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SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Call for Nominations for the SCS Awards 2017



Nominations have to be submitted electronically to info@scg.ch. The deadline for all documents to reach the Swiss Chemical Society is September 30, 2016.

Again, more than CHF 70'000 and medals in gold and bronze will be given for the following prizes, that are part of the SCS prize program:

- Werner Prize
- Grammaticakis-Neumann Prize
- Balmer Prize
- Dr. Max Lüthi Award
- Sandmeyer Award
- KGF/SCS Industrial Science Awards

For specific award information and required documents please see CHIMIA 5/2016 or 6/2016 and visit our website on <http://scg.ch/awards> respectively.

ILMAC trade fair in close proximity to the market



Since it was founded in 1959, ILMAC has developed into Switzerland's leading supplier fair for the pharmaceutical, chemical, food, drinks, cosmetics and biotechnology industries and covers all the industrial applications for process and laboratory technology. These sectors are moving ever closer together on the market, since the processes are increasingly no longer being planned and implemented individually within the companies but on a holistic basis instead. This development will be reflected at the 20th ILMAC with its state-of-the-art positioning concept. Michael Bonenberger, Exhibition Director for ILMAC, explains: "The exhibitors will be positioned in a mixed layout, thus permitting specially tailored synergies between the different sectors. In this way, the professional visitors can experience all the different areas of the trade fair as a single entity." Despite this wide variety, ILMAC will still be clearly laid out and will cover the full range of products and services in close proximity to the market. The concept is meeting with approval in the industry.

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Your fair preparation

The ILMAC Team and more than 450 exhibitors from Switzerland and the regions over the border look forward to your visit. Reserve the time for your visit to the fair right now! Please visit the SCS-ILMAC website for further details:

- Lunch&Learn Events program
- SCS-HF Award
- Booth of SCS and its partners
- Ticket shop. Use the priority code *ilmac16-scs* to get free tickets

<http://scg.ch/ilmac>

Science Congress «We Scientists Shape Science» – Register now!



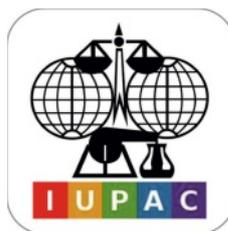
Science has become a lot bigger and faster. Now we have to make it better! We want science to be creative, solid, open, helpful for society and a good career opportunity for the talented youth. Let's start to change what it means to be a scientist and the way and the framework in which science is conducted. It is us scientists who need to change science.

Researchers and key players in the Swiss science landscape will decide upon first steps at the congress «We Scientists Shape Science». Contribute to one of the workshops:

- Time for research
- Space for creativity
- Scientific career
- Scientific practice
- Open science
- Science in society

The congress «We Scientists Shape Science» – an initiative by the Swiss Academy of Sciences and the Swiss Science and Innovation Council – will take place on 26/27 January 2017 in Berne. Registration is open as of August on www.naturalsciences.ch. Join the discussion now: visit our booth at the SCS Fall Meeting and tweet #wescientists.

New Website of IUPAC



IUPAC implemented its new website and shows in a structured and modern way what the organization is and what the key initiatives are.

Visit the new website on <http://iupac.org/>

Swiss representative in the IUPAC organization is the SCNAT represented

by Swiss Academy of Sciences, SCNAT
Dr. Leo Merz
Chief Science Officer, Platform Chemistry
Laupenstrasse 7
3008 Bern
leo.merz@scnat.ch

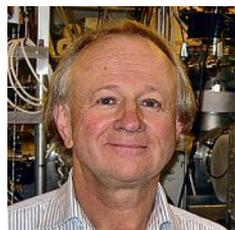
A warm welcome to our new members!

