



SCS  
Swiss Chemical  
Society

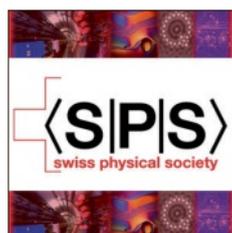
## Community News

[www.scg.ch](http://www.scg.ch)

[www.chemanager-online.com](http://www.chemanager-online.com)

### SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

#### Call for Nominations for the Swiss Physical Society Prizes 2017



Die SPG verleiht seit 1991 Preise für aussergewöhnlich gute Forschungsarbeiten junger Physikerinnen und Physiker. Mit den Preisen in verschiedenen Kategorien, gestiftet von namhaften Institutionen und Firmen, möchte die SPG ihren Beitrag leisten, das qualitativ hochstehende Forschungsniveau in der Schweiz auch weiterhin sicherzustellen.

Auch im Jahr 2017 sollen wieder SPG-Preise, die mit je CHF 5000 dotiert sind, vergeben werden:

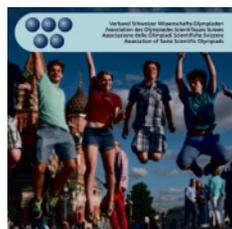
- SPG-Preis gestiftet vom Forschungszentrum ABB Schweiz AG für eine hervorragende Forschungsarbeit auf allen Gebieten der Physik
- SPG-Preis gestiftet von der Firma IBM für eine hervorragende Forschungsarbeit auf dem Gebiet der Kondensierten Materie
- SPG-Preis gestiftet von der Firma OC Oerlikon für eine hervorragende Forschungsarbeit auf dem Gebiet der Angewandten Physik
- SPG-Preis gestiftet vom METAS für eine hervorragende Forschungsarbeit mit Bezug zur Metrologie
- SPG-Preis gestiftet von der Firma COMSOL für eine hervorragende Forschungsarbeit auf dem Gebiet der computer-gestützten Physik

Die SPG möchte mit diesen Preisen junge Physikerinnen und Physiker in der Frühphase ihrer Karriere, auf alle Fälle vor Erreichen einer akademischen Festanstellung oder bevor sie mehr als drei Jahre in einer Start-up-Firma oder in der Industrie tätig sind, für hervorragende wissenschaftliche Arbeiten auszeichnen.

Details zur Ausschreibung und zum Nominationsprozess finden Sie auf der Website der SPS. Deadline ist der 28. Februar 2017.

Source: [www.sps.ch](http://www.sps.ch)

#### 14 Medaillengewinner der IWO am Swiss Scientific Olympiads Day ausgezeichnet



29 Jugendliche aus der ganzen Schweiz reisten im Sommer 2016 an die Internationalen Wissenschafts-Olympiaden, an denen die besten Nachwuchstalente aus der ganzen Welt teilnahmen. Die Wettbewerbe liefen gut für die jungen Biologen, Chemikerinnen, Geografen, Informatikerinnen, Mathematiker, Physikerinnen und Philosophen. Sie holten 14

Medaillen und 5 Honorable Mentions. Die klügsten Köpfe und die besten Teams wurden am 22. Oktober 2016 am Swiss Scientific Olympiads Day an der Universität Bern ausgezeichnet.

Die Olympiaden für schlaue Köpfe liegen bereits zwei Monate zurück. Nun kamen die Nachwuchstalente nochmals an der Universität Bern zusammen, um für ihre hervorragenden Leistungen geehrt zu werden. Im Rampenlicht stand unter anderem ein junger Mann aus Andelfingen (ZH): Daniel Rutschmann (Kantonsschule im Lee) holte sich in Russland an der Internationalen Informatik-Olympiade die erste Goldmedaille für die Schweiz, eine ausserordentliche Leistung. Dafür erhielt er am Olympiads Day den Preis für die beste Einzelleistung. Als bestes Schweizer Team überzeugten 5 Mathematiker und 1 Mathematikerin. Sie holten an der Internationalen Mathematik-Olympiade in Hongkong einmal Silber (Rutschmann) und viermal Bronze.

