwarzenbach, Erlenbach
Max Rene Wolfensberger, Zürich

75 Years

Hans-Jakob Ammann, Himmelried
Bruno Bernet, Zürich

Wayne Craig, Arlesheim
 Peter Fankhauser, Meyrin
 Pascal George, Longvillers (FR)
 Manfred Hofmann, Marly
 Titus A. Jenny, Villars-sur-Glâne
 Albin Kümin, Aesch
 Werner Leupin, Liestal
 Hans-Rudolf Marti, Küngoldingen
 Horst Melzer, Rorschach
 Reinhard Neier, Neuchâtel
 Henri Stalder, Basel
 Urs Stauss, Bern
 Rudolf Streit, Beinwil a. See
 Georg Süss-Fink, Kronburg (DE)
 Urs von Arx, Biel
 Hansjörg Walther, Münchenstein
 John T. Welch, Albany, NY (US)
 Alan Francis Williams, Genthod (GE)
 Ronald Wyss, Basel

70 Years

Peter Anker, Delémont
 Urs Baltensperger, Bülach
 Edwin C. Constable, Hochwald
 Jacques-Alain Cotting, Basel
 Alain De Mesmaeker, Känerkinden
 Josef Dommen, Zürich
 Alexander Fässler, Arlesheim
 Eduard Rudolf Felder, Mendrisio
 Chris Godfrey, Okehampton Devon (UK)
 Matthias Hamburger, Scherzingen
 Jesper Hansen, Winterthur
 Andreas Hauser, Bern
 Catherine E. Housecroft, Hochwald
 Reinhard Kissner, Männedorf
 Josef Max Künzle, Therwil
 Claude le Drian, Dommartin
 Peter Maienfisch, Rodersdorf
 Charles Meyer, Reinach
 Anthony O'Sullivan, Basel
 Felix Oldani, Gelterkinden
 Norbert Wagner, Mutterstadt (DE)
 Werner Zambach, Bättwil
 Kurt Zollinger, Zürich



