

# CH Information

News – Honors – Workshops – Conferences – Lectures

## NEWS

(source *CHEManager*)

21.05.2015. Sources close to **Monsanto** have told the news agency Reuters that Monsanto is putting together a new offer for Swiss rival **Syngenta**. The news agency said it understands the US agrochemical and GMO giant is still working on a proposal after Syngenta rejected its \$45 billion\* unsolicited bid, which it said undervalued the company. A successful takeover of Syngenta would give Monsanto, which dominates the market for seeds and genetically-modified crops, access to the Swiss company's lucrative crop protection chemicals portfolio and create an industry behemoth with combined sales of more than \$31 billion. Major investors in Syngenta are said to have expressed confidence that Syngenta will give up its resistance if the US group ups the ante by at least 10% more. A banker commented to Reuters, however, that Monsanto might need to pay a premium of up to 40% to make the deal attractive to the Basel firm's shareholders. To ease antitrust concerns, reports say Monsanto could also team up with an industry partner to acquire Syngenta's US seeds business. Both two groups are already seen as market leaders in the American seeds industry, so that Monsanto alone would not be able to clinch a deal.

\*changed from million in the original article

08.05.2015. Confirming that it has received an unsolicited proposal from Monsanto to acquire the company at a price of CHF449 per share with approximately 45% in cash, the board of directors at Swiss agrochemicals giant **Syngenta** said it has undertaken a thorough review of all aspects of the offer and unanimously determined to reject it, as it is not in the best interests of Syngenta, its shareholders and its stakeholders. Syngenta said the offer "fundamentally undervalues" the company's prospects and "underestimates the significant execution risks, including regulatory and public scrutiny at multiple levels in many countries." Syngenta Chairman Michel Demaré said, "Syngenta is the world leader in crop protection, the number three in seeds and the first company to introduce integrated solutions for growers. Monsanto's proposal does not reflect the outstanding growth prospects of Syngenta's integrated strategy and the significant future value potential of the company's crop-focused innovation and market leading positions." While the Swiss company's valuation is currently affected by short term currency and commodity price movements, the business outlook is strong, with emerging markets accounting for over 50% of the sales, Demaré added. "Our integrated strategy has been particularly successful in these markets which in 2014 registered double digit growth rates for the fifth consecutive year, and which represent a major part of the future growth potential for our industry. Recently launched new products are achieving rapid sales growth globally as growers demand the latest technologies, and we have a strong pipeline of innovative crop protection products in development, which have total peak sales potential of over \$3 billion," the board chairman stressed. Finally, said Demaré, "In 2015, we are on track to achieve the first \$265 million of

savings from our Accelerating Operational Leverage Program, and we are targeting savings of \$1 billion in 2018. This will allow us to realize the full benefits of the integrated strategy and will ensure that increases in profitability are sustained for the benefit of Syngenta's shareholders."

08.05.2015. Swiss fine and specialty chemicals producer **Lonza**, which claims to be the world's leading developer and manufacturer of cells for regenerative medicine therapeutics, has entered an exclusive cooperation with Japan's Nikon covering cell and gene therapy manufacturing in Japan. Under the terms, Nikon will have access to Lonza's quality and operating systems, facility design and ongoing consulting services for the establishment of a wholly owned cell and gene therapy contract manufacturing business under the name Nikon CeLL innovation Co. The Tokyo/Yokohama area of Japan is currently under consideration for the location of the new facility. Nikon will acquire Lonza's technical know-how to differentiate and manufacture cells, including somatic stem cells, as well as the Swiss company's quality and safety evaluation standards and operational procedures in the manufacturing process. Since the adoption of the Revised Pharmaceutical Affairs Act in November 2014, Japan has become an attractive location for the future of regenerative medicine, Lonza notes. According to the legislation, conditional product approval may be granted at the time when clinical safety and an indication of efficacy of a regenerative medicine product are demonstrated. For this reason, Japan is expected to be a promising location for the expedited clinical application of cell and gene therapy products, the company noted.

07.05.2015. BASF has announced that it will sell its custom synthesis business, part of its Nutrition & Health division, and parts of its current active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) business to Zofingen, Switzerland-based **Siegfried Holding**. Siegfried will acquire APIs such as ephedrine, pseudoephedrine and caffeine, with annual sales of around €270 million, while BASF will retain its excipient portfolio and selected APIs, such as ibuprofen, omega-3 fatty acids and polyethylenglycol (PEG). The transaction, still subject to consultations with employee representatives and approval by regulatory authorities, also includes production sites in Minden, Germany; Evionnaz, Switzerland and Saint-Vulbas, France. All affected employees will be offered transfers. A syndicate of Swiss banks will handle financing of the handover, and following completion, Siegfried plans to issue a hybrid bond for partial refinancing.

06.05.2015. Swiss specialty chemical producer **Clariant** is certain that its large shareholders - including those of Süd-Chemie, who hold 14% of the Swiss company's shares will support management's plan to remain independent, CFO Patrick Jany told the news agency Reuters. In late March, market rumors surfaced that German chemical producer Evonik could be planning to launch a bid to take over Clariant and create a much larger specialty chemicals producer with annual sales of around €20 billion.

