



## Information

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### NEWS

(source *CHEManager*)

**Novartis** is accelerating its efforts in the field of cancer immunotherapy with the launch of a dedicated research group and an alliance with US-based Aduro Biotech. The multi-year collaboration is focused on developing novel immunotherapies derived from Aduro's cyclic dinucleotide (CDN) approach to target the STING (stimulator of interferon genes) receptor that, when activated, can initiate tumor-specific immune responses. Novartis will make an upfront payment of \$200 million to Aduro, which, if all development milestones are met, could receive additional payments of up to \$500 million. Novartis has also made an initial investment of \$25 million for a 2.7% equity stake in Aduro and has committed to invest another \$25 million at a future date. Aduro will lead commercialisation efforts and sales in the US, while Novartis will lead activities in the rest of the world.

Meanwhile, the research and development group will be headed by cancer vaccine expert Glenn Dranoff who has joined Novartis from the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

Mark Fishman, president of the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, said: "Immunotherapy is one of the exciting frontiers in oncology today. STING agonists have the potential to fully activate the immune system to attack a broader range of tumors. Under Glenn Dranoff's leadership, our new immune-oncology research group will aggressively drive our current programs to the clinic and explore new directions for both mono and combination therapies."

Private labs in the US are said to have found significant residues of the glyphosate weed-killer, marketed by agrochemicals giant Monsanto as Roundup, in samples of honey, soy sauce, infant formula and even breast milk and urine. Tests by the Abraxis laboratory found glyphosate residues in 41 of 69 honey samples and in 10 of 28 soy sauces, the news agency Reuters said, while tests by the Microbe laboratory detected the chemical in three of 18 breast milk samples and in six of 40 infant formula samples. Although testing is seen to have increased over the past two years, Reuters quotes US lab operators as saying requests have skyrocketed since the end of March, when the French-based World Health Organization (WHO) research unit IARC announced plans to classify glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to humans". The report came to no specific conclusions about the dosage glyphosate requires to trigger cancer, however. Monsanto, which is fighting the classification, has asked WHO to retract its report. In the meantime, three Chinese citizens have filed a lawsuit against their country's Ministry of Agriculture, seeking to force it to make public a toxicology report supporting Roundup 27 years ago. "According to physicians and other food safety experts, the mere presence of a chemical itself is not a human health hazard. It is the amount, or dose, that matters," Monsanto's senior toxicologist said in a public blog, adding that "trace amounts are not unsafe". In the past, US regulators have

repeatedly determined glyphosate to be safe, and a review of the chemical's safety by Germany for the EU last year established no link to cancer. However, critics say they fear that glyphosate is now so pervasive in the environment that extended exposure even to trace amounts can be harmful. In light of the evidence turned up by the lab studies, they contend that glyphosate is more prevalent in the environment than previously believed.

### HONORS

**Henning Jacob Jessen**, Department of Chemistry, University of Zurich, has received an SNF-Professorship.

Professor **Frederic Merkt**, Laboratory for Physical Chemistry, ETH, received the 2015 Kolos Lecture Award from the Polish Chemical Society and the Faculty of Chemistry, University of Warsaw.

### CONFERENCES IN SWITZERLAND

01.06. – 31.12.2015

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Wädenswil Day of Chemistry hosts TEDD Symposium

18.06.2015  
ZHAW, Auditorium Campus Grüental, Wädenswil/ZH, Wädenswil

'Frontiers in Personalized Medicine'

A Precision Medicine initiative in the USA, announced by President Obama in January 2015, is designed to promote wider use of patient-specific medical care with the aim of delivering new and more effective treatments for diseases. But what is going on in this ambitious, challenging field in Switzerland and in Europe?

<http://icbc.zhaw.ch/de/science/institute-zentren/icbc/chemietag.html>

#### HPLC 2015

21.06.2015–25.06.2015

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, 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/>

**Swiss Food Science Meeting 2015**

23.06.2015–24.06.2015

Universität de Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel

The Swiss Food Science Meeting (SFSM) is a platform for the scientific exchange of food analysis as well as analysis of food contact materials and cosmetics. Scientists, such as chemists, toxicologists, food engineers who work in industry, food laboratories, universities, for governmental bodies or food control authorities are invited to join the SFSM and to present their latest findings.

<http://www.foodsciencemeeting.ch/joomla/>

**PolyColl 2015 by DPCI**

03.07.2015

Adolphe Merkle Institute, University of Fribourg, Fribourg

Annual meeting of the Division of Polymers, Colloids and Interfaces (DPCI)

<http://scg.ch/polycoll/2015>

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

15.07.2015–17.07.2015

Conference Room, Neuchâtel

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.

**SCS-Syngenta Symposium 2015**

15.10.2015

Syngenta Research Campus, Stein (AG)

'Chirality - Upsides for Chemical Innovation'

<http://scg.ch/syngentasymposium/2015>

**The Expanding Toolbox of Medicinal Chemistry 2015**

16.10.2015

Palais des Congrès Dijon-Bourgogne, Dijon

«From Chemical Biology to Clinical Applications»: Jointly organised by the SCT and the DMCCB of the Swiss Chemical Society

<http://scg.ch/etmc/2015>

**LECTURES**

01.06.15 - 30.06.2015

**Universität Basel: Anorganische und Organische Chemie**

Grosser Hörsaal Organische Chemie

08.06.2015 *Prof. Dr. Marye Anne Fox, University of California, San Diego, CA, USA*

16.00 h

Title to be announced

**Dreyfus Lectures 2015**09.06.2015 *Prof. Dr. Chad A. Mirkin, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA*

16.00 h

Title to be announced

**Dreyfus Lectures 2015**

Kleiner Hörsaal Organische Chemie

22.06.2015 *Prof. Dr. Andrew G. Myers, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA*

17.30 h

'Natural Products Synthesis and New Methodologies for NP Synthesis'

**Vortrag der Basler Chemischen Gesellschaft****Université Genève: Chimie organique**

Auditoire A-100

11.06.2015 *Prof. Dr. Stefan M. Huber, University of Bochum, Department of Organic Chemistry, Bochum, Germany*

16.30 h

'Multidentate Halogen Bonding in Solution'

23.06.2015 *Ass. Prof. Hideki Yorimitsu, Department of Chemistry, Tokyo University*

14.30 h

'Organosulfur Chemistry Revisited: from Pummerer Annulation to Catalytic C-S/C-H Coupling'

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

EPFL Lausanne, ISIC, CH G1 495

04.06.2015 *Dr. Marco Cammarata, University of Rennes 1, France*

16.30 h

'Watching matter in real time with X-ray Free Electron Lasers'

**Syngenta, Basel**

Syngenta Stein, WST 810.E.75, Auditorium

11.06.2015 *Prof. Dr. Lutz Ackermann, University of Göttingen, Germany*

10.30 h

Title to be announced

**Syngenta Chemistry Lecture****University of Zurich, Department of Chemistry**

Aula, University Main Building, KOL-G-201

16.06.2015 *Prof. Dr. Paul Knochel, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany*

17.00 h

'Polyfunctional Organometallics in Organic Synthesis'

**Paul Karrer Lecture 2015**

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