



SCS
Foundation
Swiss Chemical
Society



Alfred Werner Excellence Scholarship Program

Meet&Greet Event 2023

September 4 – Novartis Campus Basel

Talent meets Industry – Industry meets Talent



A Word of Welcome

In 2016, Lonza invited the Alfred Werner Scholars for a visit of their plant in Visp. For the scholars, this was an excellent opportunity to get a first impression of the Swiss chemical industry and the professional opportunities it offers. The hosts, on the other hand, were interested to get to know and connect with the Alfred Werner scholars.

Given the success of this first meeting, Meet & Greet turned into a regular event, followed by meetings at Syngenta (Stein AG), Firmenich (Geneva), Roche (Basel), and Givaudan (Kemptthal). During the pandemic, an online Meet & Greet event hosted by Novartis took place.

Thanks to these events, numerous personal and professional interactions were established. Some of the scholars made their first steps into professional life at one of the program-supporting companies.

The 2023 Meet&Greet event marks another milestone: For the first time, all Scholars are invited to present themselves, and to learn more about Novartis, a company that supported the Alfred Werner Excellence Scholarship Program from the very beginning. Many of the young attendees are at an advanced stage of their training, and an event like this will inspire and support them in their career-decisions.

Switzerland, with its world-leading chemical and pharmaceutical industry and its high-

quality university system, offers unique opportunities to talented students. It is therefore a great privilege for the Swiss Chemical Society, through its Alfred Werner Excellence Program, to bring talented international students to Switzerland and to assist their entry into professional life in our industry.

At Novartis, we are excited to host a group of distinguished international students for a full day! We are looking forward to their presentations and to interact with them at a personal level. This event marks a wonderful opportunity for us to discuss career matters, professional life, and work-life balance with a wonderful group of young scientists.



Dr. Michael Parmentier,
Associate Director Science &
Technology, Novartis



Dr. Nora Eifler, Director Drug
Substance Development Project
Management, Novartis



Dr. Hans Peter Lüthi, SCS Foundation

About the Alfred Werner Excellence Scholarship Program

Bringing Talent to Switzerland

The program supports talented international students of chemistry to perform their Master of Science (MSc) studies in Switzerland. Nominated by the Swiss partner universities, the scholars are selected by a committee of professors and scientists from industry.

Since 2013, 75 students from over 30 countries were granted an Alfred Werner Scholarship in the amount of 30'000 CHF. As of 2023, eight generations of students successfully completed their studies, many with distinction.

Well Educated – Well Integrated

Besides getting access to high level education, the scholars also receive support for their integration in our community. Networks such as the young Swiss Chemical Society or Women in Swiss Chemistry invite the scholars to actively participate in their programs.



Connecting the Talent with Industry

Since the 2016 event, when engineers around Christoph Täschler invited the scholars to a visit of their Visp site, Meet&Greet developed into a very useful platform to connect the scholars with the program supporting companies. With an increasing number of scholars looking for a position in industry, Fabrice Gallou and Arnaud Grandeury of Novartis hosted a one-day online event in 2022, e-Meet&Greet, open to *all* Werner Scholars. (see announcement in next column).

Impressum

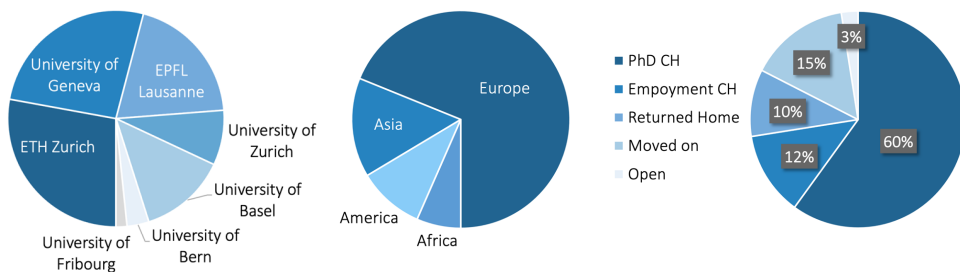
Text and Figures: Hans Peter Lüthi, Michaël Parmentier, Céline Wittwer and contributing authors.

