SCS
Swiss Chemical
Society

Community News

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SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Call for Nominations for the SCS Awards 2019

As one of our four strategic pillars, SCS awards excellence in science and chemistry respectively and is proud of its renowned award program that goes back to the age of 1936 with the ceremony of the first Werner Prizes to Dr. T. Posternak, Genève, and Prof. G. Schwarzenbach, Zürich.

The society hereby calls for nominations for the 2019 SCS Awards. Nominations have to be submitted electronically to info@scg.ch. The deadline for all documents to reach the Swiss Chemical Society is September 30, 2018.
For specific award information and required documents please visit our website *http://scg.ch/awards*

Werner Prize
CHF 10'000 and medal in bronze
The Werner Prize is awarded to promising young Swiss scientists or young foreign scientists working in Switzerland for outstanding research in the field of chemistry. Selection of the winners is not restricted to candidates working at a university. On the deadline for submission of nominations, the candidate must be under 40 years old (*i.e.* 40th birthday after the deadline) and may not be a tenured professor or hold a managerial position in industry. The prize is awarded annually.

Grammaticakis-Neumann Prize
CHF 5'000
The Grammaticakis-Neumann Prize is awarded to a promising young scientist for outstanding accomplishments in the field of experimental or theoretical photochemistry. The prize is announced internationally and is not restricted to persons affiliated with academic institutions. On the deadline for submission of nominations, the candidate must be under 40 years old (*i.e.* 40th birthday after the deadline) and may not be a tenured professor or hold a managerial position in industry. The prize is awarded bi-annually as of 2015.

Balmer Prize
CHF 2'000 for individuals and CHF 2'000 for the school's chemistry department or
CHF 3'000 for a group and CHF 1'000 for the school's chemistry department and medal in bronze
The Balmer Prize is awarded for innovation in chemistry teaching to a teacher working in Switzerland or to a team of teachers working at the same school at the high school level.
The innovation must consist of an original didactic approach, experimental method or teaching practice and be readily applicable to everyday teaching at the high school level. The costs for materials must be modest.

Dr. Max Lüthi Award
CHF 1'000 and medal in bronze
The Dr. Max Lüthi Award is presented for outstanding degree theses completed in the chemistry department of a Swiss University of Applied Sciences. Nominations must be submitted by the respective chemistry department heads. The prize is awarded annually.

Sandmeyer Award
CHF 10'000 for individuals or CHF 20'000 for groups
The Sandmeyer Award is presented to a team or an individual for outstanding work in the field of industrial or applied chemistry. The work must have been carried out in Switzerland or abroad by a team including Swiss nationals. The award may be presented to an individual – Swiss or foreign national – if the work was carried out in Switzerland. The award may be presented to an individual for work carried out abroad if the person is Swiss.
Tenured professors will not be considered for the award as individuals. In the case of foreign teams, the Swiss member must have made a substantial contribution to the work. There is no age restriction. The prize is awarded annually.

SISF-SCS Industrial Science Awards
These awards were created by the SISF with support from the SCS in order to honor researchers working in industry in the field of chemistry. The program targets scientists from companies of any size working in the field of chemistry or chemical related sciences. There are three awards with different criteria in terms of the experience and level of research attained by the candidates. The awards are presented only to active researchers working in Switzerland.

Industrial Investigator Award
to honor successful investigators with outstanding achievements.
Certificate and cash check of CHF 7'000
The prize is given on an annual basis.

Senior Industrial Investigator Award
to honor very successful and established investigators with outstanding achievements over many years.
Certificate and cash check of CHF 10'000
The prize is given on an annual basis.

Distinguished Industrial Investigator Award
to honor senior scientists to honor their lifetime achievements in chemical research.
Certificate and cash check of CHF 15'000
rewarded on decision by the board

Swiss Industry Science Fund (SISF)
BASF We create chemistry · NOVARTIS · Roche · syngenta

http://scg.ch/awards

Nomination process for IUPAC's Periodic Table of Younger Chemists running

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of IUPAC and the International Year of the Periodic Table, IUPAC and IYCN announce the creation of a Periodic Table of Younger Chemists. Beginning in July 2018 and ending in July 2019 at the World Chemistry Congress and IUPAC General Assembly, we will honor a diverse group of 118 outstanding younger chemists from around the world who are emphatic on the mission and core values of IUPAC. The resulting periodic table will highlight the diversity of careers, creativity, and dedication of the young chemists leading us into the next century. Winners will be profiled on the IUPAC100 website and will receive a certificate from the IUPAC. Nominations are now being accepted.

