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# CHIMIA and the Swiss Chemical Society

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Gillian Harvey completed her chemistry education in the UK (BSc, University of East Anglia; Norwich, PhD, University of Aberdeen). After a year on a Royal Society Fellowship at the Zentralinstitut für Anorganische Chemie, Akademie der Wissenschaften der DDR, Berlin, in 1986, she moved to the ETH as a post-doc in the Institute for Crystallography and Petrography (1986-1988) and then as Oberassistentin at the Institute for Technical Chemistry (1989-1996). Since 2000, she has worked as the Technical Editor for CHIMIA and since 2019 she has also taken over the Chair of the Editorial Board.

## CHIMIA

As the society journal of the Swiss Chemical Society (SCS), CHIMIA ([chimia.ch](http://chimia.ch)) represents and informs the wider chemistry community in Switzerland: in academia, industry, education... and has done so for nearly 75 years, evolving and growing along the way. CHIMIA is published 10 times a year and each issue features scientific articles and extensive Society news. Each year two issues celebrate the Swiss Chemical Society prizewinners: the Junior Laureates in issue 4 and the Major Awards in issue 7/8. The remaining eight issues are dedicated to special topics chosen by the Editor-in-Chief and realised by a Guest Editor, who is an expert in the respective field and generally comes from Swiss Academia or Industry.

These scientific articles by invited authors are presented in topical issues that are subjects of current significance in chemical research. The topics covered reflect the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of chemistry; recent topics include Chemistry and the Environment, Swiss Start-ups, Radiochemistry, Colloidal Nanocrystals, Peptide Chemistry in

Switzerland. The articles are generally written in a review format to be accessible to the wider chemistry community and are peer-reviewed before acceptance

CHIMIA is the main information channel of the Swiss Chemical Society and this is reflected in recurring columns produced by the Divisions of the SCS, Community News and Events.

CHIMIA is published almost exclusively in English although the authors do have the option of writing their articles in one of the official Swiss languages (German, French, Italian, Romansh). German is most frequently used, although not often. The Swiss Chemical Society also communicates extensively in English to be inclusive for all its members: The Swiss universities welcome many foreign students and teach, after the first year, in English. Many graduates then go on to work in Swiss academia and industry and English frequently remains the common language for communication.

## Swiss Chemical Society

The Swiss Chemical Society ([scg.ch](http://scg.ch)) is the publisher and owner of CHIMIA and represents scientists active in the chemical sciences and related disciplines in Switzerland and in 50 countries worldwide. The current membership is about 2700 and members receive CHIMIA as a printed journal as part of their membership. The key initiatives of the SCS include the organisation of scientific meetings, congresses and courses (15-20 events per year). For example, the SCS Fall Meeting is the biggest chemistry conference to take place annually in Switzerland with more than 1000 participants and offers junior scientists the opportunity to present oral and poster presentations, often for the first time. Due

to the Covid pandemic, the Fall Meetings successfully took place as online meetings in 2020 and 2021 with short videos in place of posters proving particularly popular, but the intention is to return to an in-person meeting in 2022. The Society promotes the exchange of scientific and technical knowhow and enables networking for academic and industrial chemists and current SCS key initiatives are aimed at creating contact to related scientific fields, such as: Chemistry and the Environment, Materials Sciences, Flow Chemistry, AI/Computational Chemistry. In addition, the SCS Academy offers training courses in the chemical and pharmaceutical sciences. The courses are conducted in collaboration with industrial partners and the intention is to expand the curriculum over the next years. The website of the SCS shows the extent of the networking to include 25 thematic and social communities. The Society represents the interests of its members in national (SCNAT, SATW) and international organisations (EuChemS) and is also an active member of Chemistry Europe, as part owner of *Helvetica Chimia Acta* and holds shares in further scientific journals.