Period: 28.05.2016 – 22.07.2016

Amol Amrute, Zurich – Claudia Avalos, Lausanne – Simon Bachler, Wittnau – Matthias Beck, Zurich – Florence Berger, Zurich – Olga Borovinskaya, Thun – Raffaella Buonsanti, Sion – Joseph Byrne, Bern – Claudio Cirelli, Baden – Gabriele Colombo, Zurich – Philipp Dätwyler, Basel – Léonard Eymann, Lausanne – Alberto Fabrizio, Lausanne – Eric Jean Fischer, Zurich – Felix Frauendorfer, Murten – Marie Gaschard, Haute-rive – Majid Ghahraman Afshar, Geneva – Sahar Ghiasikhoh, Zurich – Clément Girard-Reydet, Geneva – Aswin Gopakumar, Lausanne – Rachael Heath, Bern – Samad Hossain, Delhi (IN) – Katharina Höveler, Zurich – Lukas Huber, Dübendorf – Martin Hulla, Lausanne – Erkan Ibraim, Zurich – Igor Iouranov, Chavannes-Renens – Markus Isler, Allschwil – Subramaniam Iswar, Dübendorf – Jakub Jagielski, Zurich – Lu Jin, Zurich – Rory Kelly, Lausanne – Arditia Kilaj, Basel – Monika Kirsch, Steffisburg – Dominik Kubicki, Lausanne – Roopender Kumar, Zurich – Eva-Maria Kupsch, Waedenswil – Dzulija Kuzmenko, Windisch – Ralph Lange, Zurich – Vincent Le Foulher, Mulhouse – Eric Lindbergh, Geneva – Urs Lindenmann, Seengen – Wim Malfait, Dübendorf – Julio Cesar Martinez Garcia, Zurich – Manuel Mazenauer, Wädenswil – Vivian Merk, Zurich – Sara Mousavi, Wädenswil – Lisa Peterhans, Fribourg – Martin Pouliot, Biederthal – Sean Preshlock, Oxford – Pierre Reuse, Basel – Martina Ribar Hesticová, Basel – Uxía Rivero, Basel – Teresa Patricia Rodríguez Hernández, Zurich – Jan-Georg Rosenboom, Zurich – Jérémie Rossier, Troistorrens – Giulia Rusconi, Zurich – Jacques Saarbach, Annemasse – Ece Satar, Bern – Basilius Sauter, Riehen – Simone Schalles, Zurich – Dominik Scherrer, Dietikon – Iris Schilling, Zurich – Lena Schinkel, Zurich – Bram Schroyen, Zurich – Gunnar Schwarz, Zurich – Emma Schyman-ski, Volketswil – Wilman Septina, Zurich – Saad Shaaban, Wien – Gregor Simm, Zurich – Philipp Steffen, Bern – Rainer Steiger, Zurich – Ana Stojanovic, Zurich – Tian Tian, Dübendorf – Alena Tierbach, Zurich – Claudio Toncelli, St. Gallen – Dmitry Vasi-lyev, Ecublens – Jasmine Viger-Gravel, Lausanne – Selin Vitas, Bienne – Angela Vivanco Ureña, Bern – Brennan Walder, Lausanne – Shutao Wang, Bassersdorf – Yaru Wang, Zurich – Markus Willgert, Zurich – Jayasubba Reddy Yarava, Lausanne – Michele Zanini, Zurich.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Wheland-Medaille für John P. Maier



Prof. John P. Maier, emeritiertes Professor für Physikalische Chemie am Departement Chemie der Universität Basel, erhält die Wheland-Medaille 2016/2017 der University of Chicago. Dieser Preis wird alle zwei Jahre zur Würdigung herausragender Beiträge im Bereich der Chemie verliehen.

Prof. John P. Maier reiht sich mit dieser Auszeichnung ein in die prestigeträchtige Liste von Preisträgern, unter denen sich auch drei Chemie-Nobelpreisträger befinden.

Source: www.unibas.ch/de/Aktuell/News

Prof. Christophe Copéret wins the 2016 Max Rössler Prize



Prof. Christophe Copéret is awarded this year's Max Rössler Prize for his research on functional materials, such as solid catalysts, the derivatization of microelectronic devices, and developing new imaging techniques to visualize individual particles or track metabolites in the human body.

Source: www.chab.ethz.ch/en/news-and-events

PD Dr. Felix Zelder and Benedikt Kirchgässler have won second prize in the food & water category of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Emerging Technologies Competition 2016.



CyanoGuard has developed innovative quick tests for toxins in food, water and blood. The detection technology combines efficient and easy-to-handle indicators for cyanide with extraction technology and will improve food and water safety control, environmental monitoring and emergency health care globally.