Initiative co-sponsored by the International Younger Chemists Network (IYCN)

@IUPAC #IUPAC100 #YoungerChemists

https://iupac.org/100/pt-of-chemist/

IUPAC News: Global Women's Breakfast

Women have made enormous contributions to the advancement of chemistry over the last 100 years, but they rarely take time to celebrate these achievements. We encourage groups to organize breakfast networking events and to connect on that day with other groups around the world as a way to strengthen the bonds between women in chemistry. We invite chemists and students from around the world to come together on February 12, 2019 for a global breakfast celebration entitled, "Empowering Women in Chemistry: A Global Networking Event".

https://iupac.org/100/global-breakfast/

Prix Schläfli (since 1866), call for nominations

The Prix Schläfli, one of the oldest science prizes in Switzerland (since 1866), is awarded by the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) to young scientists for excellent articles resulting from PhDs in each one of the following natural sciences disciplines:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Geosciences
- Physics

Eligible are young researchers who did their doctoral thesis at a Swiss University or Swiss nationals who did their PhD thesis abroad.

Nominations are submitted via an online form before 31 October 2018. Please consult the guidelines before applying.

scnat.ch/prixschlaefli

Ruzicka-Prize 2018: call for nominations

The Ruzicka-Prize is awarded each year to a young scientist for her/his outstanding, published contribution in the field of chemistry, achieved either in Switzerland or by a Swiss citizen abroad. Proposals for candidates (age limit 40 years) may be submitted until September 25, 2018.

chab.ethz.ch/outreach/oeffentlichkeitsarbeit/ruzicka-preis

Anton Paar Forschungspreis für Instrumentelle Analytik & Charakterisierung

Sie beschäftigen sich mit Charakterisierung und instrumenteller Analytik und haben ein aussergewöhnliches, spannendes Projekt entwickelt oder eine geniale Idee zu Papier gebracht? Dann bewerben Sie sich um den mit 20'000 Euro dotierten Anton Paar Forschungspreis für instrumentelle Analytik & Charakterisierung.

Bitte benutzen Sie das Formular auf der Website, um Ihr Projekt einzureichen und die erforderlichen Dokumente hochzuladen.

https://www.anton-paar.com/at-de/research-award/

EuCheMS Executive Board hosted by SCS

From June 18–19, 2018, the Swiss Chemical Society hosted the 2nd Executive Board Meeting 2018 in Bern at the Haus der Akademien. Amongst other items the following important topics were discussed:

- International Year of the Periodic Table 2019
- EuCheMS Service Award 2018
- EuCheMS Historical Landmarks 2018
- EuCheMS Chemistry Congress 2018, 2020, 2022
- EuChemS new name and logo

http://www.euchems.eu

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!

Period: 29.05. – 16.07.2018

Matheo Berthet, Saint Julien en Genevois (FR) - Sharon Bryant, Wien (AT) - Gregor Sascha Cremosnik, Dortmund (D) - Clara C. Eisebraun, Zurich - Marianne Fouche, Sierentz (FR) - Yann Gimbal-Zofka, Cologny - Zlatko Joncev, Basel - Nicolas Langenegger, Bern - Pamela Nylund, Bern - Gearóid Ó Máille, Bern - Aleksandr Pereverzev, Lausanne - Robert Pulz, Basel - Jullien Rey, Sierentz (FR) - Niccolo Ricardi, Geneva - Omar Rifaie-Graham, Fribourg - David Rinaldo, Strasbourg (FR) - Iman Rostami, Villigen - Daniel Samson, Basel - Pierre-Yves Thouvenot, Mulhouse (FR) - Masahiko Yoshimura, Zurich.

HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

GDCh zeichnet Prof. Michael Grätzel, EPFL, mit August-Wilhelm-von-Hofmann-Denkmünze aus

Die Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh) zeichnet ***Prof. Michael Grätzel***, École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, CH, mit der August-Wilhelm-von-Hofmann-Denkmünze aus. Die Goldmünze erhält der Chemiker für seine besonderen Verdienste um die Chemie: Der Photovoltaik-Pionier entwickelte die nach ihm benannte „Grätzelzelle" – eine Farbstoffsolarzelle, die die natürliche Photosynthese erfolgreich nachahmt. Die Verleihung erfolgt am 30. August im Rahmen des 7th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Liverpool, UK.
Source: *http://gdch.de*

Prof. Christophe Copéret, ETHZ, receives the Humboldt Research Award

Prof. Christophe Copéret receives the award in recognition of his research activities, which have had a lasting impact on the field. In addition, he is invited to carry out research projects of his own choice in cooperation with colleagues at a research institution in Germany.
The award is granted in recognition of a researcher's entire achievements to date to academics whose fundamental discoveries, new theories, or insights have had a significant impact on their own discipline and who are expected to continue producing cutting-edge achievements in the future.
Source: *https://www.chab.ethz.ch* and *https://www.humboldt-foundation.de*

