

# CH Information

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## NEWS

(source CHEManager)

15.07.2015. Germany's antitrust authority Bundeskartellamt has approved **BASF's** plans to sell its custom synthesis business, part of the Nutrition & Health division, and parts of its current active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) business to Zofingen, Switzerland-based **Siegfried Holding**. Following the divestment, which has an enterprise value of €270 million, BASF intends to focus on products for which it has a leading market position. Siegfried will acquire APIs such as ephedrine, pseudoephedrine and caffeine, with annual sales of around €270 million, while BASF will retain its excipient portfolio and selected APIs, such as ibuprofen, omega-3 fatty acids and polyethylenglycol (PEG). The Swiss company said it expects the transaction be finalized at the beginning of the fourth quarter.

13.07.2015. Swiss chemicals distributor **DKSH** has acquired specialty chemicals distributor **Andreas Jennow**, a major supplier of raw materials to the Nordic and Baltic countries. The Swiss company said the buy widens its geographic coverage in Europe, as well as complementing its strong position in Asia and contributing to the consolidation of the market. With its Business Unit Performance Materials, DKSH provides distribution services for its clients and suppliers in the chemical, personal care, pharmaceutical and food industries. It also offers sourcing services for specialty products from numerous markets across Asia, Europe and the Americas. Andreas Jennow, founded in 1916, supplies a full product range for the specialty chemicals and personal care industries. The company with activities in Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania reported net sales of around 30 million Swiss francs and 'sound profitability' in 2014.

10.07.2015. **Clariant** has signed an eight-year framework contract with **Statoil** to supply production chemicals and services for the Johan Sverdrup oil field in Norway. The contract, which took effect from July 1, contains an option for a four-year extension option, totaling 12 years. The largest offshore oil been found in the Norwegian continental shelf in 30 years, the Johan Sverdrup field is estimated to hold between 1.7 billion and 3.0 billion barrels of oil equivalents. When fully developed, it is expected to produce 550,000 to 650,000 barrels of oil per day. Statoil has been named operator for all phases of field production by the Johan Sverdrup partnership, which consists of Statoil, Lundin Norway, Petoro, Det Norske Oljeselskap and Maersk Oil.

09.07.2015. **Clariant** has closed its acquisition of the remaining 50% shares of Companhia Brasileira de Bentonita (CBB) from Geosol, its 50:50 joint venture partner. Clariant said its decision to buy out its partner reflects its strategy to invest in emerging markets while also strengthening its presence in Brazil's Iron Ore Pelletizing (IOP) industry, where bentonite is used to bind iron ore for export. The Swiss company said the acquisition also will allow it to strengthen its participation in the foundry and civil engineering markets, in which there is high

demand for bentonite-derived products, as well as open up new fronts in the detergents and paper industries. Based at Vitória da Conquista in the state of Bahia in northeastern Brazil, CBB owns a bentonite mine, a bentonite processing facility and state-of-the-art production plant, in addition to laboratories, storage facilities and an office building.

03.07.2015. **Lonza** has signed a new long-term product supply agreement with compatriot **Alexion Pharmaceuticals**. Under the terms of the contract, an expansion of an existing manufacturing agreement, the Swiss life sciences group will build, own and operate a new toll manufacturing suite for the drugmaker beginning in 2017 at its Portsmouth, New Hampshire site in the US. The new agreement will supplement existing production of Alexion products at multiple Lonza facilities and will enable Alexion to add dedicated product supply for 10 years.