Source: <http://www.chem.uzh.ch/en/research/news>

Suzanne Thoma is the winner of the 2016 ETH Zurich Chemical Engineering Medal



In recognition of her outstanding contributions to the energy sector, **Dr. Suzanne Thoma**, CEO of the BKW Group, will be awarded the 2016 ETH Zurich Chemical Engineering Medal.

Source: www.chab.ethz.ch/en/news-and-events

Professor Xile Hu was promoted to Full Professor of Inorganic Chemistry and Coordination Chemistry at EPF Lausanne



In only a few years, **Xile Hu** has carved out a leading global position in the fields of bioinorganic chemistry and organometallic catalysis. He heads the Laboratory of Inorganic Synthesis and Catalysis which he set up. He and his team have gained important knowledge of synthetic chemistry and the chemical processes that allow energy to be stored and converted.

Source: <http://actu.epfl.ch/news>



Marinella Mazzanti was promoted to Adjunct Professor at EPF Lausanne



Marinella Mazzanti has achieved success in her work on the chemistry of f-block transition elements. Her innovative work on designing new organometallic compounds has the potential to make an important contribution to various technological applications, such as in biomedical imaging.

Source: <http://actu.epfl.ch/news>

>>venture>> award for startup synthesizing MOFs



Daniel Steitz from the group of Prof. van Bokhoven, ETHZ, and Dr. **Dariusz Burnat**, ZHAW win the first prize of the >>venture>> competition for the best business idea. His start-up, theMOFcompany, offers a facilitated and scalable synthesis of metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) for various applications such as hydrogen storage or alternative drug delivery.

The prize for the second best business idea goes to another startup from the D-CHAB at ETHZ: hemoTUNE. hemoTUNE (**Corinne Hofer**, **Carlos Mora**, and **Lukas Langenegger**) is developing a revolutionary therapeutic blood purification platform. They use functionalized magnetic nanoparticles applied in a dialysis-like circuit that allow specific removal of disease-related compounds directly from a patient's blood in an efficient and mild way.

Source: www.chab.ethz.ch/en/news-and-events

The MaP Award 2016 goes to Dr. Giantivo Vilé



The Competence Center for Materials and Processes (MaP) awards a prize to the best interdisciplinary PhD thesis of ETH Zurich in the area of Materials and Processes in the preceding year. This year's award goes to **Dr. Giantivo Vilé**, former PhD student in the group of Prof. Pérez-Ramírez.

Source: www.chab.ethz.ch/en/news-and-events

The Neuchâtel Platform of Analytical Chemistry (NPAC) is looking for a

Post-doc in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR)

For a two-year period at full time (100%)

at the Department of Chemistry of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Neuchâtel. This position is affiliated with the Director of the Department of Chemistry.

Job starts: immediately or to be agreed

Term: 2 years

Location: Neuchâtel

Activities

Services:

Provide specialized NMR services to the academic community; maintain the NMR systems (Avance 400 MHz from Bruker); provide training to researchers of the University; offer fee-based services to outside parties; contribute to the organisation of the NPAC along with other members of the platform.

Research

Develop in-depth knowledge in NMR; collaborate with researchers of the University on different research projects; develop his/her own research projects.

Teaching

Contribute to teaching in analytical chemistry for BSc, MSc and PhD students.

Knowledge and experience needed for the job

PhD in Sciences; the applicant must have a strong background in NMR. Experience in analytical services and in the maintenance of NMR spectrometers would be an asset. Interdisciplinary interest, willingness to collaborate with other researchers, team spirit.

Application procedure

Candidates are invited to submit their full applications as a single pdf document via e-mail to: secretariat.chimie@unine.ch. The application should include a CV, letter of motivation as well as the names and addresses of two referees. Would you need further information, please contact Professor Robert Deschenaux (robert.deschenaux@unine.ch) or go to our webpage www.unine.ch/npac.

Deadline for the application

Until it is fulfilled

The University of Neuchâtel is committed to promoting equality of opportunity.

JOURNAL NEWS



2015 Impact Factors of ChemPubSoc Europe Journals

The journals published by ChemPubSoc Europe and their sister journals published by the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh, German Chemical Society) achieved excellent results in the Journal Citation Report (JCR) by Thomson Reuters.

