



SCS
Swiss Chemical
Society

Community News

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SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

SCS Scientific Award Program 2027: Call for Nominations



The call for nominations for the SCS Awards 2027 is open until September 30, 2026.

Please visit our Website for further details and hand in nominations electronically to info@scg.ch.

Werner Prize

CHF 10'000 and medal in bronze. Awarded to a promising young scientist for out-

standing independent chemical research.

Sandmeyer Prize

CHF 10'000 for individuals or CHF 20'000 for groups. Awarded to a person or to a group for outstanding work in industrial or applied chemistry.

SCS Industrial Science Awards

This program includes awards on three career levels with cash checks of CHF 7'000, 10'000 and 15'000. It honors active industrial scientists working in Switzerland for their outstanding contributions in industrial R&D.

Green & Sustainable Chemistry Award

CHF 10'000. Honors outstanding scientific discoveries that lay the foundation for environmentally friendly approaches and products. It is supported by Syngenta as founding partner.

Grammaticakis-Neumann Award

CHF 5'000. The Prize is awarded to a promising young scientist for outstanding accomplishments in the field of experimental or theoretical photochemistry.

Balmer Prize

CHF 2'000 for individuals and CHF 2'000 for the school's chemistry department or CHF 3'000 for a group and CHF 1'000 for the school's chemistry department. Awarded to a teacher working in Switzerland at high school (gymnasium) level for innovation in chemistry teaching.

Dr. Max Lüthi Prize

CHF 1'000 and medal in bronze. Presented for an outstanding diploma thesis in Chemistry conducted at a Swiss University of Applied Sciences.

Simon-Widmer Award

CHF 5'000. Honors distinguished scientists for their contribution to analytical science and the education of analytical scientists.

METAS Award

CHF 5'000. Honors outstanding contribution to the field of metrology in chemistry and/or biology.

Cancer Drug Discovery Research Award

CHF 10'000 in total for 2–4 winners. The award (supported by RGCC International) honors outstanding scientific achievements of MSc, PhD students or Postdocs from Switzerland that are working in the field of cancer drug discovery research.

DIAC Fellowship

CHF 1'000 and lecture tour in Switzerland. The distinction is granted to distinguished scientists from Industry for significant contributions and innovations over many years in the field of industrial chemistry and chemical process technology in Switzerland.

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

Call for Applications: The Chemistry Europe Travel Grant



The Chemistry Europe Travel Grant supports promising young chemists on their journey into the international research community. With up to €2,000 in travel funding, this program enables you to visit leading laboratories, present your research and build meaningful scientific connections that can shape your future career.

If you're eager to broaden your network, exchange ideas, and take your work beyond borders, this opportunity is for you. To learn more visit <https://www.chemistryviews.org/chemistry-europe-travel-grant/>

April – October 15: Application period

November – December: Societies review and select recipients

By December 31: Societies report winners to Chemistry Europe

January: Winners announced by Chemistry Europe.

Source: <https://chemistryviews.org>

Annual Report 2025 of the SCNAT



The Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) has published its annual report 2025. The annual report provides an overview of the key developments, projects, and initiatives that shaped SCNAT's work over the past year. It places a special emphasis on energy issues.

SCNAT has published several key analyses and syntheses, including reports on nuclear energy and energy storage, as well as a summary of the work carried out by the SWEET program, a consortium dedicated to the transformation of energy systems. Through these publications and accompanying dialogues, SCNAT is contributing to the debate on Switzerland's energy future.

Another key topic was biodiversity. SCNAT's Biodiversity Forum presented a report on the state and prospects of biodiversity, thereby providing important scientific foundations for current political discussions.

In the area of scientific infrastructure, the SwissCollNet pro-

ject reached an important milestone with the launch of the national portal SwissNatColl. This platform significantly increases the visibility and accessibility of natural history collections in Switzerland.

Beyond these key themes, numerous other initiatives illustrate the diversity of SCNAT's activities: profiles of brilliant female scientists, the introduction of a STEM label for the vocational baccalaureate, dialogues on landscape and natural hazards, and contributions addressing challenges related to PFAS or phage therapy.