Anatole von Lilienfeld, Universität Basel, erhält Feynman-Preis für Theorie

Prof. Dr. Anatole von Lilienfeld wurde vom Foresight Institute mit dem Feynman-Preis 2018 für theoretische Forschung im Bereich der Nanotechnologie ausgezeichnet. Der Chemiker untersucht, wie man mit künstlicher Intelligenz und Quantenmechanik relevante Materialien und Werkstoffe entdecken kann.
Der Feynman-Preis für Theorie wurde Anatole von Lilienfeld am 5. Mai 2018 von Nobelpreisträger Sir James Fraser Stoddart in St. Louis, USA, übergeben. (Bild: Foresight Institute).
Der nach dem amerikanischen Physiker Richard Feynman benannte Preis für theoretische Forschung zeichnet Wissenschaftler aus, die sich im Bereich der Nanotechnologie oder molekularen Fertigung verdient gemacht haben. Anatole von Lilienfeld ist Professor für Physikalische Chemie an der Universität Basel und entwickelt rechnerische Methoden für die Entdeckung neuer Moleküle und Materialien.
Source: *https://www.unibas.ch*

Prof. Renato Zenobi, ETHZ, receives the Ioannes Marcus Marci Medal

Prof. Renato Zenobi receives the Ioannes Marcus Marci Medal from the Czech-Slovak Spectroscopy Society for his pioneering work in tip-enhanced Raman spectroscopy.
The award was given at the 16th Czech - Slovak Spectroscopic Conference 2018, organized by the Ioannes Marcus Marci Spectroscopic Society and Slovak Spectroscopic Society.
Source: *https://www.chab.ethz.ch*

Kumar Agrawal, EPFL, wins NAMS Young Membrane Scientist Award

Each year, North American Membrane Society (NAMS) awards up to three Young Membrane Scientist Awards "to outstanding individuals who are starting their professional careers in membrane science and technology". The award is open to all Membrane Scientists whose careers are within five years after completing their PhDs, and includes postdocs, faculty, and even scientists working in industry.
This year, NAMS has given one the awards to ***Prof. Kumar Varoon Agrawal***. Professor Agrawal directs the GAZNAT Chair for Advanced Separations at EPFL Valais Wallis, where his team investigates ways of synthesizing "two-dimensional membranes" that significantly exceed the performance limits set by the conventional membranes. The aim is to boost the energy efficiency of molecular separation, for example, energy-efficient carbon capture.
Source: *https://actu.epfl.ch/news/*

Dr. GiovanniMaria Piccini, ETHZ, receives the Ewald Wicke Prize

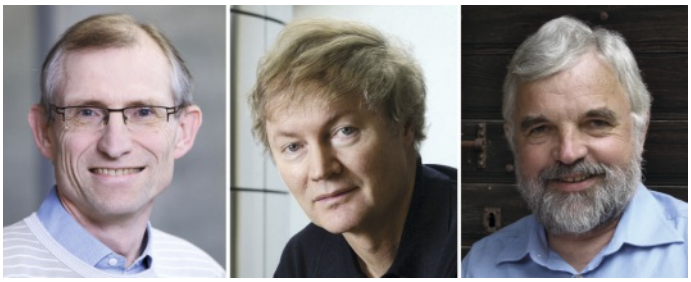
Dr. GiovanniMaria Piccini was awarded the Ewald Wicke Prize by the Deutsche Bunsen-Gesellschaft für physikalische Chemie for "his methodological developments in nuclei and reaction dynamics and their application to relevant chemical problems".
Dr. GiovanniMaria Piccini, research group of Prof. Parrinello, is currently working on the development and application of enhanced sampling methods for studying complex chemical reactions. His work focuses on the automation of the so called "chemical intuition" process in designing efficient and physically relevant collective variables. Recent application of these methods range from gas-phase and bulk chemical reactions, materials phase transitions and drug-unbinding in protein dynamics.
Source: *https://www.chab.ethz.ch*

JOURNAL NEWS

ChemPubSoc Europe honors three Scientists from Switzerland with a ChemPubSoc Europe Fellowship

In 2015 ChemPubSoc Europe started its Fellows Program to honor scientists who supported the joint publishing activities of their national chemical societies and fostered the spirit of publishing in Europe in a very special way. Their belief in scientific excellence and publishing ethics is the foundation on which the success of ChemPubSoc Europe is built. This year marks 20 years since the birth of EurJIC and EurJOC in print as well as electronic form. To date 16 European Societies together with the publisher Wiley-VCH have developed a program of 14 journals that serve the needs of chemists around the world; more than 8 300 articles, *ca.* 210 000 citations, and close to 9 million Fulltext Downloads were recorded in 2017 alone. A new legacy has been created, initiated by the start of Chemistry – A European Journal in 1995.