Source: Verband Schweizer Wissenschafts-Olympiaden, [www.olympiads.ch](http://www.olympiads.ch)

#### A warm welcome to our new members!



Period: 21.09.2016 – 27.10.2016

Carsten Bauer, Basel – Saquib Hasnain, New Delhi (IN) – Sutida Jansod, Geneva – Frederic Leroux, Strasbourg – Larisa Markova, Bern – Robert Pollice, Zürich – Christian Richard, Monthey – Rene Windiks, Gebenstorf.

### HONORS AND AWARDS

#### Professor Michael Graetzel Winner of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ahmed Zewail Prize in Molecular Sciences



Elsevier and the editors of the international journal *Chemical Physics Letters* are pleased to announce that the 6<sup>th</sup> Ahmed Zewail Prize in Molecular Sciences has been awarded to Professor Michael Graetzel from the EPF Lausanne for his outstanding contributions to the field of energy and electron transfer reactions and their use in energy conversion.

Sir David Clary, Editor of *Chemical Physics Letters* said "Michael Graetzel has made exceptional contributions to the field of energy and electron transfer reactions and their use in energy conversion. He applied basic principles of chemical physics which lead to the development of new solar cells and batteries. Our esteemed colleague Ahmed Zewail, who sadly passed away just two months ago, would have been very proud of the award in his name to such an outstanding chemical physicist."

„For this year's edition of the Ahmed Zewail Prize we again received many strong nominations and I am delighted that Professor Michael Graetzel has been selected as the 6th Ahmed Zewail Prize winner," Rob van Daalen, Publisher of *Physical Chemistry Letters* added "He is one of the most cited scientists

in the world and pioneered research in solar cells and batteries. I thank both the nominators and the leading scientists in the judging committee, who advised the journal editors in making their decision.”

About the Award: The prize consists of a monetary award of \$20,000, a Gold Medal and a certificate, and will be presented in person at a special symposium during the Femtochemistry Conference (FEMTO13), 13–17 August, 2017 taking place in Cancun, Mexico.

Source: [www.journals.elsevier.com](http://www.journals.elsevier.com)

### Prof. Majed Chergui, EPFL has been elected Fellow of The Optical Society (OSA).



The Optical Society was founded in 1916 as the Optical Society of America (OSA) with the purpose of advancing the study of light in both theory and application. As such, the OSA recognizes distinguished achievements in the field of both optics and photonics, and supports the community with a number of grants, educational initiatives, and technical programs.

OSA Fellows are members who have distinguished themselves through their work and have been nominated by other OSA Fellows. Overall, the OSA, which counts some 19,000 members, keeps its Fellows restricted to only 10% of that number.

Professor Majed Chergui directs EPFL's Laboratory of Ultrafast Spectroscopy, which pursues a variety of ultrafast UV and X-ray spectroscopic studies on chemical and biological systems. Chergui is also a founding Editor-in-chief of the journal Structural Dynamics, a flagship journal of the American Institute of Physics and the American Crystallographic Association.

With this fellowship, the OSA recognizes Professor Chergui “for pioneering ultrafast X-ray spectroscopy and for his major contributions to the development of ultrafast deep-ultraviolet spectroscopy, which he used to address fundamental light-induced processes in molecules, proteins and materials.” As an OSA Fellow, Professor Chergui joins “a distinguished group of members who have served the Society and the optics and photonics community with distinction”.

Source: [actu.epfl.ch/news](http://actu.epfl.ch/news)

### Prof. Hanns Ulrich Zeilhofer is awarded The PHOENIX Pharmaceutical Sciences Prize 2016



On October 20, 2016, the “PHOENIX Pharmaceutical Sciences Prize” was awarded to the group of Prof. Hanns Ulrich Zeilhofer for achievements in the field of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmaceutics.

The PHOENIX group focuses on pharmaceutical innovation in Germany, Austria and Switzerland since 20 years.

PHOENIX awards the best four articles in the categories Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmaceutics, Pharmaceutical Biology, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, and Pharmaceutical Technology.