More information: <https://scnat.ch>

Call for Applications: UniBE Venture Fellowship



The University of Bern aims to strengthen the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship at the University of Bern and the Inselspital, University Hospital Bern, across all disciplines.

The goal of the UniBE Venture Fellowship is to promote the transfer of innovative research and teaching by means of innovative products or services into society and the economy and to support entrepreneurial early-career researchers. During the fellowship, the underlying research of the innovation is to be continued in order to validate the technical feasibility (proof-of-concept) and to prepare the commercialization accordingly.

The project must be focused on establishing a proof-of-concept with regard to the development of an innovative product or service, and creating the entrepreneurial foundations for successful implementation in society and the economy. Applications with a focus on basic research will not be considered.

The Fellowship includes a funding budget of CHF 100,000, which must not be exceeded. The employment is based in principle on 80% employment. The duration of the Fellowship is usually 12 months (might be shortened if necessary).

Application deadline is December 2026.

More information available: <https://www.unibe.ch>

Call for Nominations: 2027 IUPAC-Zhejiang Nhu International Award for Advancements in Green Chemistry



The IUPAC-Zhejiang Nhu International Award was established to emphasize the importance of advancements in Green Chemistry and their value to human progress. The awards encourage young and experienced chemists to innovate through Green Chemistry Principles in a wide array of topic areas such as Green and Renewable Feedstocks, Green Syn-

thetic Routes, Green Solvents, Green Catalysis, Green Products, Green Energy, and as broadly defined by OECD, Sustainable Chemistry.

The Award was established in 2019 and is presented every two years. The most recent 2025 recipients for the early career award were Jianbin Li from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Philip Stanley from the Technical University of Munich, Germany, and Sahel Fajal from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, India. The experienced chemist awarded was Prof. Javier Pérez-Ramírez from ETH Zurich.

The work of those receiving the awards demonstrating progress in Green Chemistry will be disseminated to the attention of a wider global audience. All scientists are eligible irrespective of gender and nationality. Winners of this award will be expected to

submit a review article for publication in Pure and Applied Chemistry in the year following their award. The awards will be presented at the 2027 IUPAC World Chemistry Congress to be held in Montreal, Canada, 9–16 July 2027. Awardees will be encouraged to attend the award ceremony and support up to US \$1'000 to defray travel expenses will be offered.

Complete applications, including references, must be received via the submission form no later than 30 September 2026.

Source: <https://iupac.org>

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



Period: 28.04.2026–27.05.2026

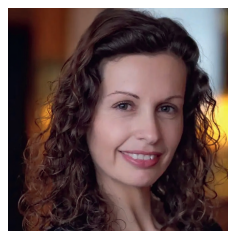
Ola Abdelrahman, Fribourg - Marie-Gabrielle Ameres, Dietikon - Andrés Arribas Domingo, Bern - Francesco Barattini, Villigen - Anju Bindu Modan, Basel - Priscilla Brunetto, Lausanne - Michele Buccio, Petit-Lancy - Arda Baran Burçak, Zurich - Gopika C R, Kottayam (IN) - Ziga Casar, Basel - Guillaume Chapuis,

Delémont - Ramesh Choudhary, Columbia (US) - Andrea Do Nascimento Henriques, Geneva - Rafaela Feuz, Bern - Ramon Fitze, Veiza - Stephanie Ganz, Zurich - Lukas Hannawa, Altdorf - Simon Karnbrock, Bern - Karanjeet Kaur, Columbia (US) - Maryline Kienle, Horgen - Zuzanna Kozicka, Lausanne - Nina Maria Gladys Krapf, Bern - Naglis Kriunas, Zurich - Maria Ivana Lapuh, Sion - Jingkai Lin, Schlieren - Leon Liu, Bern - Mariana Lopez Romero, Ennetbaden - Anindya Menon, Geneva - Laura Mismetti, Rüslikon - Enzo Olivieri, Basel - Miguel Paraja Ramos, Geneva - Marina Perez Jimenez, Geneva - Miquel Àngel Pérez Puigdomènech, Renens - Anita Piccoli, Villigen - Roman Popov, Geneva - Christelle Robert, Bern - Malo Salamin, Petit-Lancy - Ian Saxer, Villigen - Marco Schellenberg, Wermatswil - Noah Shahin, Zurich - Bingru Shao, Geneva - Andrei Shaplin, Basel - Angela Spadea, Zurich - Nadiia Vorontsova, Geneva - Laure Weisskopf, Fribourg - Tong Wu, Brugg AG - Ren Xudong, Geneva - Hao Yu, Bern - Mahshad Zanjani, Geneva - Yaya Zhi, Basel - Kilian Zuchan, Geneva.

