

CH Information

News – Honors – Workshops – Conferences – Lectures

HONORS

Michael Grätzel receives the 2013 Marcel Benoist prize.

The Marcel Benoist Foundation has announced that Prof. Michael Grätzel, EPFL, will receive its prestigious prize. The ceremony will be held on November 19, 2013. Michael Grätzel is especially known for his development of dye-sensitized solar cells, commonly referred to as Grätzel cells, which can convert sunlight into electricity by using a photoelectrochemical system.

Dr. Benoît Kornmann, a Swiss and French citizen and holder of a Swiss National Science Foundation professorship (Förderungsprofessur), has received an ERC Starting Grant for research into better understanding of how the organelles in cells are positioned and connected, how this organisation allows the exchange of components and information, and how inter-organellar communication helps the cell to function harmoniously.

NEWS

Swiss chemicals maker *Clariant* and U.S. peer *Ashland* are putting their German foundry chemicals venture up for auction as both companies restructure their operations. The sale of *ASK Chemicals*, which has about €25–30 million in annual core earnings and relies on volatile demand from steel and metal makers, comes as both Clariant and Ashland try to focus on products that are more profitable and less exposed to cyclical swings in the economy. Ashland, owner of the Valvoline motor oil brand, said last month it might sell its water treatment unit. Activist investor Jana Partners pushed for the company to do more to boost value for shareholders. Clariant, for its part, sold businesses including textile and paper chemicals to U.S. private equity firm SK Capital last year and is trying to divest its leather chemicals, detergents and intermediates units.

Hilden, Germany-based ASK, which has 1,800 staff, is under operational control of Clariant, even though the venture partners each hold a 50% equity stake. Its main rival is unlisted Huettene-Albertus, also Germany-based.

China is intensifying its investigation into rampant bribery in the pharmaceutical and medical services sector with a fresh three-month probe slated to begin on Thursday, the official Xinhua news agency reported. It comes as other Chinese regulators such as the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the police conduct multiple investigations into how foreign and domestic companies do business in the world's second-biggest economy. Corruption in China's pharmaceutical industry is fuelled in part by the low base salaries for doctors at the country's 13,500 public hospitals. The investigations underline China's toughening stance on corruption and high prices in the pharmaceutical industry, as the government seeks to make healthcare access universal and faces an estimated \$1 trillion healthcare bill by 2020. The latest foreign drugmaker in the spotlight is Novartis, after a Chinese newspaper reported that it bribed doctors to boost sales in June and July of this year.

The *21st Century Business Herald* quoted an unidentified former employee, who had supervised sales at large Beijing hospitals, as saying her manager told her to give 50,000 yuan (\$8,200) in kickbacks to doctors to guarantee 640,000 yuan in cancer drug sales over the period. Novartis said it could confirm that a former employee had filed a complaint with the local Chinese labour authority and also made a claim to the drugmaker for compensation. China has started also investigating French drugmaker Sanofi for allegedly bribing more than 500 Chinese doctors to raise sales.

The *Medicines Patent Pool* – a United Nations backed, public-health driven business model that aims to lower the prices of HIV medicines – and healthcare company *Roche* announced an agreement to increase access to Valcyte (valganciclovir), a key medicine to treat cytomegalo virus (CMV). CMV is a viral infection that can result in loss of vision and greater risk of death in people living with HIV. This infection affects around 1 in 10 people living with HIV in low- and middle-income countries. The supply agreement between the Medicines Patent Pool and Roche will substantially improve access to an easy-to-take oral medicine to treat CMV, Valcyte, by making it up to 90% cheaper in 138 developing and emerging countries than it is currently available. The Medicines Patent Pool and Roche will consider adding more countries to the initial scope if there is a need and will also explore licensing and technology transfer as a second step to help local production of Valcyte and increase access to Valcyte in developing countries. Current treatment of CMV is typically difficult to administer, requiring several injections to the eye. This requires hospitalisation of patients and care by highly trained staff, which are often not sufficiently available in developing countries. The oral treatment Valcyte is an alternative, but due to a number of reasons, including lack of screening and high prices, patients in developing countries have not been able to receive it. Roche has also agreed to license another medicine for use in HIV-related medicines to the Medicines Patent Pool, saquinavir, in case the need arises.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/SYMPOSIA

SPPS 2013 – Modern Solid Phase Peptide Synthesis & its Applications Symposium

02.11.2013–04.11.2013

Kobe (Japan)

<http://www.solidphase.org/>

6th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Food Analysis (RAFA 2013)

05.11.2013–08.11.2013

Prague (Czech Republic)

RAFA 2013 will be organized with emphasis on advances analytical & bioanalytical technologies and food analysis applications related to food security, food quality and safety and food integrity.

<http://www.rafa2013.eu/>

9th German Conference on Chemoinformatics

10.11.2013–12.11.2013

Fulda (Germany)

The conference will reflect and highlight the new role of cheminformatics in the modern information world. It will span a wide range of subjects related to the use of computers in chemistry, pharmacy, materials science and biology; from chem- and bioinformatics to explicit modelling and from industrial applications to fundamental academic research.