The editorial teams of ChemPubSoc Europe and the national societies and their representatives honors amongst others three scientists from Switzerland for their dedicated support of this European venture:



Prof. Karl-Heinz Altmann, ETH Zurich (left)
Prof. Michael Grätzel, EPFL Lausanne (middle)
Prof. E. Peter Kündig, University of Geneva (right)

SCS is happy and proud to congratulate the new Swiss fellows of CPSE. Together with Prof. Helma Wennemers, who was nominated in 2015, Switzerland hosts four F CPSE.

ChemBioChem: Special Issue on the Optical Control of Biological Processes

The ability to modulate processes within cells or even whole organisms using light as an external trigger may have a transformative effect on several areas of biomedical research. Optogenetics, photopharmacology, optochemical biology: no matter what you call it, using light to change the physiology of cells and animals is one of the most important techniques used by scientists today, and potentially the physicians of tomorrow.

This Special Issue, guest-edited by Alexander Deiters (University of Pittsburgh), aims to the most recent findings in optogenetics and adjacent areas and is packed with excellent contributions! Enjoy free access to this wonderful issue until the end of 2018.

https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14397633/2018/19/12

HoEurJIC and EurJOC: 20th Anniversary Issue

EurJIC and EurJOC proudly bring you their 20th anniversary special issues (see editorial): reflecting on the past, celebrating the present and shaping the future!

The issues are free-to-read until the end of 2018. Enjoy!

EurJIC:
onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/10990682c/2018/2018/20-21
EurJOC:
onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/10990690/2018/2018/20-21

ChemPubSoc Europe Annual Meeting hosted by SCS

From June 15–16, 2018, the Swiss Chemical Society hosted the Annual Meeting of CPSE in Bern at the Haus der Akademien. Representatives of owner societies from sixteen European countries as well as Wiley-VCH representatives approved the annual reports and the financial statements and discussed about initiatives to further strengthen the conglomerate.

http://www.chempubsoc.eu

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: *www.chemanager-online.com*

Sandoz Gets EU Approval for Zessly Biosimilar

May 30, 2018: Sandoz, part of Swiss drugmaker Novartis, has won approval from the European Commission for its biosimilar Zessly (infliximab). The drug, which is a version of Janssen Biotech's Remicade, marks Sandoz's sixth biosimilar approval overall and its third in Europe in the past 12 months. Zessly blocks the action of tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-alpha in patients with certain autoimmune diseases. The drug is approved for uses including rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis and plaque psoriasis. Richard Francis, CEO of Sandoz, said the approval is a key milestone in bringing the medicine to patients. "Biosimilars such as Zessly help to address a significant unmet need for earlier patient access to biologic medicines," he commented. The company bought the development, commercialization and manufacturing rights for infliximab from Pfizer in February 2016 for the EU 28 countries plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Pfizer retained commercialization and manufacturing rights for countries elsewhere. Sandoz said it expects to launch several more major oncology and immunology drugs globally by 2020. In January, it submitted a biosimilar version (adalimumab) of AbbVie's Humira to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for review. That same month, Sandoz announced a partnership with India biopharma Biocon to develop, manufacture and commercialize multiple biosimilars in immunology and oncology for patients worldwide. However, Sandoz suffered a setback earlier this month when the FDA rejected its biosimilar version of rituximab, a monoclonal antibody that is marketed in the US by Biogen and in Canada and Europe and by Roche. The company said it stands behind the robust body of evidence in its submission and remains committed to further discussions with the agency.

Wolfgang Wienand to Succeed Rudolf Hanko as CEO of Siegfried

June 4, 2018: Wolfgang Wienand has been appointed as new CEO of Siegfried with effect from Jan. 1, 2019. Rudolf Hanko, the group's current CEO, will step down on Dec. 31, 2018. The board has decided to propose the election of Hanko as a member of Siegfried's board of directors on the occasion of the next annual general meeting in spring 2019. Hanko (born 1955) assumed operational responsibility for Siegfried as CEO in 2009. Andreas Casutt, chairman of Siegfried: "Rudolf Hanko has had a significant effect on our company in the past nine years, and he played a decisive role in Siegfried's continuing success. His term of office is characterized by the development of annual sales from 260 to over 700 million Swiss francs and, especially, by the targeted expansion of our production sites and the consistent orientation of our company toward meeting the fast-changing needs of pharmaceutical companies with international operations. The Board of Directors expresses its thanks to Rudolf Hanko for his great achievements on behalf of the company and is glad he will remain closely connected with Siegfried." Wienand (born 1972) joined Siegfried's executive committee in 2010 and currently holds the position of Chief Scientific & Strategy Officer. Casutt commented: "The Board of Directors is pleased to appoint the new CEO from within the company. Wolfgang Wienand has made a decisive contribution toward implementation of our corporate strategy by means of successful acquisitions in recent years. He demonstrated significant leadership qualities as the person responsible for overseeing the post-merger integration of the new corporate entities and as global head of Research and Development. Thus, Wolfgang Wienand has all the prerequisites to lead our company as CEO into a successful future."