This award one of the most significant pharmaceutical awards in the German-speaking countries. It was given for the work “Analgesia and unwanted benzodiazepine effects in point-mutated mice expressing only one benzodiazepine-sensitive GABAA receptor subtype” (Nature Communications 2015, 6, 6803).

Source: [actu.epfl.ch/news](http://actu.epfl.ch/news)

### Murielle Delley wins participation at the Global Young Scientists Summit 2017 in Singapore



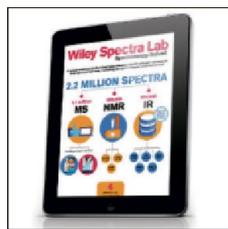
Murielle Florence Delley, PhD student in the group of Prof. Copéret, was among the selected ones to attend the Global Young Scientists Summit (GYSS) 2017 in Singapore. The participants are PhD students and postdoctoral associates under 35 and have to be nominated by universities, research organizations, or corporate labs from around the world. At

GYSS they can discuss the latest advances in science and technology, and how research can be harnessed to address major global challenges. It is a multi-disciplinary event covering the disciplines of chemistry, physics, biology, mathematics, computer science and engineering. Speakers invited to the GYSS are internationally renowned scientific leaders who are recipients of the Fields Medal, Millennium Technology Prize, Nobel Prize, or Turing Award.

Source: [www.chab.ethz.ch](http://www.chab.ethz.ch)

## JOURNAL NEWS

### Wiley News: Introducing the world's largest spectral database



Wiley Spectra Lab is the world's largest spectral database, containing over 200 spectral collections to help chemists, toxicologists and life scientists confidently identify chemical substances.

Powered by KnowItAll from Bio-Rad, Wiley Spectra Lab ensures the broadest and most in-depth coverage in areas including flavors and fragrances geo-

chemicals, metabolites, poisons, hydrocarbons and hazardous materials.

Advanced software coupled with access to over 2.2 million MS, NMR, IR, Raman, and UV-Vis spectra data creates a fully customizable system, meeting your researchers' specific analytical needs, maximizing lab efficiency and reducing turnaround time.

Take a look at the key information about the world's largest spectral database and how it can benefit your research.

Source: Wiley-VCH, [www.wiley.com/go/databases](http://www.wiley.com/go/databases)

### EurJIC – Wöhler Young Investigator Prize



In 2017 the European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry (EurJIC) publishes its twentieth issue since the amalgamation of the chemical journals of nine European chemical societies. Since then, seven more European societies have joined “ChemPubSoc Europe”, the name of this organization that was established to publish high-quality society journals. In

an inflationary age for new journals, many of which are of doubtful quality, the merger of eleven journals into only two, the European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry and its sister journal, the European Journal of Organic Chemistry, remains unprecedented.

As part of the celebrations for this major event in society publishing, EurJIC together with the Wöhler-Vereinigung of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh) will present the third EurJIC –Wöhler Young Investigator Prize at the GDCh-Wissenschaftsforum Chemie in Berlin, 10–14 September, 2017. This award honours a young investigator in the field of Inorganic Chemistry for an excellent scientific publication in which the candidate is the correspondence author. The winner of the € 1500 award will present a lecture on her/his research at the Symposium “Highlights in Inorganic Chemistry” of the GDCh-Wissenschaftsforum Chemie 2017.

## INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: [www.chemmanager-online.com](http://www.chemmanager-online.com)

### ChemChina Seeks EU Approval of Syngenta Buy

September 28, 2016: ChemChina has filed for European antitrust approval of its \$43 billion bid for Swiss agrochemicals group Syngenta. The European Commission was notified of the request on Sept. 23 and a decision is provisionally expected by Oct. 28. European regulators could either clear the merger, with or without concessions, or it could decide to open a full investigation if it is concerned that the acquisition could harm customers and competitors. The Beijing-headquartered firm cleared one of the biggest challenges to the takeover last month when the Committee on Foreign Investment in the US (CFIUS) gave its approval to what would be the largest foreign acquisition by a Chinese company. The deal is one of many that are proceeding within the global agrochemicals industry, including mergers between Dow Chemical and DuPont, Potash Corp of Saskatchewan and Agrum, as well as Bayer's \$66 billion purchase of Monsanto. Casebia Moves Research to New Massachusetts Facility.