Title page: Graphics by Alice Gallou, student at Gymnasium Oberwil (BL)

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The Fingerprints of a Successful Program



The universities the scholars joined, the origin of the scholars, and their next career steps. The third figure shows that more than two thirds of the scholars continued their career in Switzerland. Many scholars were awarded prizes for their Masters' theses or won prizes for their research at scientific congresses. The scholars took roles in the leadership teams of local or Swiss national student organizations.



Meet & Greet Program Overview

Begin (Door Opening): 09:30

Registration and Welcome Coffee

Novartis Campus, Gehry Building, Fabrikstrasse 15

Morning Session (Chair: Nora Eifler)

10:15 Welcome (Michaël Parmentier, Hans P. Lüthi, and Isabel Dalli)

10:30 Werner Scholar Short Communications (Part I*)

11:15 Break

11:30 Werner Scholar Short Communications (Part II*)

Lunch

12:15 Buffet-Lunch, Discussions, and Socializing

Afternoon Session (Chair: Michaël Parmentier)

14:00 Werner Scholar Short Communications (Part III*)

15:00 Break and Transfer to Novartis Pavilion

Activities at **Novartis Pavilion:**

15:15 Flash Presentations of Novartis Team (R&D, HR)

- Discussion in groups with Novartis Team Members about work, career, and work-life balance
- Visit of Pharma Museum
- Farewell

End: 17:30

*) see next page for presenters and titles

Werner Scholar Short Communications

Screening for small-molecule inhibitors of mTORC2-lipid interactions and its target deconvolution

Jelena Gajić (Geneva)

Photoemission from aerosol particles: Fundamental and applied insights

Loren Ban (ETHZ)

Catalytic upgrading of lignin through the oxidative pathway

Jean Behaghel (EPFL)

Evolution of Multivalent Supramolecular Assemblies of Functionalized Nucleic Acids with User-Defined Spatial Organization

Artem Kononenko (EPFL)

How ring-size, stereochemistry and substituents modulate the activity of a nanomolar JAK1 inhibitor

Kleni Mulliri (Bern)

Organocatalytic Synthesis of Triflones Bearing Two Non - Adjacent Stereogenic Centers.

Alena Budinská (ETHZ)

Control over Stereogenic N–N Axes by Pd-Catalyzed 5-endo-Hydroaminocyclizations

Valeriia Hutskalova (Basel)

Probing single photocatalysts and molecules by single-particle fluorescence spectroscopy

Leon Feld (ETHZ)

The Conformational Challenges of Drug Design in Macrocycles

Patricia Brandl (ETHZ)

High-affinity peptides developed against calprotectin and their application as synthetic ligands in diagnostic assays.

Lluc Farrera (Geneva, EPFL)

Participating Scholar Portraits

Konstantina K. Armadorou

Class of 2022-2024

Native of Greece



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Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: National Kapodistrian University of Athens

Master's degree at: EPF Lausanne, Institute of Chemical Sciences and Engineering Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Dr. M. Grätzel; Dr. MER S. M. Zakeeruddin

Personal

Thanks to the Alfred Werner Scholarship, I had the opportunity to pursue my studies in Switzerland, in an academic institute renowned for its cutting-edge research in the field of renewable energy. The scholarship has allowed me to fully concentrate on my studies and research, as well as provide the foundation for a successful research career.

While working as a research assistant in Greece, I focused on the development and application of novel materials in optoelectronic devices, namely solar cells and LEDs. My past research experience allowed me to join the group of Prof. Dr. Michael Grätzel for my three research projects, where I could further broaden my skills, as well as develop precious collaborations with scientists renowned in the field of photonics.