Swiss WorldCargo: 36 QEP Accredited Stations

June 7, 2018: The specialist in secure cold chain solutions for the pharmaceutical supply chain, Envirotainer, announced that Swiss WorldCargo now has 36 QEP (Qualified Envirotainer Provider) accredited stations, comprised of QEP Basic, Advanced and Expert levels. With 31 stations receiving the QEP Advanced accreditation, the airline has the highest number of stations with this distinction within the industry. Alongside this, the airline's Zurich hub has recently been recognized as a QEP Expert station, based on its GDP compliance and CEIV certification.

Over ten years ago Envirotainer launched the award-winning QEP program to promote the safe handling of pharmaceuticals. QEP has led the way for other pharmaceutical handling certification programs and has, with approximately 40 participating companies, educated tens of thousands of individuals at more than 730 participating stations across the world. The effect has been to promote strong distribution practices Process Development as a Service

CABB Developing Manufacturing Processes for Customers

June 19, 2018: With some 1,000 employees and five production sites in Europe and Asia, the CABB Group is a leading global manufacturer of chemical intermediates and finished products. The group will in future be offering to develop chemical manufacturing processes for the agrochemicals and specialty chemicals sectors as a separate service under the ChemCreations brand within its Custom Manufacturing business unit. A team of specialist chemists, process engineers, technicians and safety experts will create the optimum manufacturing process for the customer's desired molecule. Birgit Megges interviewed Thomas Eizenhöfer, head of CABB's Custom Manufacturing business unit, about this expansion in their range of services.

CHEManager: Mr. Eizenhöfer, CABB has been involved in custom manufacturing for many years. Now you are launching a dedicated process development service onto the market. What should we expect to see?

Thomas Eizenhöfer: Developing, safely controlling and continuously optimizing processes is one of our core skills in Custom Manufacturing. As a result, we have a huge amount of experience in process-related matters such as risk assessments, managing waste streams, improving yields to mention only a few. However, such development is always carried out in the context of commercial contract syntheses where our central focus is on supplying our customers with specific precursors and intermediates. Under our new ChemCreations brand, we are now offering complete process development as a separate service, from researching and evaluating theoretically possible options via development of the optimum synthetic pathway up and including to pilot testing. In a nutshell, a customer describes a target molecule and CABB, working in close collaboration with the customer, then develops the optimum synthetic pathway. This pathway might be a customization of a known process or a completely new approach, but the outcome will be a proven, reliable, sustainable and efficient process. If the customer would like, we would then be happy to convert this process into commercial manufacture, but there is no requirement to do so.

What was the strategic thinking behind your decision to include process development in your range of services?

T. Eizenhöfer: As a global partner of the agrochemicals and specialty chemicals sectors, we generally seek to anticipate major market trends and develop appropriate new solutions on this basis. To quote just one number, capital investment of almost

EUR 100 million in new plant and processes in just the last three years shows how we have been expanding our business. We know from many conversations with our customers and market experts that companies, in particular in the agrochemicals sector, are seriously considering involving external partners such as CABB earlier and more closely in process development, not least because the individual molecules and thus the synthesis processes are becoming ever more complex. In the light of the current mergers the agrochemicals industry, it is also likely that the resultant major innovators at this level will need partners of an appropriate size and stature. Custom Manufacturing has for years been demonstrating in its day-to-day work that it has the necessary capabilities. Using modern analytical techniques and our own pilot plant, we manage complex processes, can handle challenging chemistry and have already scaled numerous processes up from pilot to commercial scale. At the same time, our general business model is based on developing a close working partnership. We often hear back that our customers really appreciate our professional project management and reliability in important issues, for example in terms of handling intellectual property. So a comparison of market trends with our capabilities reveals exciting strategic prospects for a service such as ChemCreations.

Why is CABB launching this service an independent brand?

T. Eizenhöfer: ChemCreations is a milestone for the CABB Group. A complete, modular service offer from route scouting to the interface into commercial manufacturing really is something new, in particular because each customer can individually opt in and out of any phase in the process. We want to make a clear distinction between this new service and our conventional, primarily production-driven custom manufacturing projects. So an independent brand presence just makes sense.

Which sites will you use for process development? What investment in plant or staff is or was necessary to be able to take this step?

T. Eizenhöfer: Our Teams in Pratteln in Switzerland and Kokkola in Finland work together very closely, while each site does also have its own technical and analytical strong points. This means the ChemCreations team can always select precisely the skills and resources which are of particular relevance to a specific project, with Pratteln and its pilot plant obviously having something of a special status. In terms of resources, we are currently strengthening our team in research & development and in analysis. In parallel, our Pratteln pilot plant is continuously being brought into line with requirements.