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

HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

Announcement of the Heilbronner-Hückel Lecture Tour 2026: Prof. Beatriz Roldan Cuenya, Fritz-Haber Institute Max Planck Society



The 2026 Heilbronner-Hückel lecture tour in Switzerland will take place from October 5–8, 2026. We are proud to announce **Prof. Beatriz Roldan Cuenya**, Director of the Department of Interface Science, Fritz-Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society, Berlin, as this year's lecturer.

The tour is planned as follows:

- Mon, October 5, 2026, 17.00h, EPFL Lausanne, co-organized with University of Geneva
«The Secret Life of CO₂ Electroreduction Catalysts unveiled by Operando Spectroscopy and Microscopy»
- Tue, October 6, 2026, 16.00h, ETH Zurich, co-organized with University of Zurich, Lecture hall HCI G7, ETH Zurich, D-CHAB, Vladimir Prelog Weg, 8093 Zurich
«Catalysts: More Alive than Previously Thought»
- Wed, October 7, 2026, 16.30h, University of Basel, Lecture

Hall U1.402, University of Basel, Universitäres Zentrum für Zahnmedizin Basel (UZB), Mattenstrasse 40, 4058 Basel
 «The Power of Imperfections: A New Paradigm in Catalysis»

- Thu, October 8, 2026, 14.15h, University of Bern, co-organized with University of Fribourg, Lecture hall EG16, University of Bern, Freiestrasse 3, 3012 Bern
 «Catalysts: More Alive than Previously Thought»

SCS program manager: Prof. Martin Quack, ETH Zurich

Source: <https://scg.ch>

Prix Schläfli 2026 in Chemistry awarded to Valeriia Hutskalovah



Dr. Valeriia Hutskalova (Chemistry), Julian Rogger (Geosciences), Astrid Stubbusch (Biology) and Andrea Weibel (Astronomy) were honoured with the Prix Schläfli 2026 for findings made in the context of their dissertations. Through this prize, the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) singles out the four most significant insights of young

researchers at Swiss universities. The Prix Schläfli has been awarded since 1866. Foto: SCNAT

Valeriia Hutskalova is a humorous “toolmaker” in Chemistry

Valeriia really wanted to be a pianist, but she found enjoyment in chemistry. In her thesis at the University of Basel, she showed that even particularly stable molecule rings can be intentionally “cut” and put together again. Read the full article about Valeriia on the Website of SCNAT.

Valeriia joined the SCS Foundation Alfred Werner Scholarship Program for Master students in 2019 and successfully continued her studies in 2021 as a PhD student. We would like to thank the SCS Foundation and all of the program’s supporters for making it possible for students like Valeriia to launch their careers in Switzerland. Source: scg.ch and scnat.ch

Prof. Catherine Housecroft receives Honorary Doctorate from the University of Zurich



The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at the University of Zurich has awarded an honorary doctorate for 2026 to **Prof. em. Dr. Catherine Housecroft**, Titular Professor Emerita of Chemistry. The faculty is thereby honoring her outstanding scientific achievements in coordination and materials chemistry, her significant

contributions to chemistry education at the university level, and her tireless dedication to Swiss chemistry, *CHIMIA*, chemistry education, and the next generation of scientists. Catherine Housecroft was born in Bradford, England. She studied chemistry at the University of Durham, UK, where she received her Ph.D. in 1979. She then went to the University of Notre Dame, USA, for her first postdoctoral position. Subsequent positions included roles at the University of New Hampshire, USA, and Cambridge University as a lecturer and Royal Society Research Fellow. In 1994, Catherine Housecroft moved to the University of Basel, where she was appointed Titular Professor in 1998. Between 2000 and 2002, Catherine Housecroft held the position of Professor of Chemistry and Director of Teaching at the University of Birmingham, UK; in 2002 she returned to Basel. Catherine Housecroft renders valuable service to chemistry in Switzerland. She is the editor-in-chief of *CHIMIA* and is al-

so jointly responsible for the “Chemical Education Columns” section; she is a member of the Executive Board of the Swiss Chemical Society’s Department of Chemical Education, and she served as president of the Chemistry Platform of the Swiss Academy of Sciences.