### Catalent to Acquire Pharmatek Laboratories

September 30, 2016: Catalent has announced plans to acquire Pharmatek Laboratories, a contract drug development and clinical manufacturing company, for an all-cash undisclosed sum. The acquisition will add extensive early-phase drug development capabilities from discovery to clinic, bring spray drying into Catalent's portfolio of drug formulation and delivery technologies and expand the New Jersey-based firm's capability for handling highly potent compounds. Pharmatek provides dosage form development and clinical-scale cGMP manufacturing of oral, injectable and topical products, as well as its own drug development platform. Barry Littlejohns, president of Catalent's Drug Delivery Solutions business, said the addition of Pharmatek will create an unparalleled drug development platform, and its facility in San Diego, California, will expand its presence on the US west coast and provide additional access to markets in Asia-Pacific. The San Diego site comprises two analytical laboratories, two formulation laboratories, four engineering rooms and nine certified ISO Class 8 suites, as well as laboratory, manufacturing and support space for developing and manufacturing highly potent compounds. Completion of the transaction is expected to take place in the next few weeks, subject to the usual closing conditions. The deal is seen as an about-face for Catalent, which was rumored in April to be a takeover target for Swiss group Lonza.

### Syngenta Completes Plant Expansions

October 5, 2016: Swiss agrochemicals producer Syngenta has completed capacity expansions at key production sites in Brazil and Switzerland. Altogether, the company has invested \$240 million in the projects, which include a new fungicide plant in

Paulínia, São Paulo, and an expanded corn seed factory in Formosa, Goiás, both in Brazil. It has also widened output capability for S-Metolachlor in Kaisten, Switzerland. The Paulínia formulation plant for the fungicide sold under the Elatus trademark is claimed to be the first in Latin America to make use of the peptide technology, which Syngenta said results in water-soluble granules that combine the properties of liquid use with the convenience and easy transportable advantage of a dry, solid product. This is said to improve transportation of the ingredients to the plant tissue, ensuring rapid and systemic protection of the crop. Syngenta's sales of Elatus in Latin America exceeded \$400 million in 2015. The company said the fungicide “provides outstanding potency against soybean rust and provides long lasting control and increased yield benefits for the grower.” At the Formosa site, production at the corn seed plant has been quadrupled to raise its production capacity to 1.6 million bags of corn per year from 400,000 t/y. Syngenta said the investment in Kaisten has enabled a “significant production capacity expansion” for S-Metolachlor, a leading herbicide used in many of its brands. It said the herbicide “has proven to be a critical tool in managing weeds that are increasingly difficult to control in a number of crops, notably corn and soybean.”

### Genentech Buys Rights to Hanmi's Cancer Drug

October 6, 2016: US biotechnology group Genentech has agreed with Hanmi Pharmaceutical to buy the exclusive global rights to the South Korean company's experimental cancer drug HM95573. The California-headquartered firm, part of Swiss drugmaker Roche, will make an initial upfront payment of \$80 million for the rights – excluding South Korea – to develop and commercialize the pan-RAF inhibitor, which is currently in Phase 1 clinical development. Hanmi is also eligible to receive milestone payments of up to \$830 million as well as tiered double-digit royalties on sales of certain products resulting from the license agreement. The transaction is expected to close during the fourth quarter of 2016, subject to the usual closing and antitrust conditions. Senior vice president and global head of Genentech Partnering, James Sabry, said the company is eager to leverage Hanmi's scientific insights in developing novel therapies that target the MAPK pathway. The MAPK pathway has been shown to be important in some cancers and RAF kinases – especially B-RAF and C-RAF – are known to be associated with various tumors. Companies, including Roche, are investigating ways to target MAPK signalling. In addition to oncology, the Seoul-headquartered company's key R&D target areas are in diabetes and obesity, auto-immune diseases and fixed-dose combination programs.

### Novartis Axes Swiss and Chinese R&D Sites

October 10, 2016: As part of a “broader, global strategic plan” to centralize control over its drug discovery programs and contain costs, Swiss drugmaker Novartis said it will close R&D sites in Switzerland and China and axe 175 research jobs.

