



SCS  
Swiss Chemical  
Society

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021

### Introduction and Summary

«2021 has been another very successful and active year for the SCS. Despite the difficult pandemic situation, we were able to have as many as reasonable live meetings with our Teams and SCS members. These events had a very special flavor in our constrained lives, and I really felt happy to finally meet and discuss with colleagues and friends. I wish that 2022 will allow SCS members to share and enjoy science together»

*Dr. Alain De Mesmaeker, President of the SCS 2016-2021*

After 2020 and a year dominated predominantly by COVID-19 measures and restrictions, everyone hoped that 2021 would bring more normality. Unfortunately, the uncertainties surrounding the pandemic continued to prolong and affected also the SCS activities. Some events were again held as virtual events with online lectures, video presentations and innovative online platforms for networking, but others had to be postponed again and will hopefully now take place in 2022. However, there were also bright spots in the SCS calendar and in late summer and autumn the SCS organized seven events as face-to-face events.

One of the highlights was the first Swiss Chemistry Science Night, which was held at the Casino Bern in September 2021 after its cancellation in 2020. Even though the event had to be implemented somewhat smaller than originally planned, more than 80 invited guests enjoyed the evening and celebrated the implementation of this new, annual gala evening of the SCS.

In addition to the well-established activities that have been part of the SCS program for years and are mentioned later in this annual report, we focused on the following, new or unique initiatives in 2021:

- organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> Swiss Chemistry Science Night in Bern;
- intensifying the collaboration with LS<sup>2</sup> to participate in and further develop a seminar program in the field of IP and patents;
- establishing a task force to address the structural deficit between Universities, Government and Industry to offer adequate career entry opportunities;
- creating a special virtual issue of CHIMIA to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our membership journal;
- migrating all CHIMIA content to a single platform based on OJS with go-live date in early 2022;
- providing event organization services for third parties and support HRMS 2021 and NPC 2021 to implement their virtual international conferences;
- further developing the SCS event IT infrastructure including a video archive for short scientific communications (virtual posters);
- extending the SCS Partnership program to 18 companies.

The Swiss Chemical Society is a not-for-profit organization. Its programs are financed through sponsoring contributions, publishing, revenues from activities, and the membership fees. Part of the programs of the society receive support from the SCS Foundation. The foundation accepts financial contributions from institutional and private donors for activities exempt from taxation. We would like to thank all our members, sponsors and partners who supported us financially and logistically in 2021.

Furthermore, we were connected with many organizations to support and implement all the interesting projects and initiatives.

Please enjoy reading through the 2021 annual report that shows again a very active and lively society.

Dr. Alain De Mesmaeker  
President

David Spichiger  
Executive Director



### Swiss Chemical Society

#### SCS Key Figures



22 communities  
>220 militia  
board members

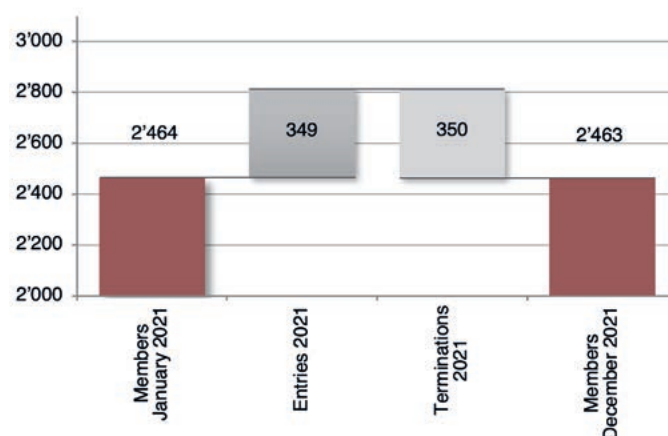


7 Employees  
3.7 FTE



~1.6 Mio CHF  
financial turnover

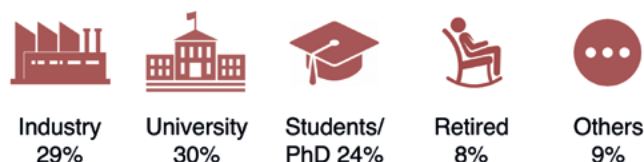
#### Development of SCS Memberships: –1



## Regional Distribution of Members



## Employment Sector of the Members



All figures are based on the SCS member database as per 31.12.2021.

## SCS Board Members and Employees

### Executive Board ExB

- Dr. Alain De Mesmaeker, Känerkinden (BL)  
SCS President (stepped down at the end of 2021)
- Prof. Christian Bochet, University of Fribourg  
SCS Vice-President (President as of January 2022)
- Dr. Gillian Harvey, Luzern  
Chair of the CHIMIA Editorial Board
- Dr. Hans Peter Lüthi, ETH Zurich and SCS Foundation  
SCS Treasurer (until Aug 2021)
- Dr. Maud Reiter, Firmenich SA  
SCS Treasurer (as of Sep 2021)
- Dr. Yves Auberson, Novartis Pharma AG  
Projects and partnerships (as of May 2021)
- David Spichiger, Swiss Chemical Society  
SCS Executive Director

### Board of Directors BoD (in addition to the ExB members)

- Prof. Eric Bakker, University of Geneva  
President Division of Analytical Sciences (DAS)
- Prof. Stefan Willitsch, University of Basel  
President Division of Fundamental Research (DFR)
- Prof. Jean-Louis Reymond, University of Bern  
President Division of Medical Chemistry & Chemical Biology (DMCCB)
- Prof. Roger Marti, HEIA Fribourg  
President Division Industrial & Applied Chemistry
- Prof. Harm-Anton Klok, EPFL Lausanne  
President Division Polymers, Colloids and Interfaces (DPCI)
- Prof. Jan Cvengros, ETH Zurich  
President Division Chemical Education (DCE)
- Prof. Christophe Copéret, ETH Zurich  
National and international relations

- Prof. Sandrine Gerber, EPFL Lausanne  
Member of the board (until April 2021)
- Dr. Martin Vollmer, Clariant AG  
Member of the board (until April 2021)
- Dr. Leslie Fendt, F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG  
Member of the board (as of May 2021)
- Dr. Maud Reiter, Firmenich SA  
Member of the board (as of May 2021)
- Dr. Corinne Jud, Agroscope  
Member of the board (as of May 2021)

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Sandrine Gerber and Martin Vollmer who served as members of the board for 9 years and who had to step down in accordance with the SCS bylaws.

### SCS Employees

- David Spichiger, Executive Director (1 FTE)
- Gillian Harvey, CHIMIA, Technical Editor (0.6 FTE)
- Hans Peter Lüthi, Director SCS Foundation (0.4 FTE)
- Robert Meyer, Accounting (0.4 FTE)
- Esther Wolff, Education Courses (0.4 FTE)
- Sarah Schmitz, Administration (0.4 FTE)
- Céline Wittwer, Communication (0.5 FTE)

### SCS General Assembly 2021



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the General Assembly (GA) 2021 was held once more as a virtual event. In spring 2021 restrictions for onsite meetings were still in place and so we organized the General Assembly as a Zoom conference during the lunch break of the SCS Spring Meeting on April 15, 2021.

The assembly approved a major personnel turnover on the Board of Directors (BoD) and in the Executive Board (ExB) and set the course for the SCS of the next few years. The previous section of this report provides information on the details of the personnel changes.