HansJakob Ammann



Wayne Craig



Peter Fankhauser



Titus Jenny



Hansruedi Marti



Horst Melzer



Henri Stalder



Georg Süss-Fink



Alan Williams



Ronald Wyss



Peter Anker



Urs Baltensperger



Bernd Giese



Andre Merbach



Manfred Schneider



Jacques Alain Cotting



Alain De Mesmaeker



Alex Fässler



Rudolf Baumeler



Konrad Becker



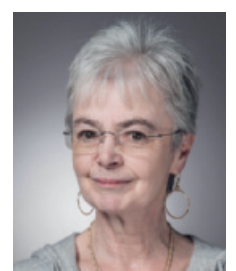
Alex Eberle



Chris Godfrey



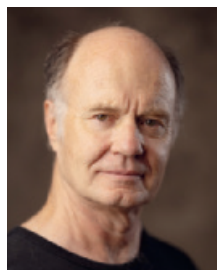
Matthias Hamburger



Catherine Housecroft



Josef Künzle



Anthony O'Sullivan



Kurt Zollinger



Claude le Drian

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



Period: 19.11.2024–27.01.2025

Elias Abedelnour, Dardagny - Emilie Aghajani, Zurich - Stefano Agnello, Basel - Noohul Alam, Geneva - Mykhaylo Alekseychuk, Konstanz (DE) - Daniela Angst, Basel - Elizaveta Artiushova, Villigen - Mohammed Azzouzi, Geneva - Julia Bechter, Olten - Marc Paul Beller, Konstanz (DE) - Reinhard Berger, Zurich - Angélica Beurrier, Courtavon - Alexander Biewald, Geneva - Anna Bollinger, Basel - Corentin Bon, Basel - Thomas Carl, Inzlingen (DE) - Dorde Cvjetinovic, Villigen - Lena Dalifoski, Lausanne - Elizabeth DeFrance, Riverside (US) - Ludovic Dumoulin, Geneva - Alejandro Flores Sepulveda, Bern - Máté Fonyó, Dübendorf - Caroline Forster, Bern - Daniele Furlanetto, Zurich - Nils Gerwien, Basel - Nicholas Giamboni, Geneva - Souvik Giri, Geneva - Salomé Guilbert, Lausanne - Geetansh Gupta, Geneva - Sudip Guria, Bern - Merve Nur Guven Bicer, Melbourne (AU) - Andreas Hans, Konstanz (DE) - Toni Harsanyi, Konstanz (DE) - Colin Hillhouse, Villigen - Simone Leah Kuhn, Basel - Praveen Kumar, Fribourg - Emilien Le Saux, Zurich - Lucie Lefevre, Zurich - Geneviève Massonnet, Le Mont-sur-Lausanne - David Matchavariani, Strasbourg (FR) - Emilio Maugeri, Villigen - Niall McLoughlin, Basel - Sonja Merkas, Basel - Samaneh Mesbahi Vasey, Lausanne - Kirstin Messner, Weil am Rhein (DE) - Henrik Möbitz, Arlesheim - Francesc Molins, Hamburg (DE) - Andreas Müller, Lauchringen (DE) - Jonathan Muschiatti, Basel - Jörg Neuhausen, Villigen - Chikako Ogawa, Bottmingen - Sofia Pasolini, Zurich - Jelena Petrovic, Villigen - Livia Pietrow, Rotterdam - Archana Ramakrishnan, Villigen - Andrea Ramundo, Wallisellen - Chaudhary Eksha Rani, Lausanne - Kai Rossen, Frankfurt (DE) - Andrea Ruiz Ferrando, Zurich - Malo Salamin, Petit-Lancy - Nadim Scherrer, Bern - Katharina Schmidt-Ott, Affoltern - Martin Schwill, Basel - Amirmohammad Seidi, Bern - Nicolas Sellet, Geneva - Vincent Serneels, Fribourg - Sheetal Sheetal, Geneva - Poonam Singh, Lausanne - Balvinder Singh, Sri Ganganagar (IN) - Nicolas Soldermann, Village Neuf (FR) - Karolina Soppa, Bern - Markus Strobl, Baden - Janek Nathanael Nake Tangermann, Geneva - Melanie Tinzl-Zechner, Bern - Ira Villinger, Zurich - Tim Welmers, Villigen - Moreno Wichert, Nuolen - Milena Wiegand, Cha-

vannes-près-Renens - Rainer Wilcken, Basel - Jason Williams, Konstanz (DE) - Mateusz Wojtas, Adliswil - Sophie Wolf, Romont - Qing Wu, Koblenz - Karin Wyss Heeb, Bern - Aureliano Zana, Basel - Qihao Zhang, Lausanne - Haohan Zhang, Villigen - Ruiyi Zhou, Zurich - Junqian Zhou, Basel - Yurii Zubchuk, Mulhouse (FR) - Stefan Zumbühl, Bern.

HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

Simon-Widmer Award 2025 of the Swiss Chemical Society awarded to Róbert E. Gyurcsányi



The Division of Analytical Sciences of the Swiss Chemical Society is happy and proud to announce the 2025 winner of the prestigious Simon Widmer Award. The distinction 2025 is awarded to **Prof. Róbert E. Gyurcsányi**, Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME)

for his pioneering research programs using innovative electroanalytical and bioanalytical methods.

The Simon-Widmer Award in memory of Prof. Wilhelm Simon and Prof. Michael Widmer honors distinguished scientists for their contribution to fundamental and applied analytical science and the education of analytical scientists. It is endowed with CHF 5,000 and a trophy.

The award lecture will take place at the *CHanalysis* in Beatenberg on March 19, 2025.