Plans include reducing staff by 73 at the ESBATech facility near Zurich, while 18 jobs will go at Shanghai-based China biologics group. The bulk of activities concentrated at the older Shanghai site will be shifted to the company's newly opened \$1 billion campus in the Chinese city, where some 500 people work in its R&D facilities. At the same time, the pharmaceutical giant, which employs around 120,000 people globally, also plans to set up two centers of excellence for biotherapeutic research in Basel, Switzerland, and Cambridge, UK. In Asia, Novartis plans to merge its Singapore-based Institute for Tropical Diseases, which works on therapies for dengue fever and malaria, into its Emeryville, California, site attached to an existing hub for infectious disease research. This, it said, will enable scientists to work on this indication from one site.

Reports said the move of the key research site from the Asian city constitutes a blow to the efforts of the Singapore government to expand the pharmaceuticals sector and reduce dependence on electronics and petrochemicals. As a stimulus, Singapore has launched a five-year program of incentives to attract drugmakers, including research finance, tax breaks and new facilities. Novartis' new research strategy is said to be part of an overhaul conceived by James Bradner, who was named head of the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research last year. Another part of the drugmaker's strategy includes the plans announced in August to close its cell and gene therapies unit and reintegrate the activities into the larger corporate organization.

### **ChemChina/Syngenta Deal Faces Financing Concerns**

October 13, 2016: ChemChina is facing a funding gap of \$15 billion for its purchase of Syngenta, the Chinese news service Caixin has reported. Citing people close to the negotiations and private documents, the news agency said the current financing structure indicates uncertainties over who will meet the shortfall needed to acquire all of Syngenta's shares. The Chinese company is borrowing heavily to finance the purchase, and its debt ratio is already at 80%, according to public company documents. It plans to raise \$50.4 billion for the acquisition, using the funds to buy all of Syngenta's shares, which are valued at \$43 billion, support a reorganization of the assets and pay for associated expenses. The offer made in March indicated a commitment by bank consortia to provide the initial financing needed to complete the acquisition. However, investors have said it would be difficult to raise capital if there was not some indication of support from the Chinese government, which has so far been lacking. The country's state-owned banks are also notably absent from the list of creditors. According to one US analyst, worries about the debt risk have always been present, despite the commitment by banks, but in the past had taken a back seat to concerns that the deal may be blocked in the US. However, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) cleared the takeover of the Swiss seeds giant in August. Refuting the Caixin story, a Syngenta spokeswoman told the Reuters news agency that bridge financing is "committed and irrevocable" and that ChemChina is proceeding with its refinancing strategy. ChemChina filed for European regulatory approval on Sep. 23, and a decision is provisionally expected by Oct. 28. The Beijing-based group has extended its main offer period for a third time, until Nov. 8 currently.

### **Sinochem and ChemChina May Merge**

October 18, 2016: As if not to be outdone by the mega mergers planned for Western chemical companies, the Chinese state is thought to be planning to merge two of its own giants, Sinochem Group and China National Chemical Corp (ChemChina). The deal, should it go ahead, would create China's third-largest refiner by capacity. The story reported by Western news agencies has not been acknowledged by authorities in Beijing. The prospective combination of two companies with assets of around \$110 billion would create the largest oil refiner behind China Petrochemical Corp (Sinopec) and China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC), according to data from consultants Wood Mackenzie quoted by the news agency Bloomberg. The move signals a new strategy by policy makers to boost competition rather than weaken the dominant state-run companies by spinning off assets, an analyst told the news agency. A merged company would have an estimated annual output capability of about 50 million tonnes of oil, equivalent to about 1 million barrels a day, and Wood Mackenzie believes this makes it China's third largest refiner. Sinochem has about 50,000 employees and assets worth about \$39 billion in businesses ranging from oil fields in Brazil to rubber plantations

in Southeast Asia, ChemChina is the country's largest chemical producer with nine refineries and more than 140000 workers, according to its website. The conglomerate that owns China's largest fertilizer producer as well as fluorine and seed companies claims to be the Peoples Republic's largest supplier of agricultural raw materials. ChemChina has shown an appetite for acquisitions in recent years, and is currently in the process of acquiring Swiss agrochemicals producer Syngenta. Observers said it was unclear what effect a merger of the two Chinese groups would have on this deal. ChemChina is reportedly facing a funding gap of \$15 billion for the Swiss purchase. Citing people close to the negotiations and private documents, the Chinese news agency Caixin said the company's debt ratio is already at 80%, so it was difficult to see how the transaction could take place without guarantees.