David Spichiger, SCS Executive Director, led the meeting and ensured that all legal requirements were fulfilled. The minutes of the meeting were published in *CHIMIA* 75, 5/2021, A459ff.

### Communication

For all SCS events we implemented specific websites including platforms for online conferences. In addition, we communicated *via* our Social Media channels, as well as with flyers and posters. Our Twitter profiles counts more than 2'100 followers.

By sending newsletters, we managed to inform specific groups of the community about events according to their sphere of interest. Furthermore, publications in the *CHIMIA* journal, such as Columns and Conference Reports give a regular insight into the activities of the SCS and the Divisions. The Society information pages, under the direction of David Spichiger, also provide news and information about current and future events.



### SCS Partnership and Corporate Memberships

We further established the SCS Partnership as a new strategic tool to strengthen our collaboration with industrial partners and to align our activities to the community's requirements.

As Institutional Partners, the companies enjoy all the benefits of a 'classical' corporate membership and make the difference through

- active involvement in the strategic alignment of the society (board-, committee-, and jury-membership);
- becoming Industrial Science Award Program Stakeholders (former SIFS Program);
- guests at the Swiss Chemistry Science Night.

### SCS Partnership agreements of 2021



In addition to the partnerships for CHF 3,000, the following companies participated in the activities of the SCS with a corporate membership for CHF 800:

Bachem AG, Bubendorf; Büchi AG, Uster; CABB AG, Pratteln; Carbogen Amcis AG, Bubendorf; CIM Chemicals AG, Zug; Ivoclar vivadent AG, Schaan; Firmenich SA, Genève; Helsinn Advanced Synthesis SA, Biasca; MDPI AG, Basel; Metalor Technologies SA, Marin; METAS, Federal Institute of Metrology, Bern; Omya International AG, Oftringen; Plasmion GmbH, Augsburg; Rolic Technologies Ltd, Berlin; SAS Institute GmbH, Heidelberg; Schärer & Schläpfer AG, Rothrist; Shimadzu Schweiz GmbH, Reinach; SICPA SA, Prilly; Siegfried AG, Zofingen, Société Suisse des Explosifs, Brig; Thermo Fischer Scientific (Schweiz) AG, Reinach; UCB Farchim SA, Bulle.



### SCS Scientific Awards

The SCS awarded twelve individuals and one group of scientists for their outstanding contributions. A total sum of CHF 74'000 as well as medals and award certificates were given to the prize winners.

### Werner Prize

CHF 10'000 and medal in bronze; awarded to a promising young scientist for outstanding independent chemical research. The award was given to



**Prof. Rafaella Buonsanti**, EPFL Lausanne, for her original and significant contributions in the chemistry development of tailored nanomaterials and their applications in catalysis, especially CO<sub>2</sub> electroreduction.

The award lecture took place at the virtual SCS Fall Meeting 2021.

### Sandmeyer Award

CHF 20'000 awarded to a person or to a group for outstanding work in industrial or applied chemistry.

In 2021 the SCS awarded a joint team from Casale SA and



Clariant, namely **Dr. Pierdomenico Biasi, Mr. John D'Alessandri, Mr. Ermanno Fillippi, Mr. Sergio Panza, Casale SA** and

**Dr. Rene Eckert, Dr. Marvin Estenfelder, Dr. Stephan Reitmeier, Dr. Andreas Reitzmann, Clariant**,

for their achievements obtained in the field of catalysis and reaction engineering, especially for the development and

implementation of the AmoMax®-Casale, a new catalyst for a greener and less energy-consuming process for industrial large-scale ammonia synthesis.

One award lecture was held at the virtual Freiburger Symposium on April 23, and the second at the virtual SCS Fall Meeting on September 10, 2021.

### SCS Senior Industrial Science Award 2021

The prize is given to honor very successful and established investigators with outstanding achievements over many years. The winner receives a certificate and a cash check of CHF 10'000.

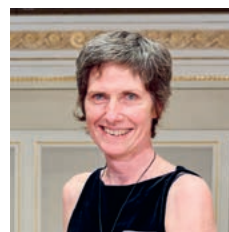
The 2021 prize was awarded to



**Dr. Andrew Edmunds**, Syngenta Crop Protection AG, for his impressive track record of achievements in the field of chemistry and crop protection reflected in 140 patents, 28 publications and more than 20 lectures at universities and international conferences. The award lecture took place at the virtual SCS Fall Meeting 2021.

### SCS Industrial Science Award 2021

The prize is given to honor successful investigators with outstanding achievements. The winner receives a certificate and a cash check of CHF 7'000.



**Dr. Cornelia Zumbrunn**, Idorsia Pharmaceuticals Ltd., for her key contributions as a medicinal chemistry project leader in the challenging field of antibiotic drug discovery, including her contributions to several anti-bacterial research projects and the development of a significant number of chemical series into advanced compounds, some

of which were ultimately selected as preclinical development candidates. The award lecture took place at the virtual SCS Fall Meeting 2021.



### SCS Green & Sustainable Chemistry Award (sponsored by Syngenta)

CHF 5'000 to honor outstanding contribution to the field of metrology in chemistry and/or biology. The 2021 award was given to

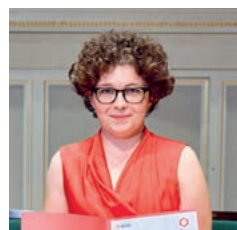


**Prof. Francesca Paradisi**, University of Bern, for her ground-breaking work in developing eco-friendly and ultra-efficient biotransformations for the synthesis of high-value chemicals, dramatically increasing the applicability of biocatalysis.

The award lecture took place at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Swiss Green & Sustainable Chemistry Day on October 20, 2021.

### METAS Award

CHF 5'000 to honor an outstanding contribution to the field of metrology in chemistry and/or biology. The 2021 award was given to



**Dr. Kristýna Kantnerová**, Empa Dübendorf, for her excellent and timely work in the field of metrology of clumped isotopes of nitrous oxides.

The award lecture took place at the virtual SCS Fall Meeting 2021.

### Simon-Widmer Award

CHF 5'000 to honor an outstanding contribution to the field of metrology in chemistry and/or biology. The 2021 award was given to

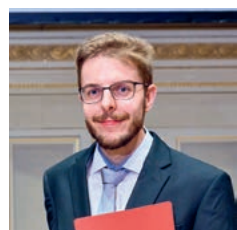


**Prof. Andrew deMello**, ETH Zurich, for his great contributions to the field of bioanalytical science and microfluidic technology.

The award lecture took place at the virtual SCS Fall Meeting 2021.

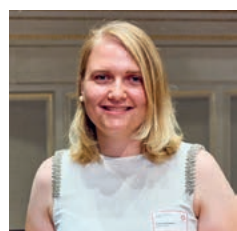
### Dr. Max Lüthi Award

CHF 1'000 and medal in bronze; presented for an outstanding diploma thesis in Chemistry conducted at a Swiss University of Applied Sciences. SCS awarded



**Herr Stefan Näf**, Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften, Wädenswil, für seine Bachelorarbeit «Chirale Selektoren für die Enantiomerentrennung kleiner chiraler Moleküle».

and



**Frau Kristina Djordjevic**, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz Muttenz, für ihre Bachelorarbeit «Generische SST's im Kontext von HDX-MS Applikationen».