Website: <http://biochemsens.bme.hu/PI>

DIAC Fellowship 2025 awarded to Philippe Dupau, dsm-firmenich



The SCS Division of Industrial & Applied Chemistry (DIAC) awards the DIAC Fellowship 2025 to **Dr. Philippe Dupau**, dsm-firmenich for his outstanding contributions in discovery, development and industrial implementation of many innovative and robust catalytic methodologies for the sustainable and cost efficient synthesis of iconic

perfumery ingredients, such as Damascenone[®], Damascone[®] alpha, Lilyflore[®], Dartanol[®], Polysantol[®], Josenol[®] and Paradisone, and many more. Furthermore, we acknowledge the outstanding contributions in the field of industrial catalysis (e.g., cationic Cp-type Ru homogeneous complexes for stereoselective 1,4-hydrogenation of conjugated dienes, Ru complexes bearing aminophosphine ligands for chemoselective catalysis of ester hydrogenation, and Lindlar-type catalysts for the regioselective hydrogenation of electron-deficient alkenes).

Dr. Philippe Dupau will receive the certificate at the DIAC Member Assembly in Visp on May 14, 2025.

Source: scg.ch

Helvetica and the SCS award three young Scientists with the SICS 2025 Best Poster Award



At the Swiss Industrial Chemistry Symposium that took place at Biozentrum Basel on January 31, Helvetica awarded the Best Poster Award to three young scientists. After the award ceremony, the students presented their projects in a 3min poster pitch.

The jury considered posters from academic participants only. The three

winner got a certificate and a cash check of CHF 100.00 each.

Lise Benoist, University of Bern

“Generation of α -Thioalkyl Radicals from Pinacol Boronic Ester Precursors”

Stefano Bonciolini, University of Amsterdam

“Metal-free C(sp³)-C(sp³) bond formation using arylsulfonyl hydrazones in photocatalysis”

Pierre Palamini, EPFL Lausanne

“Photocatalyzed Azidofunctionalization of Alkenes via Radical-Polar Crossover”

Source: <https://sics25.scg.ch>

Swiss Chemical Landmark 2023: They made Geneva the capital of perfume chemistry



History was made in Geneva in the field of perfume chemistry. The city is now being honoured as a historic site of chemistry. This development was driven by two major fragrances and flavours companies, dsm-firmenich and Givaudan, who now receive the Chemical Landmark award. Geneva is the cradle and capital of world's perfume

chemistry. Two companies made a decisive contribution to this: dsm-firmenich and Givaudan. In recognition of their important role in perfume chemistry, they have now been jointly awarded the Chemical Landmark of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT). With this award, the SCNAT honours sites in Switzerland that have played a historically significant role in advancing the field of chemistry.

In 1895, chemist Philippe Chuit and entrepreneur Martin Naef set up their first perfume laboratory in Charles Firmenich's garage in Geneva. They founded a company to produce synthetic perfumes and flavours. In the same year, the brothers Léon and Xavier Givaudan opened a laboratory to produce fragrances in Zurich but moved to Vernier near Geneva in 1898.

Over the next few years, both companies pioneered the analysis, synthesis and production of fragrances with the help of findings and processes from the emerging field of organic chemistry. One key milestone was achieved by Leopold Ružička, who determined the structure of muscone, the main component of musk, a highly coveted element in the perfume industry. His work on terpenes, which included musk, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1939. Today, dsm-firmenich and Givaudan are among the world's leading companies in the fragrance and flavour industry, whose fragrance innovations have shaped countless iconic perfumes.

Source: <https://chem.scnat.ch>

The 2025 IUPAC-Zhejiang NHU International Award for Advancements in Green Chemistry awarded to Prof. Javier Pérez-Ramírez, ETH Zurich



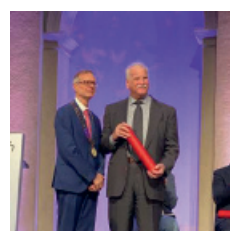
The IUPAC-Zhejiang NHU International Award for Advancements in Green Chemistry 2025 for an experienced chemist goes to **Prof. Javier Pérez-Ramírez** of the Catalysis and Chemical and Bioengineering Department at the ETH Zurich. The IUPAC-Zhejiang NHU International Award for Advancements in Green Chemistry seeks to recognize the contributions of one experienced chemist and three early career chemists for their work in advancing the field of green chemistry.