- Angewandte Chemie International Edition 11.709
- Chemistry – A European Journal 5.771
- ChemBioChem 2.850
- ChemCatChem 4.724
- ChemElectroChem 3.506
- ChemistryOpen 3.585
- ChemistrySelect
- ChemMedChem 2.980
- ChemPhysChem 3.138
- ChemPlusChem 2.836
- ChemSusChem 7.116
- European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry 2.686
- European Journal of Organic Chemistry 3.068

Author: ChemViews, www.chemviews.org

Published Date: 14 Juni 2016

Source / Publisher: Thomson Reuters 2015

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: www.chemmanager-online.com

EU Approves Roche's Leukaemia Drug

June 1, 2016: The European Commission has approved a subcutaneous formulation of Roche's MabThera for chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) which saves time and eases the treatment burden compared with the intravenous form of the drug. The approval is indicated for patients with previously untreated and relapsed/refractory forms of the blood cancer. CLL is the most common type of leukaemia in the Western world, and mostly affects men.

This is the second European approval for the formulation and follows that for common forms of non-Hodgkin lymphoma in March 2014. Sandra Horning, Roche's chief medical officer and head of global product development, said MabThera SC provides significantly faster treatment administration and the opportunity to enjoy more time outside clinical settings compared to intravenous delivery.

Approval was based primarily on data from a Phase 1b study which showed that previously untreated CLL patients had comparable concentration levels of the medicine in their blood to intravenous MabThera.

MabThera is a monoclonal antibody that binds to a particular protein – the CD20 antigen – on the surface of normal and cancerous B-cells. It then recruits the body's natural defences to attack and kill the marked B-cells. The drug has been approved for treating several blood cancers. Roche said it continues to be studied in other types of blood cancers and disease areas where CD20-positive cells are believed to play a role.

Carbogen Amcis to Expand Bubendorf

June 2, 2016: Swiss-based pharmaceutical process development and active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) manufacturer, Carbogen Amcis, has announced plans to extend its operations in Bubendorf. The company has signed to acquire the land and buildings of GEA Pharma Systems, close to its headquarters. The multi-story facility is currently divided into laboratory, production, storage and office areas as well as a set of clean-room GMP-compliant suites.

Carbogen Amcis will perform some modification work which will include converting more of the facility into GMP operating areas. Operations are scheduled to start in the new building in 2017. The company said the extension would allow a significant expansion of laboratory capacity for highly potent development and small-scale production as well as analytical support.

"In the last couple of years we have experienced a significant and continuous increase in customers' demand for additional capacity, including demand for labs and small-scale development," said Janmejay Vyas, chairman of India's Dishman Group, owner of Carbogen Amcis. He added that the acquisition was targeted to support the company's business growth and expansion, as well as allowing it to keep its position as an industry leader and outsourcing partner for complex, highly potent APIs and ADCs.

In the near future, Carbogen Amcis plans to introduce a number of additional capabilities including, but not limited to, commercial manufacture of antibody drug conjugates (ADCs) and development capacity for category 4 potent compounds. The Bubendorf expansion follows the acquisition in August 2014 of a high-containment facility at Vionnaz, Switzerland, dedicated to the development and manufacture of highly potent APIs.

EU Approves Novartis Drug for More Cancers

June 6, 2016: The European Commission has granted approval for Novartis' Afinitor (everolimus) for treating unrespectable or metastatic, well-differentiated non-functional neuroendocrine

Keine halben Sachen.



Die Welt ist voll von Halbwissen. Besonders im sensiblen Umfeld der Chemie ist dies jedoch fehl am Platz. Deshalb arbeiten wir seit 1947 mit Leidenschaft und Liebe zum Detail daran, dass evaluierte Daten und Fakten rund um das Themenfeld Chemie zur Verfügung stehen. Immer. Und ohne Ausnahme. So wurde „Der RÖMPP“ Synonym für inzwischen über 65 000 Stichwörter und über 240 000 Querverweise, auf die man sich verlassen kann. Das sollten Sie sich am besten selbst anschauen.

Sonderkonditionen für SCG-Mitglieder.

Nur 100% sind 100%.
www.roempp.com

 Thieme

tumors (NET) of gastrointestinal (GI) or lung origin. Novartis said Afinitor is the first approved therapy in all 28 EU member states, plus Iceland and Norway, for this version of lung NET, and one of limited treatments available for this type of GI NET.