The new service will primarily focus on agrochemicals. Why this sector?

T. Eizenhöfer: For me personally, I find focus is key to any successful strategy. In our specific case, we have very close customer relationships in agrochemicals, some of which have developed over decades, and we have a particularly good understanding of the market and the challenges involved. So it just makes good sense to start there.

Do you intend to widen this focus in future to include other fields in specialty chemicals?

T. Eizenhöfer: Just because we have good reason to concentrate on agrochemicals at the moment does not mean that we are ruling out other growth opportunities which might be of interest. The principles of chemical process development are very similar in both agrochemicals and specialty chemicals and we are already working with specialty chemicals suppliers. So moving on in this way would certainly make sense. ChemCreations' modular structure has been quite deliberately designed to make it possible to service new customer segments with a minimum of complexity.

When will you start offering the new services to potential customers?

T. Eizenhöfer: ChemSpec Europe, which takes place in mid-June in Cologne, will see the official launch of ChemCreations. In our opinion, this trade fair is the ideal platform for an initial in-depth dialogue with existing and potential customers. ChemSpec will also be the launch pad for an international communications campaign which will make the best possible use of the CABB Group's global presence. Above and beyond close collaboration with existing customers, we think there is considerable scope for new business for ChemCreations internationally, in particular in the USA and Japan. Moreover, in the run-up to the launch, we have of course already had a series of informal discussions. I don't think I'd be giving too much away to say that we met with considerable interest which has even borne fruit with our first actual development contracts.

Getting personal

Thomas Eizenhöfer, a post-doctoral chemist, has headed up the CABB Group's Custom Manufacturing business unit with over 500 employees on two sites in Pratteln in Switzerland and in Kokkola in Finland since April 2016. Previous posts include managing a business unit at H.C. Starck and most recently as President, EMEA at Rockwood Lithium. Between 1989 and 2004, he held various management positions at Bayer.

Roche Buys Rest of Foundation Medicine

June 20, 2018: Swiss drugmaker Roche is paying $2.4 billion to acquire the rest of the shares it does not already own in US molecular and genomic analysis company Foundation Medicine (FMI). The move is part of Roche's drive toward offering personalized healthcare. The company is paying $137 cash for each outstanding share, valuing FMI at $5.3 billion. In January 2015, Roche paid $50 per share, or $1 billion, for a 57% stake in the Cambridge, Massachusetts-based company, which can identify the genetic profile of patients' tumors and match that with targeted therapies. "This is important to our personalized healthcare strategy as we believe molecular insights and the broad availability of high quality comprehensive genomic profiling are key enablers for the development of, and access to, new cancer treatments. We will preserve FMI's autonomy while supporting them in accelerating their progress," said Daniel O'Day, CEO of Roche Pharmaceuticals. Stefan Schneider, an analyst with Swiss investment bank Vontobel, told Reuters news agency that the deal fits very well with Roche's position as an early leader in matching treatment to genetic profiles. "This isn't only an advantage for the patients, but also should allow Roche to have more effective and targeted drugs, which should improve drug development and ultimately pricing power," he told Reuters. Both boards have unanimously approved the merger, which is expected to close in the second half of this year.

Clariant Collaborates with Hydrogenious Technologies

June 22, 2018: Clariant's catalyst business has formed an alliance with German cleantech company Hydrogenious Technologies to offer a safer and more efficient method of transporting and storing hydrogen. Because of fluctuating weather conditions, hydrogen sourced from renewable energy, such as wind and hydro power, requires large-scale storage to ensure a steady supply of electricity. But, hydrogen is difficult to transport and store because of its very low density, high flammability and extreme volatility. To address this challenge, Hydrogenious Technologies has developed a means of transporting hydrogen by chemically binding the molecules to liquid organic hydrogen carriers (LOHC). In this method, hydrogenation of the liquid organic hydrocarbon dibenzyltoluene via Clariant's EleMax H catalyst allows hydrogen to be 'stored' and then dehydroge-

nation with EleMax D 'releases' the gas on demand. The diesel-like hydrogen-bound compound is non-explosive, non-toxic and of low flammability and is therefore not classified as a hazardous compound. Clariant said the compound remains in useable and convenient liquid state through a broad temperature range of -39oC TO 390 oC at ambient pressure. These factors, the Swiss company said, allow considerably easier installation at industrial locations as well as commercial and public fueling sites. In addition, it allows for the necessary handling flexibility to enable a widespread roll-out of hydrogen production from renewable energy. Daniel Teichmann, CEO at Hydrogenious Technologies, said the collaboration was a further step toward its vision to make the much-discussed hydrogen economy a global reality. Founded in 2013, Hydrogenious Technologies is a spin-off from the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg.

