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SCS Swiss Chemical Society

SWISS CHEMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Das Chemical Landmark 2018 geht an die Erfinderin der Ovomaltine

Image: Wander AG

Vor über hundert Jahren hat Albert Wander mithilfe wissenschaftlicher Verfahren in Bern die Ovomaltine entwickelt. Der Ort, wo dies geschah, wurde nun als historische Stätte der Chemie ausgezeichnet. Die feierliche Enthüllung der Gedenktafel fand am 27. Oktober statt.

Am Samstag, 27. Oktober 2018 verlieh die Akademie der Naturwissenschaften Schweiz (SCNAT) der Wander AG das Chemical Landmark 2018. Die SCNAT zeichnet damit bedeutende historische Stätten der Chemie in der Schweiz aus. Die Wander AG erhält das Chemical Landmark 2018, weil sie früh chemische und pharmazeutische Verfahren bei der Entwicklung von Lebensmitteln anwendete. So entstand vor über hundert Jahren die Ovomaltine. An einem Festakt wurde am Holzikofenweg 36 in Bern die Gedenktafel enthüllt. Dort, wo heute das Staatssekretariat für Wirtschaft zu Hause ist, hat Albert Wander das Schweizer Kultgetränk erfunden.

Patron statt Professor

Der Pharmazeut und Doktor der Chemie hätte – so heisst es – lieber eine akademische Karriere eingeschlagen. Doch nach dem Tod seines Vaters musste er 1897 die Leitung des Familienbetriebs übernehmen. Er führte das im Telefonbuch als «chem.-techn. u. analyt. Laboratorium, Fabr. künstl. Mineralwasser» bezeichnete Unternehmen mit glücklicher Hand. Bereits 1919 widmete sich eine eigene Abteilung mit vier Apothekern der Forschung. Sie entwickelte zahlreiche Diätetika und Arzneimittel und wuchs zu beachtlicher Grösse. Bis 1996 wurden am Holzikofenweg Pharmazeutika entwickelt.

Von der Medizin zum Sportlergetränk

Albert Wander tüftelte schon mit seinem Vater, dem Firmengründer Georg Wander, in einem kleinen Laboratorium, liebevoll «Stinkkammer» genannt, an verschiedenen Formen von Malzextrakten. Der Durchbruch erfolgt 1904: Mithilfe sanfter Eindampfung im Vakuum gelang es ihm, ein vitaminreiches und erst noch schmackhaftes Nährmittel herzustellen – und dies bevor die Vitamine richtig erforscht waren. Klinische Tests bestätigten die Wirkung für Kranke, Schwache und Mangelernährte. Die Ovomaltine kam zuerst als medizinisches Präparat auf den Markt, ab 1922 wurde sie für den freien Verkauf zugelassen. Rasch wandelte sich das Image, und die Ovo wurde zum beliebten Sportlergetränk. Dieses war so erfolgreich, dass die Wander AG die Produktion 1927 an den heutigen Standort nach Neuenegg verlagerte.

Source: *chemistry.scnat.ch*

Call for Nominations – EFMC Prizes 2019

To acknowledge and recognise an outstanding young medicinal chemist (≤ 12 years after PhD) working in industry or in academia within Europe, EFMC established the "EFMC Prize for a Young Medicinal Chemist in Industry" and the "EFMC Prize for a Young Medicinal Chemist in Academia".

The Prizes consists of a diploma, € 1.000 and an invitation for a short presentation at the 8th edition of the EFMC International Symposium on Advances in Synthetic and Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC-ASMC'19), which will be held in Athens, Greece on September 1-5, 2019.

Deadline for Nominations/Applications: January 31, 2019

More information on *www.efmc.info/prizes*

SCS Anniversary Members

More than 80 of our members celebrate a special anniversary as SCS member this year. We like to express our special thanks to Hans Dahn and Peter Bladon, who joined SCS in 1948 and congratulate them for being with us for 70 years. Thank you all for your support and your loyalty throughout the years.

