

**Division for Medicinal Chemistry (Chairman: Dr. Hans Peter Märki,
<http://www.scg.ch/smc/home.htm>)**

Pursuing its well esteemed tradition, the division of medicinal chemistry offered again in the even year 2008 to all its members, friends, and interested people a scientific minisymposium. This time, the board had chosen "Drug Targeting" as topic. Four distinguished experts had accepted our invitation and shed some light on this fascinating and rapidly evolving theme from different angles. The interested reader can glean more information from a rather in depth conference report which appeared in the November issue of CHIMIA. A decent number of scientists found their way into the lecture hall and appreciated the stimulating and informative presentations given by Profs. Ruth Duncan, Iwao Ojima, Dario Neri, and Nobuo Shimma, respectively, which were as usually followed by an apero sponsored by our division.

During the first week of September, embedded into the XXth ISMC meeting (International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry) which took this year place in the gorgeous city of Vienna, the council of the EFMC, the European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry, gathered to hold its regular annual meeting. Thereby, the Serbian society was welcome as new member. Meanwhile, 24 national adhering organizations from all over Europe are represented in this supranational body, pursuing the aim to advance and promote the science of Medicinal Chemistry in our continent. In a secret ballot the honorable task to organize the ISMC meeting in 2012 in Berlin was delegated to the German societies GDCh and DPhG; the 2010 event had already been assigned earlier to Brussels.

On September 11, integrated into the traditional Fall Meeting of the mother society, our division organized again its own scientific session. The Mettler-Toledo price for the „Best Oral Presentation“ – choosing among 14 really well prepared and stimulating lectures was again a challenge - was awarded to Dr. Jean-Marc Plancher from F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Basel, for his talk entitled "Histamine-3 Receptor Inverse Agonists for the Treatment of Obesity: Validation of the Target and Identification of Novel Series". The poster price, on the other hand, was given to Gabriele Meloni from the University of Zürich for his contribution "Control of Abnormal Metal-Protein Interactions in Neurodegenerative Disorders by Metallothionein-3". All contributions are again cordially acknowledged, and all presenters were invited for a speaker-dinner at the end of November.

Following a 14 year old tradition, the „8th Swiss Course on Medicinal Chemistry“ took place as usual in the charming village of Leysin from October 12-17 2008, perfectly organized by Prof. Beat Ernst. This year, the attractiveness of the course was further increased by a slightly modified concept including presentations and tutorials given by several speakers invited for the first time. Not less than 18 students seized the opportunity to participate for almost symbolic cost. The course and its improved program was received very well by all attendants.

For next spring, our division plans anew together with the German sister societies GDCh and DPhG a joint symposium under the title "Frontiers in Medicinal Chemistry". This event will take place from March 15-18 in Heidelberg and covers as main topics: Target-Families: Kinases and Nuclear Hormone Receptors, Inflammatory Diseases / Atherosclerosis, Neuropsychiatry, New Technologies: Nanomedicine, Proteomics and Drug Targeting, and Highlights in Medicinal Chemistry. Detailed information including the list of plenary lecturers can be found on www.gdch.de/medchem2009.