

CH Information

News – Honors – Workshops – Conferences – Lectures

NEWS

• Three widely-used pesticides made by Switzerland's **Syngenta** (thiamethoxam) and Germany's **Bayer** (imidacloproprid and clothianidin) may pose an acute risk to honeybees. Fears over the effects on bees of neonicotinoid insecticides – among the most commonly used crop pesticides in the world – led France to withdraw approval in June last year for Syngenta's Cruiser OSR, used to treat rapeseed crops. Responding to the opinion by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the European Commission said it was ready to take the necessary steps if its findings are confirmed, raising the prospect of EU-wide restrictions on the use of the products. EFSA said harmful pesticide residues in the pollen and nectar of plants treated with the three chemicals meant that they should only be used on crops not attractive to honeybees, such as sugarbeet. That would exclude their use on maize, rapeseed and sunflower crops. Bees also face an acute risk from exposure to drifting pesticide dust following sowing of cereal seeds treated with the chemicals, including wheat and barley, EFSA said. However, the EU scientists found no link between use of the pesticides and the phenomenon known as bee colony collapse disorder, which has seen bee populations fall rapidly in recent years across Europe and North America.

• Swiss specialist chemicals supplier **Lonza** reported better than expected profits for 2012 and said it expects a further increase in sales and profits this year on the back of new technologies and products. The Basel-based firm, which supplies ingredients to drugmakers such as GlaxoSmithKline, said earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) rose 28.4% last year to 335 million Swiss francs (\$361 million), up from 261 million francs in 2011. This was ahead of the average forecast given by analysts in a Reuters poll of a 26.1% rise to 329 million francs. Faced with low-cost competition, a strong Swiss franc and higher raw material prices, Lonza said last October it would cut 500 jobs, including 400 at its main plant in Switzerland. The company said it would pay a dividend of 2.15 francs per share, unchanged from last year.

• **Novartis** expects sales to grow in the mid-single digit region from 2014 once it has absorbed the full impact of competition from cheaper drugs, and said its long-standing chairman and former Chief Executive would step down in February. Daniel Vasella, who has served as Novartis CEO and Chairman for 17 years, said he would not stand for re-election to the board of directors. The board has proposed Bayer healthcare head Joerg Reinhardt to replace him. Reinhardt is a former COO of Novartis who had once been tipped as a possible successor to Vasella, but left in 2010 after Joe Jimenez was given the top job. Reinhardt will end his active service with Bayer effective February 28, 2013. Europe's second-largest drugmaker by market value after hometown rival Roche, is relying on sales of its newest products, like multiple sclerosis pill Gilenya and cancer drug Tasigna to help drive future growth.

• **Roche** Holding said U.S. regulators will allow it to begin selling the company's reserve stock of adult Tamiflu capsules, and that the extra supplies of the flu treatment should meet U.S.

demand for that formulation for the rest of this flu season. The Swiss drugmaker said the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will allow it to sell Tamiflu capsules in different packaging from what is currently available in the United States. Roche's Genentech unit, which makes Tamiflu, said it continues to expect spot shortages of a different liquid formulation used by children because continuing production of it will not meet demand. Tamiflu is used to slow down or stop symptoms of the flu in people that already have been infected with the virus. Shortages of the treatment come as the United States is experiencing one of the worst influenza epidemics of the past decade.

• In January 2013 **Clariant**, a world leader in specialty chemicals, inaugurated a new production site for its Industrial & Consumer Specialties Business Unit (ICS), at the city of Coatzacoalcos, Mexico. With an investment of over \$20 million and an extension of four hectares, Clariant's new site in Mexico will produce several chemical specialties and technological solutions for different markets, including personal care, crop protection, metalworking, construction and painting. Clariant also signed an agreement to acquire CRM International, a French based manufacturer of natural ingredients for the personal care industry. The transaction is expected to close by the end of March 2013.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/SYMPOSIA

Wind-to-Gas

7.3.2013, DECHEMA, Frankfurt

4. Energiekolloquium der Chemiegesellschaften veranstaltet von DBG, DECHEMA, DGMK, GDCh, VCI, VDI-GVC.

http://events.dechema.de/Kolloquien+2012_2013/707_+Wind_to_Gas.html

Faraday Discussion 162: Fabrication, Structure and Reactivity of Anchored Nanoparticles