Member for 70 years

Hans Dahn, Le Mont sur Lausanne
Peter Bladon, Glasgow (UK)

Member for 60 years

Angelo Storni, Rheinfelden
Peter W. Schiess, Basel

Member for 50 years

Andreas Ludi, Bern
Walter Graf, Uetikon am See
Klaus Müller, Basel
Robert Karl Müller, Basel
Rudolf Geiger, Bottmingen
Alfred Bräm, Zollikon
Georg Fráter, Ebnat-Kappel
Herbert Hohl, Wil
Emanuel Escher, Sherbrooke (CA)
Hansjörg Eugster, Herzogenbuchsee
Rudolf G. Baumeler, St.-Légier
Paul Stoll, Riehen

Member for 40 years

Marc Güggi, Arisdorf
Thomas Weller, Oberwil
Rudolf Schmid, Dällikon
Rudolf Pfluger, Zeiningen
Bernhard Scholl, Möhlin

Andreas Pfaltz, Binningen
Claudio Abächerli, Visp
Marianne Hürzeler Müller, Däniken
Albert Renken , St. Sulpice

Member for 30 years
Jan Gunzinger, Couvet
Rudolf Wälchli, Basel
Andreas Riesen, Allschwil
Edmond Differding, Louvain- la- Neuve
Jürg Ehrler, Sursee
Maria-Jolanta Zagalak-Hofman, Zürich
Heinz Berke, Zürich
John A. Robinson, Kemptthal
Thomas Netscher, Bad Krozingen
Roland Jakob-Rötne, Inzlingen
Georg Karlaganis, Münchenbuchsee
Kurt Wälti, Rafz
Bernhard Schwyn, Würenlos
Norbert Riegler, Lörrach
Horst Melzer, Rorschach
Martin Brunner, Wallbach

Member for 20 years
Urban Frey, Sion
Martin Missbach, Gipf-Oberfrick
Isidro Sánchez Marcos, Salamanca (ES)
Sergio Tagliaferri, Suhr
Jürg Maurer, Riehen
Katharina Fromm, Fribourg
Hans-Peter Haerri, Marly
Raetus Boehlen, Langenthal
Thomas L. Mindt, Wien
Michel Rebetez, Brig
Ralph Schönleber, Lupsingen
Ennio Vanoli, Corminboeuf
Antonia Neels, Marin-Epagnier
Roland Breitenmoser, Obermumpf
Sabine Ruckstuhl, Winterthur
Christine Hook-Frauenfelder, Rheinfelden
Meinrad Brenner, Steg
Alexandre Alexakis, Genève
Walter Jucker, Rheinfelden
Andreas Rippert, Frauenfeld
Niklaus Künzle, Ausserberg
Deirdre Hugi-Cleary, Cernier
Christian Andreas Müller, Stallikon
Christof Brändli, Glattpark

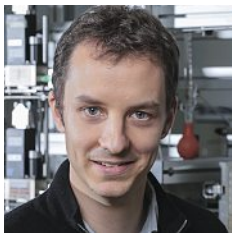
A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!

Period: 30.10.–12.11.2018
Arik Beck, Zürich - Nadia Brugger, Cambridge (UK) - Eloise Colson, Bern - Nina Declas, Lausanne - Qi Huang, Bern - Marco Knobloch, Jona - Eliott Le Du, Renens - Xiansheng Li, Windisch - Magalí Lingenfelder, Lausanne - Michal Swierczewski, Genève - Huayan Yang, Genève.

SCS PRIZE WINNERS 2019

It's our pleasure to announce the winners of the 2019 SCS awards. We would like to sincerely congratulate all winners and we are looking forward to the ceremonies that will take place at one of our events during the next year. Not included are the winners of the SISF-SCS Awards that will be communicated in early 2019.

Werner Prize 2019



The Swiss Chemical Society awards the Werner Prize 2019 to
Prof. Jeremy Luterbacher,
EPFL Lausanne,
for his original and groundbreaking research on chemical conversion of plant material using protection group chemistry during biomass depolymerization and upgrading.
Picture: *https://lpdc.epfl.ch/luterbacher/*

Past Werner Prize winners
2018: Prof. Sandra Luber, University of Zurich
2017: Prof. Kevin Sivula, EPFL and
Prof. Christoph Sparr, University of Basel
2016: Prof. Maksym Kovalenko, ETH Zürich and Empa Dübendorf
2015: Prof. Gilles Gasser, University of Zurich
2014: Prof. Clémence Corminboeuf, Lausanne and
Prof. Jérôme Waser, Lausanne,
2013: Prof. Cristina Nevado, Zurich and
Prof. Clément Mazet, Geneva
List of all winners since 1936: *scg.ch/werner*

Grammaticakis-Neumann Award 2019

The Swiss Chemical Society awards the Grammaticakis-Neumann Award 2019 to
Prof. David Sarlah,
University of Illinois, Urbana (USA),
for his great achievements in the development of a highly-imaginative, photochemical dearomatization of non-activated arenes that allows for a rapid incorporation of oxygen, nitrogen and carbon functionality with exquisite stereocontrol.