### Swiss CleanTech Award (sponsored by Clariant)

The prize is endowed with a total of CHF 10,000 and is awarded to 3–5 finalists. The program honors outstanding scientific achievements of Master students, PhD students, and Postdocs in Switzerland in the field of Sustainable Chemistry, in areas such as resource efficiency, renewable energy, renewable raw materials or green technologies and environmental protection. The 2021 winners are:



1<sup>st</sup>, CHF 5'000: **Selina K. Kaiser**, ETH Zurich

2<sup>nd</sup>, CHF 2'500: **Scott R. Docherty**, ETH Zürich

3<sup>rd</sup>, CHF 1'500: **Wooseok Yang**, Uni Zurich

4<sup>th</sup>, CHF 1'000: **Ahmed Elabd**, Uni Fribourg

The award lectures and the ceremony took place at ILMAC Basel on October 20, 2021.

### Lectureship Awards

#### SCS Lectureship Awards

The SCS Lectureship is awarded to world-class distinguished scientists and it is organized under the patronage of the Swiss Chemical Society. Over a week, the lecturer gives five presentations and discusses with colleagues at four or five different Swiss research institutions. The selection of the lecturers follows a bottom-up approach where PIs from all Swiss research institutions can propose candidates. The program covers all areas of chemistry. The choice among the proposed lectureships is made by the board of the Division of Fundamental Research (DFR).

**Prof. Darren Dixon**, Oxford University (UK)

«*New Broad Scope Strategies for Amine and Complex Natural Products Synthesis*»

Tour dates: October 11–15, 2021

Tour organizer: Prof. O. Baudoin, University of Basel

All other lectureships that were planned from March to December 2021 had to be cancelled and/or rescheduled to 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic:

- Prof. Harry Anderson, University of Oxford (UK)
- Prof. Edward I. Solomon, Stanford University (USA)
- Prof. David Nesbitt, JILA and University of Colorado, Boulder (USA)
- Prof. Jennifer Field, Oregon State University (USA)
- Prof. Abby Doyle, Princeton University (USA)
- Prof. Daniel G. Nocera, Harvard University (USA)
- Prof. Mark S. Taylor, University of Toronto (CAN)

#### Heilbronner-Hückel Lecture Award

The Heilbronner-Hückel Lecture Series was implemented in 2009 with the first series in 2010 together with the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh). The annual series takes place alternatively in Switzerland and Germany.

As 2021 Lecturer the GDCh selected **Prof. Clémence Corminboeuf**, EPFL Lausanne. Her



group focuses on electronic structure theory in the area of method development and conceptual work applied to the field of homogeneous catalysis and organic electronics and has contributed to the establishment of quantum chemical approaches and is involved in injecting quantum chemical expertise into

machine learning models and reciprocally.



The winner of the 2020 Heilbronner-Hückel Lecture Award, **Prof. Katharina Kohse-Hoeninghaus**, University of Bielefeld, was invited to four Swiss Universities to give a lecture:

26.10.21: ETH Zurich, «Insight into combustion processes»

27.10.21: Uni Basel, «Insight into combustion processes»

28.10.21: Uni Bern, «Clean(er) combustion – a contradiction?»

29.10.21: Uni Geneva, «Burning issues: Some contributions to combustion chemistry» Tour Organizer: Prof. Martin Quack, ETH Zurich

## Scholarship Awards

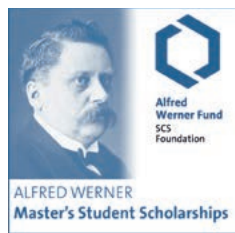
### Best Presentation Award at the Fall Meeting



At the virtual SCS Fall Meeting on September 10, 2021, Metrohm and DSM again sponsored the very renowned Best Presentation Award Program. A total of 39 presenters (18 winners and 21 runners-up) with a total prize sum of CHF 42'750 were honored for their extraordinary presentations. Instead of classical posters in A0 format, short

videos of 3 min were presents. The talks were given *via* the Zoom video platform. See *CHIMIA* 75, 10/2021, A900 for the list of all winners.

### Alfred Werner Scholarship Program



This year, eight Alfred Werner Scholars of the class of 2019–2021 successfully completed their MSc studies. One student experienced difficulties, partly caused by the pandemic, and continued her studies at a university of applied science. The reports on their MSc thesis projects are published in *CHIMIA* 75, 12/2021, 1073.

In April, the Alfred Werner Fund Allocation Committee evaluated the nominations submitted by the Swiss universities, granting fourteen stipends. In September, twelve students started their MSc studies; two students decided to accept another stipend.

61

scholarships  
granted since  
2013

30

countries of  
origin  
of our scholars

30:31

gender ratio  
of the scholars

The Meet&Greet visits in industry were not possible also this year. At least, we were able to have a Fondue Night at the Café du Midi in Fribourg in November, celebrating the scholars who graduated, and connecting the class of 2020–22 with the students who just started their MSc studies. The LinkedIn Group with all Alfred Werner Scholars, current, alumni, representatives of the program-supporting companies and university delegates, established last year, now has 73 members and is used for news, internship requests, meeting announcements or the announcement of professional opportunities.

Since 2013, the year the Alfred Werner Foundation was integrated into the SCS Foundation, 61 scholarships have been

granted. With very few exceptions, all students completed their studies, some with distinction. Most scholars continued their studies in Switzerland. The first alumni started their professional career, again most of them in Switzerland.

The new Web Page of the Foundation ([www.scs-foundation.ch](http://www.scs-foundation.ch)) presents some of the scholars, gives more background, in particular on the history of the program, and offers statistical information.

Also this year, next to the Alfred Werner Scholarship program, the SCS Foundation was able to support the Best Presentation Award Program of the Fall Meeting based on a generous donation of the Metrohm and DSM corporations.

The Swiss Summer School 2021 on Catalysis and Sustainable Chemistry was held in Les Diablerets in September. The students were truly hungry for a 'real meeting'. However, being restricted to eighty student participants, we were not able to honor all applications. Six academic lecturers, along with eight scientists from industry, gave inspiring insight into this rapidly developing area of research (see *CHIMIA* 75, 12/2021, 1071 for an extensive report on the Summer School).

The SCS Foundation board would like to thank DSM, Firmenich, Givaudan, Idorsia, Lonza, Metrohm, Novartis, Roche, Syngenta as well as a number of private donors for their continued support.

### Chemistry Travel Award



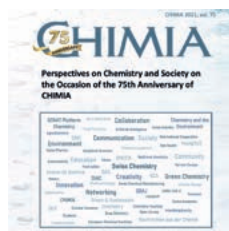
Through the «Chemistry Travel Award», contributions towards the cost of participation at an international conference in the chemical sciences are granted to selected PhD students. The award is sponsored by the Platform Chemistry of the SCNAT and the Swiss Chemical Society. After most conferences were cancelled or virtualized, the organizers of

the Travel Award expanded the program with a new alternative. This second option offers support to visit a foreign lab for a short research project abroad. Students from all fields of chemistry and from any Swiss institution were invited to participate. The winners were announced in *CHIMIA* 75, 7-8/2021, A695 f.



## Publishing

### CHIMIA



Catherine E. Housecroft, University of Basel, took over as Editor-in-Chief in 2021 to produce, together with the guest editors, ten excellent issues of *CHIMIA*.