<https://www.gdch.de/index.php?id=1575>

Risiko-Workshop «Basic Concepts and Methods, New Challenges and Solutions»

11.11.2013

ETH Risk Center, Zurich (Switzerland)

Profilierte Risiko-Fachleute der ETH Zürich und der Universität Stuttgart erläutern im Workshop das Thema Risiko mit seinen Teilen Analyse, Beurteilung und Management/Governance unter theoretisch-technischen Aspekten und zeigen Grundlagen und Neuentwicklungen auf. Ein ausgewiesener Experte aus dem Versicherungsbereich gibt im Weiteren einen Einblick in spezifische Aspekte und branchentypisches Risikomanagement.

<http://www.satw.ch/veranstaltungen>

21st International Conference on Materials and Technology (ICM&T)

13.11.2013–15.11.2013

Portoroz (Slovenia)

The conference is a meeting of professionals from science institutes, universities and industry, that are active in the fields of metallic, inorganic and polymer materials, vacuum technique and nanomaterials, with purpose to achieve correlation between basic and applied science with highest added value. The main goal of the conference is to establish a dialogue between the needs of industry and the research of academic sphere, and it represents a platform for efficient transfer of knowledge from research institutions to industry.

<http://icmt21.imt.si/>

ecochem 2013

19.11.2013–21.11.2013

Congress Center Basel, Basel (Switzerland)

The Sustainable Chemistry % Engineering Event: We bring together the world's most influential industry and government leaders, scientists, young future leaders and innovators from across the chemical industry and value chains to accelerate innovation, research, commercialisation and market uptake in the design, production and use of efficient, effective, safe and more environmentally benign chemical products and processes.

<http://ecochemex.com>

SusChem conference day at ecochem 2013

19.11.2013

Messe Schweiz, Basel (Switzerland)

With this conference day on Industrial Symbiosis, the Swiss National Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry will be launched officially. A sharing economy, tackling grand societal challenges such as energy efficiency, resources management, waste and water handling, and the development and use of clean technologies, is the focal point of SusChem Switzerland, bridging industry gaps with innovation pathways to shape the society, the environment and the economy of the future. Shaping solutions together!

<http://www.ecochemex.com>

Annual Congress of the SCNAT: «The Quantum atom at 100 – Niels Bohr's Legacy»

21.11.2013–22.11.2013

Campus St. Georgenplatz, Aula, Winterthur (Switzerland)

This year, the annual congress of SCNAT will be dedicated to the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the quantum atomic model by the Danish physicist Niels Bohr.

<http://www.congress13.scnat.ch>

CHanalysis 2013

29.11.2013–30.11.2013

Dorint Hotel, Beatenberg (Switzerland)

The goal is to stimulate a stronger cooperation among persons working in the different areas of analytical sciences. In addition to lectures and discussions, an informal evening session is scheduled for networking and building new contacts across scientific boarders. Analytical scientists from applied/fundamental research and education are welcome.

<https://scg.ch/chanalysis2013>

2014 Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry

06.01.2014–11.01.2014

Amelia Island, Florida (United States)

<http://icpinformation.org>

Molecules and Materials for Artificial Photosynthesis

06.02.2014–09.02.2014

Cancun (Mexico)

<http://www.fusion-conferences.com/conference6.php>

NGC2014 – Nano and Giga Challenges in Electronics, Photonics and Renewable Energy

10.03.2014–14.03.2014

Phoenix (United States)

<http://nanoandgiga.com/ngc2014/>

LECTURES**University of Basel, Department of Chemistry**

Kleiner Hörsaal OC

25.11.2013 10.45 h
SCS Lectureships 2013
Prof. Michael Famulok
Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Germany
'Chemical biology for deciphering cell signaling pathways'

University of Basel, Pharmazeutische Wissenschaften

Lecture Hall 1, Pharmazentrum

06.11.2013 17.00 h
Prof. Dr. Olivier Bugnon
Community Pharmacy Research Unit, Universities of Geneva and Lausanne and Dept. of Ambulatory Care and Community Medicine (PMU), University of Lausanne
Title to be announced

13.11.2013 17.00 h
Prof. Dr. Stefan Laufer
Universität Tübingen, Germany
'Targeting protein kinases: the selectivity problem'

20.11.2013
17.00 h
Prof. Dr. med. Michael Sinnreich
Neuromuskuläres Zentrum, Universitätsspital
Basel
'Novel therapeutic strategies for muscular
dystrophies'

27.11.2013
17.00 h
Dr. Gianluca Civenni
Institute of Oncology Research (IOR),
Bellinzona
'Silencing Myc Transcription with Promoter-
Targeting Small Interfering RNA Inhibits
Prostate Cancer Stem Cell Maintenance and
Tumorigenicity'