As an Alfred Werner scholar, I was also given the opportunity to join the youngSCS Senate as an EPFL representative and member of the Communications subgroup. This experience has allowed me to cultivate my organization and science communication skills, which are crucial for early-career researchers.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: MSc student at Prof. Dr. M. Grätzel's group

Research Interests: Physical Chemistry, Functional Materials, Photonics

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s): A. Fakharuddin, K. K. Armadorou et al., Chinese J. Chem. 2023, 41 (4), 431-442

Extracurricular activities, projects: youngSCS Senate member

Current and Future Plans

After completing the Master's cycle, I plan to continue my PhD studies in Switzerland in the field of thin film technologies and photonics. I believe that this will allow me to further my research skills and theoretical understanding of processes in the interface between chemistry and physics. Afterwards, I envisage myself performing fundamental research for the development of next-generation optoelectronic materials with scale-up possibilities via environmentally friendly methods.

Mahdi Assari
 Class of 2019-2021
 Native of Iran



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Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: Sharif University, Iran
 Master's degree at: EPF Lausanne and University of Geneva in Chemical Biology and University of Chicago
 Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Christian Heinis and Prof. Yimon Aye at EPFL; Prof. Chuan He and Prof. Tao Pan at University of Chicago
 Awards/Distinctions: International House "Graduate Fellowship" Award
 "McCormick fellowship" for Ph.D. studies at UChicago

Personal

My experience as a Werner scholar in Switzerland showed me exciting possibilities and advancements in applying chemical biology in medicinal and biological systems. Since then, I have equipped myself with more knowledge and expertise in various research areas, ranging from protein-based drug discovery assays (Master's study) to nucleic acid research (PhD studies), studying their chemical modifications and interactions. What has been important to me so far is to gain proper high-level skills to produce reliable, reproducible, and organized data independently. Besides, my urge to stay creative and tenacious throughout my career has allowed me to work in multiple prestigious teams worldwide and help in many collaborations.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: PhD student at the University of Chicago (USA), supervisors: Prof. Chuan He (Wolf Prize winner in chemistry, 2023) and Prof. Tao Pan
 Research Interests: Drug discovery & method development, Nucleic acid research, RNA modification
 Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s): International House Graduate Fellowship Award
 Awarded "McCormick fellowship" for Ph.D. studies at UChicago
 Awarded "Alfred Werner Master's Student Scholarship" for Master's studies in Switzerland
 Ranked 2nd (Silver medal) in the 24th National Scientific Olympiad for University Students in Chemistry
 Ranked in the top 1% in the international "GRE chemistry subject" test

Current and Future Plans

My research interests are specific but inclusive and related to what I have stuck to during my diverse career—drug discovery and method development in chemical biology. Based on my experiences, I will thrive the most when I join a team in a platform to harness chemistry and biology to address biomedical challenges. Thanks to the multiple collaborations with industries during my studies, I have gained numerous attributes ideal for research in the industry, namely efficient and well-recorded data collection, and data analysis. As I have experienced working in groups with versatile sizes and environments during my PhD, I am confident that industry-style research suits me. Practically, I would love to join the industry and be a beneficial asset by doing an internship in any summer before potential recruitment in June 2025.

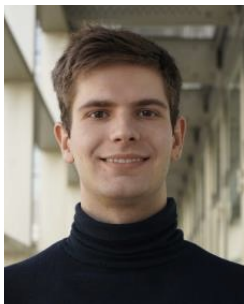
Mykola Avramenko

Class of 2022-2024

Native of Ukraine



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Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Master's degree at: ETH Zurich

Master thesis supervisor: Dr. Stefan Gruber

Awards/Distinctions: Best Bachelor thesis in Chemistry (IHT KNU), IChO 2017 (silver medal)

Personal

I was born in Zaporizhzhia in Ukraine. There, I went to school and, starting from 7th grade, I have been interested in chemistry. In addition to this subject, I spent a lot of time studying close disciplines: mathematics, physics, and programming.

After graduation, I was accepted to the Institute of High Technologies of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. At the same time, I was working at Enamine Ltd., where I specialized in conducting fine organic synthesis (mostly, amide bond coupling, metal-catalyzed transformation, and Castagnoli-Cushman reactions). My Bachelor thesis was based on studying the last reaction, in particular, using imine derivatives of fluoral hydrate.

Thanks to the Alfred Werner scholarship, after becoming a student at ETH Zurich I have finished several projects in Prof. Dr. Jeffrey W. Bode's and Prof. Dr. Yoko Yamakoshi's groups dedicated to the studying of KAT-ligation and fullerene as a photosensitizer.

At the moment, I am doing my master's thesis in Prof Dr. R. Schibli's group under Dr. Stefan Gruber's supervision, where I study Ni-catalyzed Suzuki-type sp^2 - sp^3 coupling.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: MSc student

Research Interests: Organic synthesis, Metalorganic chemistry, Catalysis, Mechanistic studies, Methodology, DFT calculations, NMR Spectroscopy.

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s): Adamovskiy, M.I., Avramenko, M.M., Volochnyuk, D.M. and Ryabukhin, S.V., 2020. Fluoral Hydrate: A Perspective Substrate for the Castagnoli-Cushman Reaction. ACS omega, 5(33), pp.20932-20942,

Extracurricular activities, projects: jury member of Ukrainian Chemistry Olympiad.

Current and Future Plans

Currently, I am mostly interested in metalorganic chemistry, and its implementation in catalysis. I plan to start my Ph.D. in October at ETH Zurich or EPFL in this area.



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Loren Ban

Class of 2015-2017

Native of Croatia



Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: University of Zagreb

Master's degree at: ETH Zurich

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Ruth Signorell

Awards/Distinctions: ETH Medal for Outstanding
Master's Thesis

Personal

During my first serious steps in chemistry at the Uni. of Zagreb, I soon realized that I want to understand more details about the beautiful chemical complexity found in a flask. At ETH, this meant greatly simplifying the problem - I learned about research ranging from the smallest molecule to nanometer-sized clusters and covered timescales down to attoseconds. The Alfred Werner Scholarship enabled a worryless transition to student life in Switzerland, providing the necessary financial independence to tackle the challenging Chemistry Master's program. Since then, I obtained a PhD degree in physical chemistry, focused on using laser radiation to investigate how electron behave in "microflasks" – aerosol particles. I enjoy working in dynamic and challenging environments, as well as getting to collaborate with motivated people who like to share their excitement with others.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: Postdoctoral researcher at ETH Zürich

Research Interests: Aerosols, Spectroscopy, Particle-light interactions

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s):

Awards: ETH Career Seed Grant, Top 20 Spark Award 2023

- Ban et al. Journal of Aerosol Science, 2023, 167, 106080.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaerosci.2022.106080>

- Ban et al. Ann. Rev. Phys. Chem. 2020, 71, 315-334.

<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-physchem-071719-022655>

Current and Future Plans

Currently, I am finishing a postdoctoral position at ETH and planning my next career steps in Switzerland. I am looking to switch into a new field where research and innovation work closely together to address complex, yet relevant problems.

Patricia Brandl
Class of 2020-2022
Native of Austria



Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: Technical University of Vienna
Master's degree at: EPFL Lausanne
Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Sereina Riniker, ETH Zurich



Personal

Coming from a background in classical chemistry, the opportunity given by the AW Scholarship to do my master's degree enabled me to find my passion for all things computational. I am fascinated by the speedy growth of the community and love to contribute to chemical challenges from that angle. While Switzerland is certainly an amazing place to study and pursue chemistry, it is also the perfect place to unwind in nature, be it skiing, hiking or kayaking. So after a small excursus to industry and then a long-planned trip to Asia, I have recently started my PhD adventure in the field.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: PhD student at the Riniker Lab at ETH Zurich
Research Interests: Computational Chemistry: Modelling and Simulation; Medicinal Chemistry: Cyclic Peptides and Conformer Prediction

Current and Future Plans

Just having started my PhD in computational chemistry, this will be my prime occupation for the next four years. I see it as a time of intense study to both become excellent in my specific field and cultivate a broader sense of what chemistry is capable of achieving. But of course it is also the perfect time for inspirational encounters and exploring different roles in university organizations and career paths beyond the PhD.

Jean Behagel de Bueren

Class of 2016-2018

Native of Belgium



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**Education / Training**

Bachelor's degree at: Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium

Master's degree at: EPFL Lausanne

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Jeremy Luterbacher

Awards/Distinctions: Syngenta Monthey Award (best average grade for the master), BASF Monthey SA Award (best master project)

Personal

Thanks to the Alfred Werner Scholarship, I had the opportunity to continue my studies in Switzerland and to discover a different learning environment. I had the chance to work in the fragrance and flavor industry thanks to an internship at Firmenich, a company I discovered during an event organized by the Alfred Werner Scholarship Program.

After my Master project in the field of biomass valorization, I joined an early stage spin off aiming to transfer a technology developed at EPFL into an industrial process. This experience allowed me to understand the challenges of scaling up chemical processes. After 2 years in the company, I decided to join the lab of Prof. Luterbacher as a PhD student to work on lignin upgrading and development of new bioplastics.

Selected Publications/ Activities

1. L. P. Manker, M. J. Jones, S. Bertella, J. Behagel De Bueren, J. S. Luterbacher, *Current Opinion in Green and Sustainable Chemistry*. 41, 100780 (2023).
2. J. Behagel de Bueren et al., *ACS Sustainable Chem. Eng.* 8, 16737–16745 (2020).
3. W. Lan, J. Behagel de Bueren, J. S. Luterbacher, *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*. 58, 2649–2654 (2019).

Extracurricular activities: Rugby player in LNA, skiing, travelling

Current and Future Plans

As a driven PhD student in chemical engineering, I am committed to addressing the challenges posed by climate change and fossil resources shortages in the chemical industry. My goal is to work as an engineer, closely connected to state-of-the-art research, to design innovative strategies, develop new products, and optimize existing processes.

In the long term, my aspiration is to assume a managerial role that allows me to lead cross-functional teams and spearhead transformative change. By bridging the gap between scientific advancements and practical application, I seek to make a tangible impact in steering the chemical industry towards a more sustainable future.

Alena Budinská

Class of 2017-2019

Native of Czech Republic



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Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: University of Chemistry and Technology Prague, Czech Republic

Master's degree at: ETH Zurich

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Dmitry Katayev and Prof. Antonio Togni

Awards/Distinctions: Willi Studer Prize for the best Master degree in chemistry at ETH Zurich

Personal

I am organic chemist currently pursuing my PhD in the Wennemers group at ETH Zurich. I am broadly interested in both fundamental and applied organic chemistry. Throughout my studies, I engaged in various interdisciplinary projects and obtained research experience in organocatalysis, transition-metal catalysis and organofluorine chemistry. The Meet&Greet events of the Alfred Werner network motivated me to join the chemical industry for two internships, during which I gained insights into medicinal and process chemistry. Furthermore, I am passionate about training younger generations of chemists through teaching and supporting events such as the International Chemistry Olympiad.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: 4th year PhD student in the Wennemers group at ETH Zurich

Research Interests: Organic Synthesis, Catalysis, Peptides, Medicinal & Process Chemistry

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s):

Recipient of the Scholarship Fund of the Swiss Chemical Industry (SSCI) 2021

Panelist at the academic session 'Chemistry and the future of society' at the

Solvay conference on Chemistry, 2022

Recent publication: Budinská, A.; Wennemers, H. Organocatalytic Synthesis of

Triflones Bearing Two Non-Adjacent Stereogenic Centers. *ACIE* 2023, e202300537.