In 2021 (volume 75) the following 10 issues were published with the help of the named guest editors:

#### 1–2 Future of Chemical Education

Jan Cvengros (ETH Zurich) and Catherine E. Housecroft (University of Basel)

#### 3 H<sub>2</sub> Production and CO<sub>2</sub> Conversion: Insights and Progress

Greta R. Patzke (University of Zurich)



- 4 Laureates: Junior Prizes of the SCS Fall Meeting 2020  
Hans Peter Lüthi (SCS Foundation) and Silvio Decurtins  
(University of Bern)
- 5 Colloidal Nanocrystals  
Jonathan De Roo (University of Basel)
- 6 Peptide Chemistry in Switzerland  
Thomas Vorherr (Novartis Pharma AG) and Jean-Louis  
Reymond (University of Bern)
- 7-8 SCS Laureates and Awards & Fall Meeting 2021  
Alain de Mesmaeker (President of the Swiss Chemical Society)
- 9 Renewable Feedstock and Biomass Valorization  
Edouard Godineau (Syngenta Crop Protection AG), Fabrice  
Gallou (Novartis), and Urban Jenelten (Firmenich SA)
- 10 Photochemistry  
Christian G. Bochet (University of Fribourg)
- 11 Industry-Academic Partnerships  
Christof Sparr (University of Basel)
- 12 Chemical Biology of Membranes and Signaling  
Howard Riezman (University of Geneva)

Issues 4 and 7/8 containing the SCS laureates articles and the program of SCS Fall Meeting (online again in 2021) are regular features of the annual program. The column section with the Swiss Science Concentrates, Highlights of Analytical Chemistry, Highlights in Polymer and Colloids Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology Highlights, Chemical Education, Flow Chemistry (new in 2021) and Universities of Applied Sciences is well-established and with the Conference Reports give a regular insight into the activities of the SCS and the Divisions. The Society information pages, under the direction of David Spichiger, provide news and information about current and future events.

After becoming a platinum Open Access journal in 2020, CHIMIA is continuing along this path. All scientific articles are available immediately free of charge. The authors are not required to pay article or page fees and they retain copyright of their work. The articles are published under license CC-BY 4.0. CHIMIA is indexed on the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ.org) and other sites that promote open access, which we hope will increase the visibility of the journal. The move to open access was fully supported by the Swiss Chemical Society, as the publisher.

The entire digital content of CHIMIA will be migrated to an OJS-based system by the beginning of 2022, discontinuing the use of IngentaConnect.com as content host. The website is named <https://www.chimia.ch/> and all the content from 1990 to the present day will be hosted here. Submissions are also made to <https://www.chimia.ch/>

During 2021, to celebrate 75 years of publishing CHIMIA, a special column was created called 'A Perspective on Chemistry and Society'. To celebrate this milestone, throughout the year, we published short opinion pieces by invited authors on wide-ranging topics including science, industry, the environment, education, society, and politics. We asked the authors to look forward rather than back and address current and future prospects for chemistry and society. We were very pleased to publish 22 interesting articles and we would like to thank all the authors who generously and enthusiastically contributed their insightful thoughts and took the time to write these articles. The articles have been collected into a special, open access, virtual issue, which is available on <https://www.chimia.ch/>.

## Chemistry Europe



After its renaming in spring 2020 the brand of Chemistry Europe is already well established. Founded 25 years ago with the creation of *Chemistry A European Journal*, now the societies' flagship publication, Chemistry Europe is an association of 16 European chemical societies, representing over 75,000 chemists. Chemistry Europe

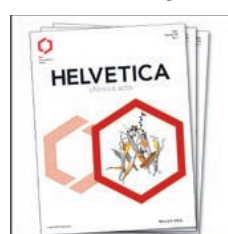
journals are published by Wiley-VCH.

SCS holds 5% of shares of *Chemistry A European Journal* and participates as co-owner of *ChemElectroChem*, *ChemPlusChem*, *ChemistryOpen*, *ChemCatChem*, *ChemPhotoChem*, *Batteries & Supercaps* and *Chemistry Select*. SCS supported the marketing initiatives of Chemistry Europe on its website, during SCS events and in CHIMIA.

Chemistry Europe supported the following Events:

- Peptide Therapeutics Forum 2021
- Swiss Summer School, «Catalysis in Organic Synthesis»
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Swiss SusChem Days 2021. Int. Conference

## Helvetica – A Journal of the Swiss Chemical Society



After its relaunch in 2016 and comprehensive marketing and promotion measures in the past six years, including the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017, we see an encouraging increase of the journal's reputation. In 2021 Helvetica published 29 communications, 3 essays, 10 reviews and 44 full papers.

Prof. Christophe Copéret and Prof. Jeff Bode, both ETH Zurich, served as *Helvetica* editors for six years and established *Helvetica* as a Swiss-based, high-quality journal. Both editors stepped down at the end of 2021 and are succeeded by Prof. Eva Hevia, University of Bern and Jérôme Waser, EPFL Lausanne.

[onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15222675](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15222675)

## Additional Publishing Activities

The Division of Fundamental Research and the Division of Analytical Sciences hold shares of Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics (PCCP) and Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry (ABC) respectively.



## Overview of SCS Events 2021

### On-site Events

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 19.–20.08.2021 | Peptide Therapeutics Forum, hybrid (DMCCB), University hospital, Basel                     |
| 05.–09.09.2021 | Swiss Summer School: Catalysis and Sustainable Chemistry, Eurotel Victoria, Les Diablerets |
| 09.09.2021     | First Swiss Chemistry Science Night – A Celebration of Chemical Research, Casino Bern      |
| 19.–21.10.2021 | ILMAC Basel (SCS), Messe Schweiz, Basel  |

19.10.2021	Swiss Flow Chemistry Symposium (FlowChem), ILMAC Basel
20.10.2021	2 <sup>nd</sup> Green & Sustainable Chemistry Day (SusChem), ILMAC Basel
21.10.2021	Symposium on Artificial Intelligence & Digitalization in Chemical Research, ILMAC Basel
<b>Online Events</b>	
04.02.2021	DMCCB Basel Symposium (DMCCB)
07.03.2021	Frontiers in Medicinal Chemistry (DMCCB)
14.04.2021	The Future of Chemical Education, ChemEdu (DCE)
15.04.2021	SCS Spring Meeting: Chemistry and the Environment (SCE)
22.–23.04.2021	15 <sup>th</sup> Freiburger Symposium: Industrial & Applied Chemistry 4.0 (DIAC)
06.05.2021	e-Bürgenstock 2021: Presidents meet Young Fellows (SCS)
22.06.2021	4 <sup>th</sup> ETH Conference on Combustion Generated Nanoparticles (SCS/Empa/ETHZ)
29.08.2021	HRMS – 27 <sup>th</sup> Colloquium on High-Resolution Molecular Spectroscopy (SCS/HRMS)
10.09.2021	SCS Fall Meeting, online (SCS)
26.11.2021	6 <sup>th</sup> SCS-Syngenta Symposium (SCS)
Jun–Nov 2021	Casale Mini Symposia Series (SwissCat)

#### Cancelled or Postponed Events

20.–23.01.2021	European Young Chemists, Meeting, EYChem22 (youngSCS), Fribourg, postponed to January 2022
06.–07.05.2021	CHanalysis, Beatenberg (DAS), Beatenberg, postponed to May 2022
03.–08.10.2021	Swiss Course on Medicinal Chemistry, Leysin, postponed to October 2022.
17.11.2021	APPLICA, canceled

#### Short Reports on SCS Events 2021

##### DMCCB Basel Symposium, online, 4 February 2021

This one-day symposium organized by the Swiss Chemical Society, Division Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology, was dedicated to ‘Targeting RNA by small Molecules’.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions we had to reduce the format and had to shift the symposium to a virtual classroom. More than 150 participants from 24 countries all over the world registered for the event and permanently over 100 participants were connected via the online platform and joined the lectures.