Universität Bern, Organische und Bioorganische Chemie

Departement für Chemie und Biochemie, EG16 or S479 (tbc),
Freiestrasse 3, Bern

27.11.2013
16.30 h
SCS Lectureships 2013
Prof. Michael Famulok
Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität
Bonn, Germany
'Oligonucleotide-based tools for
pharmacology and nano-engineering'

Universität Bern, Anorganische, Analytische und Physikalische Chemie

Departement für Chemie und Biochemie, Hörsaal S481,
Freiestrasse 3, Bern

14.11.2013
11.15 h
Dr. Mechthild Enderle
Institut Laue-Langevin ILL, Grenoble, France
'Magnetic excitations in the one-dimensional
spin systems $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ and LiCuVO_4 '

21.11.2013
11.15 h
Prof. Dr. Hannu Häkkinen
Dept. of Physics and Chemistry, NanoScience
Center, University of Jyväskylä, Finland
'Superatoms and Viruses'

Eawag, Dübendorf

Forum Chriesbach C20, Überlandstrasse 133, CH-8600
Dübendorf

08.11.2013
11.00 h
Prof. Timothy Eglinton
ETH Zürich
'Dynamics of Organic Carbon Movement
through River Basins'

Société Fribourgeoise de Chimie (SFC)

Chemistry Department, Main auditorium, chemin du Musée 9,
Fribourg

05.11.2013
17.15 h
Prof. Dr. Martin Lochner
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry,
University of Bern
Title to be announced

19.11.2013
17.15 h
Prof. Dr. Michele Cascella
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry,
University of Bern
Title to be announced

University of Fribourg

Chemistry Department, Main auditorium, chemin du Musée 9,
Fribourg

12.11.2013
17.00 h
Prof. Stefan Matile
Université de Genève
'Synthetic Supramolecular Systems at Work'

Université Genève, Chimie organique

Auditoire A-100, Sciences II

07.11.2013
16.30 h
Prof. Paolo Melchiorre
Institut Català d'Investigació Química,
Tarragona, Spain
'Organocatalytic Strategies to Control Remote
Stereochemistry and Design Asymmetric
Photochemical Processes'

14.11.2013
16.30 h
Dr. Nathan D. McClenaghan
Institut des Sciences Moléculaires, CNRS,
Université de Bordeaux
'Light-Driven Ion and Electronic Energy
Transfer in Supramolecular Systems'

29.11.2013
16.30 h
SCS Lectureships 2013
Prof. Michael Famulok
Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität
Bonn, Germany
'Oligonucleotide-based tools for
pharmacology and nano-engineering'

EPF Lausanne

EPFL, Institut des Sciences et Ingénierie Chimiques, Lausanne

28.11.2013
17.00 h
SCS Lectureships 2013
Prof. Michael Famulok
Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität
Bonn, Germany
'Oligonucleotide-based tools for
pharmacology and nano-engineering'

Syngenta, Basel

Auditorium Wst 810.E.75, Schaffhauserstrasse, Stein AG,
Switzerland

14.11.2013
10.00 h
Prof. Dr. Martin Oestreich
TU Berlin, Germany
Title to be announced

ETH Zurich

Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences
Campus Hönggerberg, HPV G5

18.11.2013
11.00 h
Dr. Alexander Makarov
Thermo Fischer Scientific, Bremen, D
'Past, Present and Future of Orbitrap Mass
Spectrometry'

ETH Zurich, Laboratorium für Organische Chemie

Campus Hönggerberg, HCI J 3

04.11.2013
16.00 h
Prelog Lecture
Prof. Paul A. Wender
Department of Chemistry, Stanford University, US
'Toward the Ideal Synthesis and Transformative Therapies: Strategies to Eradicate AIDS, Treat Alzheimer's Disease and Overcome Resistant Cancer'

11.11.2013
16.00 h
Prof. Alanna Schepartz
Department of Chemistry, Yale University, US
'Information Transfer through the Plasma Membrane'

18.11.2013
16.00 h
Prof. Ronald Raines
University of Wisconsin, Madison, US
'Electronic Effects on Protein Structure'

ETH Zurich, Laboratorium für Physikalische Chemie

Campus Hönggerberg, HCI J 3

19.11.2013
16.45 h
Prof. Dr. Andrew J. Orr-Ewing
University of Bristol, UK
'Vibrationally Resolved Chemical Reaction Dynamics in Solution'

25.11.2013
16.00 h

Prof. Marcel Mayor
Department of Chemistry, University of Basel
'Designed Molecules for Physical Experiments'

26.11.2013
16.45 h

Moritz Haag
Laboratorium für Physikalische Chemie, ETH Zürich
'Real-Time Quantum Chemistry'

University of Zurich

Campus Irchel, Y115-G-19

12.11.2013
17.00 h

Prof. Joachim Heberle
Department of Physics, Freie University Berlin
'Functional Dynamics of Membrane Proteins Observed by Novel IR Spectroscopies'

26.11.2013
17.00 h

SCS Lectureships 2013
Prof. Michael Famulok
Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Germany
'Chemical biology for deciphering cell signaling pathways'

The complete and updated lecture calendar is available on www.scg.ch.