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

Honorary Doctorate for Prof. Hans Jakob Wörner, ETH Zurich



The University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague (UCT Prague) has awarded the honorary doctorate to **Prof. Hans Jakob Wörner**, ETH Zurich in recognition of his breakthrough results in physical chemistry, ultrafast spectroscopy, and the study of electronic processes on attosecond timescales.

UCT Prague confers honorary doctorates to individuals whose work has fundamentally contributed to the development of the fields that form its scientific/educational core. In the case of Hans Jakob Wörner, it honours his breakthrough results in physical chemistry, ultrafast spectroscopy, and the study of electronic processes on attosecond timescales. An attosecond is equal to 10^{-18} seconds and is the timescale upon which the fastest processes determining chemical reactions occur.

The research conducted by Professor Wörner’s group demonstrates how electron movements influence chemical processes and how these phenomena can be experimentally captured using novel spectroscopic methods. His team has made significant contributions to the description of photoionization in molecules, clusters, and liquids, the observation of attosecond charge migration, and the development of soft X-ray spectroscopy based on high-harmonic generation.

Source: <https://ethz.ch>

Prof. Helma Wennemers, ETH Zurich, receives the Wilhelm-Ostwald-Medaille



Prof. Helma Wennemers, ETH Zurich was awarded the Wilhelm Ostwald Medal for her outstanding work on the development of bio-inspired catalysts and functional peptide systems.

Wennemers’ research has opened up a new understanding of molecular functionality and established peptide-based catalysis as a distinct and future-oriented field. Through its interdisciplinarity and scientific originality, her work stands in a particularly strong tradition of Wilhelm Ostwald.

The award was established in 1978 by the Saxon Academy of Sciences in Leipzig to mark the 125th anniversary of the birth of its former member Wilhelm Ostwald – winner of the 1909 Nobel Prize in Chemistry in the field of catalysis. Since then, the Academy has been awarding the medal in recognition of outstanding scientific achievements, primarily in the fields of natural sciences and engineering.

Source: <https://ethz.ch>

JOURNAL NEWS

Helvetica, Volume 109, Issue 5, May 2026



Review

Rhenium Complexes as Antimicrobial Agents

Fabio Zobi, Gozde Demirci, Marija Rasic

The Chemistry, Biology, and Clinical Development of Epothilones—A 30-Year Retrospective

Karl-Heinz Altmann

Perspective

Synthesis Side Stories: Capitalizing the Unintended Side-Product
Clara Massol-Frieh, Julien C. Vantourout

Research Article

Memory of Chirality in Radical Addition–Translocation–Cyclization Cascades

Christian Simon Gloor, Fabrice Dénès, Valentin Soulard, Philippe Renaud

Structure and Spectroscopy of Criegee Intermediates in Gas- and Aqueous Environments

Cangtao Yin, Meenu Upadhyay, Markus Meuwly

A Novel Type of Fluorescent Chlorophyll Catabolites Hypermodified by Lipophilic Chloroplast Membrane Components

Clemens Vergeiner, Bernhard Kräutler

Distinguishing Terpene Structural Isomers With Dielectric Barrier Discharge Ionization (DBDI)-Mass Spectrometry

Justine Raeber, Alina Begley, Annina Bovens, Ana Curavić, Christian Steuer

An Unfolding Story: AlphaFold's View on Protein Flexibility

Gunnar Jeschke

Kinetic Investigation of Propylene Oxide Ring-Opening Polymerization in a Multiphase Semibatch Reactor

Tabea A. Thiel, Mahsa Sadeghi, Michael Schwarze, Udo Kragl, Esteban Mejía

Analytical Characterization of Quantum Dot Enhancement Films in Commercial Displays