Past Grammaticakis-Neumann Award winners
2017: Prof. Robert Knowles, Princeton University
2015: Prof. Natalie Banerji, University of Fribourg
2014: Dr. Erwin Reisner, Cambridge, UK
2013: Dr. Uwe Pischel, Huelva, ESP
2012: Prof. Hans Jakob Wörner, ETH Zurich
2011: Dr. Marina Kuimova, UK
List of all winners since 1985: *scg.ch/grammaticakis-neumann*

Sandmeyer Prize 2019

The SCS awards the Sandmeyer Prize 2019 to a team from Eawag, Dübendorf, namely
Dr. Michael Berg, Dr. Stephan Hug, Dr. Annette Johnson** (in memoriam), **Dr. Andreas Voegelin and Prof. Lenny Winkel
for their experimental and modelling studies on drinking water contamination by arsenic and other geogenic elements with an enormous impact not only in Switzerland but around the globe.

Past Sandmeyer Prize Winners
2018: Dr. Raymonde Fonné-Pfister, Dr. Claudio Screpanti, Dr. Alain De Mesmaeker, Syngenta Crop. Protection AG and Dr. Harro Bouwmeester, University of Amsterdam
2017: Dr. Stefan Hildbrand, Dr. Gösta Rimmler, Dr. Daniel Fishlock, Dr. Pankaj Rege, Dr. Carsten Peters, Dr. Christian Mössner, Dr. Ralph Diodone and Dr. Markus Schantz, F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG
2016: Dr. Martin Weibel, Sika Technology AG, Dr. Thomas Müller, Sika Deutschland GmbH, Dr. Ratan K. Mishra,ETH Zürich, Prof. Robert J. Flatt, ETH Zürich, Prof. Hendrik Heinz, University of Colorado Boulder
List of all winners since 1994: *scg.ch/sandmeyer*

Balmer Prize 2019

The SCS awards the Balmer Prize 2019 to
Dr. Rita Oberholzer,
Kantonsschule im Lee, Winterthur,
for developing and implementing an innovative and, in the meantime well-estabished, experiment of anodizing Caran d'Ache pens that can be easily used in a short hands-on training at Gymnasium level.

Past Balmer Prize winners
2018: Thibaut Rossel, Gym Français, Bienne
2017: Hansrudolf Dütsch, Zürich
2015: Francis Mingard, Gymnase de Nyon
2013: Thomas Berset, Kantonsschule Musegg Luzern
List of all winners since 2010: *scg.ch/balmer*

Dr. Max Lüthi Award 2019

The SCS awards the Dr. Max Lüthi Prize 2018 to
Ms. Sandra Witschard,
Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften, Wädenswil
for her Bachelor thesis focusing on «Vox-elated planar spheroid tissue assembly»

and

Mr. Ivan Cornu,
Haute école d'ingénierie et d'architecture Fribourg, for his Bachelor thesis entitled «Synthesis of new pinene-phenanthroline and pinene-terpyridine type ligands»

Past Dr. Max Lüthi Prize winners
2018: Fabienne Arn, ZHAW Wädenswil
2017: Sonia De Andrade, ZHAW Wädenswil
2016: Flavio Gall, ZHAW Wädenswil
2015: Yvan Mongbanziama, HEIA Fribourg
2014: Yannick Stöferle, ZHAW Wädenswil
2013: Peter Elmiger, ZHAW Wädenswil and Christophe Laporte, EIA Fribourg
List of all winners since 1992: *scg.ch/max-luethi*

Season's Greetings

Many thanks to all our members, partners, board members and co-workers who support us throughout the year. Merci!

May this holiday season sparkle and shine, may all of your wishes and dreams come true, and may you feel this happiness all year round.

All the best for 2019 and Happy New Year!

