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Community News

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SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

NCCR Catalysis Young Talents Fellowships: Call for nominations



Chemistry and catalysis impact our daily lives, yet not everyone has benefitted from equal opportunities to integrate into the catalysis and sustainable chemistry research communities. With the Young Talents Fellowship, we aim to identify and promote Master's students with an exceptional academic record or potential, especially those facing barriers within current structures.

The fellowship provides successful applicants with the opportunity to conduct their Master's thesis project in one or more research groups associated with NCCR Catalysis, and to establish their connections and ideas in a multidisciplinary, cross-fertilizing environment of research excellence. You can find the fellowship description and information on how to apply here and impressions from previous cohorts on our website; the application deadline is 30 April 2026. Source: <https://nccr-catalysis.ch>

IUPAC announces establishment of European-based secretariat in Malaga and Rome



The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of negotiations with both the City and University of Malaga, Spain, and the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) in Rome, Italy, leading to the establishment of a European-based Secretariat.

This follows an open international call for proposals, which attracted several generous and high-quality responses, demonstrating strong interest from multiple countries in hosting this international organization. The complementary bids from Malaga and Rome provide new opportunities and open a new chapter in the Union's development through the creation of additional operational capacity. This milestone marks the relocation of IUPAC's secretariat from North Carolina, where it has operated continuously since 1997.

The decision reflects IUPAC's commitment to ensuring that its operations evolve alongside its scientific mission. The new arrangements will provide the Union with strengthened institutional support and expanded opportunities to implement the scientific restructuring currently under consideration. Central to this transition is enhanced professional staff support for IUPAC's extensive volunteer community, whose dedication underpins the Union's work. Both CNR Italy and the University and City of Malaga are offering office space, seconded staff, and general corporate support.

Source: <https://iupac.org>

Bronkhorst (Schweiz) AG, Aesch (BL) joined SCS as a corporate member



We are happy and proud to welcome Bronkhorst (Schweiz) AG, Aesch (BL), as new SCS as Corporate Member.

Bronkhorst (Schweiz) AG, is the Swiss daughter company of Bronkhorst High-Tech B.V., located in Aesch near Basel. They offer local sales and after-sales service, service and ISO 9001 calibration services in their own service laboratory, application engineering, user training and project planning. They are specialists in providing instruments and solutions for low-flow measurement and control applications (gases and liquids) as well as pressure control applications.

Bronkhorst's sales and service experts are in direct contact with customers from various industrial and research sectors to provide optimal technical guidance, solutions and services. Listening to the customers' needs, providing advice at a local level, innovation, and the quality of our products and services make Bronkhorst to a strong partner for a various of applications.

The team members from Bronkhorst are happy to answers your questions and discuss your needs via phone, e-mail, video-call or chat.

General contact: info@bronkhorst.ch / <https://bronkhorst.com>

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



Period: 27.01.2026–26.02.2026
Atabay Allamyradov, Lausanne - Michelle Berthel, Hohenrain - Gavin Bluck, Reinach - Federica Bortoletto, Fribourg - Bogdan-Razvan Bruti, Oberengstringen - Baptiste Chapuis, Fribourg - Pia Dolder, Basel - Serena Fantasia, Basel - Clara Gathmann, Stein - Samia Kausar, Bern - Paria Khalafi, Lausanne - Kai Klopogge,

Mannheim (D) - Benjamin Koehler, Zurich - Karsten Korth, Wyhlen - Jesus Ruben Miron Garcia, Basel - Oleksandra Ortikova, Zurich - Manuel Sellner, Münchenstein - Kseniia Shcherbak, Zurich - Florian Sprich, Basel - Simon Stamm, Oberwil - Gopika Suresh, Bern - Nicolas Tavernier, Fribourg - Julie Tolu, Gümligen - Roël Vreuls, Dornach - Felix Weigand, Embrach - James Whigham, Lausanne.