These awards, started in 2019, are presented every two years and include monetary recognition of their accomplishments of \$10,000 for the experienced chemist and \$2,000 per early career chemist. In addition, \$1,000 traveling expense is provided for each winner to attend the award ceremony.

The awards ceremony for the recipients will be held at the 50th IUPAC World Chemistry Congress (50WCC) 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 14-19, 2025.

Source: <https://iupac.org>

Honorary doctorate from ETH Zurich 2024 for Scott E. Denmark, University of Illinois



Paracelsus Prize Winner 2020, **Prof. Scott E. Denmark**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign studied Chemistry at the MIT and ETH Zurich. In 1987, he became professor of Chemistry at the University of Illinois. Four years later he was named the Reynold C. Fuson Professor of Chemistry. Now, on ETH Day 2024, Scott E. Denmark has been

awarded the honorary doctorate of ETH Zurich for the development of new catalysis concepts and useful synthesis methods as well as detailed mechanistic and stereochemical studies of preparatively important reactions.

Source: <https://chab.ethz.ch>

IBM Research Award 2024 to Miguel Steiner, ETH Zurich



As part of the ETH Day 2024 celebrations, **Dr. Miguel Steiner**, ETH Zurich received the IBM Research Award 2024 for his dissertation on navigating the catalytic reaction space with automated and controlled mechanism exploration approaches. The prize, sponsored by IBM Research Zurich Laboratory, is awarded alternately to outstanding master's and

doctoral theses in the fields of computational chemistry, physics, biology and materials science.

Source: <https://chab.ethz.ch>

Spark Award 2024 to Marie Perrin and Victor Mougel, ETH Zurich



The prize for the most promising invention of the past year goes to *Dr. Marie Amélie Perrin* and *Prof. Victor Mougel*, ETH Zurich. They have developed a method that enables rare earth elements to be efficiently recovered from electrical waste.

Rare earth elements have until now barely been recycled because they can only be separated with an enormous outlay of energy and chemicals. The problem lies in the chemical similarity of the elements. ETH doctoral student Marie Perrin and her supervisor Victor Mougel have developed a method that enables the elements to be separated efficiently. It has been singled out for the Spark Award 2024 as the most promising invention of the year.

Source: <https://chab.ethz.ch>

Geneva Chemistry & Biochemistry Days 2025: Best Contributed Talk Award Winners



Congratulations to *Ludovic Dumoulin*, *Millicent Dockerill*, *Daniel Ratcliff*, and *Sophie Webb*, University of Geneva who received the award for the best contributed talks at the Geneva Chemistry & Biochemistry Days 2025 at University of Geneva in the following categories:

- Best presentation Award: Millicent Dockerill, University of Geneva

- Best presentation in Life Science:

Daniel Ratcliff, University of Geneva

- Runner-up: Sophie Webb and Ludovic Dumoulin, University of Geneva

The prizes were sponsored by the SCS and LS² Life Sciences Switzerland.

The vocation of the event was to give students who are close to finishing their PhD studies the opportunity to present their research as attractive speed talks to an audience from academia and industry.

Source: <https://www.unige.ch>

JOURNAL NEWS

Helvetica, Volume 108, Issue 1, January 2025



Synthetic Procedure

Scalable Preparation of Substituted 4-Aminoquinolines: Advancements in Manufacturing Process Development

Jean-Francois Basset, Maurus Marty, Eric Walther, Hervé Mosimann, Harvey Randall, Simon Linder

Research Article

Red-Shifted Bioluminescence Using Substrate-Fluorophore Conjugates

Clément Narbonne Zuccarelli, José Laxio-Arenas, Francesco Russo, Nicolas Winssinger