Main Speakers were

- Kamal Azzaoui, Saverna Therapeutics, Basel, CH
  - Michaela Frye, Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum, Heidelberg, D
  - Oliver Rausch, Storm Therapeutics, Cambridge, UK
  - Amanda E. Hargrove, Duke University, Durham, US
  - Iris Alroy, Anima Biotech, Bernardsville, US
  - Matthew Disney, Scripps Research Institute, Florida, US
- The Symposium was organized by Dr. Cornelia Zumburrn, Member of the DMCCB board.

##### The Future of Chemical Education, online, 14 April 2021

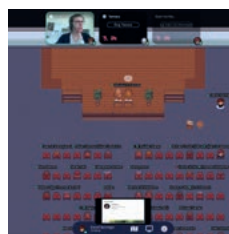
Within the framework of the Spring Meeting of the Swiss Chemical Society the Division of Chemical Education organized a symposium for those involved in teaching chemistry at different

levels such as Sek I, Sek II, Universities of Applied Sciences (FH) and Universities. The major objective of this symposium were the challenges related to teaching chemistry in the first year of the studies at the university. Keynote and invited Speakers:

- Prof. Ingo Krossing, University of Freiburg
- Prof. Stefan Matile, University of Geneva
- Prof. Roland Sigel, University of Zurich
- Prof. Martin Albrecht, University of Bern
- Balmer-Prize lecture: Dr. Hans-Ueli Ehrensperger
- Prof. Simon Lancaster, University of East Anglia
- Prof. Katharina Fromm, University of Fribourg
- Prof. Michael Nash, University of Basel
- Pearson Education
- Prof. Bruno Therrien, University of Neuchatel
- Prof. Carlo Thilgen, ETH Zurich

The symposium was organized and chaired by Prof. Jan Cvengros, President of the Division Chemical Education.

##### SCS Spring Meeting, online, 15 April 2021



The SCS Spring Meeting was the first regular event that was organized by the SCS and looks back on a 120-year-old history that started in 1901. It is a one-day symposium that focuses on a specific topic and provides a high-quality program with national and international speakers. The topic of the 2021 edition was «Chemistry

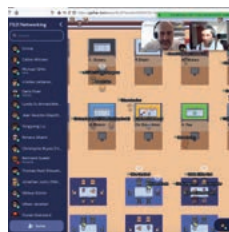
and the Environment».

Keynote Speakers were:

- Prof. Ioannis Katsogiannis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, GR
- Prof. Lucy Carpenter, University of York, UK
- Prof. Tamara Galloway, University of Exeter, UK
- Dr. Michael Sander, ETH Zürich, CH
- Prof. Wendy Queen, EPFL Lausanne, CH
- Prof. Arturo Keller, UC Santa Barbara, US
- Dr. Claudio Screpanti, Syngenta, CH
- Dr. Bettina Hitzfeld, Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), CH

The Symposium was organized by the Section Chemistry and the Environment, that was founded in 2020. The SCS Spring Meeting was the inauguration event of the community and was organized by Prof. Kathrin Fenner, Eawag/University of Zurich and President of the section.

##### 15. Freiburger Symposium, online, 22–23 April 2021



The objective of this biennial conference is to regularly provide our members and other interested chemists working in process development and production with opportunities for professional training and networking. The event was organized by the SCS Division of Industrial & Applied Chemistry (DIAC). For the first time

the Freiburger Symposium took place as an online symposium to fulfill the regulations of the government and to facilitate safe exchange of scientific information. The talks and lectures were provided via the video conference platform Zoom.

The symposium also offered an excellent platform to exchange research results in form of virtual posters (short video), which were accessible for registered participants during the entire conference week. The two best presentations were awarded with the Freiburger Symposium Poster Prize (certificate and prize money of 200 CHF). To stimulate the interaction between the participants, a virtual

conference room on GatherTown was implemented and offered the possibility of 1:1 or n:n online interactions.

Invited speakers:

- Prof. C. Oliver Kappe, University of Graz, Austria
- Dr. Serena Mostarda, Novartis Pharma AG, Basel, Switzerland
- Dr. Harvey Randall, Firmenich SA, La Plaine, Switzerland
- Dr. Sylvie Roussel, Ondalys, France
- Dr. Helge Engelking, Lonza AG, Visp, Switzerland, Lecturer from SEEQ Corporation
- PD Dr. Michael Bortz, Fraunhofer ITWM Kaiserslauten, Germany
- Ing. Philipp Karmires, Linde, Germany
- Dr. Andreas Schuster as representative of the Ipatasertib Team at F. Hoffmann La-Roche, Basel and
- Dr. Christoph Strasser, Dottikon Exclusive Synthesis AG, Switzerland
- Dr. Hernan Aguiar Garcia, Syngenta Crop Protection, Basel, Switzerland
- Prof. Clemence Corminboeuf, EPFL Lausanne / NCCR Catalysis
- Dr. Oliver Steinhof, Biogen International GmbH, Baar, Switzerland
- Dr. Hans-Peter Nirmaier, Lonza AG, Visp, Switzerland

The whole board of the Division Industrial & Applied Chemistry contributed to the organization of the event. The OC committee was led by Prof. Roger Marti, HEIA-FR and Ing. Urban Jenelten, Firmenich.

#### e-Bürgenstock Conference, online, 6 May 2021

In the middle of what seems to be a dark period for all of us, we are eager to lift each other's spirits, and in particular, those of our young fellow colleagues who should have participated in the JSP program of both Bürgenstock conferences, 2020 and 2021. Therefore, we decided to organize an online event entitled 'e-Bürgenstock 2021: Presidents meet Young Fellows' as a way to celebrate science and give the JSP fellows the opportunity to 'virtually' meet and share their exciting discoveries with the most renowned members of the chemistry community.

Invited Lectures:

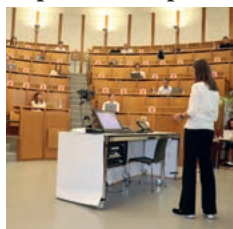
- Prof. Veronique Gouverneur, University of Oxford
- Prof. Don Hilvert, ETH Zürich
- Prof. Ilan Marek, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
- Prof. Herbert Waldmann, TU Dortmund

JSP Contributions:

- Prof. Shoubhik Das, University of Antwerp
- Dr. Michael Parmentier, Novartis AG
- Dr. Luca Dell'Amico, University of Padova
- Prof. Dmitry Katayev, University of Fribourg
- Prof. Olalla Vázquez, Marburg University
- Dr. Denis Gribkov, Syngenta Crop Protection AG
- Prof. Song Lin, Cornell University
- Prof. Sophie Rousseaux, University of Toronto

The organizing committee met at Hotel Waldstätterhof in Brunnen and chaired the online symposium as a team in the traditional Bürgenstock location.

#### Peptide Therapeutics Forum, Basel/online, 19–20 August 2021



The Forum took place as a hybrid event and provided presentations that highlighted important new insights regarding the drug discovery of peptides including examples for successful development candidates. The forum disseminated information on latest news in the broad field of therapeutic peptides

and enabled networking of interested parties from academia and industries.