Extracurricular activities, projects: Member of the scientific committee of the International Chemistry Olympiad 2023 & co-author of the organic chemistry problems

Current and Future Plans

After completing my PhD, I am eager to pursue a career in the pharmaceutical industry. I would like to transition from academia via an entry-level or postdoctoral position in R&D to gain further experience that will help me reach my long-term goal of becoming a leading scientist in the industry.

Syedmohamadjavad Chabok

Class of 2021-2023

Native of Ukraine

**Alfred
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Bachelor's degree at: Sharif University, Iran

Master's degree at: EPFL Lausanne

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Kevin Sivula and Dr. Sandy Sanchez

Personal*On the Trail of Solar Energy*

With my passion for green energy, joining EPFL, a leading institution in capturing solar power, was a dream realized by the incredible support of the Alfred Werner Scholarship. This invaluable experience allowed me to gain practical skills and develop critical thinking abilities in renowned research groups.

Throughout my master's studies, I worked on various projects regarding the role of chemistry in realizing green energy, including perovskite solar cells and single-atom catalysts for the electrochemical conversion of CO₂. These projects deepened my understanding of the future of green energy and made me aware of the numerous career possibilities in the industry, where I can contribute to bringing new solutions to the market.

I also had the chance to interact with senior scientists at the Meet & Greet event, which provided valuable insights into the essential skills needed for transitioning from academia to industry.

I am truly grateful for the unwavering support of the Alfred Werner Scholarship, as it has enriched my time in Switzerland with wonderful experiences and opened doors to new opportunities.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: Master Thesis at LIMNO led by Prof. Sivula (Expected July 2023)

Research Interests: Catalysis, Electrochemistry, Photovoltaics, Semiconductors.

Current and Future Plans

I am currently conducting my master's thesis at LIMNO, where my research is centered around modifying crystal growth regimes in tin-based perovskite materials. This exciting project aligns with my primary interests in energy materials and catalysis. However, I am also highly enthusiastic about engaging in research that has practical applications. As I progress in my academic journey, my plans involve pursuing a doctoral degree. This will allow me to delve deeper into my areas of interest, expand my knowledge, and contribute to advancing science.

Chiara Compagnoni

Class of 2020-2022

Native of Italy



Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: University of Milano-Bicocca

Master's degree at: University of Zurich

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Ilija Čorić



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Personal

I obtained my BSc in Chemical Sciences and Technologies from the University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy, where I gained hands-on experience through a 6-month research internship in medicinal chemistry. During this time, I worked on designing and synthesizing iduronic acid's iminosugar analogues as potential pharmacological chaperones for treating type I Mucopolysaccharidosis. In 2020, thanks to the Alfred Werner Scholarship, I was able to move to Switzerland to continue my studies in an international setting and enrolled in the specialized master's in Chemical and Molecular Studies at the University of Zürich. This experience expanded my academic horizon, and I mainly focused on organic synthesis and homogeneous catalysis research. Working in the group of Prof. Ilija Čorić, I focused on synthesizing novel chiral sulfonic acids for asymmetric catalysis. In addition to my academic experience, I completed a 6-month internship at Givaudan Schweiz AG, where I successfully synthesized new fragrance ingredients using a chemo-enzymatic strategy, further developing my expertise in both organic chemistry and biochemistry.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: MSc student in Chemical and Molecular Sciences at UZH, the group of Prof. Ilija Coric, planning on graduating in July 2023

Research Interests: Organic Synthesis, Medicinal Chemistry, Green Chemistry, Catalysis

Extracurricular activities: Currently learning Python and C++ programming and improving my German skills

Current and Future Plans

After graduating, I plan on continuing my education by enrolling in a Ph.D. program in organic chemistry, focusing on its application in the medicinal and biological field. In the future, I aim to work actively in research and development, contributing to novel therapeutic solutions.