Photoinduced Energy Transfer via an Atropisomeric Molecular Bridge

Dominik Lotter, Annika Huber, Joël Wellauer, Oliver S. Wenger, Christof Sparr

Diamonds in Chemical Space: The Synthesis of Brexazine

Leon Rebhan, Ye Buehler, Jean-Louis Reymond

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

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: www.chemanager-online.com

Siegfried Opens New Drug Substances R&D Center in Evionnaz

November 20, 2024: Zofingen, Switzerland-based contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) Siegfried inaugurated its new global research and development (R&D) center for drug substances at its site in Evionnaz, Switzerland. The 4,500 m² center houses chemical and analytical facilities, laboratories, and technologies such as flow chemistry, advanced distillation and process analytical technology, as well as new office space. Together with the R&D center in Zofingen, it will offer chemical process R&D and analytical development services for Siegfried's global drug substances network. With workspaces for over 100 specialists and 40 new jobs created, the R&D center strengthens Siegfried's development capabilities in phase II and III supporting the company's Evolve+ strategy, the company said. Marcel Imwinkelried, CEO of Siegfried, commented: "The new R&D Center in Evionnaz significantly enhances our Drug Substances network and demonstrates our unwavering commitment to providing cutting-edge research and development capabilities for our customers. It will be a key element in driving development excellence as part of our Evolve+ strategy and represents another pivotal step in strengthening our position among the top providers in the CDMO sector."

Novartis Acquires Kate Therapeutics for \$1.1 Billion

November 22, 2024: Swiss pharmaceutical giant Novartis has acquired Kate Therapeutics for \$1.1 billion. The San Diego, US-headquartered preclinical stage biotechnology company develops adeno-associated virus (AAV)-based gene therapies to treat inherited neuromuscular diseases. The technology

platforms developed by Kate Therapeutics integrate capsid and cargo technologies to deliver payloads to desired tissues, while potentially mitigating off-target effects to tissues such as the liver. This approach aims to improve both the efficacy and safety of gene therapies, opening potential possibilities for treating complex diseases previously difficult to address with current technologies, including inherited neuromuscular diseases. Kate Therapeu' primary programs include preclinical candidates for Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), facioscapulohumeral dystrophy (FSHD), and myotonic dystrophy type 1 (DM1). Fiona Marshall, president of Biomedical Research at Novartis, said: "We have been highly impressed with the rigor and potential of Kate's science, and we are confident this acquisition will further enhance our ability to bring forward new therapeutic options for patients living with neuromuscular diseases." "This acquisition builds on our expertise and leadership in neuroscience drug discovery and brings to Novartis talent, expertise and capabilities that are highly complementary to our ongoing internal efforts," added Robert Baloh, global head of Neuroscience Research at Novartis. Under the terms of the agreement, Kate Therapeutics' shareholders are also entitled to receive additional amounts payable on achievement of specified milestones.

Circular Solutions

The Journey to Net Zero Is a Collective Effort

November 26, 2024: The path to a sustainable, net-zero future for the chemical industry is paved with challenges – and also opportunities.

At the recent Sustainable Chemicals Expo & Conference in Cologne, leaders from BASF, LyondellBasell, Covestro, and the Global Impact Coalition discussed how collaboration among competitors can drive the sector toward circularity and reducing carbon emissions. The panel, moderated by Charlie Tan, CEO of the Global Impact Coalition, emphasized the transformative potential of industry-wide cooperation, the role of innovation, and the systemic changes required to achieve lasting impact.

Four Challenges to Overcome

Matthias Scheibitz, Head of Sustainability Strategy at BASF Performance Materials, outlined four major challenges facing the chemical industry on its journey to net zero: investment, renewable energy, legal frameworks, and collaboration. "The green transformation will not come for free," said Scheibitz, highlighting the significant capital expenditure required for new technologies such as water electrolysis to produce CO₂-free hydrogen, electrically heated steam cracking furnaces or industrial-scale heat pumps. "We also need renewable energy at competitive prices to decarbonize these technologies, particularly in Europe, where availability in sufficient quantities is a major issue." He emphasized the urgency of regulatory clarity, especially for chemical recycling and its acceptance as a contribution to recycled content quotas, which is critical to closing the loop on plastic waste. "Our customers won't buy chemically recycled products unless there is certainty in the legal framework," he noted.