Keynote and invited speakers:

- Nina Hartrampf, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- Steven Trim, Venomtech, UK
- Helena Safavi-Hemami, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- Elisabeth von Guggenberg, University Hospital Innsbruck, Austria

Plenary Lectures:

- Bart Cornelissen, University of Oxford, UK
- Gerardo Guillen, Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Cuba
- John Vrettos, Enteris Biopharma, US
- Manuel Sanchez-Felix, Novartis, US
- Christophe Chambard, Bachem AG, Switzerland
- Kristian Strømgaard, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- Norbert Sewald, Bielefeld University, Germany
- Deborah O'Neil, NovaBiotics, UK
- Christian Schwarz, Numaferm GmbH, Düsseldorf, Germany
- Jean-Louis Reymond, University of Bern, Switzerland
- Sridhar Nimmagadda, John Hopkins University School of Medicine, US
- Jesse Dong, Biontech, US
- Dehua Pei, Ohio State University, US

30 on-site and about 150 online participants attended the symposium, which was organized and chaired by Prof. Melpomeni Fani, University of Basel, Prof. Roderich Süsmuth, TU Berlin and Dr. Thomas Vorherr, Novartis, Basel.

#### Swiss Summer School «Les Diablerets», 5–9 September 2021



The focus of this edition of the series of the Summer Schools on Trends in Organic Synthesis was on Catalysis and Sustainability. It was a joint event with the NCCR Catalysis and was held in Les Diablerets, in the beautiful Alps Vaudoises region above Lake Geneva.

Lecturers:

- Prof. Robert H. Grubbs, Caltech
- Prof. Christophe Copéret, ETH Zürich
- Prof. Eva Hevia, University of Bern
- Prof. Todd Hyster, Cornell University
- Prof. Anat Milo, Ben Gurion University
- Prof. Javier Pérez-Ramírez, ETH Zurich
- Dr. Thomas Carl, Siegfried AG
- Dr. Susanne Drechsler, SULZER Chemtech
- Dr. Markus Fischer, Merck/Sigma-Aldrich Production GmbH
- Dr. Edouard Godineau, Syngenta Crop Protection AG
- Dr. Teodoro Laino, IBM Zurich Research Laboratory
- Dr. Audrey Langlois, Novartis
- Dr. Lucie Lovelle, Novartis
- Dr. Christoph Boss, Senior Vice President, Head of Drug Discovery Chemistry, Idorsia Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
- Dr. Jos de Keijzer, Sr. Workflow Architect, Chemspeed
- Elisa Anders, MSc, Talent Acquisition Lead DE-CH, Merck
- Dr. Cecelia Tortoreto, Siegfried AG
- Audrey Dillier, Siegfried AG

A conference report was published in *CHIMIA* 75, 12/2021, 1071 ff.

#### Swiss Chemistry Science Night, Bern, 9 September 2021

On September 9, 2021, the first Swiss Chemistry Science Night took place at Casino Bern! More than eighty invited guests and most of the award winners 2020 and 2021 followed the invitation

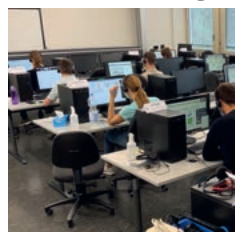


and enjoyed the first real on-site event of the SCS since March 2020. Leslie Fendt, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, and Martin Vollmer, Clariant, guided through the evening as moderators and presented the guests and awardees in dialogue with the SCS president, Alain De Mesmaeker, in a competent and highly entertaining manner.

Andrea Gmür, Die Mitte (LU), and Stephan Mumenthaler, director of *scienceindustries*, opened the evening with their welcome messages before no less than 32 winners for 17 prizes were honored. The event honored the winners of the 2020 and 2021 Swiss Chemical Society Awards in front of distinguished leaders from industry and academia as well as representatives from politics and was a celebration of discovery and innovation in the chemical sciences. The gala was very much appreciated by the community and provided a networking platform for industry and academic members.

After six years of service, Alain De Mesmaeker stepped down as SCS President at the end of 2021 and was honored for his impact and achievements. Hans Peter Lüthi was honored for his service of nine years as SCS treasurer.

### SCS Fall Meeting, online, 10 September 2021



Also, the SCS Fall Meeting, one of the largest annual research conferences in Switzerland, was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The event was held as a virtual conference to fulfill the regulations of the government and to facilitate safe exchange of scientific information. The talks and lectures were provided on nine parallel running Zoom

video conference platforms.

The Scientific Program offered Award Lectures presented by leaders in their respective fields, as well as invited and contributed lectures in nine thematic sessions covering all of chemistry. For each of these, there was also a virtual poster session available during the whole week.

Traditionally, the ceremonies of the Best Oral and Best Virtual Poster Presentation Award complete the program at the end of the day and the organizers awarded 39 presenters (18 winners and 21 runners-up) with a total prize sum of CHF 42'750. See *CHIMIA* 75, 10/2021, A900 for the list of all winners.

Prof. Eva Hevia, University of Bern, and Dr. Hans Peter Lüthi, ETH Zurich co-chaired the event and provided a fantastic online experience in collaboration with the session chairs, the supporters from University of Bern and the SCS Head Office.

#### Program Highlights:

- Two plenary sessions with lectures of SCS prize winners
- Virtual Poster Session during the whole week
- Nine thematic parallel sessions with keynote lectures and 15min PhD presentations
- Best oral and best virtual poster presentation awards

#### Topics of the parallel sessions

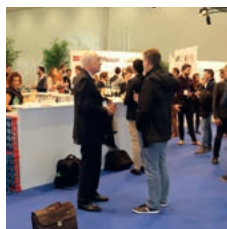
- Analytical Sciences
- Catalysis Science & Engineering
- Computational Chemistry
- Chemistry and the Environment
- Inorganic & Coordination Chemistry
- Medicinal Chemistry & Chemical Biology
- Organic Chemistry
- Physical Chemistry
- Polymers, Colloids & Interfaces

#### Plenary and Award Lecturers

- Prof. Raffaella Buonsanti, EPFL Sion  
Werner Prize Winner 2021

- Dr. Pierdomenico Biasi, Casale SA, and Dr. René Eckert, Clariant Produkte (Deutschland) GmbH  
Sandmeyer Award Winners 2021
- Dr. Andrew Edmunds, Syngenta Crop Protection AG  
SCS Industrial Science Award winner 2021
- Dr. Cornelia Zumbunn, Idorsia Pharmaceuticals Ltd  
SCS Senior Industrial Science Award winner 2021

### ILMAC Basel, 19–21 October 2021



ILMAC fair 2021 was organized in Basel and has established itself as an important event that provides knowledge exchange platforms for the whole laboratory and process chemistry community.

SCS was present with a large exhibitor booth and offered the universities of applied sciences and partner

societies the opportunity to present themselves as co-exhibitors.

In the ILMAC Forum, that was part of the fair and embedded in the fair hall, the SCS organized three symposia on each day of the event:

#### Tue, October 19, 2021: Swiss Flow Chemistry Symposium

Invited Speakers:

- Dr. Paolo Filippini, Novartis
- Dr. Jan Schütz, DSM Nutritional Products
- Dr. Chris Scarborough & Matthias Lehmann, Syngenta
- Dr. Agnieszka Ladosz, Idorsia Ltd.
- Dr. Dominique Roberge, Lonza
- Prof. Roger Marti, HEIA Fribourg
- Prof. Nina Hartrampf, University of Zurich

A Roundtable discussion and an aperitif completed the program. The event was organized and chaired by Dr. Claudio Battilocchio, Syngenta, Prof. Francesca Paradisi, University of Bern, Prof. Christof Sparr, University of Basel and Dr. Jacques Membrez, Givaudan SA.

#### Wed, October 20, 2021: 2<sup>nd</sup> Green & Sustainable Chemistry Day

Invited Speakers:

- Ludo Diels, University of Antwerp
- Regina Palkovitz, RWTH Aachen University
- Jason Camp, CIRCA
- Walter Leitner, Max Planck Institut for Energy Conversion
- Ignaz Höhle, Clariant
- Katalin Barta, University of Graz
- Florent Héroguel, Bloom
- Victor Mougél, ETH Zürich
- Francesca Paradisi, University of Bern
- Michael Carus, Co-Founder of the Renewable Carbon Initiative, Nova-Institut, Germany

The Symposium was organized by the SusChem CH board under the lead of Edouard Godineau, Syngenta Crop Protection AG.

As part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SusChem Day the SCS and Clariant awarded the Swiss CleanTech Award:

- |             |                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Winner:     | Selina K. Kaiser, ETH Zürich        |
| Runners-up: | Scott R. Docherty, ETH Zürich       |
|             | Wooseok Yang, University of Zurich  |
|             | Ahmed Elabd, University of Fribourg |

#### Thu, October 21, 2021: Symposium on Artificial Intelligence & Digitalization in Chemical Research

Invited Speakers:

- Alessandra Toniato, IBM Research
- Marco Stenta, Syngenta

- Rolf Gueller, Chemspeed Technologies AG
- Nik Stiefl & Finton Sirockin, Novartis
- Eric Alan Baur & Laurens Versluis, F. Hoffmann-La Roche
- Daniel Kuhn, Merck Healthcare KgaA
- Hergen Schultze, BASF
- Elisa Liberatore & Julien Hazemann, Idorsia

The symposium was organized and chaired by Torsten Luksch, Syngenta, Hans Peter Luethi, SCS and Arndt Finkelmann, Syngenta.

### 6<sup>th</sup> SCS-Syngenta Symposium, 26 November 2021

The Swiss Chemical Society and Syngenta organized the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the one-day symposium entitled 'Chemistry lab of the future' on Friday November 26, 2021. The focus was on cutting edge advances in synthesis design, reaction optimization and drug design assisted by AI as well as the robotic aspects of synthesis automation and testing. The flash communication session consisted of ten 3 min presentations/1 slide format to give the participant the opportunity to show their field of research.

Invited Speakers were:

- Dr. Guillaume Berthon, Syngenta Crop Protection, Japan
- Dr. Alexander Marziale, Novartis, CH
- Dr. Alain Vaucher, IBM Research, CH
- Dr. Magnus Johansson, AstraZeneca, Sweden
- Prof. Andy Cooper, University of Liverpool, UK
- Prof. King Kuok Mimi Hii, Imperial College, UK
- Prof. Anat Milo, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel
- Dr. Stevan Djuric, University of Kansas, USA
- Dr. Petrina Kamyra, In silico Medicine, Canada
- Prof. Jason Hein, The University of British Columbia, Canada
- Prof. Alán Aspuru-Guzik, University of Toronto, Canada

*Helvetica* sponsored the Award for the Best Flash Communications. The two winners, Antonio Pedrina, University of Cambridge, UK and Umberto Raucci, Stanford University, USA were honored with a certificate and a cash contribution of CHF 200.–.

### Casale Online Mini-Symposia Series

To celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Casale in collaboration with the Section Catalysis of the Swiss Chemical Society (SwissCat) launched a new series of online mini symposia. Researchers from all over the world participated and learned about the latest developments in the fields of homogeneous, heterogeneous and bio-catalysis.

#### #1, June 8, 2021: «Overview on research in the field of CO<sub>2</sub> capture, storage and utilization»

- Prof. Marco Mazzotti, ETH Zürich
- Prof. Raffaella Buonsanti, EPFL Valais, Sion
- Prof. André Bardow, ETH Zurich

#### #2, November 16, 2021: «Catalysis for the Industrial Renaissance and New Sustainable Processes»

- Prof. Christophe Coperet, ETH Zurich
- Prof. Gabriele Centi, University of Messina
- Prof. Marinella Mazzanti, EPFL Lausanne
- Prof. Robert Schlögl, Max Planck Institute for Chemical Energy Conversion

#### #3, November 24, 2021: «Accelerating discoveries through computational chemistry and modelling»

- Prof. Michele Parrinello, ETH Zurich
- Dr. Teodoro Laino, IBM Research Zurich
- Dr. Giovanni Maria Piccini, USI



### Reports from the SCS Networks

To complement the activities of our traditional divisions and sections, SCS has implemented additional thematic networks in recent years.

In the background, the networks were quite active, but on-site events and personal interactions with the community members were rare. Most activities had to be cancelled or postponed due to the Covid-19 situation.

#### As of December 2021, the SCG maintains the following thematic networks:

- Analytical Sciences (DAS)
- Catalysis (SwissCat)
- Chemical Ecology (ChemEco)
- Chemical Education (ChemEdu)
- Chemistry and the Environment (SCE)
- Computational Chemistry / Artificial Intelligence (CC)
- Flow Chemistry (FlowChem)
- Food Chemistry (Swiss Society for Food Chemistry)
- Green & Sustainable Chemistry (SusChem CH)
- Industrial & Applied Chemistry (DIAC)
- Inorganic Chemistry (IC)
- Intellectual Property (IP)
- Mass Spectrometry (Swiss Group for Mass Spectrometry)
- Materials Chemistry (MatChem)
- Medicinal Chemistry & Chemical Biology (DMCCB)
- Organic Chemistry (OC)
- Photochemistry (PCS)
- Physical Chemistry (PC)
- Polymers, Colloids & Interfaces (DPCI)
- Fundamental Research (Umbrella for OC, IC, PC, CC)

#### As of December 2021, the SCG maintains the following social networks:

- youngSCS
- Swiss Women in Chemistry (SWC)
- Honorary Members
- Alfred Werner Scholars
- Chemistry Europe Fellows

### Division of Analytical Sciences (DAS)

A major development within the Swiss Chemical Society has been to aim for a more unified presentation toward a wide range of potential stakeholders, and the DAS is playing a significant role in this development. Relationships with industrial partners are now increasingly sought at the SCS level, which allows their voice to be heard while also providing for recurring support of various activities and events held by different divisions. Most awards, including the METAS prize in metrology, are now selected by an SCS awards committee, except for the bi-annual Simon Widmer Award given by DAS, which is handled by an international committee. Another major change involves the continuing education program which is being topically broadened and rebranded, and its administration newly integrated into the SCS head office.

*Prof. Eric Bakker, President DAS*



### Division of Industrial & Applied Chemistry (DIAC)

For the Freiburger Symposium in April 2021, first time as online event, the organizers were surprised by the success of the conference and possibility to exchange with other participants via the virtual conference tool. After the cancellation of the June event, the DIAC General Assembly took place in September for the first time for a long time as an on-site event. Everyone appreciated it very much and the excellent organization allowed networking and exchange among each other. The same at the DIAC workshop in November, with everyone on site in Lenzburg, the activities for 2022 and 2023 could be efficiently discussed and planned.