Your team from the SCS Head Office
Sarah, Robert & David

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HONORS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

Majed Chergui, EPFL, Fellow of the American Crystallographic Association

The American Crystallographic Association (ACA) has given this honor to ***Prof. Majed Chergui*** at EPFL. An internationally renowned expert in ultrafast spectroscopy, Prof. Chergui directs EPFL's Laboratory of Ultrafast Spectroscopy, which carries out ultrafast-UV and X-ray spectroscopy studies on chemical and biological systems. He is also a founding Editor-in-chief of the journal Structural Dynamics, a flagship journal of the American Institute of Physics and the ACA. His lab is also part of the Lausanne Centre for Ultrafast Science (LACUS).

ACA Fellows are members who have been recognized to hold a high level of excellence in scientific research, teaching, professional duties, service, leadership, and personal engagement in the ACA and the broader world of crystallography and science. Fellows act as scientific ambassadors to the broader scientific community and the general public advancing "science education, research, knowledge, interaction, and collaboration". In fact, the ACA envisions that only 5% of its members will be recognized as Fellows.

The ACA is a non-profit, scientific organization of over 1,300 members in more than 35 countries. Founded in 1949, the ACA's objective is "to promote interactions among scientists who study the structure of matter at atomic (or near atomic) resolution."
Source: *actu.epfl.ch/news*

KlarText Award for Dr. Jan-Georg Rosenboom, ETH Zurich

On October 11, 2018, ***Dr. Jan-Georg Rosenboom*** received the KlarText Award from the Klaus Tschira Stiftung. The prize is given for excellent PhD theses dedicated to a wide range of questions and a science communication article written in German on the subject. The article is intended to draw the attention of non-scientists to what is currently happening in research.

Jan-Georg Rosenboom studied chemical engineering at the TU Hamburg. He spent a year at the University of California in Berkeley and wrote his diploma thesis at the University of Cambridge (England). He received his doctorate at ETH Zurich with his thesis "Polyethylene Furanoate (PEF) from Ring-Opening Polymerisation". Together with a Swiss company, he is currently developing processes for the industrial implementation of bioplastic production. In his article Plastik vom Acker (in German), Jan-Georg Rosenboom explains a new method for the large-scale production of bioplastics. He has been working on a new process for the faster production of polyethylene furanoate (PEF) using ring-shaped molecules. PEF is a possible substitute for PET and other polyesters.
Source: *chab.ethz.ch*, by Joachim Schnabl

NanoLockin takes home innovation prize of canton Fribourg

The Adolphe Merkle Institute spin-off ***NanoLockin*** has been awarded the 2018 canton Fribourg innovation prize in the start-up category. The company, launched earlier this year, has developed a detection system for nanoparticles in complex media.

NanoLockin's measurement system stimulates nanoparticles to produce heat. The particles can then be detected, counted, and observed, by the system's built-in infrared camera. The technology has a number of advantages, including no damage to the sample, ease of use, and at a lower cost compared to competing methods.

The AMI start-up was one of three finalists for the innovation prize. The CHF 30,000 given to the winner will be invested in product development according to CEO ***Christoph Geers***. The goal is to sell the system to analytical laboratories as well as industrial clients for quality control.

In March this year, NanoLockin was awarded business coaching from Fri Up during its crucial launch phase, while Fribourg's Seed Capital Foundation granted the company an interest-free loan of CHF 150,000. Geers was also awarded a BRIDGE proof-of-concept grant by Innosuisse and the Swiss National Science Foundation for further development. He received additional support via a grant from Sitem-Insel in Bern to pursue a MAS program in Translational Medicine and Entrepreneurship.

The NanoLockin project was developed by the Adolphe Merkle Institute's BioNanomaterials group under the guidance of ***Prof. Alke Fink***, with the support of the former head of the institute's Technology Transfer, ***Dr. Marc Pauchard***. Initial research was carried out by ***Dr. Christophe Monnier*** and ***Dr. Federica Crippa***, in collaboration with ***Dr. Mathias Bonmarin*** of the Zurich University of Applied Sciences. This research was financed by the National Centre of Competence in Research Bio-Inspired Materials, the Department of Chemistry at the University of Fribourg, the National Research Program 62, Innosuisse (formerly the Commission for Technology and Innovation), as well as the Adolphe Merkle Foundation. The company's managing director is Dr. Christoph Geers.
Source: *www3.unifr.ch/chem*

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Source: *www.chemanager-online.com*

