



## Information

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### NEWS

(source *CHEManager*)

**Syngenta** may file counterclaims against some of the more than 750 US grain farmers and exporters who have sued the world's largest agrochemicals group over sales of biotech corn seed that disrupted trading with China last year, regulatory documents show. According to a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, Syngenta is "assessing the scope for potential counterclaims" in response to lawsuits over Agrisure Viptera corn, also known as MIR 162. In 2014, global grain handlers Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland Co, along with hundreds of farmers, sued the Swiss group for damages stemming from China's rejections of shipments of US crops that contained Viptera corn. At the time, the trait was approved for planting in the US but not for import by China, a major corn buyer. The plaintiffs accuse Syngenta of misleading the farm industry about the timeline for import approval by China and blame it for a decline in US corn prices. In April 2014, the National Grain and Feed Association estimated that Beijing's rejections cost the US agriculture industry at least \$1 billion.

Specialty chemicals producer **Lonza** has signed a toll manufacturing agreement with TiGenix, an advanced biopharmaceutical company focused on developing and commercializing novel therapeutics from allogeneic expanded adipose-derived stem cells (eASCs) in inflammatory and autoimmune diseases. Under the agreement, Lonza will produce material for the Phase 3 trial of Cx601 in the US at Lonza's cell therapy production facility in Walkersville, Maryland. Cx601 is a locally-injected suspension of allogeneic expanded adipose-derived stem cells (eASCs) for the treatment of complex perianal fistulas in Crohn's disease patients, currently in Phase 3 of clinical development in Europe.

**Lonza** delivered expected year-on-year CORE EBIT growth of 11% in constant exchange rates in 2014, and the company has confirmed its updated guidance of late October, when CEO Richard Ridinger said "overall results are on track, and the financial situation remains solid". Both corporate segments – Specialty Ingredients and Pharma & Biotech – delivered a solid performance last year, Lonza said, despite currency headwinds and the more sluggish performance of the Water Treatment business, which was attributed to unfavorable weather conditions.

**Clariant** has announced a strategic alliance with Beraca, a leading player in natural, sustainable and innovative ingredients. Under the terms, the Swiss specialty chemicals producer will acquire a 30% share of the Brazilian company's Health and Personal Care division, with a provision to increase its shareholding at a later date.

### HONORS

**Martin Jinek**, assistant professor at the Biochemical Institute of University Zurich received the Friedrich-Miescher Prize. Endowed with 20'000 CHF, the prize is the highest award for young academics in Switzerland in the field of biochemistry. The born Czech contributed substantially to the utilization of the protein Cas9, a now commonly used application in gene technology.

Prof. **Stefan Willitsch**, Associate Professor at the Department of Chemie of the University Basel, receives a SNSF Consolidator Grant for his project 'Conformationally controlled chemistry'. The planned research aims at exploration of the correlation of molecular structure and chemical reactivity of different conformers.

**Wilhelm Heinrich** (Willi) Auwärter, Swiss-born researcher at the TU Munich and alumni of University Zurich, receives the 2015 Gaede Prize of the German Vacuum Society for his pioneering work on molecular structures at surfaces. The goal of Auwärter's work is optimizing electric, magnetic and optoelectronic properties of matter. Auwärter, who also received an ERC consolidator grant in 2013, modifies single boron nitride layers with modified porphyrin molecules for fabrication of novel supramolecular nanostructures.

### CONFERENCES IN SWITZERLAND

01.04.–30.09.2014

#### **CHanalysis 2015**

10.–11.04.2015

Dorint Hotel, Beatenberg

The goal is to stimulate a stronger cooperation among persons working in the different areas of analytical sciences. In addition to lectures and discussions, an informal evening session is scheduled for networking and building new contacts across scientific borders.

<https://scg.ch/chanalysis>

#### **Proteinase 2015**

13.–14.04.2015

Novartis, Basel

9<sup>th</sup> RSC / SCI symposium on Proteinase Inhibitor Design.