10–12.3.2013, Berlin

<http://www.rsc.org/ConferencesAndEvents/RSCConferences/FD162/index.asp>

CANAS 2013 – Colloquium Analytische Atomspektroskopie

17–19.3.2013, Freiberg, DE

<http://www.canas.eu>

FemtoMat 2013 – 5th European Conference on Applications of Femtosecond Lasers in Materials Science

18–22.3.2013, Mauterndorf, Austria

<http://www.nanoandphotonics.at/>

Discovery Chemistry Congress

18–19.3.2013, Munich, DE

This conference will integrate the latest structural chemistry with innovative discovery-driven technologies.

<http://selectbiosciences.com/conferences/index.aspx?conf=DCC2013>

Dynamic Outsourcing for Life Sciences, DOLS 2013

18–19.3.2013, Cambridge, UK

This networking and conference-driven event will cover contract research, development and manufacturing of pharmaceutical and agrochemical intermediates and active ingredients from R&D to commercial scale.

<http://www.avakado.eu/dev/Events/DOLS2013>

The Peptide Conference 2013

19–20.3.2013, Cambridge, UK

This 2-day conference and exhibition will feature top-level papers from industry and academia enabling delegates to learn how they can improve their research and development in the areas of peptide discovery, development, manufacture and application.

<http://www.avakado.eu/dev/Events/Peptide/Conference/2013>

3rd International Conference of the Flow Chemistry Society

19–20.3.2013, Munich, DE

As the society's main European meeting, it is dedicated to the integration of flow chemistry into everyday practice throughout the world by delivering the latest knowledge and making it available for the entire chemistry community.

<http://selectbiosciences.com/conferences/index.aspx?conf=FCE2013>

SBA Academy: Challenges in Drug Discovery and Development

22.3.2013, Lausanne

Module 2: Nonclinical Development

<http://www.swissbiotech.org/php5/aa2/index.php?l=1&id=424855>

112th Bunsentagung (Annual German Conference on Physical Chemistry)

9–11.5.2013, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Karlsruhe

<http://www.bunsen.de/bunsentagung2013.html>

33rd International Conference on Solution Chemistry

7–12.7.2013, Kyoto, Japan

<http://www.solnchem.jp/33ICSC/>

Density-functional theory and beyond: Computational materials science for real materials

6–15.8.2013, Trieste, Italy,

<http://th.fhi-berlin.mpg.de/sitesub/meetings/DFT-workshop-2013/>

LECTURES**Basel, Novartis**

Novartis Chemistry Lectureship

Horbürg Auditorium, WKL-430.320, Müllheimerstrasse 195, 4057 Basel

13.3.2013

10.30 h

Prof. *Benjamin List*

Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung, Mülheim an der Ruhr, D
Title to be announced

Université Genève, Chimie organique

Auditoire A100, Sciences II, Genève

14.3.2013

16.30 h

Dr. *David Monchaud*

Université de Bourgogne, F
Title to be announced

21.3.2013

16.30 h

Prof. *Guy Lloyd-Jones*

University of Bristol, UK
Title to be announced

ETH Zürich, Laboratorium für Organische Chemie

Hörsaal HCI J3, ETH Zürich Hönggerberg

Montags, 16.00 h

4.3.2013

Prof. Dr. *Annette G. Beck-Sickinger*

Universität Leipzig, Institut für Biochemie, D

'Peptide Drugs to Target GPCR – State of the Art and Innovative Applications'

11.3.2013

Prof. Dr. *Markus Aebi*

ETH Zürich, Institut für Mikrobiologie

'Concepts in N-linked Protein Glycosylation'

18.3.2013

Prof. Dr. *Mark Lautens*

Department of Chemistry, Davenport Chemical Laboratories, University of Toronto

'No Strain, No Gain? Lessons in Catalysis'

25.3.2013

Prof. Dr. *Thomas Carell*

Fakultät für Chemie und Pharmazie, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München, D

'DNA Bases Beyond Watson and Crick that Control Stem Cell Development'

The complete and updated lecture calendar is available on www.scg.ch.