Solvay Hikes Fluoroelastomers Capacity

October 29, 2018: Strong demand for high-performance sealing applications has prompted Belgium's Solvay to expand capacity of its Tecnoflon fluoroelastomers in Changshu, China, and Spinetta Marengo, Italy. The Brussels-based group will increase production of specific peroxide curable and bisphenolic terpolymer grades by 30% in total (at current product mix) by the fourth quarter of 2019. Mike Finelli, president of Solvay's Specialty Polymers global business unit, said the company's unique fluoroelastomer footprint, which stretches from Europe to the US and Asia, allows it to strategically manage and interchange manufacturing so that it can focus on increasing production where it is most needed. Solvay said the major drivers of growth are hybrid and low emission internal combustion engines along with applications in the semiconductor industry. Typical uses include O rings, seals, gaskets and complex molded parts. Last month, Solvay also announced that it would raise output of its Solef polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) high-performance polymers in Tavaux, France, by more than 35% to meet strong global demand growth in lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles. The additional output should be available by the end of 2019. Other growing applications include offshore oil and gas pipes, and liners and membranes for water purification. Separately, Solvay has extended its distribution agreement with Germany's Biesterfeld. From January 2019, Biesterfeld will distribute the Belgian group's sulfone polymers in Switzerland. The portfolio includes the Udel, Radel and Veradel brands.

Trian Calls for PPG CEO to Quit

October 30, 2018: Activist investor Trian wants PPG Industries to oust its CEO Michael McGarry and replace him with former chairman and CEO Charles Bunch, while also suggesting the US paintmaker should split into two. Nelson Peltz's New York-based investment company, which revealed a 2.9% stake in PPG earlier this month, blames McGarry for its underperformance during the past three years. In a presentation at an investor conference on Oct. 25, Trian's chief investment officer Ed Garden said now is the right time to bring back Bunch, who has apparently indicated his willingness to return to his former role. Bunch led PPG from 2005 to 2015. Trian said PPG has suffered a series of operational and strategic mishaps under McGarry. These include three consecutive years of profit warnings, including this month when the company said third- and fourth-quarter earnings would be lower than expected; accounting irregularities; the loss of key customer home improvement retailer Lowe's; and the 'ill-advised' attempted hostile takeover of Dutch coatings group AkzoNobel. After replacing McGarry with Bunch, Trian wants PPG to consider splitting into two separate, publicly traded companies, with one focused on global architectural coatings and the other focused on manufacturers and industrial business. Trian said the separated units would be better positioned for more strategic acquisitions in the future. Responding to Garden's comments, PPG said its board of directors unanimously supports McGarry as chairman and CEO although it is open to listening to Trian on other topics. "The management team remains actively focused on delivery strong results, including top-quartile operating margins, in a challenging macro-environment for the industry and continuing to grow its business through innovative technology and disciplined acquisitions," it said in a statement. In a note to clients by Christopher Parkinson, an analyst with Credit Suisse quoted by the Bloomberg news agency, the analyst said criticism should not be solely directed at McGarry. While PPG shareholders are "naturally frustrated," the sector as a whole has experienced an unprecedented period of raw materials inflation, foreign exchange volatility and a fall-off in key markets during McGarry's tenure, Parkinson said.

Lonza to Sell Water Care to Platinum Equity

November 2, 2018: Lonza has agreed to sell its Water Care business to US investment group Platinum Equity for $630 million, while still discussing the inclusion of the company's business in France. The deal is expected to close in the first quarter of 2019, subject to the usual closing conditions. The Swiss company said in May it had retained an investment bank to look at strategic options for the water treatment business, which was originally part of its acquisition of Arch Chemicals in 2011. Headquartered in Alpharetta, Georgia, USA, the Water Care division provides products for swimming pools as well as industrial, municipal, commercial and surface water treatments. It has six manufacturing plants in North and South America, Europe, Middle East, Africa and South Africa, employing around 1,200 people. Lonza's CEO, Richard Ridinger said the company is putting the Water Care business in the hands of an experienced owner who will develop it as a stand-alone business while focusing on innovation and further growth. "The divestment further strengthens our strategic focus on our three core pillars – Pharma & Biotech, Consumer Health and Consumer & Resources Protection – within the healthcare continuum," he said. Lonza boosted its presence in the healthcare sector last year, when it paid $5.5 billion for US capsule maker Capsugel.