Collaboration, Scheibitz added, is the fourth pillar for overcoming these barriers. "Companies trying to 'close the loop' alone will not scale. We need peers on every step of the value chain to work together to create sufficient sustainable material flows that enable competitive solutions."

Collaboration across Competitors: a Balancing Act

The idea of working alongside competitors is not new, but in a sector driven by proprietary innovation, it remains complex. Erik Licht, Director of New Business Development APS EU at LyondellBasell, acknowledged the tension between competition

and the shared urgency to address global challenges.

"There's a big competitive part, but this is one of the most critical decades in human history. If we don't act now, the burden on future generations will be immense," Licht explained. "Collaboration allows us to scale solutions faster than any company could achieve alone." Peter Schwarz, Head of Sustainability Technologies EP at Covestro, echoed this sentiment: "Driving circularity is not something a single company can do – it's a societal task. Collaboration across the entire value chain, from waste collection to sorting and recycling, is essential." Tan underscored the importance of moving beyond theoretical discussions: "We've had many conversations, but the focus now is on action. Success hinges on balancing the inherent competition among companies with the shared ambition of safeguarding our planet."

"Our mission is to tackle what cannot be done by any single company alone," Tan explained. "Through the Global Impact Coalition, we create the conditions for cross-sector collaboration, accelerating projects that integrate value chains and drive new business models."

Scaling Innovation through the Global Impact Coalition

Founded by seven leading chemical companies within the framework of the World Economic Forum (WEF), the Global Impact Coalition (GIC) has grown globally and evolved into a powerful platform for transformative collaboration. Established in November 2023 as an independent entity, GIC unites industry leaders and stakeholders to address the pressing challenges of achieving net-zero emissions and promoting circularity within the chemical sector. Charlie Tan, CEO of GIC, highlighted its mission: "The Global Impact Coalition is not about reports and discussions. It's about tangible action – getting projects off the ground and moving them toward commercialization. Our mission is to create frameworks and partnerships that allow companies to develop and scale innovations that benefit the entire industry." At its core, GIC focuses on enabling cross-sector collaboration to tackle systemic barriers and unlock innovative solutions. Through regular executive-level engagement and a hands-on approach to project development, the platform ensures that ideas evolve into measurable outcomes. Key areas of focus include reducing carbon emissions, scaling-up alternative feedstocks, and the development of circular business models.

Transforming the Automotive Plastics Value Chain

The Automotive Plastics Circularity project is one example of this approach in action. This initiative brings together players across the automotive value chain — from dismantling and shredding to advanced chemical recycling — to recover and reuse the 200 kilograms of plastic found in an average car.

"Today, most automotive plastic waste is burned or landfilled," said Schwarz. "By building a comprehensive value chain, we can create sustainable feedstocks for the chemical industry while reducing environmental impact."

Considering the EU's draft of the new End-of-Life Vehicle (ELV) Directive, which will require 25% of recycled plastic in new vehicles, and over 6% of "closed-loop" recycled plastic (plastic coming from ELVs), there is an urgent need to transform the automotive plastic value chain.

Licht added: "This project exemplifies the power of the Global Impact Coalition. By gathering all stakeholders around one table – chemical companies, recyclers, and automotive manufacturers – we can turn waste into valuable inputs and close the loop at scale."

"With the Global Impact Coalition, we have the power to convene the entire value chain, from automotive manufacturers to waste management companies, around one table. Together, we identify shared priorities, align resources, and deliver solutions

that no single company could achieve alone,” said Tan.

Beyond driving recycling rates in automotive plastics, GIC supports numerous other initiatives, such as looking at new routes to sustainable olefins, advancing research on direct conversion into C2+ monomers, and improving the standards and investment in pyrolysis as a viable chemical recycling solution. These projects not only advance technological innovation but also set a new standard for collaborative leadership in the chemical sector.

From Waste to Value

Transforming waste into a resource is central to achieving net zero. However, maintaining the quality of recycled materials remains a challenge.

“Waste is no longer waste; it’s a resource,” said Schwarz. “But achieving consistent quality requires innovation and engagement throughout the value chain.”