## CONFERENCES IN SWITZERLAND

01.07. – 31.12.2015

### PolyColl 2015 by DPCI

03.07.2015

Adolphe Merkle Institute, University of Fribourg, Fribourg  
PolyColl 2015: Annual Meeting of the Division of Polymers,  
Colloids and Interfaces (DPCI)  
<http://scg.ch/polycoll/2015>

### Qualitative Research: Beyond the 'Fractured Future'

15.07.2015–17.07.2015

Conference Room, Neuchâtel

The theme of this conference is drawn from the notion of a historical 'moment' in qualitative research – the 'fractured future'.

<http://www.metlab.ch/Conference/>

### SCS Fall Meeting 2015

04.09.2015

EPFL Lausanne, Lausanne

The Fall Meeting represents a major event for chemical research in Switzerland, offering a unique opportunity for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and senior scientists from academia and industry.

<http://scg.ch/fallmeeting/2015>

### Annual Meeting of the Swiss Photochemistry Section

08.09.2015

ETH Zurich, Campus Zentrum, CHN Building

The meeting will comprise scientific contributions from all areas of photochemistry as well as three invited lectures on the topic of Environmental Photochemistry.

### SCS-Syngenta Symposium 2015

15.10.2015

Syngenta Research Campus, Stein (AG)

'Chirality - Upsides for Chemical Innovation'

<http://scg.ch/syngentasymposium/2015>

### The Expanding Toolbox of Medicinal Chemistry 2015

16.10.2015

Palais des Congrès Dijon-Bourgogne, Dijon

'From Chemical Biology to Clinical Applications' Jointly organised by the SCT and the DMCCB of the Swiss Chemical Society

<http://scg.ch/etmc/2015>

### Lift Basel Conference 2015

29.10.2015-30.10.2015

Markthalle, Basel

Join a unique event connecting innovators in life sciences and information technologies! The event provides a platform for an open and dynamic dialogue on the fast moving ideas, solutions and opportunities generated by the growing confluence of tech, bio and business.

<http://liftconference.com/lift-basel-15/>

## LECTURES

01.07 – 31.07.2015

### Syngenta

Syngenta Stein, WST 810.E.75, Auditorium

02.07.2015 Prof. Richmond Sarpong, UC Berkeley, USA

10.30 h Title to be announced

Syngenta Chemistry Lecture

### EPFL, Institut des Sciences et Ingénierie Chimiques

EPFL, ISIC, CH G1 495

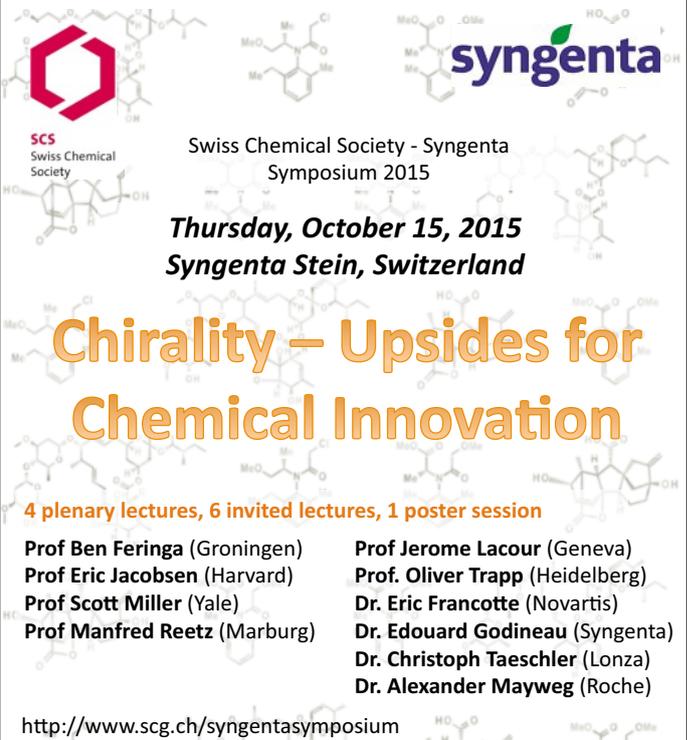
02.07.2015 Dr Spiros Skourtis, University of Cyprus,

16.30 h and University of Freiburg

'Electron transfer processes from the molecular to the cellular length scales'

Physical Chemistry Seminars

The complete and updated lecture calendar is available on [www.scg.ch/lectures](http://www.scg.ch/lectures)



Swiss Chemical Society - Syngenta Symposium 2015

Thursday, October 15, 2015  
Syngenta Stein, Switzerland

# Chirality – Upsides for Chemical Innovation

4 plenary lectures, 6 invited lectures, 1 poster session

Prof Ben Feringa (Groningen)	Prof Jerome Lacour (Geneva)
Prof Eric Jacobsen (Harvard)	Prof. Oliver Trapp (Heidelberg)
Prof Scott Miller (Yale)	Dr. Eric Francotte (Novartis)
Prof Manfred Retz (Marburg)	Dr. Edouard Godineau (Syngenta)
	Dr. Christoph Taeschler (Lonza)
	Dr. Alexander Mayweg (Roche)

<http://www.scg.ch/syngentasymposium>