Dylan Käser, Tobias Schöberl, Norman Lüchinger, Yuliia Kominko, Sebastian Sabisch, Matthias Klimpel, Andrii Kanak, Sergii Yakunin, Detlef Günther, Maksym V. Kovalenko, Dmitry N. Dirin

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

INDUSTRIAL NEWS SWITZERLAND

Source: www.chemanager-online.com

Henrik Krüpper Becomes New CEO of Unither Pharmaceuticals

April 28, 2026: Unither Pharmaceuticals welcomes Henrik Krüpper as Chief Executive Officer of the Group, starting May 4. He succeeds Eric Goupil, who has led the Group for more than 25 years and will continue to provide support in his new role as Chairman.

Henrik Krüpper's appointment marks the next phase in Unither's growth journey and forms part of a planned succession process. The Group's priorities, culture and long-term objectives remain focused on innovation and delivering high-quality solutions that meet clients' manufacturing needs, particularly in

Blow-Fill-Seal products and liquid stick-packs. Henrik Krüpper holds an engineering degree from RWTH Aachen, Germany. He brings over 25 years of experience across the specialty chemicals and pharmaceuticals sectors. Prior to joining Unither, he served since 2023 as Chief Operating Officer of the Drug Substances division at Swiss CDMO Siegfried Group. He previously held executive leadership positions, notably as CEO of HCS Group, and started his career in the chemical industry at Evonik (Degussa). Unither Pharmaceuticals is a pharmaceutical contract manufacturer specialized in sterile and non-sterile liquid forms, including single-doses, multi-doses, vials, liquid stick packs, and sprays. Incumbent CEO Eric Goupil remains fully committed to Unither and will continue to support the Group in his new capacity as Chairman. Under Eric's leadership, Unither has experienced sustained growth and strengthened its industrial footprint in France, the United States, Brazil and China, serving international clients worldwide. The Group has established itself as the global leader in Blow-Fill-Seal unit-dose technology, with an annual production capacity of 5 billion doses. In January of 2026, the pharmaceutical group has launched the construction of a new industrial facility at its Gannat (Allier) site. This project represents a total investment of more than €140 million and will lead to the creation of 133 direct jobs by 2028, and nearly 250 jobs by 2030. It aims to strengthen France's production capacities for sterile medical devices, in line with an industrial reshoring strategy, healthcare sovereignty, and local economic development.

Siegfried Secures Antitrust Green Light for US and Australia Drug-Substance Site Takeover

May 1, 2026: All closing conditions satisfied for the acquisition of three small molecule sites in the US and Australia; closing to occur as of May 1, 2026. Transaction adds highly demanded US-based manufacturing capacity to Siegfried's global drug substances network.

Siegfried, a global Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization (CDMO) for the pharmaceutical industry, announced that all conditions required for the closing of its previously announced acquisition of three drug substances sites in the US and Australia from an affiliate of SK Capital Partners have been satisfied. The closing of the transaction will occur on May 1, 2026. The transaction adds three high-quality small-molecule drug substances sites to Siegfried's global drug substances network: Noramco, a large commercial-scale manufacturing site in Wilmington, Delaware (US), Purisys, a clinical API development and manufacturing facility located in Athens, Georgia (US), and Extractas Bioscience, a manufacturer of purified products based in Westbury, Tasmania (Australia). The three sites employ around 400 people and will be part of Siegfried's global network upon closing. Siegfried intends to expand its fast-growing exclusive synthesis business in the US by optimizing its controlled substance capacity across the Wilmington site and its nearby Pennsville facility. Combined with the early-phase development capabilities in Athens and the extraction expertise of Extractas Bioscience, the acquisition strengthens Siegfried's ability to support customers from early-phase development to commercial manufacturing. Marcel Imwinkelried, CEO of Siegfried, commented: "Reaching this milestone represents another important step in the execution of our EVOLVE+ strategy. The additional US manufacturing capacity and complementary capabilities strengthen our position in small-molecule drug substances and support our ambition to deliver sustainable, profitable growth. We look forward to welcoming our new colleagues to Siegfried and to working together to further strengthen our global network and realize its full potential."

