

CH Information

News – Honors – Workshops – Conferences – Lectures

NEWS

Flavour and fragrance producer **Givaudan** is in exclusive talks about acquiring French cosmetics ingredients manufacturer Soliance. With two sites in France and 77 employees, the company uses vegetables, micro-organisms and micro-algae to make ingredients for cosmetics, including self-tanning lotions and skin creams. The company will fund the transaction from its cash flow. This would be Givaudan's first acquisition since 2007, when it bought Quest from British chemical group ICI.

A handful of consumer and healthcare companies including **Novartis** are exploring a deal for Merck & Co's consumer healthcare business. Despite the large size of a potential deal – rumoured to be worth as much as \$10–12 billion – and the diversity of the product lines, Merck is reportedly focused on selling the consumer health business in its entirety. The U.S. drugs group is expected to seek second-round offers in late March. Among a range of options considered for the consumer unit, Merck has discussed a potential asset swap with Novartis. This would see Merck give up its consumer assets in return for the Swiss drugmaker's animal health and other units. Such a deal is regarded as unlikely, due to the complexity of valuing different businesses; however, Novartis remains interested, and could offer cash instead if an asset swap does not pan out, news agency Reuters said.

Novartis has announced plans to acquire U.S. biotech firm CoStim. The privately owned cancer therapy specialist based at Cambridge, Massachusetts, focuses on harnessing the immune system to eliminate immune-blocking signals from cancer. Novartis is deeply engaged in cancer immunotherapy, developing investigative chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) technology in collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania. "Therapy for many types of cancers is expected to increasingly rely upon rational combinations of agents," said Mark Fishman, president of the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research. "Immunotherapy agents provide additional arrows in our quiver for such combinations. They complement our extensive portfolio of drugs that hit genetically-defined cancer-causing pathways, and also may be relevant to expansion of CAR therapies," he said.

Clariant is seeking to release its stake in ASK Chemicals, a joint venture with U.S.-based chemical producer Ashland. People familiar with the transaction told the news agency Reuters that several companies are interested, including private equity investor Sun Capital. Based at Hilden, near Düsseldorf, Germany, the company with 1,800 employees produces binding agents and additives for the foundry sector. Clariant has operative control. Analysts said ASK could be valued at €240–280 million.

CONFERENCES IN SWITZERLAND

01.04.–30.09.2014

SCS Spring Meeting 2014

24.04.2014

Department of Chemistry, large auditorium, University of Fribourg

Full-day symposium on organic chemistry and Werner Prize lectures 2014.

<http://www.scg.ch/springmeeting2014>

Bürgenstock Conference

04.05.2014–09.05.2014

Seehotel Waldstätterhof, Brunnen

The 'EUCHEM Conference on Stereochemistry', better known as the 'Bürgenstock Conference', is an outstanding international chemistry meeting of high scientific quality, with an optimal setting for intense inter-disciplinary discussion.

<http://www.stereochemistry-buergenstock.ch/>

Swiss Nanoconvention 2014

21.05.2014–22.05.2014

FHNW Campus, Brugg

The Swiss Nanoconvention is the prime annual showcase for nanotechnology in Switzerland, bringing together experts from industry, universities, public research institutions and the media. If you are active in nanotechnology or interested in that field, participating in this event is a must for you.

<http://www.swissnanoconvention.ch/2014>

Kinetics and Thermodynamics in Drug Discovery

22.05.2014

Department of Chemistry, Large Lecture Hall, University of Basel

This year's annual mini-symposium organized by the Division of Medicinal Chemistry & Chemical Biology of the Swiss Chemical Society is dedicated to the topic of 'Kinetics and Thermodynamics in Drug Discovery'.

<http://scg.ch/ktdd2014>

International Symposium on Synthetic Two-Dimensional Polymers

02.06.2014–03.06.2014

ETH Zürich, Hönggerberg Campus, HCI J 6, Zürich

The organizers of this international symposium are convinced of the enormous future impact that two-dimensional polymers and covalent molecular sheets will have. The symposium will bring together high-caliber international specialists from all fields (chemistry, physics, theory, materials, structure analytics) to discuss the burning questions, ranging from synthesis issues to structure analytics and from properties to expected societal impact.

<http://www.2dp.ethz.ch/>

Young Faculty Meeting 2014

05.06.2014

University of Bern, DCB, Auditorium EG 16, Bern

The «Young Faculty Meeting» was set up in order to promote scientific exchange and networking among young academics in chemistry in Switzerland.