## Origins of CHIMIA

In 1946, the predecessor of the SCS, the Swiss Chemists' Association, voted to create a new journal with the name of CHIMIA to replace the *Schweizer Chemiker-Zeitung & Technik-Industrie*. The first issue was published at the beginning of 1947, with the declared objectives to aid in the training and further education of chemists, to inform them of scientific and technological advances, the economy, patent law, careers and politics, to publish scientific articles and reports. The objectives were ambitious and reflected the hope of new beginnings in the post-war era. CHIMIA has been published uninterrupted since then and all articles since 1990 are available online (Ingentaconnect.com) in open access and reflect the changing interests of academic and industrial research. The close association of the SCS to the chemical industry in Switzerland is an important aspect of the content that continues to this day.

In 2021, we are celebrating the 75th volume with invited contributions from representatives from research industry, education society *etc.* to present their future perspectives in chemistry and society. All the contributions will be gathered together in a single virtual issue at the end of the year and be made freely available.

## Current Role of CHIMIA

Up to 2019 CHIMIA was a subscription journal, earning some of the income for its production through library subscriptions. Most of the remaining production costs were and are carried by the SCS. The move in Europe towards Open Science and Open Access for journals led to discussions in the SCS and the CHIMIA Editorial Board and it was decided to flip CHIMIA to a fully Open Access journal from January 2020 onwards. The Platinum OA model was cho-

sen, which means that there are no charges to our invited authors or to the readers of the online version. In 2020, the articles are subject to the CC\_BY\_NC 4.0 licence, from 2021 onwards the licence CC\_BY 4.0 will apply to all scientific articles. The authors retain copyright of their work. The print version is produced as before and delivered to individual and institutional SCS members and is available as a print subscription. The full issue as a pdf is available to SCS individual and institutional members and subscribers.

The Swiss Chemical Society continually seeks to grow and expand its contacts to related scientific fields: Chemistry and the Environment, Material Chemistry, Flow Chemistry, AI/Computational Chemistry, *etc.* Where possible the activities of the Society are reflected in the content of CHIMIA, *e.g.* the Green and Sustainable Chemistry issue in September 2019 coincided with the same topic at the SCS Forum at ILMAC, the Basel chemistry trade fair held in partnership with the SSC, or the Chemistry and the Environment issue (3/2020) to mark the launch of the new SCS section 'Chemistry and the Environment' and the Spring Meeting in 2021 on the same subject. In addition there is an extensive column section where all Divisions are encouraged to produce short articles featuring innovations in their fields.

Information for the SCS membership is included in the Community News and Events sections and includes information about upcoming conferences, lectures, award programmes and news from the chemical industry.

The layout and front cover design of CHIMIA have been updated over the past two years and the guest editors are invited to provide a striking image for the front cover (Figure).