Become a member: <https://scg.ch/membership>

HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS



DMCCB Basel Symposium 2026: Best Poster Award

The organizing committee of the DMCCB Basel Symposium 2026, that took place at the Biozentrum of the University of Basel on Thursday, February 5 2026, awarded **Laura Hillebrand**,

University of Tübingen with the best poster presentation award.

The PhD student presented her poster entitled «Covalent-First Fragment Screening Enables Non-Cysteine Residue Targeting in Kinases» during the poster session at lunch break.

The DMCCB Best Poster award is endowed with a certificate and a cash cheque of CHF 100.00.

The SCS and the organizing committee like to take the opportunity to congratulate the winner again.

The Green Carbon Outstanding Achievement Award 2025 is awarded to Prof. Michael Grätzel EPFL Lausanne



Prof. Michael Grätzel, EPFL Lausanne has won the 2025 Green Carbon Outstanding Achievement Award as he is recognized as one of the most influential chemists in the world and a pioneering leader in third generation photovoltaics.

The Green Carbon Outstanding Achievement Award, presented by the Qingdao Institute of Bioenergy and Bio-

process Technology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the journal Green Carbon, honors internationally leading scientists whose work has advanced green and sustainable energy technologies. The award recognizes “scientists who have made milestone contributions in the field of green and low-carbon research. It seeks to inspire global researchers to engage in the study and innovation of green carbon science, providing scientific support for addressing global climate change and promoting sustainable development.”

Source: <https://epfl.ch>

MGMS Frank Blaney Award awarded to Prof. Philippe Schwaller, EPFL Lausanne



The Molecular Graphics and Modeling Society has honored **Prof. Philippe Schwaller**, EPFL Lausanne with its 8th Frank Blaney Award for his contributions to artificial intelligence in chemistry.

Prof. Schwaller's work has contributed to bridging machine learning and chemistry, enabling scientists to navigate

chemical space more efficiently and to design experiments with greater precision.

The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of molecular modeling and cheminformatics.

Source: <https://epfl.ch>

JOURNAL NEWS

Helvetica, Volume 109, Issue 2, February 2026



Review

Noninvasive Disease Diagnostics: The Swiss Contribution Highlights to Breath Analysis Research

Stefan James Swift, Kseniya Dryahina, Patrik Španěl, Flora Kontopidou, Christos Kokkotis, Renato Zenobi, Stamatios Giannoukos

The Versatility of Imidazole and Imidazolium Scaffolds in Sustainable Chemistry and Energy Conversion

Lianghui Li, Shun Tian, Enze Xu, Zhaofu Fei, Paul J. Dyson

Spin-Crossover Modulated Luminescence in Materials and Molecular Complexes

Charlotte Egger, Claude Piguet

Perspective

Methylene-Bridged Calixarene Polyhedra: An Elusive Class of Symmetric Molecular Architectures

Aleksandr Kharchenko, Ivan Cornu, Bernd Goldfuss, Konrad Tiefenbacher

Exploring Remote C–H Bond Arylation: Transition Metal Catalysis Without “End-On Template”

Biprajit Paul, Indranil Chatterjee

Research Article

Sulfonamide-Derived N,N,N-Ligand Enabled Copper-Catalyzed Radical 1,2-Trichloromethylthioesterification of Styrenes

Zhi-Chao Chen, Fu Liu, Derong Cao, Peng-Fei Wang, Yu Tian, Xin-Yuan Liu

C2-Alkenylation of Indoles via Reverse-Allylation-Isomerization Cascade

Soumitra Majee, Sangram Samanta, Dinabandhu Samanta, Modhu Sudan Maji

Transannular O-Heterocyclization Reactions of Cyclododeca-1,5,9-triene Derivatives: A New Concept for the Preparation of Key Intermediates for Total Syntheses of Annonaceous Acetogenins

Holger Schimanski, André Streiter, Micheline May, Oliver Mimkes, Johannes van Kempen, Constantin Daniliuc, Günter Haufe

Detection of Radical Anions by Electrospray-Ionization Mass Spectrometry

Niklas F. Eisele, Daniel Kösters, Konrad Koszinowski

A General Platform for the Light-Enabled Generation of α -Fluoro Radicals Leveraging Simple Additives