This symposium will cover progress in the design and synthesis of protease inhibitors for a diverse range of disease indications, while also covering a range of novel drug discovery activities: from 'Molecules to Medicines'.

[http://maggichurchousevents.co.uk/bmcs/proteinase\\_2015.htm](http://maggichurchousevents.co.uk/bmcs/proteinase_2015.htm)

**Biotechnological use of untapped biomass for the future bioeconomy of Switzerland**

21.04.2015

FHNW School of Life Sciences, Muttentz - Saal 704, Muttentz  
i-net Cleantech Technology Event in collaboration with FHNW  
HLS. Details and Program on the symposium website.  
<http://www.i-net.ch/event/>

**Freiburger Symposium by DIAC**

23.–24.04.2015

Hochschule für Technik und Architektur Freiburg, Gebäude A,  
Auditorium Edouard Gremaud, Freiburg  
Smart solutions in chemical process and product development.  
Case studies from the chemical industry  
<http://scg.ch/freiburgersymposium/2015>

**SCS Spring Meeting 2015**

24.04.2015

Universität Basel, Department of Chemistry, Basel  
'The Chemistry of Complex Systems': A symposium in  
collaboration with the National Centers of Competence in  
Research (NCCR).

Invited speakers: Prof. Stefan Matile, University of Geneva, Prof.  
David Leigh, University of Manchester, Prof. Itamar Willner,  
Jerusalem University, Prof. Jason Chin, Cambridge University,  
Prof. Roeland Nolte, Nijmegen University.  
Werner Prize lecture by Prof. Gilles Gasser, University of Zurich.  
<http://scg.ch/springmeeting/2015>

**Labotec 2015**

06.–07.05.2015

MCH Beaulieu Lausanne, Lausanne  
Labotec 2015 is the show for technologies and services for  
laboratories. Keep abreast of the challenges your industry must  
cope with, such as advances in medicine, pricing caps, cost  
containment, pressure to perform and quality assurance. At Labo-  
tec you'll find the right products and solutions for your business.

**HPLC 2015**

21.–25.06.2015

International Conference Center Geneva (CICG), Geneva  
42<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on high performance liquid phase  
separations and related techniques.

Since its first edition in 1973 in Interlaken, Switzerland,  
the HPLC series has established itself as one of the leading  
conferences in analytical chemistry and in particular in the field  
of separation sciences and related topics. The emphasis of the  
meeting will be on fundamentals aspects of separation sciences,  
sample preparation, novel developments and applications as well  
as hyphenation with mass spectrometry.

<http://www.hplc2015-geneva.org/>

**Qualitative Research: Beyond the 'Fractured Future'**

15.–17.07.2015

Conference Room, Neuchatel

The theme of this conference is drawn from the notion of a  
historical 'moment' in qualitative research – the 'fractured  
future'.

<http://www.metlab.ch/Conference/>

**SCS Fall Meeting 2015**

04.09.2015

EPFL Lausanne, Lausanne

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.

**LECTURES 01.–30.04.15****Syngenta, Basel**

Syngenta Stein, WST 810.E.75, Auditorium

23.04.2015 10.30 h *Prof. Nicolas Blanchard, University of  
Strasbourg, France*  
Title to be announced

**Universität Basel, Pharmazeutische Wissenschaften**

Lecture Hall 1, Pharmazentrum, 17.00 h

08.04.2015 *Dr. Timothy Sharpe, Biophysics Facility,  
Biozentrum*  
'Fragment-Based Inhibitors for a Protein-  
Protein Interaction'

15.04.2015 *Prof. Thierry Langer, Dept. of Pharmaceutical  
Chemistry, University of Vienna, Austria*  
'Feature-based Pharmacophores: Efficient Tools  
For Medicinal Chemistry Decision Support'

22.04.2015 *Prof. Manuel Battegay, Fachbereichsleiter  
Ärzte, Lehre & Forschung, Universitätsspital  
Basel, Switzerland*  
'HIV - antiviral therapy - challenges of the past  
- present and future'