Registration before 25 May 2014 by email (chemistry@scnat.ch)

<http://www.chemistry.scnat.ch/YFM>**Annual Meeting of the Swiss Physical Society SPS**

30.06.2014–02.07.2014

University of Fribourg, Building Pérolles 2, Fribourg

In 2014 the Swiss Institute of Particle Physics (CHIPP), the NCCR MUST, the Association MaNEP (emerged from the former NCCR MaNEP) and the Swiss Neutron Scattering Society will participate in the SPS Annual Meeting.

http://www.sps.ch/events/spg_jahrestagung_2014/**International Mass Spectrometry Conference (IMSC)**

24.08.2014–29.08.2014

International Conference Centre in Geneva (CICG), Geneva

The IMSC is the largest international mass spectrometry conference, bringing together scientists covering all aspects of mass spectrometry and related fields, from fundamentals and instrumentation, to applications in such diverse areas as organic chemistry, isotope/elemental analysis, environmental science, and biology.

<http://www.imsc2014.ch>**SET2014 The 13th International Conference on Sustainable Energy Technologies**

25.08.2014–28.08.2014

Geneva

SET 2014 is a multi-disciplinary international conference on the sustainable energy sources and technologies, and will provide a forum for the exchange of latest technical information, the dissemination of the high-quality research results on the issues, the presentation of the new developments in the area of sustainable energy, and the debate and shaping of future directions and priorities for better environment, sustainable development and energy security.

<http://www.hes-so.ch/set2014>**65th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Electrochemistry**

31.08.2014–05.09.2014

Swiss Tech Convention Center (STCC), EPFL, Lausanne

The meeting will illustrate the central role played by electrochemistry in different fields ranging from analytical chemistry to solar cells, from corrosion to fuel cells, from transportation to DNA sequencing. Above all, electrochemistry is a fundamental science at the frontier between physics, chemistry and biology.

<http://annual65.ise-online.org>**BioTech 2014**

04.09.2014–05.09.2014

Grüental Campus, Wädenswil

Interdisciplinary conference on bioprocess analytics and sensor technology. The BioTech conference series has been successfully focusing on various topics in biotechnology for many years, bringing together scientists and professionals from both industry and academia.

<http://www.biotech2014.ch>**SCS Fall Meeting 2014**

11.09.2014

University of Zurich, Institute of Chemistry, Zurich

The Fall Meeting represents a major event for chemical research in Switzerland, offering a unique opportunity for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and senior scientists from academia and industry.

The call for abstracts is open until May 18, 2014

<http://www.scg.ch/fallmeeting2014>**ILMAC-Lounges 2014**

23.09.2014–25.09.2014

MCH Messe Schweiz, Basel

Innovative and pioneering platform which joins the concept of a trade fair with the objectives of a lecture event: Exhibition, Product Shows, Action Platforms, Top-class Lectures, Social Events.

<http://ilmac-lounges.ch>**LECTURES****Universität Basel: Pharmazeutische Wissenschaften**

Lecture Hall 1

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| 02.04.2014 17.00 h | <i>Dr. Ian Copple</i> , MRC Centre for Drug Safety Science, Dept. of Molecular & Clinical Pharmacology, The University of Liverpool, UK 'The Keap1-Nrf2 cell defence pathway: Physiological, pharmacological & toxicological relevance to human health' |
| 09.04.2014 17.00 h | <i>Christoph Handschin, PhD</i> , Focal Area Growth and Development, University of Basel 'Improving muscle function: mechanisms, regulators and pharmacological interventions' |
| 16.04.2014 17.00 h | <i>Dr. JWF van Mil</i> , Editor-in-chief, International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy, NL-Zuidlaren 'How to publish your research – an editor's view on the value of impact factors and other metrics' |
| 23.04.2014 17.00 h | <i>Dr. Stefan Marciniak</i> , MRC Clinical Research Fellow, Department of Medicine, University of Cambridge, UK 'The role of the unfolded protein response in disease' |
| 30.04.2014 17.00 h | <i>Prof. Bruno Gander</i> , ETH, Zürich 'Devices and delivery systems for peripheral nerve repair' |
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| Universität Basel: Physikalische Chemie | |
| Physikalische Chemie, Departement Chemie, Universität Basel, Kleiner Hörsaal, Raum 4.04., 2. Stock | |
| 09.04.2014 16.30 h | <i>Prof. Dr. Johannes Hecker Denschlag</i> , Universität Ulm, D 'Ultracold Atoms Meet Trapped Ions' |