### **Clariant Opens US PP Catalysts Plant**

October 24, 2016: Clariant's CEO, Hariolf Kottmann, described the investment as a "significant step forward" for its catalysts business unit.

Swiss specialty chemicals producer Clariant has opened a new PP catalyst production facility in Louisville, Kentucky, USA, as part of a strategy to accelerate its growth in North America. The new plant has been developed and implemented in cooperation with CB&I and is part of a long-term strategic partnership with the US contractor's Novolen PP technology business. CB&I's Novolen gas-phase process is based on Ziegler-Natta and metallocene catalysts and produces a full range of homopolymer and random copolymer resins. The facility, which combines sales, technical service, R&D, a technical center, pilot plants and production, is now Clariant's largest US production hub for catalysts and further strengthens Louisville as the most important site for its regional business, the Muttentz-headquartered group said. Clariant's CEO, Hariolf Kottmann, described the investment as a "significant step forward" for its catalysts business unit. The Swiss group has expanded its presence in North America in recent years, with sales increasing from \$939 million in 2011 to \$1.12 billion in 2015.

### **ChemChina Ignores EU Remedies Submission Date**

October 25, 2016: Reports continue to circulate that ChemChina's planned \$43 billion takeover of Swiss agrochemicals producer Syngenta may not be going as smoothly as planned. Recently, the Chinese news outlet Caixin said the company was facing a \$15 billion funding gap. Now, in response to a query, the European Commission's press office has told the news agency Bloomberg that ChemChina failed to submit so-called remedies, or offers to make asset sales that would ease competition concerns, by the Oct. 21 deadline. In reaction to the news, Syngenta's share price slipped 5.6% in Zurich trading on Oct. 24, its steepest decline since August 2015. ChemChina notified the EU of its takeover plans on Sept. 23. Under EU rules, the Commission has until Oct. 28 to decide whether or not to approve this deal without any strings attached, which seems unlikely, or open an in-depth probe. The latter would add at least four months to the earliest approval date. The news agency pointed out, however, that companies often delay making commitments until a later stage of the anti-trust review. A Syngenta spokesman told Bloomberg that "constructive discussions with the EU are ongoing" and the Swiss group would give a further update on the progress of the deal with its Q3 earnings statement on Oct. 25. Analysts said a prolonged EU investigation could also delay ChemChina's potential merger with Sinochem as the Chinese government seeks to reshuffle the ownership structure of state-owned companies. The EU competition authority currently has its hands full investigating several mega mergers sweeping the global agrochemicals sector. The Commission has already opened an in-depth

probe into the fusion plans of Dow and DuPont worth \$130 billion. It will also be looking into Bayer's \$66 billion bid for Monsanto. Australia's Competition and Consumer Commission has meanwhile announced that its scheduled Oct. 27 decision on the ChemChina takeover of Syngenta has been delayed "at the request of the merger parties so that they can provide more information." In related news, reports suggest that DuPont is planning to sell a herbicide business to help allay potential antitrust concerns about that transaction. Evercore Partners is said to have been hired to advise on the sale, which could generate several hundred million dollars. Citing people "with knowledge of the situation," Bloomberg reported additionally that DuPont is considering the disposal of insecticide and seeds units to facilitate approval of its merger with Dow and subsequent split into three companies. Rather than combine the smaller units into one package, the news agency said the Wilmington, Delaware, chemical giant is looking at individual asset disposals.