29.04.2015 *Dr. Stefan Bieri, Service of Consumption and  
Veterinary Affairs, Canton of Vaud*  
'Biomarkers for the screening of botanicals in  
herbal food supplements'

**Universität Basel, Physikalische Chemie**Kleiner Hörsaal, Raum 4.04., 2. Stock, Physikalische Chemie,  
Departement Chemie, Universität Basel, 16.30 h

08.04.2015 *Prof. Ian Sims, Université de Rennes, Institut de  
Physique, France*  
'Radical Reactivity at low Temperatures:  
Astrophysical and Atmospheric Applications'

15.04.2015 *Prof. David E. Manolopoulos, Department of  
Chemistry, University of Oxford, UK*  
'Semiclassical Spin Dynamics and Avian  
Magnetoreception'

**University of Fribourg**

Big Lecture hall, Chemistry Department, 17.15 h

14.04.2015 *Prof. Guy Bertrand, Department of Chemistry,  
University of California, San Diego, USA*  
Title to be announced

21.04.2015 *Prof. Martin Heeney, Faculty of Natural  
Sciences, Department of Chemistry, Imperial  
College, London, UK*  
'Design of Conjugated Polymers for Organic  
Electronics'

**Université Genève, Chimie organique**

Auditoire A-100, 16.30 h

- 02.04.2015 *Dr. Stephen P. Fletcher, University of Oxford, Chemistry Research Laboratory, Oxford, UK*  
'Mostly Cu-Catalyzed Asymmetric Additions'
- 16.04.2015 *Prof. Guy Bertrand, University of California, San Diego, Department of Organic Chemistry, La Jolla, USA*  
'Stable carbenes and related species: Powerful tools in organic, inorganic and organometallic chemistry'
- 17.04.2015 *Prof. Kenichiro Itami, Department of Chemistry, Graduate School of Science, Nagoya University, Japan*  
'C-H Activation Catalysis for Carbon Materials and Plant/Animal Biology'
- 23.04.2015 *Prof. Tristan Lambert, Department of Chemistry, Columbia University, New York, USA*  
Title to be announced
- 30.04.2015 *Prof. Markus Kaiser, Zentrum für Medizinische Biotechnologie, Univ. Duisburg-Essen, Germany*  
Title to be announced

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

EPFL BCH 2218 (batiment Chimie UNIL), Lausanne, 17.15 h

- 16.04.2015 *Prof. Kenichiro Itami, Nagoya University*  
'C-H Activation Catalysis for Carbon Materials and Plant/Animal Biology'  
SCS lecture and Organic Chemistry Seminars
- 22.04.2015 *Prof. Tristan Lambert, Columbia University*  
'Advances in Catalysis via the Exploration of Novel Ionic Structures'  
SCS lecture and Organic Chemistry Seminars

**ETH Zürich, Laboratorium für Organische Chemie**

HCI J 3, ETH Hönggerberg

- 27.04.2015 *Prof. Aiko Fukazawa, Department of Chemistry, Nagoya University, Japan*  
16.00 h  
'Design of Phosphorus and Sulfur-containing Novel pi-Electron Systems for Optoelectronic Functions'

**ETH Zürich, Laboratorium für Physikalische Chemie**

HCI J 3, ETH Hönggerberg, 16.45 h

- 14.04.2015 *Heiner Sassmannshausen, Laboratorium für Physikalische Chemie, ETH Zürich, Schweiz*  
'Exotic chemistry with ultracold Rydberg atoms'
- 28.04.2015 *Prof. Roland Mitri, Institut für physikalische und theoretische Chemie, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Deutschland*  
'Light-Induced Nonadiabatic Dynamics in Molecules and Nanostructures'

**University of Zurich, Department of Chemistry**

Y03-G-85, 17.00 h

- 14.04.2015 *Prof. Herbert Mayr, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany*  
'Mythology in Organic Chemistry: A Kinetic Analysis'
- 28.04.2015 *Prof. Juewen Liu, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada*  
'Interfacing DNA with metal ions, metal oxides, and metal nanoparticles'

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