- 16.04.2014
16.30 h *Prof. Dr. Frank Neese*, MPI für Chemische Energiekonversion, Mülheim an der Ruhr, D
'New Insights into Biological Energy Conversion in Photosystem II Through a Combination of Quantum Chemistry and Spectroscopy'
- 23.04.2014
16.30 h *Dr. Dennis Andrienko*, Max-Planck-Institut für Polymerforschung, Mainz, D
'Design Rules for Organic Semiconductors for Optoelectronic Applications'
- 30.04.2014
16.30 h *Prof. Dr. Jan Kierfeld*, Technische Universität Dortmund, D
'Polymerization and Force Generation by Cytoskeletal Filaments'
- Universität Bern: Anorganische, Analytische und Physikalische Chemie**
Departement für Chemie und Biochemie, Universität Bern, Hörsaal S481
- 10.04.2014
11.15 h *Prof. Dr. Jamie L. Manson*, Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, USA
'Low-dimensional quantum magnets composed of strong hydrogen bonds'
- University of Fribourg**
Department of Chemistry, main auditorium
- 01.04.2014
17.15 h *PhD Walter Fischli*, Actelion Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Baden
'Actelion – From the Idea to Europe's largest Biotech Company'
- 08.04.2014
17.15 h *Prof. Dr. Werner Arber*, University of Basel
'Molecular Mechanisms of Biological Evolution'
- SCS Spring Meeting 2014**
<http://scg.ch/springmeeting2014>
- 24.04.2014
10.00 h *Prof. F. Dean Toste*, University of California, Berkeley, USA
'Enantioselective Catalysis with Cations and Anions'
- 11.00 h *Prof. Clémence Corminboeuf*, EPFL Lausanne
'Pitfalls & Perils in DFT Land: A Survival Guide'
- 11.45 h *Prof. Jérôme Waser*, EPFL Lausanne
'Taming Hypervalent Bonds and Strained Rings for Catalysis and Synthesis'
- 13.30 h *Prof. Matthew Gaunt*, Dept. Chemistry, University of Cambridge, UK
'New activation modes for palladium-catalyzed aliphatic C–H bond functionalization'
- 14.15 h *Prof. Andreas Pfaltz*, Dept. Chemistry, University of Basel
'New catalysts and screening methods for asymmetric synthesis'
- 15.30 h *Prof. Erik J. Sorensen*, Dept. Chemistry, Princeton University, USA
'Taking Risks in Complex Synthesis Design'
- 16.30 h *Prof. Tobias Ritter*, Dept. Chemistry, Harvard University, USA
'Late-Stage Fluorination for PET Imaging'
- Université Genève, Chimie organique**
Auditoire A-100
- 03.04.2014
16.30 h *Prof. Marc Mauduit*, Université de Rennes, F
'Design of Ligands for Challenging Ru-based Olefin Metathesis Transformations'
- 10.04.2014
16.30 h *Prof. Dennis Gillingham*, Université de Bâle
'Targeting Nucleic Acids with Organometallic Catalysis'
- EPFL Lausanne, Institut des Sciences et Ingénierie Chimiques**
EPFL BCH 2218 (batiment Chimie UNIL)
- 02.04.2014
17.15 h *Prof. Tibor Soos*, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary
'From Simplicity to Complexity: Exploiting the Synthetic Potential of Bifunctionality'
- 30.04.2014
17.15 h *Prof. Joachim Mittendorf*, Bayer HealthCare, D
'Discovery of Riociguat, A Novel, Oral Stimulator of Soluble Guanylate Cyclase for the Treatment of Pulmonary Hypertension'
- ETH Zurich, Laboratorium für Organische Chemie**
Hörsaal HCI J 3, ETH Hönggerberg
- 01.04.2014
16.45 h *Prof. Dr. Pierre Pillet*, Laboratoire Aimé Cotton, CNRS, Université Paris-Sud and ENS Cachan, France, currently Invited Professor at the LPC
'Cold atoms, cold molecules and lasers: photoassociation of cold atoms, formation of cold molecules and laser cooling of molecules'
- 08.04.2014
16.45 h *Prof. Dr. Stefan Willitsch*, Department of Chemistry, Universität Basel
'Cold and controlled ion chemistry'
- 14.04.2014
16.00 h *Prof. Dek Woolfson*, School of Chemistry, University of Bristol, UK
'New Protein Structures and Assemblies through Rational Peptide Design'

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