### Merck and Pfizer in Lung Pact With Debiopharm

October 25, 2016: Major drugmakers Merck KGaA of Germany and Pfizer of the US are collaborating with Debiopharm International, a drug developer based in Lausanne, Switzerland to study the potential of combining their drugs to treat lung cancer. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed. The companies plan to test a combination of Debio 1143, an oral, small molecule neutralizer of Inhibitor of Apoptosis (IAP) proteins, and Avelumab, an investigational fully human monoclonal antibody against programmed death-ligand 1 (anti-PD-L1), in patients with advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Swiss-based Debiopharm will be responsible for conducting the Phase 1/1b clinical trial. "We are hopeful that the immunosensitizing effect of our compound in combination with Avelumab may translate into a potentially better treatment outcome for patients suffering from this major debilitating disease," said Chris Freitag, vice president of clinical research & development at Debiopharm International. Debio 1143 is currently in Phase 2 development for head & neck and ovarian cancer while Avelumab is under clinical investigation across a broad range of tumors. Merck and Pfizer announced a strategic alliance in November 2014 to develop and co-commercialize Avelumab. "Inhibition of the PD-1/PD-L1 pathway has shown promising activity in patients with advanced NSCLC," said Alise Reicin, head of Merck's biopharma global clinical development. Globally, lung cancer kills more men and women than colon, breast and prostate cancer combined. NSCLC is the most common type of lung cancer, accounting for 80-85% of cases.

### Syngenta-ChemChina Closure Pushed Into 2017

October 26, 2016: The cat is out of the bag: the \$43 billion takeover of Swiss agrochemicals producer Syngenta by ChemChina will not be completed before the first quarter of 2017. Putting a temporary cap on speculation about the deal's status, Syngenta CEO Eric Fyrwald indicated in presenting Q3 financial results – which were in line with the market's expectations – that the regulatory process is daunting. As the entire agrochemicals industry is consolidating, Fyrwald said antitrust authorities in the EU and elsewhere have recently requested a large amount of additional information. However, he stressed that Syngenta and ChemChina "remain fully committed to the transaction and are confident of its closure." Fyrwald pointed to data requests on crop, geography and active ingredients. Explaining why ChemChina missed the EU's Oct. 21 deadline to submit proposals for divestment, he said the European Commission was not ready to provide feedback on any of the solutions that might be sought. The process of obtaining regulatory approvals is well underway, the CEO noted. The US Committee on Foreign Investment, CFIUS, has given the green light from a national security perspective,

and 11 anti-trust approvals already have been received. Syngenta previously said it expected the deal to close by the end of this year. In the meantime, the prospect of any of the mega mergers in the sector – which include the DowDuPont fusion plans and the takeover of Monsanto by Bayer – closing this year looks dim, observers say. Fyrwald said he fully expects the Commission to open an in-depth investigation, adding that, due to the small amount of overlap in this transaction, if remedies were requested the companies would work with authorities to resolve these as quickly as possible. Citing sources, news agencies have suggested that ChemChina may be prepared to offer more concessions to win EU approval. Earlier reports said the Chinese company had submitted a proposal to the Commission in September, including a plan to divest some \$20 million worth of assets from its subsidiary Adama Agricultural Solutions. According to Reuters, the Commission deemed these divestment plans inadequate.