Neuroendocrine tumors are a type of cancer that originate in neuroendocrine cells throughout the body and most commonly arise in the GI tract, lungs or pancreas. To date, there have been very few or no approved treatment options for these patients, said Bruno Strigini, president of Novartis Oncology.

The approval was based on a Phase 3 study which showed that Afinitor cut the risk of the cancer spreading by 52%. Up to 44% of patients with GI NET and 28% of those with lung NET have advanced disease at the time of diagnosis with poor prognoses.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave the drug a green light for similar indications in February this year. Afinitor is also approved for pancreatic and kidney cancers, as well as advanced HR+/HER2-breast cancer in combination with exemestane. However, the drug has been facing growing competition from rival medicines such as Opdivo from Bristol-Myers Squibb and Cabometyx from Exelixis.

Addressing the Pharma Innovation Gap – Pharma Outsourcing Panel Discussion Discussed Best Practices

June 9, 2016: Since the beginning of the 21st century, pharma M&A activity has exploded. Mergers and acquisitions, layoffs, and outsourcing of research and manufacturing have become common place in an industry that had previously been nearly immune to these activities. Whether or not this will translate into a more viable industry, however, has yet to be determined. Many of the mergers and acquisitions were predicated on increased efficiency in the discovery and development of new drugs and therapies as the lack of new products is a major threat to many branded pharmaceuticals companies.

Contract research and contract manufacturing organizations (CROs/CMOs) today are an integral part of the pharmaceutical industry. CROs and CMOs, however, do not only benefit from growth opportunities but they also face some new challenges. These issues were broached at a well-attended panel discussion during the recent edition of Chemspec Europe.

The well-established “Pharma Outsourcing Best Practices Panel”, a distinctive landmark of the pan-European trade show that in early June set up camp in Basel, Switzerland, was once again chaired by pharma industry veteran Magid Abou-Gharbia. The panelists included industry experts from Bristol Myers-Squibb, Merck, Pfizer, Siegfried, Johnson Matthey, and Piramal. They discussed global outsourcing strategies, the identification of outsourcing partners and approaches to mitigate risks, challenges associated with outsourcing and how to effectively manage partnerships with an audience from pharma, chemical and service companies engaged in contract research and custom synthesis of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs).

The attendees agreed that despite the tremendous challenges the pharmaceutical industry is facing the sector will maintain its commitment to innovation and the discovery of innovative drugs to address unmet medical needs.

To succeed, pharma will continue partnering with CROs and CMOs as well as with academic institutions to provide quality drug candidates and APIs, improve efficiencies and productivity and address the innovation gap.

UK Life Science Sector Concerned About Brexit

June 17, 2016: Ahead of the Jun. 23 referendum over whether the UK should remain in or leave the EU, voices from the science sector were increasingly heard arguing in favor of staying – before the Jun. 16 fatal shooting of an anti-Brexit member of parliament (MP) from Yorkshire temporarily interrupted the dialog.

When the heated discussions resume, as can be expected, in the last week before the voting is held, most UK observers believe the Remain side will gain the upper hand. Adding urgency to the debate in the science and industry sector were separate reports drawn up by the House of Commons science and technology committee and the House of Lords technology committee.

The committees in both Houses have warned that separation of the British from the EU science infrastructure would not be easy, and that contingency plans would have to be developed quickly to protect research and innovation if the referendum's outcome is Brexit.

Leaving the EU would cost the UK “substantial funding” for life sciences in particular, the Commons committee argued, citing the case of Switzerland, where voters in a 2014 referendum opted to curtail the number of foreign workers entering the country.

Committee chair, Nicola Blackwood, a Conservative party MP, recalled that Switzerland, an associate member of the EU's Horizon 2020 research program, which focuses heavily on life sciences, saw its participation threatened by that referendum's outcome. “Following lengthy negotiations, Switzerland was permitted re-entry to Horizon 2020 but on much more restrictive terms,” she said.

“Given the cautionary example of the Swiss freedom of movement referendum, we urge the government to conduct a risk analysis of the science and innovation funding and collaboration scenarios in the event of Brexit, the Commons committee said.

