



## Information

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### NEWS

**Roche** has vehemently rejected criticism of the effectiveness of its influenza drug Tamiflu by the Cochrane Report research network. Speaking at the presentation of financial results for Q1 2014, CEO Severin Swan said, “Roche fundamentally disagrees with the conclusions of the report.” Swan said Tamiflu remained an important medicine against flu, but would not be drawn on whether the Cochrane Review’s findings would affect the drug’s sales, saying they depended on seasonal flu patterns and were very volatile. Sales of Tamiflu rose 5% in Europe over the quarter to 344 million Swiss francs. Governments have spent billions of dollars stockpiling the drug in the wake of swine flu and avian flu epidemics. The authors of the review said European clinical trials to which it had gained access “do not support claims that the drugs lower the risk of complications from flu, such as pneumonia, or that the benefits of the drugs outweigh their risks, which include nausea, vomiting, headaches and kidney disorders.” Cochrane pointed to a weak regulatory system in which the studies are all conducted by manufacturers, and medications are compared with a placebo rather than existing flu treatments.

**Syngenta** signed an agreement with Cellulosic Ethanol Technologies, LLC to license its ‘Adding Cellulosic Ethanol’ (ACE) technology, a new process to increase a plant’s ethanol production while delivering other benefits such as increased corn oil production and higher protein content in Dried Distillers Grains (DDGs), an ethanol by-product used for animal feed. In combination with Syngenta’s proprietary Enogen corn trait, ACE technology allows the fiber as well as the starch in a corn kernel to be converted into ethanol. Enogen is the only corn output trait designed specifically to enhance ethanol production. It is expected that the ACE-Enogen® will reduce natural gas usage and increase ethanol throughput, thereby improving the carbon footprint. Davor Pisk, COO of Syngenta, said: “The adoption of Enogen in ethanol plants is accelerating, with six commercial contracts signed. The introduction of ACE technology will further drive growth. It has the potential to improve substantially both the profitability and sustainability of ethanol plants, enabling them to produce more energy with fewer resources.” The use of the ACE technology is scheduled to begin at QCCP’s ethanol plant in Galva, Iowa in May 2014.

**Novartis** has replaced the top managers at its Japanese unit after a third-party probe found employees had acted questionably in clinical trials on a leukaemia treatment. The probe’s findings included possible destruction of evidence and the potential leakage of patients’ personal data by employees of the Japanese unit. Novartis said there was a possibility the investigation, which was commissioned by the company and is scheduled to be complete by summer, could uncover problems with other doctor-led clinical research. David Epstein, head of Novartis Pharmaceuticals, said the actions of the employees violated the company’s ethical standards and acknowledged a need to rebuild the Japanese unit under the new management team. Dirk Kosche, previously head of emerging growth markets for Novartis Oncology, will become head of the Japanese unit, Novartis Pharma, replacing

Yoshiyasu Ninomiya, who was appointed head of the unit last year. Michael Ferris, an adviser to Novartis Pharmaceuticals, will become president of Novartis Holding Japan. The Japanese unit is also the subject of an investigation into alleged use of manipulated data to promote the drugmaker’s best-selling blood pressure drug Diovan, which resulted in the filing of a criminal complaint against the company by the health ministry in January.

Specialty chemicals producer **Clariant** and **Petronas Technology Ventures**, a technology commercialisation arm of Malaysian energy and petrochemical giant Petronas, have agreed a license collaboration term sheet giving Clariant access to Petronas’ HycPure Hg technology that removes elemental, organic and inorganic mercury from natural gas. Clariant said the Petronas product would add to its ActiSorb G400 series adsorbents, while complementing its other ActiSorb products, to provide “integrated solutions to meet the stringent requirements of the industry.”

### CONFERENCES IN SWITZERLAND

01.06. – 30.11.2014

#### 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. Their congeners, the linear polymers strongly advertised by Hermann Staudinger in the early 1920s, have in the meantime conquered an enormous market which impacts the daily life of people worldwide. With the first passable trials into this novel class of polymers completed, the organizing committee intends to 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.

#### Young Faculty Meeting 2014

05.06.2014

University of Berne, DCB, Auditorium EG 16, Berne

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

#### 27th International Symposium on Polymer Analysis and Characterization, ISPAC

16.06.2014–18.06.2014

Eurotel Vitoria, Les Diablerets

The mission of ISPAC is to provide an international forum for the presentation of cutting-edge technologies in the field of polymer analysis and characterization.

**PolyColl 2014 Annual Meeting of the Division of Polymers, Colloids and Interfaces**

20.06.2014

EMPA Academy, Dübendorf

The 2014 annual spring meeting of the Division of Polymer, Colloids and Interfaces of the Swiss Chemical Society will take place at the EMPA in Dübendorf. Eight invited speakers, as well as a poster session and the distribution of the division's PhD awards will showcase recent developments in the field.

**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 partake.

**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.

**SET2014 The 13th International Conference on Sustainable Energy Technologies**

25.08.2014–28.08.2014

Geneva

SET2014 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**SPICA 2014**

05.10.2014–08.10.2014

Congress Center Messe Basel, Basel

15th International Symposium on Preparative and Industrial Chromatography and Allied Techniques.

**11. Swiss Course on Medicinal Chemistry 2014**

12.10.2014–17.10.2014

Mercure Classic Hotel, Leysin

This five-day Medicinal Chemistry School, that is organized by the Division of Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology of the Swiss Chemical Society, will focus on most modern aspects associated with small molecule drug discovery, highlighting the relevance of hit generation, lead finding and lead optimization technologies.

**LECTURES****Université Genève, Chimie organique**

Auditoire A-100

05.06.2014 16.30 h *Prof. Peter Nilsson, Linköping University, Sweden*  
'Luminescent Conjugated Oligothiophenes. Illuminating the Dark Matters of Biology and Pathology'

**EPFL, Institut des Sciences et Ingénierie Chimiques**

EPFL BCH 2218 (Batiment Chimie UNIL)

18.06.2014 17.15 h *Prof. Varinder Aggarwal, University of Bristol, UK*  
'Assembly Line Synthesis'

20.06.2014 11.00 h *Prof. Stephen Hanessian, University of Montreal, Canada*  
Title to be announced

The complete and updated lecture calendar is available on [www.scg.ch](http://www.scg.ch).