Ineos Seeks Aid to Locate VAM Plant in UK

June 26, 2018: Ineos has asked the British government to provide financial aid for its planned new 300,000 t/y vinyl acetate monomer (VAM) plant if it wants to "tilt the scales" toward locating the new facility at the group's UK complex in Hull, England. With Britain outside the EU, the chemical producer has been widely expected to build the plant at its Antwerp, Belgium, site. According to the London-based newspaper Financial Times (FT), Ineos is now talking to the UK's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy about a deal as manufacturing companies seek reassurance over investing in Britain. Some of them have already warned that they could pull investment due to frustrations over the protracted Brexit negotiations. Headquartered in Switzerland since 2010, when it failed to renegotiate loans with British banks at the height of the financial crisis, and the-then Labour government declined to postpone a tax payment, Ineos is now once again the UK's largest privately owned company, having relocated its shale gas and vinyls businesses to London at the end of 2016. In April, the olefins and polyolefins giant said it had signed a memorandum of understanding with an unnamed commercial partner and had begun front end engineering and design (FEED) studies for the VAM plant and together with the partner would decide on a location sometime this year. "Any help would tilt the scales in favor of Hull," the FT quotes Ineos group director Tom Crotty as saying, without quantifying how much aid management was seeking or thought it could reasonably expect. The government "is actively involved and interested" in the Ineos proposal, the newspaper quotes Crotty as saying, while noting that the chemical producer has separately asked the government to support the production of the new sports utility vehicle it plans to build in the UK. Crotty reportedly has also suggested that Ineos could build a 1 million t/y ethylene cracker in northern Europe at an investment of $2 -$3 billion, presumably using price advantaged shale gas-derived feedstock. It currently supplies imported US ethane feedstock to the ExxonMobil/Shell cracker at Mosmorran, Scotland, as well as to other production facilities at Hull and Runcorn in England.

Novartis to Separate Alcon Eye Care Division

July 2, 2018: In a move that had been widely expected, Swiss drugs giant Novartis has announced that it will spin off its Alcon eye care division into a separate standalone company. The transaction, which is expected to be completed in the first half of 2019, will create a Swiss-based medical devices business with around $7 billion in sales (2017) and more than 20,000 employees. Novartis added that Alcon's American headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas, will remain a key location. The company intends to list Alcon's shares on both the SIX Swiss and New York Stock Exchanges. "Our strategic review examined all options for Alcon ranging from retention, sale, IPO to spinoff. The review concluded that a spinoff would be in the best interests of Novartis shareholders," said supervisory board chairman Joerg Reinhardt. CEO Vas Narasimhan added: "Alcon has returned to a position of strength and it is time to give the business more flexibility to pursue its own growth strategy as the world's leading eye care devices company." Alcon's sales in the first quarter of 2018 were up 7% year on year at $1.8 billion, beating analysts' forecasts of $1.6 billion. Novartis acquired Alcon in 2011, when the business included surgical, vision care and ophthalmic pharmaceuticals. In January 2016, it transferred the latter business, which had 2017 sales of $4.6 billion and included the potential blockbuster drug RTH258 (brolucizumab) for neovascular AMC and diabetic macular edema, to its Innovative Medicines division. Alcon is now fully focused on surgical and vision care. The spin-off is subject to various conditions as well as shareholder approval. Mike Ball became chairman-designate of Alcon with effect from Jul. 1, stepping down from the executive committee of Novartis. David Endicott, currently Alcon's chief operating officer, has been named CEO of Alcon, also effective Jul. 1. In addition, the Basel-based group said it will initiate a share buyback of up to $5 billion by the end of 2019. This will be largely funded from the sale of its 35.6% stake in its consumer health joint venture to partner GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) for $13 billion, but net of the $8.7 billion payment to buy AveXis. The deal to acquire the US clinical stage gene therapy company is expected to close in the second half of this year.