Adding its voice, the British BioIndustry Association (BIA), which represents biotech firms, said: “As the report acknowledges, the only thing we can be certain of in the event of leaving the EU is uncertainty. Changing the current arrangement would lead to disruption, expense and significant regulatory burdens as a new system is developed.”

In its paper, the House of Lords suggested that, in life sciences in particular, Britain actually steers the other EU member states, so that a British exit would require the EU to reorganize anything from the approval of new drugs to clinical trials.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA), which allows a single application to for a marketing authorization is valid simultaneously in all 28 EU states simultaneously, is based in London, the Lords pointed out.

Beyond Britain's being instrumental in developing the EU's new Clinical Trials Regulation, having the EMA based in London “helps enormously,” as the country takes a lead in the assessments of drugs, pharma-covigilance or scientific advice, by a representative of the UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) told the Lords committee. This, the agency said, in itself “helps reinforce the UK as a strong place for the pharmaceuticals sector to have a strong national agency.”

The biotech association added that the MHRA has been “able to exploit its reputation, leadership and expertise to positively influence the EU medicines regulatory regime.”

Even if the science sector is largely in favor of the UK remaining in the EU, however, many of the country's scientists told the two parliamentary groupings that they perceived a need for change in certain rules, whereby most focused on regulatory bureaucracy and the length of time it takes to get legislation through all instances.

While much of the need for improvement voiced to the parliamentary committees did not involve the chemical-pharmaceutical industry's main product lines directly, some of those commenting to the Lords criticized the bureaucracy of REACH.

Others said the Clinical Trials Directive was inflexible and inconsistently applied, Criticism was also leveled at what was seen as the EU's overly cautious approach to the cultivation of GM crops. The EU's Royal Society has publicly called for a review of the EU's blanket prohibition of GM crops.

Sanofi Can Look at Medivation's Books

July 7, 2016: Under months of pressure from Sanofi as an acquisition target, Medivation has now agreed to allow the French drugmaker to look at its books. Sanofi announced on Jul. 5 it had signed a confidentiality agreement with the US biopharmaceuticals producer and pledged a customary standstill for six months, subject to limited early termination events, as well as ending its efforts to replace the company's board of directors.

The French company expressed confidence that due diligence could be quickly completed and that a deal could be signed quickly as US regulatory clearance has already been received, and there would be no financing condition.

At the same time Sanofi said it had informed Medivation it would increase its offer to \$58 per share in cash – up from \$52.50 initially – and \$3 per share in the form of a contingent value right (CVR) relating to the sales performance sales performance of the California firm's ARP inhibitor talazoparib, a pipeline drug recommended for treatment of late-stage P3 breast cancer.

The new offer, amounting to around \$10 billion, was immediately rejected. Medivation said it would open a data room to give not only Sanofi but other potential suitors a chance to “participate in a process relating to a potential transaction.” It did not identify the other companies.

Earlier reports pointed to British-Swedish drugmaker AstraZeneca and Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche as being interested in the oncology specialist with an extensive pipeline and a blockbuster drug Xtandi, on the market for treatment of prostate cancer. Pfizer recently was also named as a potential suitor, and the latest reports suggest that US biopharmaceutical producer Celgene also may have an inside track.

In a statement, Kim Blickenstaff, chairman of Medivation's board of directors, said: “Medivation has significant scarcity value as one of the only profitable, commercial-stage oncology companies, and management has been successfully executing a strategy that is generating outstanding returns for our stockholders. At the same time, our board remains committed to objectively considering all avenues that may enhance our ability to deliver superior value. “Our decision to enter into these agreements is consistent with our focus on stockholder interests, and will allow interested parties to fully understand the significant value of our Xtandi franchise and the enormous potential of our pipeline, including talazoparib, our promising potential best-in-class PARP inhibitor,” Blickenstaff concluded.

EU Chemicals Growth Still Lags, CEFIC Says

July 7, 2016: Chemical production in the 28 EU member states shrank by 0.7% year-on-year on average in the first four months of 2016 and thus remained 5.9% below the pre-crisis 2008 level, the European Chemical Industry Council, CEFIC, says in its trend report for July. Producer prices sank by 3.8% in the same period.

