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Chemistry

Platform of the Swiss Academy of Sciences

New President, New Board Member and New Chief Science Officer of the «Platform Chemistry»

Leo Merz*

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On December 12 the board of SCNAT confirmed the election of Prof. Dr. **Christophe Copéret** (ETH Zürich) as president of the platform chemistry. Prof. Dr. Copéret has been a member of the board since January 2013 and takes over the presidency from Prof. Dr. **Katharina Fromm** (Uni Freiburg) who will remain on the board of the platform. Additionally, the SCNAT board confirmed the election of Dr. **Klemens Koch** (Pädagogische Hochschule Bern and Gymnasium Biel-Seeland) as a new member of the board of the platform.

In addition, the General Secretariat of SCNAT appointed Dr. **Leo Merz** as Chief Science Officer of the «Platform Chemistry» as of October 2014, succeeding Dr. **Adrien Lawrence** who directed the platform from 2013 to 2014.

We would like to thank Katharina Fromm and Adrien Lawrence for their dedication and commitment in their work for the «Platform Chemistry» of the SCNAT.

Finally, we would like to welcome Klemens Koch to the board of the platform.



Dr. Klemens Koch studied chemistry at the University of Lausanne. He then obtained his PhD in organic chemistry titled 'Über strukturelle Zusammenhänge zwischen Blausäure und natürlichen Purinen und Pyrimidinen' in the group of Prof. Dr. A. Eschenmoser at the ETH Zürich. Additionally, he studied didactics in chemistry at the ETHZ.

Since then, he teaches at Gymnasium (high school) level and also at the Pädagogische Hochschule Bern. Since 2006 he is deputy headmaster of the Gymnasium Biel-Seeland and since 2010 he is the president of the Verein Schweizer Naturwissenschaftslehrerinnen und -lehrer.



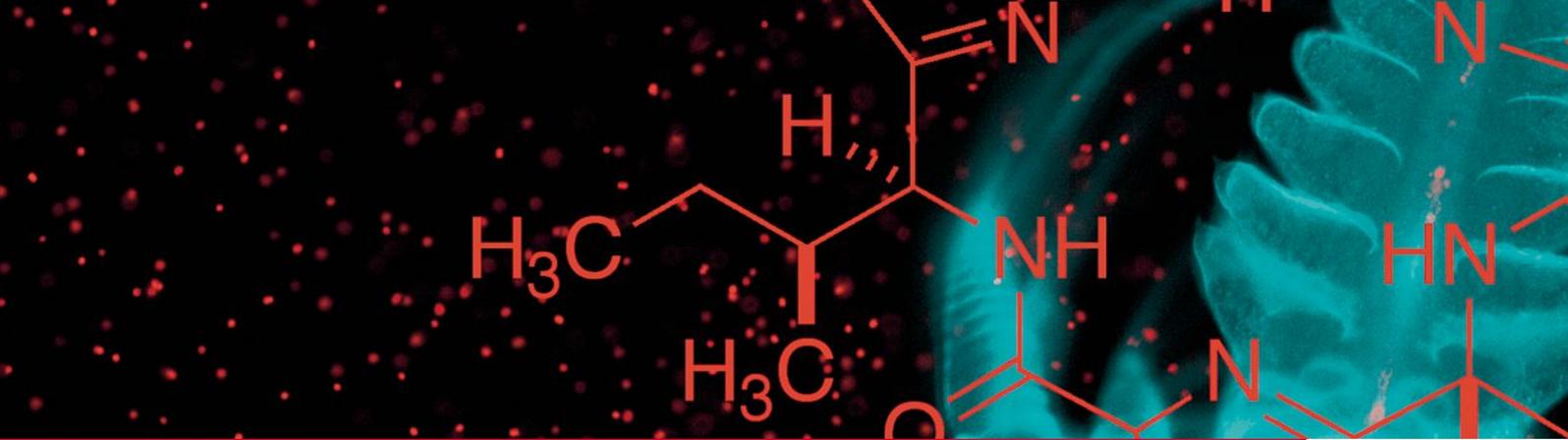
Dr. Leo Merz studied chemistry at the University of Basel. He then obtained his PhD with the title 'Chemistry at the Nanoscale: Molecular Assemblies probed by Scanning Tunnelling Microscopy' in the group of Prof. Dr. H.-J. Güntherodt at the Institute of Physics of the University of Basel. After a postdoc at the Department of Biomolecular

Engineering of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, he joined the Molecular Surface Science Group at Empa in Dübendorf to study reversible phase transitions in two-dimensional molecular crystals. From 2009 to 2014 he took a time-out and together with his wife sailed from Europe to French Polynesia on their sailboat.

Additional information about the «Platform Chemistry» and its activities may be found at www.chemistry.scnat.ch



Follow the «Platform Chemistry» on Twitter @SCNATChemistry



Source: C. Portmann

2015 SCNAT / SCS Chemistry Travel Award

The Platform Chemistry of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), the Swiss Chemical Society (SCS) and the Swiss Society for Food and Environmental Chemistry (SSFEC) announce the '2015 SCNAT/SCS Chemistry Travel Award'.

The award includes a contribution of CHF 1000 towards the cost of active participation (poster or oral presentation) at an international conference in the field of the chemical sciences. A total of 45 awards will be distributed to selected doctoral students from Swiss Universities and Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology. Selection will be based primarily on scientific accomplishment and on the submitted conference abstract.

Applications must include all of the following:

1. Conference announcement
2. Scientific conference abstract
3. Curriculum vitae and list of publications
4. Signed letter of support from the PhD advisor

The application package (as a single PDF file in the above order) should be submitted using the online application form before the deadline of 31 March 2015.

Further information and application form can be found at:
www.chemistry.scnat.ch/travel_award

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SCS
Swiss Chemical
Society

SGLUC SCHWEIZERISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR LEBENSMITTEL- UND UMWELTCHEMIE
SSCAE SOCIÉTÉ SUISSE DE CHIMIE ALIMENTAIRE ET ENVIRONNEMENTALE
SSCAA SOCIETÀ SVIZZERA DI CHIMICA ALIMENTARE ED AMBIENTALE
SSFEC SWISS SOCIETY FOR FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY