



SCS
Swiss Chemical
Society

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Published in CHIMIA Volume 75, No 1-2/2021

Introduction and Summary

With pleasure we look back on a very interesting and active year. The Swiss Chemical Society not only continued and developed its well-established activities but again pushed new initiatives to face today's challenges. We also implemented new sections and networks to incorporate community members whose interests had not been covered so far. In addition, the SCS took over the responsibility for existing programs that now run under the umbrella of the SCS and complete our activity portfolio.

2020 was one of the most difficult and challenging years that we have lived through at the personal and professional level and the outbreak of the global Covid-19 pandemic restricted our life in ways we could never have imagined. From March 2020, meetings with larger groups were prohibited and collaboration was therefore limited to virtual meetings. Many of our events had to be cancelled, postponed or conducted virtually and it seems that this situation will continue at least until summer 2021.

As a typical network organization, the SCS focuses as much on personal contacts as on the exchange of scientific knowledge, and these contacts had to be reduced to a minimum. Nevertheless, we faced the challenges and remained very active serving our members, developing and broadening the Society's focus to meet the members' expectations and needs in the future. The SCS Executive Board and the Head Office, supported the many voluntary members of our network, re-organized activities and produced them as online events. The numerous feedbacks and the large number of participants in our events showed that our decisions were highly appreciated.

Of course, we all look forward to moving again to face-to-face events, which are so much needed to keep us fully involved in science and enjoying the SCS community. We can assure you that we will return to normal life as soon as the epidemiological situation will allow it.

After nearly 75 years of publishing activity in one or another form, CHIMIA entered a significant new phase in 2020 by becoming a platinum Open Access journal. All scientific articles are available immediately free of charge. This important step forward was accompanied by a redesign of the cover and an update of the layout of the scientific articles.

In addition to the well-established activities, we focused on the following new initiatives:

- Establish the *Section Chemistry and the Environment*, incl. CHIMIA issue 3/2020 and a new parallel session at the SCS Fall Meeting on that topic.
- New strategic orientation of *SusChem Switzerland* and merge the network with the SCS community of *Green and Sustainable Chemistry*.
- Launch three new networks in the fields of *Chemical Ecology*, *Flow Chemistry* and *Materials Chemistry* and define the mission statements as well as first activities for 2021.

- Develop and promote the two social networks *Women in Chemistry* and *youngSCS*, which reinforce and enrich our strong thematic communities.
- Develop the new SCS webpage including the portals for our thematic and social communities as well as a new website template for the efficient handling of our numerous events.

Furthermore, we stayed actively connected to our partners and co-operated in many projects. Please enjoy reading through the 2020 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



21 communities
>220 militia
board members

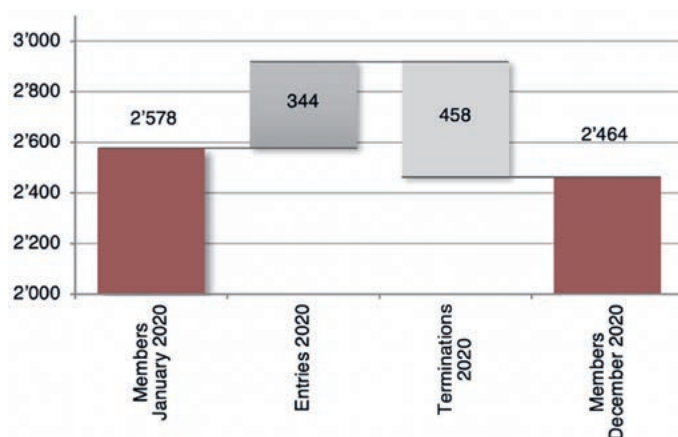


7 Employees
3.6 FTE

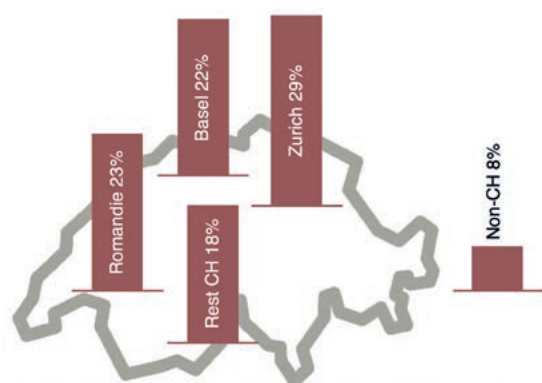


~1.7 Mio CHF
financial turnover

Development of Membership Figures: –114



Regional Distribution of Members



Members' Areas of Employment



All figures are based on the SCS member database as per 31.12.2020.

SCS Board Members and Employees

Executive Board ExB

- Dr. Alain De Mesmaeker, Syngenta Crop Protection AG
SCS President
- Prof. Christian Bochet, University of Fribourg
SCS Vice President
- Dr. Gillian Harvey, Luzern
President CHIMIA Editorial Board
- Dr. Hans Peter Lüthi, ETH Zurich
SCS Treasurer
- 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)
‡ Successor of Marc Suter, Eawag
- Prof. Stefan Willitsch, University of Zurich
President Division of Fundamental Research (DFR)
‡ Successor of Roger Alberto, University of Zurich
- Prof. Jean-Louis Reymond, University of Bern
President Division of Medical Chemistry & Chemical Biology (DMCCB)
‡ Successor of Yves Auberson, Novartis
- Prof. Harm-Anton Klok, EPFL Lausanne
President Division Polymers, Colloids and Interfaces (DPCI)
‡ Successor of Christian Hinderling, ZHAW Wädenswil
- Dr. Jan Cvengros, ETH Zurich
President Division Chemical Education (DCE)
‡ Successor of Antonio Togni, ETH Zurich
- Prof. Christophe Copéret, ETH Zurich
National and international relations
- Prof. Sandrine Gerber, EPFL Lausanne
Member of the board
- Dr. Martin Vollmer, Clariant AG
Member of the board

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the outgoing Division Presidents for their years of dedication and for all the efforts they have made for the SCS and their communities.

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 (0.4 FTE)

SCS General Assembly 2021



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the SCS Spring Meeting as platform for the 2020 General Assembly (GA) was cancelled and the GA had to be postponed from April 3 to June 24. Restrictions for onsite meetings that were still in place in middle of June forced us to hold the assembly as a video conference (Zoom platform). David Spichiger, SCS Executive Director, led the meeting and ensured that all legal requirements were fulfilled.

Update of the SCS Bylaws

The assembly approved unanimously the completion of the bylaws and agreed to underline the society's efforts to ensure equality of all its members. Inclusivity and diversity form the basis of the vibrant field that we work in and this must be promoted both at individual and institutional levels to allow the chemical sciences in Switzerland to prosper and grow. The two following paragraphs were included in the bylaws:

Article 2, "Purpose": 2.2 The Society actively supports equality for all its members.

Article 4, "Joining the Society" 4.2 Membership is open to everyone who identifies with the aims and values of the Society.

The minutes were published in *CHIMIA* 07-08/2020, A635f.

SCS Partnership and Corporate Memberships



We implemented 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)
- VIP Guests/Delegates at the Swiss Chemistry Science Night

SCS Partnership Agreements of 2020/21



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

Bachem AG, Büchi AG, CABB AG, Carbogen Amcis AG, CIM Chemicals AG, ETH Zurich, Febex S.A., Firmenich SA, Helsinn Advanced Synthesis SA, Ivoclar Vivadent AG, Kumar Organic Products Europe AG, MDPI AG, Merck & Cie, Metalor Technologies SA, METAS, Federal Institute of Metrology, Omya International AG, Plasmion GmbH, Rolic Technologies Ltd., SAS Institute GmbH, Schärer & Schläpfer AG, Shimadzu Schweiz GmbH, SICPA SA, Siegfried Ltd., Société Suisse des Explosifs, Thermo Fischer Scientific (Schweiz) AG, UCB FARCHIM SA

Communication



active: Events, Networks, Awards and Publishing.
<https://scg.ch>

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 profile counts more than 1'500 followers.

By sending newsletters, we 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.

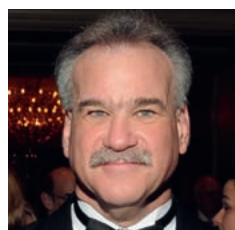


SCS Scientific Awards

The SCS awarded seven individuals and one group of scientists for their outstanding contributions. A total sum of CHF 82'000 as well as medals and award certificates were presented to the prize winners.

Paracelsus Prize

CHF 20'000 and gold medal; awarded to scholars who have produced outstanding scientific research in the field of chemistry at an international level. The award was presented to



Prof. Scott E. Denmark, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (USA), for his role as internationally recognized leader in the development of novel concepts of catalysis, of very useful synthetic methods, and insightful mechanistic investigations in organic chemistry.

The award lecture was given online at the virtual SCS Fall Meeting on August 25, 2020.

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. Konrad Tiefenbacher, University of Basel/ETH Zurich, for his innovative and original research in the field of supramolecular catalysis with focus on catalysis inside supramolecular containers, so called 'capsules'.

The award lecture took place at the virtual SCS Fall Meeting 2020.

Sandmeyer Award

CHF 20'000 awarded to a person or to a group for outstanding work in industrial or applied chemistry. In 2020 the SCS awarded a joint team from Roche and Dottikon Synthesis AG, namely



Dr. Andreas Schuster, Dr. Caroline Maierhofer, Dr. Stephan Bachmann, Dr. Hans Iding, Dr. Christian Lautz, Dr. Régis Mondière, Dr. Philipp Schmidt, Dr. Isabelle Thomé, from the Ipatasertib Team at F. Hoffmann La-Roche, and **Dr. Christoph Strasser** from Dottikon Exclusive Synthesis AG, for the

development of an economical, scalable and sustainable process to produce Ipatasertib, an Akt kinase inhibitor currently tested in Phase III clinical trials for the treatment of metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer and triple negative metastatic breast cancer.

One award lecture was held at the virtual SCS Fall Meeting on August 25, 2020 and a second lecture will take place at the Freiburger Symposium in April 2021.

Balmer Prize

CHF 2'000 for individuals and CHF 2'000 for the school's chemistry department. SCS awarded



Dr. Hans-Ueli Ehrensperger, Kantonsschule Frauenfeld als Auszeichnung seines Lebenswerks als Chemielehrer.

The award lecture had been planned at the ChemEdu conference in August 2020 but was postponed to ChemEdu 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



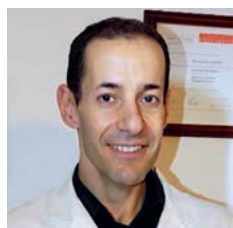
Nicola Christian Lüdi, Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften, Wädenswil, für seine Bachelorarbeit «Immobilisierung von PETase auf elektrogenen Cellulose-Nanofasermatten zum Abbau von Mikroplastik»

SCS Senior Industrial Science Award 2020

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. Two prizes were given, namely to



Dr. Frank Petersen, Novartis Pharmaceuticals AG, Basel, is awarded in recognition of his outstanding contributions in the field of natural product research over three decades that includes the investigations for several products on the market or in clinical evaluation, the integration of natural product based scaffolds classes in chemical biology for the identification of novel targets, but also the partnerships in microbial sourcing and in accessing isolated plant metabolites in Africa, China, and Thailand.



Dr. Hasane Ratni, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Basel, is awarded in recognition of his outstanding contributions to medicinal chemistry and his track record of delivering successful clinical development candidates resulting in five molecules entering human clinical trials. This includes the seminal work on RNA interaction with small molecules leading to the discovery of risdiplam.

SCS Industrial Science Award 2020

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. Denis Jacoby, Firmenich SA, Geneva, gets the award to honor his outstanding achievements at Firmenich especially the development of major new processes for several key perfumery ingredients that are manufactured on multi MT scale today.

METAS Award

CHF 5'000 honors outstanding contribution to the field of metrology in chemistry and/or biology. The 2020 award was given to



Kamyar Mehrabir, ETH Zurich, Trace Element and Micro Analysis, for his work on a online micro-droplet calibration method for sp-ICP-TOF to eliminate matrix effect in nanoparticles.

The award ceremony and the lecture had been planned for the CHAnalysis 2020 and was postponed to 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 to 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. Andrei Yudin, University of Toronto (CAN)

'The dark side of conformational analysis'

Tour dates: February 17–21, 2020

Tour organizer: Prof. Ch. Sparr, University of Basel

All other lectureships that were planned from March to December 2020 had to be cancelled and/or rescheduled due to the Covid-19 pandemic:

- Prof. Darren Dixon, Oxford University (UK)
- Prof. Edward I. Solomon, Stanford University (USA)
- Prof. David Nesbitt, JILA and University of Colorado, Boulder
- Prof. Jennifer Field, Oregon State University (USA)
- Prof. Abby Doyle, Princeton University (USA)

Heilbronner-Hückel Lecture Award

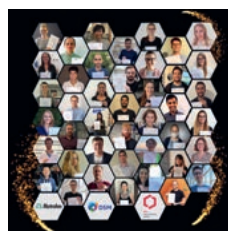
The Heilbronner-Hückel Lecture Series was implemented in 2009 with the first series in 2010 together with the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh). The annual series takes place alternatively in Switzerland and Germany.

2020 Lecturer: **Katharina Kohse-Hoeinghaus**, University of Bielefeld. Her research targets combustion chemistry and diagnostics with a multidisciplinary approach encompassing aspects of chemistry, physics, material science and engineering.



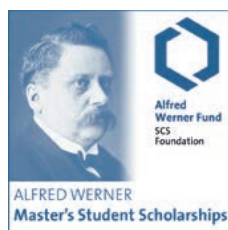
Scholarship Awards

Best Presentation Awards at the SCS Fall Meeting



At the virtual SCS Fall Meeting on August 25, 2020, Metrohm and DSM again sponsored the very renowned Best Presentation Awards Program. A total of 42 presenters (19 winners and 23 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 duration were presented. The talks were given via the Zoom video platform. See CHIMIA 9/2020, A741 for the list of all winners.

Alfred Werner Scholarship Program



In 2020, the six Alfred Werner Scholars of the class of 2018–2020 successfully completed their MSc studies. Most of them were able to finish their MSc thesis research project right before the pandemic struck. Only a few experienced a delay caused by lockouts from the laboratory.

In April, the Alfred Werner Fund Allocation Committee evaluated eighteen nominations for a scholarship submitted by the Swiss universities, granting eleven stipends. In September, eight students started their MSc studies. Three students received scholarships from other institutions in their own country. The transfer to Switzerland during this difficult time was an extra challenge, but mastered very well by all.

49

scholarships
granted since 2013

26

countries of origin
of our scholars

49:51

gender ratio
of the scholars

Unfortunately, social gatherings with the scholars were not possible. The Meet&Greet visit planned at Givaudan was postponed to "better times", and the Welcome/Farewell

Dinner event planned for October had to be cancelled. Instead, a LinkedIn Group with all Alfred Werner Scholars, current, alumni, representatives of the program-supporting companies and university delegates was established as an extra means to communicate.

Since 2013, the year the Alfred Werner Foundation was integrated into the SCS Foundation, 49 scholarships have been granted. All students completed their studies, some with distinction. Most scholars continued their studies in Switzerland. The first alumni have started their professional careers, again most of them in Switzerland.

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. Due the pandemic situation not as many applications were submitted as usual and the committee only granted 21 instead of 42 awards.

The winners were announced in CHIMIA 7-8/2020, A633f.



Publishing

CHIMIA



Despite the difficult circumstances of 2020, Editor-in-Chief E. Peter Kündig and the guest editors ensured that ten excellent issues of CHIMIA were produced. Peter Kündig has now completed his three-year term as Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board thanks him and the guest editors for their hard work.

In 2020 (volume 74) the following 10 issues were published under the guest editorship of the mentioned persons:

- 1–2 Syngenta Symposium: Welcome to the One-electron World
Mathilde Lachia and Amandine Kollet-Krieger (Syngenta Crop Protection AG),
- 3 Chemistry and the Environment
Kathrin Fenner (Eawag, University of Zurich), Stefan Höger (IES Ltd), Vera Slaveykova (University of Geneva),
- 4 Laureates: Junior Prizes of the SCS Fall Meeting 2019
Hans Peter Lüthi (SCS Foundation), Roger Alberto (University of Zurich)
- 5 Building Bridges between Biotechnology and Chemistry – In Memoriam Oreste Ghisalba
Roland Wohlgemuth (SKB), Hans-Peter Meyer (HES SO)
- 6 Non-Noble Metals in Catalysis
Robertus Klein Gebbink (Utrecht University), Martin Albrecht (University of Bern)

- 7/8 SCS Laureates and Awards & Fall Meeting 2020
Alain de Mesmaeker (Syngenta Crop Protection, Stein)
- 9 News from New Chemistry Professors in Switzerland
E. Peter Kündig (University of Geneva)
- 10 The Swiss Startup Ecosystem: Innovation in Chemistry and the Life Sciences
Guido Koch (Topadur Pharma AG), Hans Peter Lüthi (SCS Foundation), David Spichiger (SCS),
- 11 Innovative Tools in Organic / Organometallic Chemistry
Cristina Nevado (University of Zurich)
- 12 Radiochemistry in Switzerland
Roger Alberto (University of Zurich), Heinz W. Gäggeler (PSI)

Issues 4 and 7/8 containing the SCS laureates articles and the program of SCS Fall Meeting (online in 2020) 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 and Universities of Applied Sciences is now 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 nearly 75 years of publishing activity in one or another form, CHIMIA entered a significant new phase in 2020 by becoming a platinum Open Access journal. All scientific articles are available immediately from [Ingentaconnect.com](https://www.ingentaconnect.com) free of charge. The authors are not required to pay any article or page fees and they retain copyright of their work. The articles were published under license CC_BY_NC 4.0. CHIMIA is now 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, and the SCS is also covering the extra costs involved.

The CHIMIA website ([CHIMIA.ch](https://www.chimia.ch)) has been redesigned to give better access to the content, with all the past columns and the full pdf issues easily accessible.

Submissions of scientific articles are now done exclusively on the OJS system (<https://ojs.chimia.ch/index.php/chimia>) and it is planned to move the entire CHIMIA content to an OJS-based system in the course of 2021.

After the successful change to a two-column layout in 2019, CHIMIA also presented a redesigned front cover.

2021 will see the publishing of the 75th volume of CHIMIA. Columns are planned throughout the year to celebrate this achievement.

Chemistry Europe



In 2020, ChemPubSoc Europe proudly became Chemistry Europe. It is unveiling a new identity and a renewed purpose, fit for the future of chemistry and of publishing. 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. The redefining of their core values and visual representation of their identity has been in motion since June 2018, driven by a team made up of stakeholders from our societies, their Council and from their publishing partner Wiley-VCH. During the project, researchers and society members were asked about what they value and what

they need from their scientific community, learned societies and scholarly journals: the result is Chemistry Europe. 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 supports the marketing initiatives of Chemistry Europe on its website, during SCS events and in CHIMIA.

Chemistry Europe Fellows



Chemistry Europe (CE) announced 37 new Fellows, including

Prof. Katharina Fromm, University of Fribourg and

Prof. Karl Gademann, University of Zurich

as two Swiss representatives. They were nominated to honor their extraordinary support and service to CE and the societies. The Fellowship is the highest award given by Chemistry Europe and this year the nomination of the Fellows will be celebrated at a reception during the 8th EuChemS Chemistry Congress in Lisbon.

Helvetica – A Journal of the Swiss Chemical Society



After its relaunch in 2016 and comprehensive marketing and promotion measures in the past five years, including the celebration of the 100th anniversary in 2017, we see an encouraging increase of the journal's reputation that is also reflected in the impact factor that passed the 2.5 marker for the first time since 20 years. Especially the 'Special Issues'

for François Diederich (5/2019) and Philippe Renaud (12/2019) provided high visibility and numerous papers. In 2020 Helvetica published 13 communications, 1 essays, 4 reviews and 33 full papers. 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 2020

On-site Events

24.–26.01.2020	Swiss Snow Symposium, Saas-Fee (youngSCS)
04.02.2020	2 nd Anglo-Swiss Symposium, Basel (DMCCB)
07.–08.10.2020	ILMAC Lausanne (DIAC)
07.10.2020	Symposium Industry 4.0 at ILMAC (DIAC)
07.10.2020	Symposium Lab 4.0 at ILMAC (DIAC)
07.10.2020	Workshop Flow Chemistry at ILMAC (FlowChem)
07.10.2020	Workshop SusChem at ILMAC (SusChem).

Online Events

19.06.2020	Swiss Photochemistry Symposium (PCS)
17.–18.08.2020	Peptide Therapeutics Forum (DMCCB)
25.08.2020	SCS Fall Meeting, online (SCS)
30.10.2020	Swiss Industrial Chemistry Symposium (DIAC)
08.–10.12.2020	International Conference on X-Ray Lasers.

Cancelled or postponed Events 2020

31.03.2020	DIAC Annual Meeting, cancelled
03.04.2020	SCS Spring Meeting, «Chemistry and the Environment», Muttensz, postponed to April 2021
26.–30.04.2020	Bürgenstock Conference, Brunnen, cancelled
07.–08.05.2020	CHanalysis, Beatenberg, postponed (DAS)
11.–12.06.2020	Seminar Patenting and IP in Life Sciences and Chemistry, postponed to October 2021
24.08.2020	ChemEdu, postponed to April 2021
30.08.–	
03.09.2020	Swiss Summer School, Villars, postponed to September 2021.
04.–09.10.2020	Swiss Course on Medicinal Chemistry, Leysin, postponed to October 2021.

Short Reports on SCS Events 2020

Swiss Snow Symposium, Saas Fee, 24–26 January 2020

The 18th edition of this traditional symposium was held once more in Saas-Fee and provided an innovative platform for young chemists to present their work and to exchange their experience.

A well-balanced mix between lectures, short talks and poster session as well as get-togethers at the hotel bar and snow fun activities on the slopes of the Allalin-Mountain guaranteed a unique experience of science and fun.

Main speakers of the 2020 edition were:

- Prof. Paul Dyson, EPFL Lausanne
- Prof. Victor Mougel, ETH Zurich
- Prof. Christof Sparr, University of Basel
- Dr. Daniel Seeliger, Boehringer Ingelheim
- Dr. Jean-Baptiste Langlois, Novartis
- Dr. Maud Reiter, Firmenich
- Dr. Richard Smith, Wiley-VHCA (Helvetica)

A conference report was published in CHIMIA 1-2/2020 p.67

2nd Anglo Swiss Symposium, Basel, 4 February 2020

This one-day symposium co-organized by the Swiss Chemical Society, Division Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology, and the Biological & Medicinal Chemistry Sector of the Royal Society of Chemistry, was dedicated to 'Using Chemical Biology to identify new targets for Medicinal Chemistry'.

Main Speakers were

- Prof. Yimon Aye (EPFL Lausanne, CH)
- Dr. Mark Frigerio (Abzena, Cambridge UK)
- Dr. Jonas V. Schaefer (Novartis, Basel CH)
- Prof. Maja Köhn (University of Freiburg, D)
- Prof. Daniel Romo (Baylor University, Texas USA)
- Dr. Filip Roudnický (F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Basel CH)
- Prof. Stephan Sieber (TU Munich, D)
- Prof. Kristian Strømgaard (University of Copenhagen, DK)

Swiss Photochemistry Symposium, online, 19 June 2020

The event comprised scientific contributions from all areas of photochemistry as well as three invited lectures on the topics of ultrafast spectroscopy, environmental photochemistry and luminescent material.

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.

Main Speakers were

- Prof. Peter Vöhringer, University of Bonn, Germany
- Prof. Kristopher McNeill, ETH Zurich, Switzerland
- Prof. Luisa De Cola, Université de Strasbourg, France

A conference report was published in CHIMIA 7-8/2020 p. 629

Peptide Therapeutics Forum, Basel/online, 17–18 August 2020

The Forum took place as an online event and provided similar to previous events in the framework of Basel Life, 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:

- Prof. Jean-Louis Reymond, University of Bern, CH
- Dr. Pottayil G. Sasikumar, Aurigene Discovery Technologies, IND
- Dr. Dominic Höpfner & Dr. Jürg Hunziker, Novartis, CH
- Prof. Ali Tavassoli, University of Southampton, UK
- Prof. Fernando Albericio, University of Kwazulu-Natal, SA
- Dr. Sebastien Dutertre, University of Montpellier, FRA
- Prof. Mandë Holford, Hunter College, New York, USA
- Prof. Annette Beck-Sickinger, University of Leipzig, GER
- Dr. Hans Melo, Menten Biotechnology Labs, CAN
- Dr. Dominik Sarma, Belyntic, GER
- Dr. Simone Schadt, F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG, CH
- Dr. Armin Bauer, Sanofi-Aventis, GER
- Prof. Stephan Urban, University of Heidelberg, GER
- Dr. Christian Schwarz, Numafarm, GER
- Michael Wagner, Sanofi-Aventis, GER
- Dr. Theodosia Maina-Nock, NCSR Demokritos, GRE
- Dr. Mike Pennington, AmbioPharm, USA
- Dr. Joel P. Schneider, National Cancer Institute, USA

SCS Fall Meeting, online, 25 August 2020

The SCS Fall Meeting, one of the largest annual research conferences in Switzerland, was also 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. With respect to the special circumstances the return on the call for contributions was surprisingly high: We received more than 400 abstracts for a short talk or a virtual poster in one of the nine sessions (*i.e.* about 80% of the return in a ‘normal’ year!). For the first time a parallel session on Chemistry and the Environment took place and completed the field of topics.

Traditionally, the ceremonies of the Best Oral and Best Virtual Poster Presentation Award completed the program at the end of the day and the organizers awarded 42 presenters (19 winners and 23 runners-up) with a total prize sum of CHF 42'750. See CHIMIA 9/2020, A741 for the list of all winners.

Prof. Silvio Decurtins, 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 15 min 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. Konrad Tiefenbacher, University of Basel/ETH Zurich
Werner Prize Winner 2020
- Dr. Andreas Schuster as representative of the Ipatasertib Team at F. Hoffmann La-Roche and Dr. Christoph Strasser, Dottikon Exclusive Synthesis AG
Sandmeyer Award Winners 2020
- Dr. Denis Jacoby, Firmenich SA, Geneva
SCS Industrial Science Award winner 2020
- Dr. Frank Petersen, Novartis AG, Basel
SCS Senior Industrial Science Award winner 2020
- Dr. Hasane Ratni, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Basel
SCS Senior Industrial Science Award winner 2020
- Prof. Scott Denmark, University of Illinois, USA
Paracelsus Award Winner 2020

A conference report was published in CHIMIA 10/2020, p. 831f.

ILMAC Lausanne, 7–8 October 2020

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

The Swiss Chemical Society in collaboration with DIAC organized two symposia on Wednesday, October 7:

The speakers were:

Symposium: Industry 4.0 – Trends & Best Practice

- Juan-Luis Naveira, Syngenta Crop Protection AG
- Olivier Vorlet, Jean-Luc Robyr, School of Engineering and Architecture of Fribourg
- Sebastien Gonzalez, Vifor Pharma, Villars-sur-Glane
- Michel Barthe, Firmenich SA, Mikhaél Minisini, Aptitude SA

Symposium: Lab 4.0 – Trends, Visions & Challenges

- Sebastian Schmitt, Novartis Fellow
- Teodoro Laino, IBM Research Europe
- Yves Lachavanne, Socorex Isba SA
- Benedikt Wanner, Synple Chem AG
- Björn Christensen, Metrohm International
- Jason Meredith, Tecan
- Christoph Jansen, Mettler-Toledo

In the afternoon two workshops on the topics of Green & Sustainable Chemistry and Flow Chemistry took place and were well attended.

A short report was published in CHIMIA 11/2020 p. 910

3rd Swiss Industrial Chemistry Symposium (SICS), online, 30 October 2020

The symposium offered a unique platform for industrial scientists to present their latest findings and to showcase successful initiatives to their colleagues and to academic community members that are interested in R&D. With regards to the Covid-19 situation and the uncertainty to organize on-site events in October 2020, we decided to organize an online symposium and in average we had 130 participants joining one of the four sessions.

Main Speakers in four Sessions were

- Dr. Stefanie Flohr & Dr. Philipp Lustenberger, Novartis
- Dr. Sarah Sulzer, Syngenta
- Dr. Marc Liniger, Givaudan
- Dr. Vijay Pattabiraman, Bright Peak Therapeutics
- Dr. Jonathan Medlock, DSM
- Dr. Steffen Eller, Chemspeed
- Dr. Florian Bächle, Solvias
- Dr. Cornelia Zumbrunn, Idorsia
- Dr. Cornelia Zumbrunn, Idorsia
- Dr. Thierry Jousseume, Johnson&Johnson
- Dr. Radka Snajdrova, Novartis
- Dr. Georg Wuitschik, Roche
- Dr. Reto Naef, Topadur
- Dr. Maud Reiter, Firmenich and Dr. Edouard Godineau, Syngenta

International Conference on X-Ray Lasers (ICXRL), online, 8–10. December 2020

The ICXRL was established to promote advanced extreme UV and X-ray sources, and their application in physics, (bio-) chemistry, and materials science. Joining ICXRL means experiencing the latest trends and shaping the future progress. Latest results on state-of-the-art X-ray Free-Electron Lasers (XFEL) as well as tabletop systems were presented. The program included 12 keynote lectures, 10 invited lectures, 5 technology focus talks and 33 contributed short talks from all over the world.



Thematic Networks

To complement the activities of our traditional divisions and sections, SCS has implemented additional thematic networks in recent years. In 2020, four new communities were added: Chemistry and the Environment, Chemical Ecology, Flow Chemistry, and Materials Chemistry.

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

As of December, the SCG maintains the following 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)

Division of Analytical Sciences

- *CHanalysis* was postponed to 2021.
- Chairing the virtual Session ‘Analytical Sciences’ at the SCS Fall Meeting 2020.
- Publishing 10 ‘Highlights of Analytical Sciences in Switzerland’ columns in CHIMIA.
- Representing Swiss interests in Eurachem and in EuChemS.
- Marc Suter, Eawag, stepped down as president and handed over the mandate to Eric Bakker, University of Geneva.

Division of Fundamental Research

- Coordinating and organizing the SCS Lectureship tours. Unfortunately, only one tour could be held, all others had to be postponed to 2021.
- Financially supporting international conferences:
 - ChemMetBio 2020,
 - Fribourg Symposium on Atomic Cluster and Surface Chemistry and Physics 2020, St. Moritz
 - 11th Int. Meeting on Atomic and Molecular Physics and Chemistry IMAMPC 2020, EPFL > postponed to 2021
 - ContaSed 2020, Bern > postponed to 2021
 - Bürgenstock Conference 2020 > cancelled
- Organizing the virtual SCS Fall Meeting on August 25, 2020, and chairing the virtual Sessions ‘Organic Chemistry’, ‘Inorganic Chemistry’, ‘Physical Chemistry’ and ‘Computational Chemistry’.
- Publishing 10 ‘Swiss Science Concentrates’ columns in CHIMIA.
- Renewal of the PCCP partnership agreement with the Royal Society of Chemistry, which generates higher royalties for the Division.
- Representing Swiss interests in several EuChemS Divisions.
- Roger Alberto, University of Zurich, stepped down as president and handed over the mandate to Stefan Willitsch, University of Basel.