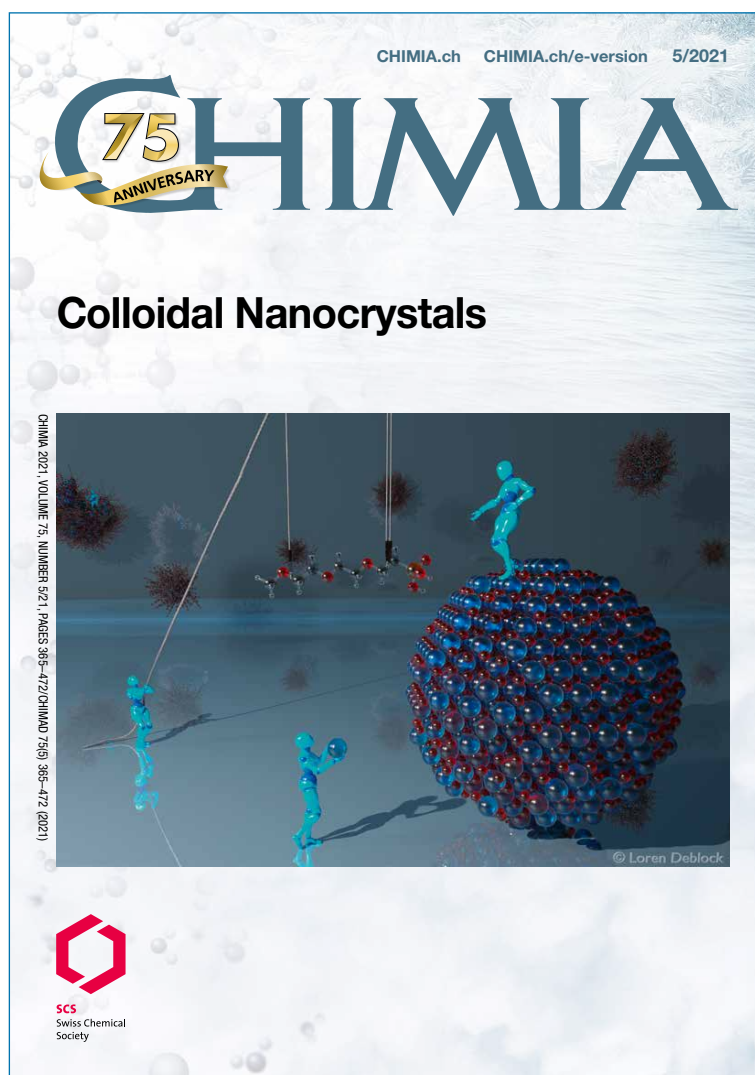
In the immediate future, the plan is to host the journal entirely on one online platform, which is scheduled to be completed at the beginning of 2022. This will enable one-stop access from submission through to online publication and all articles, columns and information will be visible and directly available for download. The new website will be based on the OJS system and CHIMIA is one of the few journals that will migrate its content (31 years of metadata and full text equivalent to 31'000 pages) to OJS using a technological approach. Except for the input format, there is no support by PKP, the producer of OJS, to supply scripts or plugins to ease migration. Therefore, the migration procedure and code is being developed by the Webeditor. This task is being undertaken by a member of the CHIMIA Editorial Board on a voluntary basis for an honorarium. There is only one person employed for the production of CHIMIA (the Technical Editor) supported by the SCS Head Office. All the other members of the EB donate their time and efforts freely and are vital to the smooth running of the journal.

The objective is to improve the visibility of CHIMIA online, far beyond the borders of Switzerland, generating interest in the excellent research being undertaken in academic and industrial labs in Switzerland. CHIMIA is listed in the most important databases: Current Contents/Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences, Chemical Abstracts, Science Citation Index, Research Alert, Scisearch, Index Chemicus, Chemistry Citation Index, Current Chemical Reactions,

Reaction Citation Index, Biological Abstracts, and the Directory of Open Access Journals.

The Swiss Chemical Society and the Editorial Board are working together to ensure that CHIMIA will continue to thrive and evolve to its 100th anniversary and beyond. When CHIMIA was originally conceived, it was one of the main channels that chemists could access information about scientific progress, job opportunities and advances in industrial production and was certainly eagerly anticipated each month. In the 21st century, with a 24-hour news cycle and social media, the role of a Society journal and indeed the Society itself has to adapt. By maintaining the special

topic issues, we give established scientists the opportunity to write about their subject in a way that is interesting and comprehensible to a wide readership, new professors can present their research to their new colleagues in Switzerland and, in addition, the many networks of the SCS can present their activities directly to their members. All this is only possible thanks to the active and enthusiastic input from the Swiss chemical community: as authors, guest editors and members of the SCS and CHIMIA boards. We are grateful to everyone who has been involved in the past to get us where we are today and to anyone thinking of joining us: you are very welcome!



**Figure caption.** The front cover of CHIMIA 5/2021: 'Colloidal Nanocrystals' as an example of the excellent artwork provided by the guest editors and their coworkers, in this case Prof. Jonathan De Roo and Loren DeBlock, University of Basel.