Interest in New Migraine Treatments High

Junly 5, 2018: The US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) recent approval of a new migraine treatment marketed by Amgen and Novartis has met with an enthusiastic response since it was greenlighted in May; however, pharma market watchers are waiting to see what happens when patients and insurers have to pay the high price. With a list price of $6,900 – still below the $8,000 to $10,000 expected by analysts – the new treatment, Aimovig, blocks a protein fragment that instigates and perpetuates migraines. It is the first of several new treatments expected to be launched in the near term. Eli Lilly, Teva and Alder also have medicines targeting the calcitonin gene-related peptide pathway in late-stage trials or awaiting FDA approval. Regarding the potential competition, Rob Lenz, Amgen's vice president of development, said Aimovig has a tolerability profile "similar to a sugar pill, along with efficacy that can be seen within days." The once-monthly self-injection, he added, allows patients "built-in compliance" as they don't have to remember to take a pill every day. Lilly's injection is also monthly, while Teva's has been tested with monthly and quarterly schedules and Alder's is a quarterly injection. The emergence of the new class of migraine treatments is especially interesting to the markets as up to now there have been no drugs specifically developed to treat the severe headaches. "There is clearly a lot of demand for the product, and our expert said the companies being overwhelmed in trying to keep up with the initial interest," Credit Suisse analyst Vamil Divan said in a note to clients after talking with a migraine specialist from Yale University. Divan said a large number of patients are contacting their neurologists and primary care physicians to inquire about the new treatment option. Some payers, such as PBM Express Scripts in the US, have established a prior authorization program. Weighing in on the prospects for drugmakers in an increasingly crowded new field, the analyst said the drugs administered quarterly, in particular Alder's eptinezumab, may have a convenience advantage. The latter is injected by a healthcare professional rather than requiring self-injection. One in seven people worldwide are said to experience migraines. While the older non-specific drugs sometimes had severe side effects, participants in clinical trials with the new drugs reportedly suffered no more side effects than those taking a placebo.

US FTC Clears Takeda's Shire Buy

July 11, 2018: On its path to acquiring Ireland-domiciled, London-listed drugmaker Shire, Japan's Takeda Pharmaceutical has received unconditional clearance from the US Federal Trade Commission. The £46 billion deal was greenlighted by both companies' boards in May – ending a battle that saw the Japanese drugmaker bid for Shire five times since late March 2018. The transaction is set to complete in the first half of 2019, following all approvals. It must still take regulatory hurdles in the EU and China and receive the go-ahead from the two firms' shareholders. Takeda is offering $64.83 per share – $30.33 in cash and 0.839 of a Takeda share for each Shire share. With a successful conclusion, the Osaka-headquartered, Tokyo-listed company would move up several notches in global rankings and become the world's eighth-largest drugmaker, with combined sales of around $30 billion. The newly combined company, to trade as Takeda, is planned to be headquartered in Japan with major regional locations in Singapore, Switzerland and the US. It would be listed on the Tokyo stock exchange, in place of the current Takeda. As the only drugmaker listed in both Japan and the US, the company would have access to two of the world's largest capital markets.

Pfizer Splits into Three Businesses

July 16, 2018: US drugmaker Pfizer is reorganizing into three separate, more specialized businesses in a move that observers say could make a sale or spinoff of its consumer healthcare unit easier. By 2019, the company will comprise businesses for science-based innovative medicines, including biosimilars and a new hospital unit for anti-infectives and sterile injectables; off-patent branded and generic established medicines; and consumer healthcare. "As we transition to a period post-2020 where we expect a higher and more sustained revenue growth profile we see this new structure better positioning each business to achieve its growth potential," said Pfizer chairman and CEO, Ian Read. Pfizer said growth fundamentals for the innovative medicines business are strong, based on an ageing population driving demand for new medicines. The group believes it is well positioned for growth as it has a robust portfolio of growing in-market products a new wave of expected launches starting in 2020 and a strong pipeline. The established medicines business will include the majority of Pfizer's off-patent solid oral dose legacy brands, including Lyrica, Lipitor, Norvasc and Viagra, and certain generic medicines. Pfizer said this unit will have distinct and fully dedicated manufacturing, marketing, regulatory and (with some exceptions) enabling functions that will enhance its autonomy and position it as a true stand-alone business. Following the loss of exclusivity of Lyrica in the US in or after December 2018, Pfizer anticipates that the established medicines business will generate "sustainable modest" revenue growth. It noted that urbanization and the rise of the middle class in emerging markets, particularly in Asia, are providing additional opportunities and generating significant demand. Pfizer said its consumer healthcare business, which will include all of its over-the-counter medicines, has a strong portfolio of global brands and continues to be well positioned for growth. It added that it continues to evaluate strategic alternatives for the division and expects to make a decision sometime this year. The company announced last October that it was considering a sale or spinoff of consumer healthcare, which generated revenues of $3.5 billion in 2017. According to various estimates, the business could be worth in the range of $15-20 billion. However, little buyer interest has been seen since March 2018 when both Reckitt Benckiser and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) said they were no longer interested in bidding. Johnson & Johnson and Nestlé had pulled out at an earlier stage. Credit Suisse analyst Vamil Divan told Reuters news agency that the reorganization would allow the established medicines unit to have more autonomy. "We believe the potential for Pfizer to ultimately sell or spin the business likely remains on the table over time," he said. Pfizer's reorganization came a day after it announced it would defer proposed drug price hikes following strong criticism from US President Donald Trump. The increases, which were due to be implemented on Jul. 1, have been delayed until the end of the year or until Trump's blueprint for healthcare goes into effect, whichever comes first.