30.06.2015. **Novartis** has announced plans to buy US biotech company Spinifex Pharmaceuticals. While the Swiss drugs giant declined to disclose financial terms, Spinifex said it would receive \$200 million. The privately held company headquartered at Stamford, Connecticut, with an office in Melbourne, Australia, makes treatments for chronic pain. The deal set to close in the second half of this year could also include payments based on progress in clinical trials as well as regulatory milestones. Acquiring Spinifex will give Novartis access to Spinifex's experimental neuropathic pain drug EMA401, which showed positive mid-stage Phase II clinical trial results in treating post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN), without serious side effects. David Epstein, CEO of Novartis Pharmaceuticals, said Spinifex's lead product EMA401 "could provide a novel, differentiated treatment approach to provide relief for patients and healthcare providers worldwide." Novartis also plans to continue the development of EMA401 and intends to start Phase IIb clinical trials in patients with PHN or painful diabetic neuropathy, a condition caused by diabetes. Established in 2005, Spinifex is owned by several venture capital groups including Novo, Canaan Partners, GBS Venture Partners, Brandon Capital Partners, Uniseed and the University of Queensland, Australia.

24.06.2015. Syngenta's supervisory board chairman Michael Demaré has taken the Swiss agrochemicals giant's case against a takeover by Monsanto to YouTube. In a more than 12-minute video interview, Demaré outlined the company's principal objections to a deal while at the same time seeking to debunk suggestions by the US group's leadership that Syngenta is being obstructive, rather than communicative. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdKSkjc9-xs>

## HONORS

**Sereina Riniker** (ETH Zurich) was awarded the Ewald Wicke Prize of the German Bunsen Society for Physical Chemistry, which is given to researchers up to 35 years old for outstanding achievements in the area of applied physical chemistry. Riniker studied at the ETH Zurich, where she completed her PhD (supervised by Wilfred F. van Gunsteren) in 2012. From 2012–2014, she carried out post-doctoral research with Gregory A. Landrum at the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research in Basel and Cambridge, Massachusetts. She was appointed assistant professor at the ETH Zurich in 2014. Riniker and her group are interested in the development of methods and software for classical molecular dynamics simulations and cheminformatics, and their application to biological and chemical questions, and in particular the exploration of potential synergies and cross-fertilization between the two disciplines.

**Francois Diederich** (ETH Zurich) has been awarded with the annual John Stauffer Lectures at Stanford University this year.

## CONFERENCES IN SWITZERLAND

01.09.2015–30.10.2015

### 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.

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

### SCS Photochemistry Section Annual Meeting 2015

08.09.2015

ETH Zurich, Building CHN, Zürich

This one-day meeting represents a new initiative of the Swiss Photochemistry Section of the Swiss Chemical Society to promote the exchange within the photochemistry community in Switzerland.

<http://www.envchem.ethz.ch/events.html>

### SCS-Syngenta Symposium 2015

15.10.2015

Syngenta Research Campus, Stein (AG)

«Chirality - Upsides for Chemical Innovation»

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

### Swiss Biotech Day Fall 2015

15.10.2015

BIOARK SA, Monthey

«Biopharmaceuticals – from Development to Production»

The Swiss Biotech Day is the leading bio-technology conference in Switzerland. This event brings together senior executives from the Swiss biotech industry. Program highlights are

focusing on aspects of biopharmaceutical production and future biopharmaceuticals.

<http://www.swissbiotech.org/events#event:1260>

### 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

### Basel Life Science Week & MipTec 2015

21.–24.09.2015

Congress Center, Basel

Basel's annual MipTec conference on drug discovery draws 3000 participants from over 50 countries. Year after year, MipTec hosts over 100 scientific talks, 150 presentations, 10 industry symposia, and more than 100 exhibitors, covering a wide array of topics touching every fact of basic and applied research activities.

<http://www.basel-life-sciences-week.eu/>

### Lift Basel Conference 2015

29.–30.10.2015

Markthalle, Basel

Join a unique event connecting innovators in life sciences and information technologies! The event provides a platform for an open and dynamic dialogue on the fast moving ideas, solutions and opportunities generated by the growing confluence of tech, bio and business.