CEFIC's look at chemical production sectors shows a differentiated picture, with the most output growth seen for dyes and pigments (up 3.1%), plastics in primary form (up 2.7%) and perfumes and toiletries (up 2.4%). Production of paints and coatings grew 1.3%, synthetic rubber 0.8% and industrial gases 0.7%.

In the negative column, agrochemicals output contracted by 11.2%, other basic inorganics by 2.7%, soaps and detergents by 1.8% and petrochemicals 0.7%. Petrochemicals were hardest hit by negative price movements, declining 8.4% in the year's first four months. Polymer prices slipped back 2% and specialty chemicals prices decreased by 0.8%. By contrast, prices for consumer chemicals rose 1% year-on-year.

In the first quarter, CEFIC said, stagnant production levels and declining prices began to impact sales across the EU. The chemical industry's total sales in the first three months were

down 3.1% year-on-year and down nearly 5% in the single market. Chemical consumption in the 28 countries was down 3.6%.

Nevertheless, EU-based chemical producers maintained a €9.8 billion trade surplus in the first up 0.3% on the 2015 quarter. This was thanks mostly to brisk business with countries on the single market's periphery such as Russia, Turkey and Switzerland, where the surplus came to €2.6 billion. Much of the gains resulted from a fall of 19% (€405 million) in Russian imports. At the same time EU exports to Russia fell by 6.7% (€129 million).

The EU's chemical industry still faced a trade deficit of €578 million with South Korea, Japan and India in the year's first three months.

Altogether, however, it maintained a trade surplus with Asia – excluding Japan and China – totaling €1.78 billion, a gain of €149 million. The EU's net chemical trade balance with China widened by €117 million, while its chemicals trade surplus with the US narrowed by €0.43 billion to €1.07 billion, possibly in part reflecting currency movements.

Direct employment in the chemicals sector in the first quarter was flat at 1.17 billion and was thus still 9% below the peak level reached in the 2007 third quarter.

For 2016 and 2017, CEFIC said it sees “no significant acceleration” of chemical production growth in the EU, as positive impulses from “robust domestic demand” will be countered by the weak global environment. However, it said some impetus for chemical demand should come from the construction industry, which is profiting from improved financing conditions as well as robust demand.

Looking at 2017 separately, CEFIC said manufacturing could slow slightly as the European automotive industry cycle cools, but construction should remain robust, due to infrastructure investments and an overhang of demand in the residential markets.

Demand from outside Europe, the federation said, is expected to improve slightly as global commodity prices are stabilizing and lending a boost to global commodity exporters such as Russia, South America, Africa and the Middle East.

In presenting the company's financial results for the second quarter of 2016, Joe Jimenez, CEO of Swiss drugmaker Novartis, took the opportunity to add comment on crucial issues facing the global pharmaceuticals sector to his remarks on the company's financial.

The world's biggest maker of prescription drugs will continue to invest in Britain, despite the country's decision to leave the EU, Jimenez told journalists on a conference call. “The UK is an important market for us,” he said, remarking that, “there are many countries in Europe, namely Switzerland, which are not in the EU, and we continue to invest in those countries as well as in the EU.”

Roche's Gazyva Misses Lymphoma Target

July 20, 2016: Roche's new blood cancer drug Gazyva has failed to show significant improvements in a late-stage lymphoma trial, delivering a blow to its plans for a successor to blockbuster drug Rituxan. Results of a Phase III study, which assessed Gazyva in patients with previously untreated diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, showed that the new drug did not perform any better than its older therapy Rituxan.

The Swiss drugmaker was hoping to repeat findings from two previous studies that showed the drug boosted survival rates in patients with previously untreated follicular lymphoma or chronic lymphocytic leukemia compared to Rituxan, when each was combined with chemotherapy.

The findings have stymied Roche's plans for Gazyva which it hoped would help defended its position in treating blood cancers when Rituxan starts to face competition from cut-price copycat drugs, or biosimilars, possibly in the latter half of 2017. Patent protection for Rituxan has already expired in Europe, and will

run out in the US in 2018, with a likely fall in revenue after 2018. Rituxan is Roche's third-biggest drug with revenues of 5.6 billion Swiss francs last year.