*Prof. Roger Marti, President DIAC*

### Division of Chemical Education (DCE)

The threat of the corona virus and COVID-19 again caused significant disruption to educational processes in 2021. Especially in the first half of the last year, the University lecture halls remained closed, and the symposium organized by the Division of Chemical Education also had to be moved into virtual space. Much to the delight of the students and lecturers, the dark veil of the pandemic was partly lifted in the fall semester and in-person teaching, albeit with restrictions, enabled improved communication between teachers and class members. This provided an impetus for the forthcoming year, and accordingly, the wheels of activity were set in motion within the division for 2022 and a planned DCE Symposium in 2023.

*Prof. Jan Cvengros, President DCE*

### Photochemistry Section

One of the Sections big accomplishments was the French Swiss Photochemistry Symposium that took place online via Zoom, 21–22 January 2021.

The composition of the executive committee of the photochemistry section has been modified. Indeed, after having actively participated in the organization of the French Swiss Photochemistry Symposium (online, 21–22 January 2021), Tatu Kumpulainen returned to Finland and therefore decided to leave the committee. The members of the committee acknowledge him for all the work accomplished for the section during several years. He was replaced on the committee by Tomáš Solomek (University of Bern). For 2022, the section planned to organize the Photochemistry Symposium in Fribourg (HES-SO/HEIA-FR), 17 June 2022.

*Prof. Olivier Nicolet, President PCS*

### Section of Chemistry and the Environment (SCE)

This year's Swiss Chemical Society (SCS) Spring Meeting was dedicated to the topic of 'Chemistry and the Environment' and constituted the inaugural meeting of the newly founded SCS Section with the very same name. An excellent board of international experts presented topics ranging from atmospheric chemistry, across microplastic and biodegradable polymers, all the way to chemical innovation to support sustainable agriculture and future challenges in environmental chemistry legislation. The board would have loved to organize an in-person meeting to give the members of this young section the opportunity to start getting to know each other and start developing joint research ideas, yet this was unfortunately still not possible. Instead, they decided to meet as avatars on GatherTown... despite a few technical hiccups, this was another nice example of where SCE wants to be: Ahead of the crowd!

*Prof. Kathrin Fenner, President SCE*

### Swiss Association of Computational Chemistry (SACC)

The SACC held its Spring Meeting on February 12, 2021 online. The meeting was organized by a group of PhD students

from Lausanne and Zurich. There were six presentations by young researchers from Swiss Universities and a virtual poster session.

The SACC organized the Computational Chemistry session within the SCS Fall Meeting on September 15, 2021. There was a total of 10 contributed talks and two invited presentations by Prof. Letizia Gonzales (University of Vienna) and Dr. Christoph P. Sager (Idorsia Pharmaceuticals Ltd). In addition, a virtual poster session was held.

Board Members: Prof. Jürg Hutter (University of Zurich), Prof. Tomasz Wesolowski (University of Geneva), Prof. Markus Meuwly (University of Basel), Prof. Ursula Röthlisberger (EPFL), Dr. Daniele Passerone (EMPA), Prof. Jeremy Richardson (ETHZ), Dr. Torsten Luksch (Syngenta), Prof. Sergey Churakov (University of Bern)

*Prof. Jürg Hutter, President SACC*

### Social Communities

#### youngSCS

2021 has been a difficult year for all of us due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite that, the youngSCS has grown a lot and established a series of online conferences. Our biggest events have been the UniDays and the EYCheM. The UniDays was a week full of talks with different PIs from various Swiss research institutions that introduced themselves and their research to young chemists. The EYCheM unfortunately had to be cancelled and postponed to 2022 and will now be held online. Despite the difficulties, the youngSCS board has been able to meet twice in person (Summer retreat in Ausserberg and Gluehwein event in Bern) to discuss the future directions and events. Looking forward to a very active 2022.

Benjamin Ries, ETH Zurich, stepped down as president and handed over the mandate to Lluc Farrera Soler, University of Geneva.

*Lluc Ferrera Soler, President youngSCS*

#### Swiss Women in Chemistry (SWC)

It has been two years already since the official launch of the SCS Swiss Women in Chemistry (SWC) platform. The network was created, in part, as an initiative to increase participation of female speakers at SCS chemistry conferences and scientific advisory boards within Switzerland. Typically, over the past years, women comprise from 20–30% of the SCS conference audience, but this percentage is not reflected in the speakers' program, with several recent Swiss meetings lacking any female speakers. Two events have been held, namely at Novartis and Firmenich, both in an online format. During these Insights events, students had the opportunity to learn more about the career path of junior or senior industrial scientists, as well as interact more directly with female industrial scientists through workshops in small groups. Organized in collaboration with Novartis, the Round Table events covered the topic of careers in chemistry. The two events already held were online due to the pandemic, but we are hoping to move to an in-person format in 2022.

The two sessions attracted approximately 100 participants each. For the second event, half of the participants (51%) were PhD students, another 27% were PostDocs and 13% were master students, with the remaining percentage corresponding to established academic or industrial members.

*Dr. Maud Reiter, Co-Chair of the SWC network*

## National Collaboration

### Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences (A+)

The SCS is member of the Academies of Natural Sciences (SCNAT) and the Academy of Technical Sciences (SATW) and maintains a good partnership with joint-initiatives and mutual support for each other's activities.

### *scienceindustries*

Hans Peter Lüthi represents the SCS in the board of *scienceindustries* and participates in the Executive Committee Education and Research.

### Links to Academia, Industry and Governance

As the majority of the SCS mandates are based on volunteer work, SCS maintains good contacts to all stakeholders in the field to find board members at all levels and in all fields, representing academia, industry, and government.

### Member Societies and Partner Societies

- Verein Schweizerischer Amts- und Spitalapotheker (GSASA)
- Swiss Association of Computational Chemistry (SACC)
- Swiss Society for Food Chemistry (SSFC)
- Swiss Group for Mass Spectrometry (SGMS)
- Verein Schweizerischer Naturwissenschaftslehrerinnen und -lehrer (VSN)
- Life Sciences Switzerland LS2

## International Collaboration

### European Chemical Society (EuChemS)

Delegates from the Swiss Chemical Society

- Executive Board: Christophe Copéret, ETHZ
- Division of Organic Chemistry: Jeffrey Bode, ETHZ

- Division of Inorganic Chemistry: Kay Severin, EPFL
- Division of Analytical Chemistry: Franka Kalman, HESSO/VS
- Division of Chemistry and the Environment: Thomas Bucheli, Agroscope
- Division of Nuclear and Radiochemistry: Andreas Türler, PSI
- Division of Food Chemistry: Laura Nyström, ETHZ
- Division of Organometallic Chemistry: Martin Albrecht, Bern
- Division of Chemistry in Life Sciences: Input via EFMC
- Division of Computational Chemistry: Hans Peter Lüthi, ETHZ
- Division of Physical Chemistry: Stefan Willitsch, Basel
- Division of Education: Dr. Markus Müller, Kanti Frauenfeld and Klemens Koch, PH Bern
- Division of Solid State and Materials Chemistry: Greta Patzke, University of Zürich
- European Young Chemists' Network EYCN: Stephanie Linker and Patrick W. Fritz

### Other International Collaborations

SCS also maintains contact with other international organizations like Eurachem, SusChem Europe (ETP), IUPAC and partner societies from its neighboring countries.

Bern, January 2022

David Spichiger, Céline Wittwer, Alain De Mesmaeker, Hans Peter Lüthi, Gillian Harvey