<http://liftconference.com/lift-basel-15/call>

## LECTURES

01.–30.09.2015

### Universität Basel, Anorganische und Organische Chemie

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, kleiner Hörsaal Organische Chemie

22.09.2015 Prof. Lawrence T. Scott, Boston College  
time tbd Chestnut Hill (MA), USA

'Research topic: Directed laboratory synthesis of carbon nanotubes, from the ground up, by chemical methods'

25.09.2015 Dr. P. Maienfisch, Syngenta Crop Protection  
10.45 h AG, Stein (AG)

Title to be announced

### University of Bern, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

21.09.2015 Prof. Christopher B. Burge, Massachusetts  
16.30 h Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA

Hörsaal EG 16 'Sequence and structural determinants of protein-RNA interactions'  
NCCR RNA & Disease Seminar

14.09.2015 Jeff Collier Ph.D., Center for RNA Molecular  
16.30 h Biology, Case Western Reserve University,  
Hörsaal S 481 Cleveland OH, USA

- ‘mRNA stability is determined by the genetic code’  
 24.09.2015 14.00 h Hörsaal S 481 *Prof. Coichiro Kuninobu, University of Tokyo, Japan*  
 ‘Development of Novel C-H Bond Transformations and Its Application to the Synthesis of Organic Functional Molecules’
- 28.09.2015 16.30 h Hörsaal S 481 *Prof. Michael Schlame, New York University, NY, USA*  
 Title to be announced  
 Biochemische Vereinigung Bern
- Société Fribourgeoise de Chimie (SFC)**  
 Main auditorium, Chemistry department  
 29.09.2015 17.15 h *Prof. Dieter Kressler, Department of Biology, Biochemistry, Université de Fribourg*  
 Title to be announced
- University of Fribourg**  
 Main auditorium, Chemistry department  
 22.09.2015 17.15 h *Prof. Dr. Carsten Streb, University of Ulm, Germany*  
 ‘Building functional materials from molecular metal oxides’
- Université Genève, Chimie organique**  
 30, Quai Ernest Ansermet  
 03.09.2015 14.30 h *Prof. Marco Bandini, University of Bologna, Italy*  
 Auditoire A-100 ‘Catalytic Manipulation of Indole @Bologna’
- 15.09.2015 16.30 h Auditoire *Prof. Kazushi Mashima Department of Materials Engineering Science Osaka University, Japan*
- A-150 ‘Amination and Alkylation of Allylic Alcohols by Ni, Pt, and Au Catalysts’
- 17.09.2015 14.15 h Auditoire A-100 *Prof. Jérôme Waser, Laboratory of Catalysis and Organic Synthesis, EPF Lausanne*  
 ‘Exploiting the reactivity of weak bonds to enable non-conventional disconnections’
- 24.09.2015 16.30 h Auditoire A-100 *Dr. Nathalie Katsonis, Institute for Nanotechnology University of Twente, The Netherlands*  
 ‘Bio-inspired strategies to convert light into helix-based motion’
- 30.09.2015 14.15 h Auditoire A-150 *Prof. Gwilherm Evano, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium*  
 ‘Heterosubstituted Alkynes from Synthesis to Applications’
- ETHZ, Chemie- und Bioingenieurwissenschaften (ICB)**  
 ETH Zürich Hönggerberg  
 02.09.2015 17.00 h HCI G 3 *Prof. John C. Reed, F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd*  
 ‘Explorations of Cell Stress & Cell Death Mechanisms’
- 16.09.2015 17.15 h HCI J 4 *Prof. Dr. Gilles Gasser, Universität Zürich*  
 ‘Metal Complexes, Light, Anticancer Action’  
 Seminars on Drug Discovery and Development
- 23.09.2015 17.15 h HCI J 4 *Prof. Paola Picotti, ETH Zürich*  
 ‘Protein conformational changes in health and disease’  
 Seminars on Drug Discovery and Development
- The complete and updated lecture calendar is available on [www.sgc.ch](http://www.sgc.ch)

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