The race to launch its successor is said to be symptomatic of the broader challenge Roche faces from the rise of other biosimilars. Several manufacturers are said to be working on copies of Rituxan, Herceptin – Roche's blockbuster breast cancer drug which had sales of 6.5 billion Swiss francs in 2015 – and Avastin which loses US patent protection in 2019.

Roche said it is carrying out additional studies investigating Gazyva across a range of blood cancers in combination with other medicines, including cancer immunotherapies and small molecule inhibitors.

Novartis Sticking with UK, Sees Lower US Prices

July 21, 2016: Jimenez said he sees "very large areas of unmet medical need and the innovation Novartis brings can help patients in the UK." In contrast to remarks by associations representing UK-based drugmakers, the Novartis CEO commented that he expects the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to continue approving new medicines in an "orderly" manner, even as it prepares to leave London for an unknown destination on the continent.

The UK's BioIndustry Association (BIA), a trade group representing bioscience companies, said earlier that moving the EMA "would lead to disruption, expense and significant regulatory burdens as a new system is developed." Others in the drugs sector have said they feared a Brexit would undermine future investment, research and jobs in the country.

On the other side of the Atlantic, the US presidential election – in which candidates have called for an end to what they see as excessive prices – has begun to cast a long shadow on the global pharmaceutical industry, and Jimenez acknowledged that drugmakers expect to see increased pressure on prices in the industry's biggest and most profitable market.

In response, he said, the industry will need to restructure in preparation for new pricing models, no matter which party wins the election. He added that the Swiss company is planning for an environment "in which there are no price increases in the US."

Speaking to the British newspaper Financial Times (FT), Jimenez said US price pressures will also have global repercussions, including in Europe, where prices are already falling.

Pharmaceutical companies that fail to adapt "will be in trouble," he said.

Separately, Jimenez confirmed to the FT recent rumors that Novartis is looking for an opportunity to sell its \$14 billion stake in compatriot drugmaker Roche. He suggested that a deal is not imminent, but will be made when the company sees an opportunity to redeploy the funds. Novartis acquired the stake when the two drugmakers were weighing a broader alliance.

After reporting second-quarter net sales in constant currencies flat at \$12.5 billion and core operating profit down 4% to \$3.3 billion, Novartis has forecast full-year 2016 sales on a level with 2015. Core operating income is expected to be either in line with last year or down slightly.

Givaudan Celebrates Ground-breaking of New Innovation Centre in Kempththal, Switzerland

In late April 2016 Givaudan marked the start of the construction of a new innovation centre in Kempththal, Switzerland, a CHF 120 million investment demonstrating its commitment to provide innovative solutions to customers in the flavour and fragrance industry. The symbolic ground-breaking ceremony was attended by Carmen Walker Späh, Councillor of the canton of Zurich, Bernard Hosang, Mayor of Lindau, and Dr Jürg Witmer, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Givaudan.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Jürg Witmer commented:

"This is Givaudan's biggest investment in a research centre to date, reflecting the importance of innovation within our 2020 strategy of long-term value creation. It underlines our commitment to create responsible and sustainable growth by building close partnerships with innovators, our customers, engaged employees and academia."

The new centre for innovation, anticipated to open in 2019, will use the latest in design and collaboration technologies to stimulate creativity and interaction between diverse functions and teams in both Flavours and Fragrances, tapping into the broader community of innovators located on-site. Its innovative research areas will span from organic chemistry, naturals such as fermentation and biocatalysis, to flavour creation and application science, as well as delivery systems. The new buildings, integrating an atrium as a shared space for meetings and exchange, are being constructed in accordance with the LEED Gold sustainability standard to meet stringent sustainability requirements for resource-efficient construction and low operating costs.

Carmen Walker Späh, Councillor of the canton of Zurich, emphasised the socio-economic significance of the project in Switzerland: "The new research centre demonstrates an impressive level of commitment by Givaudan to the site in Kempththal, guarantees jobs and strengthens Zurich's reputation as a highly innovative canton."

Together with an existing modern production facility for flavours in Dübendorf, the new site will form an important innovation centre for Givaudan in the Zurich area. The new building complex will provide space for 300 employees in flavour and fragrance research, flavour development and administrative functions, in addition to the 200 jobs currently located in Kempththal.



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