

Editorial

Biotechnology is by nature a technology, today it is a global industry. The industry comprises many 'subindustries' not immediately linked to the term and makes it therefore a multifaceted industry. Biotechnology will continue to play a key role in Switzerland due to its huge potential, the strong academic power, the smart interfaces that help to commercialise ideas into products and a truly international company structure ranging from SME's to multinational corporations, fit for the success. Truly, one nation for one biotech industry.

One of many persons that started to unfold this potential was Armin Fiechter. He was one of the most eminent promoters of biotechnology in Switzerland and he was instrumental in establishing the Institute for Biotechnology at ETH Zürich in 1982. By pioneering the combination of fundamental and applied aspects he has greatly influenced the advancement of biotechnology in teaching and research in Switzerland. This edition of CHIMIA is devoted to him. He left us earlier this year.

For the Editorial Team

Domenico P. Alexakis
Swiss Biotech Association

The Editorial Board of CHIMIA would like to thank the guest editor Domenico Alexakis and his colleagues of the Swiss Biotech Association for providing this interesting overview of biotechnology in Switzerland.