Scheibitz agreed, highlighting the need to partner with specialized waste collectors and sorters to ensure reliable feedstocks for large-scale chemical recycling. “Our expertise is chemistry, not waste management. Collaboration with value chain experts is essential for scaling sustainable solutions,” he noted. Licht emphasized that the GIC’s efforts are grounded in action, not just dialogue. “We’re showing that these processes are possible. It’s about doing, learning, and scaling.”

The Path Forward

While the challenges are significant, the potential for impact is equally vast. The panelists expressed optimism about the industry’s ability to meet the challenges through collaboration, innovation, and shared purpose. Licht summed up the discussion: “To go far, we need to go together. Partnerships are not just beneficial – they’re essential. Scheibitz envisioned a future where collaboration yields competitive, sustainable products for customers, supported by integrated value chains and scalable innovation. Schwarz added that finding the right balance between competition and cooperation is key: “Sometimes, stepping back from competition for a greater goal is worth it — saving the planet.”

Tan concluded with a call to action: “The chemical industry stands at a crossroads. By embracing collaboration, investing in innovation, and accelerating action, we can redefine what is possible – not just for our industry, but for the world.”

This panel at the Sustainable Chemicals Conference delivered a resounding message: the journey to net zero is a collective effort. By breaking barriers and fostering partnerships, the chemical industry has the opportunity to lead the transition to a sustainable future for generations to come.

Givaudan Hikes Encapsulation Technologies Capacity in Mexico

December 3, 2024: In a move to increase its competitive advantage in Latin America, Swiss flavors, fragrances and active cosmetic ingredients manufacturer Givaudan has inaugurated its newly expanded production facility at the Pedro Escobedo site in Mexico, enhancing the company’s encapsulation technologies. Maurizio Volpi, president of Givaudan’s Fragrance & Beauty business, commented: “This expansion is a pivotal step in our fragrance and beauty strategy. It has successfully doubled our production capacity, which now represents 40% of Givaudan’s global capacity in this sector. This strategic growth not only reflects our engagement to meet the increasing demands of our customers but also positions us as a leader in this market.” “Following the investments in Singapore in 2022, this next step in Mexico is another milestone in our development of encapsulation technologies. Furthermore, Pedro Escobedo’s facility and equipment have been designed to reinforce our dedication to operational excellence and ensure that we maintain

the highest quality and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) standards, in our production processes,” added Andrew Stedman, head of operations, Fragrance & Beauty at Givaudan.

Barentz Strengthens DACH Position With NCD Ingredients Acquisition

January 14, 2025: Barentz, a global specialty ingredients provider, recently announced the acquisition of NCD Ingredients, a specialty, personal, and home care ingredients distributor active in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland (DACH). The acquisition enhances Barentz’s presence in the DACH region, with a particular focus on Germany—the second-largest personal care market in EMEA.

NCD Ingredients is known for its strong reputation in the personal and home care sector in the DACH region. This partnership enhances Barentz’s commercial sales organization and market reach, offering a broader range of high-quality raw and active ingredients. Founded in 2013 by Thorsten Fenchel and based in Hanau, Germany, NCD Ingredients will continue under Thorsten’s leadership as Managing Director, ensuring smooth integration and high-quality service for customers. “We are excited to become part of the Barentz team,” commented Thorsten Fenchel, founder and Managing Director at NCD Ingredients. “This partnership enables us to leverage growth opportunities and further develop our business while maintaining our shared values, including a strong focus on sustainability. Barentz’s technical expertise and application laboratories provide valuable resources that will allow us to further grow in our region and better serve our customers’ needs. Together, we will create an enhanced offering for our customers, combining innovative ingredient solutions with our mutual expertise.”

Valérie Lepoutel, Vice President of Personal Care for Barentz EMEA, added “This acquisition is a transformative step for Barentz in the DACH region. NCD Ingredients’ strong local reputation and established network complement our strategic goals, enabling us to deliver broader customer coverage and innovative solutions. Under Thorsten’s commercial leadership, we are ready to embark on this next phase of growth, reinforcing our commitment to the German market and beyond.”

And the Winners are: Cynio, EnaDyne and Green Li-ion

Expert Jury Selects Three Start-ups as Winners of the CHEManager Innovation Pitch 2024

January 24, 2025: The CHEManager Innovation Pitch, the start-up promotion initiative of CHEManager and CHEManager International, has given more than 100 start-ups from over 15 countries the opportunity to present their innovative ideas, products and technologies to a broad target group since its launch in 2019. The CHEManager Innovation Pitch, CHEManager’s start-up promotion initiative, was launched in 2019. Last year, supported by our sponsors Biocampus Straubing, Ruhr-IP Patent Attorneys, Samson, Endress+ Hauser, and Siemens, we presented a total of 19 start-ups with their ideas - 12 in the German-language editions of CHEManager and 7 in CHEManager International. At the end of January, a jury of experts selected the winners in three categories from all 19 start-ups from 8 countries. This time, start-ups from Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the USA, France, Finland, India and Singapore were represented. The topics ranged from genetic engineering and biotechnology, synthetic chemistry and material development, process technology, recycling and the circular economy to digitalisation and sensor technology.

EnaDyne from Leipzig won the ‘*Value to Sustainability*’ category ahead of *Re.solution* from Aachen and the Austrian start-up *Vienna Textile Lab*. The Leipzig-based technology start-up EnaDyne is developing a revolutionary reactor technology that uses cold plasma to produce sustainable base chemicals and

fuels - an innovation that makes CO₂ usable with minimal energy input and paves the way for an efficient and profitable carbon cycle economy. EnaDyne's plasma catalysis is not only attractive from an economic point of view, but also plays an important role in the fight against climate change.


The winner in the 'Value to Society' category was *Green Li-ion* from Singapore, ahead of *CAMM Solutions* from Überlingen on Lake Constance. Green Li-ion is working to create a commercially viable, closed-loop battery recycling system that reduces reliance on virgin materials and landfill waste. In the patented Green Hydro Rejuvenation process, which is supported by modular recycling equipment, black mass is passed through specialised solutions to filter out impurities. The process produces a product with a purity level of 99% that can be used in new batteries.

In the 'Value to Industry' category, Cynio from Freiberg in Saxony came out on top against *EnaDyne* and Green Li-ion. Cynio, currently an Exist spin-off project of the Technical University Bergakademie Freiberg, is developing an innovative solution for isocyanate production by using CO₂ instead of the highly toxic phosgene. This allows various speciality isocyanates to be produced flexibly and economically – even in small quantities. The process not only promotes more sustainable production methods, but also significantly improves occupational health and safety.


Green Li-ion received the most votes across all categories, followed by *Cynio* and *EnaDyne*. Thus, the three category


winners also took the top three places in the overall ranking. In addition to the three category winners, *Cell2Green*, *Refinq*, and *Vienna Textile Lab* also scored highly in all categories.

The expert jury consisted of: Tanja Bendele (Ruhr-IP Patent Attorneys), Laura Lautenschläger (Biocampus Straubing), Holger Bengs (BCNP Consultants), Markus Ketterer (Endress+Hauser), Andreas Widl (Samson) as well as Jörg Wetterau (Labor für Kommunikation) and Volker Oestreich (Dr Oestreich Consulting). The jury session was moderated by Ralf Kempf and Michael Reubold (both CHEManager). The experts particularly praised the diversity of the ideas implemented by the 19 start-ups, which have not only industrial but also social relevance. The jury's final decision was again preceded by a lively discussion in which the start-ups' pitches were compared and different criteria weighed against each other. In addition to a certificate and a trophy, the three winning start-ups will be given the opportunity to present themselves in a pitch session at the 9th ECP to participants including potential investors, project partners and future customers - sponsored by BCNP Consultants. Even though three start-ups were ultimately honoured as the year's winners, all 19 companies that were able to present themselves to a large audience at the CHEManager Innovation Pitch 2024 can still feel like winners. We will continue to follow the development of these companies and report on their success stories in CHEManager.



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