



Launch of the SCS Swiss Women in Chemistry

September 2019 marks the official launch of the new platform SCS Swiss Women in Chemistry (SWC). Under the umbrella of the Swiss Chemical Society, its aim is to facilitate networking and provide a supportive community for female chemists in Switzerland at all career stages.

The newly established SCS Swiss Women in Chemistry (SWC) is open to all female scientists of Switzerland across the diverse fields of chemistry, life sciences, and biotechnology, coming from academia, industry, and government. The platform aims to support and generate visibility for female chemists through a professional network for women at all stages of their career, from senior executives to junior scientists. Members of the network will be provided with an open platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences, and early researchers can be supported in their professional development through a mentoring program. Members can realize opportunities for collaboration with other organizations and corporations through various networking events.

Through its social media channels, the SWC aims to relay opportunities for external funding (fellowships, travel grants, etc.) and career opportunities, as well as to document and publicize the contributions of female scientists in Switzerland. The SWC network will facilitate access to female experts for media communications and panel discussions, and hopes to play an active role in meetings and events across Switzerland.

Upcoming Events

The launch of SWC will be celebrated at the *Swiss Women in Chemistry Inauguration Gala Night* (September 25, 17:30-20:30, Basel). The program includes presentations by Dr. Maria Inès Velazco (Consultant at MIV Senses, former SVP R&D at Firmenich) and Dr. Leslie A. Fendt (AI Integrated Strategy Leader, Global Launch Leader, Ulcerative Colitis at Hoffmann-La Roche) and will be followed by a networking gala. Registration information will be made available via the

SWC social media accounts and the SCS homepage.

In addition to networking, a goal of the SWC is to increase support for young female scientists in Switzerland. To help achieve this, a mentor-mentee matching platform will be available for advising PhD students/postdoctoral researchers and helping to guide them in achieving their career goals. For those interested in acting as a mentor, please contact the SWC for further information.

The SWC and Firmenich are co-organizing a corporate meet-and-greet event on March 12, 2020. The event will present an opportunity for female Alfred Werner MSc scholarship recipients, PhD students, and postdoctoral researchers to interact with female scientists employed at Firmenich. The event will feature an introduction to Firmenich and short presentations by Dr. Jezabel Praz (Trainee Perfumer) and Dr. Sarah Reisinger (VP Biotechnology and Process Science), followed by a networking apéro. The SWC will be looking to organize additional corporate meet-and-greet events in the future.

SWC Organizers/Contacts:



Dr. Rachel Hevey, University of Basel

Dr. Rachel Hevey is a Research Associate in Molecular Pharmacy at the University of Basel. After completing degrees in Chemistry and Biological Sciences, Rachel undertook her PhD studies in glycochemistry at the University of Calgary (Canada) under the supervision of Prof. Chang-Chun Ling. In November 2013, Rachel joined the group of Prof. Dr. Beat Ernst as a postdoctoral researcher, and in January 2015 was promoted to a Research Associate at the University of Basel. Rachel's main research interests involve elucidating glycan-protein interactions and developing glycoconjugates as potential therapeutics. She is a recipient of the J.B. Hyne Research Innovation and Dr. Don F. Tavares Teaching Awards, and was recently selected for the IUPAC Periodic Table of Younger Chemists.



Dr. Maud Reiter, Firmenich S.A.

Dr. Maud Reiter is the Director of New Ingredients Discovery at the corporate R&D Division of Firmenich S.A. in Geneva (Switzerland). Maud received her undergraduate degree from Imperial College, London in 2002, followed by a DPhil under the supervision of Professor Véronique Gouverneur at the University of Oxford. After postdoctoral work with Professor David MacMillan at Caltech/Princeton University, Maud joined Merck&Co. in 2008 in Rahway, NJ, USA as a medicinal chemist. In 2011, Maud moved into her current position at Firmenich, where she is overseeing the discovery of novel and sustainable perfumery ingredients.



Prof. Dr. Rebecca Buller, ZHAW

Prof. Dr. Rebecca Buller leads the Competence Center for Biocatalysis (CCBIO) at the Institute of Chemistry and Biotechnology, Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Wädenswil. Before joining the ZHAW, Rebecca Buller held a position as Laboratory Head and Project Manager at Firmenich, a flavour and fragrance company. In this role, she developed and optimized several biocatalysis based processes for the manufacture of asset molecules. Additionally, Prof. Dr. Buller brings in-depth knowledge of enzyme engineering through her academic research at ETH Zurich. Dr. Rebecca Buller received her Diploma degree in Chemistry from the University of Münster and studied at the University of California in Santa Barbara. She holds a PhD degree from the Institute of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences at ETH Zurich.



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