### DowDuPont Chiefs Confirm Merger Delay

October 27, 2016: Dow CEO Liveris said the EU needs more time to consider competition issues in pesticides and crop seeds. "Regulators' greatest concern is agriculture," he told Bloomberg. "One of the strongest lobbies in the world out there is the farm lobby, and in Europe, the agricultural sector is very, very critical to them, somewhat protected. Dow CEO Liveris said the EU needs more time to consider competition issues in pesticides and crop seeds. "Regulators' greatest concern is agriculture," he told Bloomberg. "One of the strongest lobbies in the world out there is the farm lobby, and in Europe, the agricultural sector is very, very critical to them, somewhat protected." Confirming what has seemed obvious to most observers, the chiefs of Dow Chemical and DuPont have acknowledged that their merger won't be completed by the end of 2016 as hoped, due to regulatory constraints. The two company chiefs appeared to differ slightly, however, in their estimate of exactly when closing will take place. In an interview with the news agency Bloomberg this week, Dow CEO Andrew Liveris said he expected the deal to be completed during February 2017. DuPont chief Ed Breen, when presenting financial results for this year's third quarter, was somewhat more vague. In the event that regulators in key jurisdictions use their full allotted time, closing would be expected to occur in the first quarter of 2017, he said. Syngenta's chief executive, Erik Fyrwald, likewise confirmed this week that the Swiss company's takeover by ChemChina won't take place by the end of this year as planned. Regarding the global agriculture market's third mega merger, Bayer CEO Werner Baumann, presenting third-quarter financial results, said he expects the company's takeover of Monsanto to be completed by the end of next year. "We intend to submit the necessary application in the United States before the end of this year and in the European Union probably in the first quarter of 2017," Baumann said. The European Commission said earlier this month it would conduct an in-depth investigation into the Dow-DuPont merger plans and expected to make a decision by Feb. 6, 2017. US regulatory authorities have not published a deadline for a decision, although some believe it will be less stringent than the EU. Shareholders of the two US chemical giants approved the merger in July of this year. Liveris said the EU needs more time to consider competition issues in pesticides and crop seeds. "Regulators' greatest concern is agriculture," he told Bloomberg. "One of the strongest lobbies in the world out there is the farm lobby, and in Europe, the agricultural sector is very, very critical to them, somewhat protected." The Dow CEO said the value created by the merger is "worth a few months of delay." He declined to say, however, which assets the two companies might offer to sell to gain antitrust approval. Speculation recently has focused on Dow shedding its copolymers and DuPont being prepared to flog off a herbicides business. Dow's current leader is scheduled to become executive chairman of the merged Dow-

DuPont – with Breen serving as CEO – but has said he intends to retire when the merger is complete. When asked by Bloomberg what he planned to do after stepping down, Liveris, who is Australian-born, suggested he might become involved in US politics. As the US “is not doing a good job selecting candidates,” he said business leaders with worldly experience could be valuable in the political arena. “People like me should consider going and serving after they leave jobs like these,” Liveris, told the news agency, while saying he didn’t necessarily plan to run for any office.

# CHIMIA

[www.chimia.ch](http://www.chimia.ch)


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## Editorial Program 2017

Issue	Publication Date	Topic, Guest Editor
1-2	22.02.2017	Spectroscopy Natalie Banerji, University of Fribourg
3	29.03.2017	Analytics and Mechanisms Julien Furrer, University of Bern
4	26.04.2017	Laureates Junior Prizes FM16 Hans Peter Lüthi, ETH Zurich
5	31.05.2017	Lausanne Centre for Ultrafast Science Majed Chergui, EPF Lausanne
6	28.06.2017	Polymers Holger Frauenrath, EPF Lausanne
7-8	09.08.2017	SCS Major Awards / SCS Fall Meeting David Spichiger, SCS
9	27.09.2017	The Italian Job Alessandro Mordini, Florence
10	25.10.2017	Medicinal Chemistry Guido Koch, Novartis Pharma AG
11	29.11.2017	Perovskites Mohammad K. Nazeeruddin, EPF Lausanne
12	20.12.2017	Natural Products Sarah Sulzer, Mathilde Lachia, Syngenta

## Regular Ad Rates for CHIMIA 2017

Ad size	Format [mm]	Price CHF (excl. MWSt)	
		s/w	color
1/1 page	190 x 270	2'150	3'740
1/2 page	190 x 129 92 x 270	1'180	2'770
1/4 page	190 x 62 92 x 129	650	1'050
1/8 page	190 x 29 92 x 62	360	560
Cover	190 x 175		3'800
Cover back side	190 x 270		3'890
Back cover	190 x 270		3'990

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30% discount on 2<sup>nd</sup> ad, 50% discount on 3<sup>rd</sup> ad.

All ads have to be of the same size and will be published in the same volume (calendar year).

### Company Report Topics

- Analytical measurement instruments
- Laboratory installations
- Laboratory apparatus
- New chemical compounds and intermediates

### Price

Company Report per page

CHF 1'600

Reduced rates for SCS Members

### Contact

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## 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.

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