Division of Industrial & Applied Chemistry

- Organizing the two ILMAC Lausanne symposia ‘Industry 4.0 - Trends & Best Practice’ and ‘Lab 4.0 – Trends, Visions & Challenges’ on October 7, 2020.
- Organizing the 3rd Swiss Industrial Chemistry Symposium (SICS) as an online conference on October 30, 2020.
- Discussing the Division’s strategy and the activities 2021 at the DIAC Workshop on November 6, 2020.
- Supporting the new networks ‘SusChem CH’ and ‘Flow Chemistry’ in defining the strategic alignment.
- Bernhard Urwyler, Syngenta, stepped down as president and handed over the mandate to Roger Marti, HEIA-FR.

Division of Medicinal Chemistry & Chemical Biology

- Organizing the 2nd Anglo-Swiss Symposium in Basel on February 4, 2020.
- Chairing the virtual Session 'MedChem & ChemBio' at the SCS Fall Meeting 2020.
- The Swiss Course on Medicinal Chemistry in Leysin had to be postponed to October 2021.
- Publishing three 'Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology Highlights' columns in CHIMIA.
- Informing the community members with two Newsletters.
- Yves Auberson, Novartis, stepped down as president and handed over the mandate to Jean-Louis Reymond, University of Bern.

Division of Polymers, Colloids & Interfaces

- Chairing the virtual Session 'Polymers, Colloids & Interfaces' at the SCS Fall Meeting 2020.
- Publishing five 'Polymer & Colloid Highlights' columns in CHIMIA.
- Christian Hinderling, ZHAW Wädenswil, stepped down as president and handed over the mandate to Harm-Anton Klok, EPFL Lausanne.

Division of Chemical Education

- ChemEdu Symposium was postponed to 2021.
- Publishing ten 'Chemical Education' columns in CHIMIA.
- Representing Swiss interests in the EuChemS Division of Chemical Education.
- Extension of the activities towards secondary schools.
- Antonio Togni, ETH Zurich, stepped down as president and handed over the mandate to Jan Cvengros, ETH Zurich.

Photochemistry Section

- Organizing the virtual Swiss Photochemistry Symposium on June 19, 2020. It was the first virtual SCS symposium ever.
- Silvio Canonica, Eawag, stepped down as president and handed over the mandate to Olivier Nicolet, HEIA-FR.

Swiss Catalysis Section

- Chairing the virtual Session 'Catalysis & Engineering' at the SCS Fall Meeting 2020.
- Partnering with the new NCCR Catalysis, that was launched by the SNSF in December 2019.
- Collaborating with SusChem CH to define their focus topics for the next three years.
- Javier Perez-Ramirez, ETH Zurich, stepped down as president as he took over the co-chair of the NCCR. His successor will be appointed in March 2021.

Social Communities

youngSCS

- Organizing the Swiss Snow Symposium in Saas-Fee on January 24–26, 2020.
- Organizing several virtual events to stay connected during the pandemic period.
- Renaming the network from 'Swiss Young Chemists' Association (SYCA)' to youngSCS and designing of a new logo.
- Completing the board with representatives of each university.
- Guido Panzarasa, Empa, stepped down as president and handed over the mandate to Benjamin Ries, ETH Zurich.

Swiss Women in Chemistry (SWC)

- Networking at the IUPAC Global Women's Breakfast at University of Basel on February 12, 2020. About 50 people from academia and industry participated in this event.
- Organizing a virtual Corporate Insights at Novartis with Karin Briner, Head of Global Discovery Chemistry and Despina Solomonidou, Head of Technical Research & Development New Chemical Entities as speakers.
- The first Corporate insight event, that was planned at Firmenich in Geneva in March 2020 had to be postponed.
- Organizing a Christmas Zoom aperitif for the SWC Basel-Bern mentoring group on December 15, 2020.
- The annual meeting of the SWC network, that was planned as a satellite event of the EFMC conference in Basel had to be rescheduled for 2021.
- The Twitter account of the SWC network counts more than 300 followers at the end of 2020.

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, University of Bern
- Division of Chemistry in Life Sciences:
Input *via* EFMC
- Division of Computational Chemistry:
Hans Peter Lüthi, ETHZ
- Division of Physical Chemistry:
Stefan Willitsch, University of Basel
- Division of Education:
Dr. Markus Müller, Kantonsschule Frauenfeld
- Division of Solid State and Materials Chemistry:
Greta Patzke, University of Zurich
- European Young Chemists' Network EYCN:
Dr. Jovana Milic, University of Fribourg

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 2021

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