Jonas Klagge, Maria Mazhuga, John J. Molloy

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

INDUSTRIAL NEWS SWITZERLAND

Source: www.chemanager-online.com

IMCD Germany: Garbotz to Succeed Wallstein

December 17, 2025: As of January 1, 2026, Christoph Garbotz will be Managing Director for IMCD Germany and responsible for the management of the Germany, Austria, Southeast Europe and Switzerland region. IMCD, a global partner for the distribution and formulation of specialty chemicals and ingredients, announced the appointment of Christoph Garbotz as Managing Director for Germany and responsible for the management of the Germany, Austria, Southeast Europe and Switzerland region. He will step into the role on 1 January 2026, replacing Lars Wallstein who has been Managing Director of IMCD Germany since September 2019 and decided to leave the company. Christoph Garbotz brings a strong international track record across commercial and leadership roles outside and within IMCD. He joined IMCD in 2020 as Business Unit Manager for Pharmaceuticals, Beauty

and Personal Care, and Home Care and I&I in Germany. In 2022, he became Managing Director of IMCD Switzerland where he led the integration of DCS Pharma and strengthened IMCD's position in the Swiss market. Most recently, he has served as Director Principal Management for the Pharmaceuticals Business Group.

Dow CTO Leadership Change

January 8, 2026: A.N. Sreeram, Senior VP and Chief Technology Officer, will retire from Dow at the end of June. Andre Argenton will move to the newly created role of Chief Technology & Sustainability Officer. Since joining Dow 20 years ago, Sreeram has transformed Dow's approach to innovation by accelerating new product w through collaboration with our customers. Many award-winning products have been developed under his leadership, spanning applications from coatings and construction to electronics and packaging. In a corresponding move, Andre Argenton will move to the role of Chief Technology & Sustainability Officer. Dow is uniting Sustainability and R&D to accelerate moving ideas to impact. Andre brings significant technical and leadership experience and will continue to focus on delivering solutions that outperform customer expectations and differentiate Dow in the marketplace.

Siegfried to Acquire Small Molecules Drug Substance Capacity in the US

January 27, 2026: Siegfried, a global contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) for the pharmaceutical industry, has signed binding agreements with an affiliate of SK Capital Partners to acquire the drug substance business of the Noramco Group and Extractas Bioscience.

The acquired businesses include three high-quality small molecule drug substances sites with approximately 400 employees:

- Noramco, a large, commercial-scale manufacturing site in Wilmington, Delaware (US)

- Purisys, a clinical API development and manufacturing facility located in Athens, Georgia (US)
- Extractas Bioscience, a leading manufacturer of purified products based in Westbury, Tasmania (AU)

The acquisition supports Siegfried's EVOLVE+ strategy by expanding the company's operations and capacity in the United States, the world's largest pharmaceutical market. Siegfried plans to enhance its exclusive synthesis business in the US by optimizing controlled substance production across the newly acquired Wilmington site and its Pennsville site. Together with the early-phase development capabilities of Purisys and the extraction expertise of Extractas Bioscience, the acquisition broadens Siegfried's portfolio and strengthens its position in the pharmaceutical manufacturing value chain. Marcel Imwinkelried, Chief Executive Officer: "This transaction marks a decisive next step in the execution of our EVOLVE+ strategy and is aligned with our highly selective, disciplined value accretive approach to M&A. By adding exceptional US-based capabilities, we will become even more attractive to both existing and new customers, creating new opportunities to accelerate profitable growth. The combined capacity and expertise of the three sites strengthen our position as a leading CDMO for small-molecule drug substances, and I look forward to fully realizing this value together with our new colleagues." The valuation of the acquired business is below 10 times Enterprise Value / EBITDA. The acquisition will be financed through existing and new debt instruments. Subject to customary closing conditions, the transaction is expected to close later this year.

Source:

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Contact us to speak with an expert: info@solvias.com

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