ADNOC Subsidiary Secures \$2 Billion Methanol Financing and \$10 Billion Deal with Alpha Dhabi

May 15, 2026: Abu Dhabi's Ta'ziz signs a \$10 billion chemicals deal with Alpha Dhabi and closes \$2bn in methanol plant financing, marking over \$12 billion in new investment at Al Ruwais Industrial City.

Ta'ziz, the chemicals affiliate of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), has signed a strategic collaboration agreement with Alpha Dhabi Holding for approximately \$10 billion in new industrial chemicals investment at Al Ruwais Industrial City. The partnership, subject to a joint feasibility study and final investment decisions, targets production of up to 14 new chemicals, including styrene, acrylic acid, polyols, MDI, epoxy resins, and linear alpha-olefins, adding around 2.2 million tons per annum of capacity. The chemicals are anchored on domestic demand and designed to substitute key products currently imported into the UAE. Mashal Saoud Al-Kindi, CEO of Ta'ziz, said: "This strategic collaboration with Alpha Dhabi offers significant potential to expand Ta'ziz's mission to drive industrial growth, enable import substitution, and create new economic opportunities in the UAE. We look forward to working with our partners to swiftly progress the joint study and unlock the industrial and economic potential from the new chemical products." Separately, Ta'ziz announced that its methanol joint venture with Swiss-headquartered Proman has achieved financial close on \$2 billion in financing for the UAE's first world-scale methanol plant, also at Al Ruwais. The transaction was significantly oversubscribed, signaling strong international investor confidence in Abu Dhabi's industrial growth platform. The plant, with 1.8 million tons per annum of capacity, is targeted for completion in 2028. Together, the two announcements represent over \$12 billion in committed or planned chemicals investment, building on Ta'ziz's existing phase one portfolio of ammonia, methanol, and PVC that is on track to reach 4.7 million tons per annum of output by end-2028.

Bristol Myers Squibb Bolsters Oncology Pipeline with Lonza Licensing Agreement

May 18, 2026: Bristol Myers Squibb licenses Lonza's SYNtecan linker-payload platform to advance an undisclosed ADC target, with Lonza eligible for upfront payments, milestones and royalties on resulting products.

Lonza, a global contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO), and Bristol Myers Squibb, a global pharmaceutical company, recently announced an exclusive single-target licensing agreement. Under the terms of this agreement, BMS will gain exclusive access to the SYNtecan linker-payload platform to advance an ADC against an undisclosed target. BMS will perform the research, development, manufacturing, and commercialization of the ADC. Lonza, through one of its affiliated companies, will be eligible to receive upfront, potential milestone payments, and royalty payments on net sales of resulting products. Jan Vertommen, Vice President of Commercial Development, Advanced Synthesis, Lonza, said: "BMS has long been at the forefront of innovation in our industry, and this agreement marks a significant achievement in our collaboration with BMS. Licensing SYNtecan linker-payloads, our TOPO1 inhibitor platform, to BMS provides another strong validation of its strength and its trustworthiness in delivering positive clinical outcomes. We are pleased to add BMS to our partnered pipeline, as we collaborate to advance therapies that provide meaningful treatments to individuals who are still facing a critical unmet medical need."

Source: CHEManager | CHEManager International
Wiley-VCH GmbH, 69469 Weinheim, GERMANY,
E-Mail: chemanager@wiley.com



SCS Academy

Swiss Chemical Society

InCompany Training

We organize or develop together with you InCompany-training and courses according to your ideas and needs. Benefit from the fact that we can

- contents to company-specific requirements and wishes adapt
- specifically address questions and problems in your field of application treat
- carry out practical exercises on your equipment
- Conduct training sessions in French or English, if necessary, English language

Experts are at your disposal for a personal need's assessment and advice at your disposal.

Place / Date

The training can be conducted at your location. For your employees do not have to pay for travel and accommodation costs!

Course rooms and practical training rooms are also available. The date will be arranged.

Fees

On request

Target group/customers

Customers who have a need for additional education and further training measures in addition to this year's Academy offering or who would like to hold in-house courses.

Contact

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