Patrick Domke

Class of 2022-2024

Native of Germany



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**Education / Training**

Bachelor's degree at: Friedrich-Alexander-University, Germany

Master's degree at: EPFL Lausanne

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Bill Morandi, ETH Zurich

Personal

After gaining a first impression of research in Switzerland during a summer internship at EPFL in 2021, I was keen on returning to Lausanne for my Master's degree. Thanks to the Alfred Werner Scholarship, I was able to realize this plan and thus relocate from Bavaria to Switzerland one year later.

My studies at EPFL have allowed me to pursue my passion for synthetic chemistry and sharpen both my theoretical and practical skills. A particularly rewarding experience was contributing to the total synthesis of a complex sesquiterpenoid in the group of Prof. Jieping Zhu for my first-year research project.

The Alfred Werner Scholarship has given me the freedom to devote all my energy to my growth as a researcher. It has also provided me with a unique opportunity to establish invaluable contacts with the chemical industry throughout Switzerland. These have led me to join Syngenta for a 6-month internship in route optimization. Finally, I cherish the opportunity to connect with fellow Werner scholars, which has resulted in many instructive exchanges about research at other Swiss chemistry institutes.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: Master Student at EPF Lausanne

Research Interests: Total Synthesis, Asymmetric Catalysis, Organometallic Chemistry

Extracurriculars: Political engagement (Chair of a youth organization at municipal level)

Awards: Fellow of German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung).

Current and Future Plans

In order to further develop my synthetic skillset and to explore yet more of Switzerland's diverse research landscape, I will be joining the group of Prof. Morandi at ETH Zürich for my Master's thesis in 2024. From there onwards, I seek to continue my academic journey by pursuing a Ph.D. in organic chemistry.

Krikor Eblighatian

Class of 2019-2021

Native of Syria



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Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: University of Geneva

Master's degree at: University of Geneva and EPFL

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Stefan Matile and Prof. Thierry Soldati

Awards/Distinctions: Best Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry 2019 at University of Geneva

Personal

The Alfred Werner scholarship allowed me to follow the Master's program at the NCCR in Chemical Biology at the University of Geneva and EPFL. This scholarship provided the best possible conditions to fully focus on my studies and to be able to perform high level of research in world-renowned Universities and research groups. The interdisciplinary master's project allowed me to deepen my knowledge both in Organic synthesis and in Biochemistry.

My contribution helped to synthesize and characterize novel molecular probes used to study mechanical forces in cellular membranes. These valuable studies opened the opportunity to do an internship at Roche.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: employed by Roche Diagnostics International, R&D BGE department

Research Interests: Chemical Biology, Organic Synthesis, Biochemistry, Analytical Chemistry

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s): "Photocleavable Fluorescent Membrane Tension Probes: Fast Release with Spatiotemporal Control in Inner Leaflets of Plasma Membrane, Nuclear Envelope, and Secretory Pathway" *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2022, 61, e202113163.

Current and Future Plans

Currently, I occupy a development Engineer position at Roche Diagnostics International in R&D, BGE department. My work is focused on developing state-of-the-art and automated analytical methods for quantification of critical parameters in the reagents used for Blood Gas Electrolytes diagnostics instruments.

I enjoy working in research, developing myself by constantly learning and gaining experience. My long-term plan is to broaden my knowledge and gain experiences in different fields of Chemistry and Biochemistry to be able to contribute and conduct interdisciplinary and innovative research.

Lluc Farrera Soler
 Class of 2015-2017
 Native of Spain



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Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: University of Barcelona, Spain
 Master's degree at: University of Geneva, EPFL
 Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Nicolas Winssinger,
 University of Geneva

Personal

After studying chemistry at the University of Barcelona, I was looking for an opportunity to study a master degree abroad. The Alfred Werner Scholarship allowed me to join the master in Chemical Biology organized by the NCCR Chemical Biology together with UNIGE and EPFL. During that master I learnt many different techniques and how useful is chemistry to solve different biological problems/needs.

During the master I joined the group of Prof. Nicolas Winssinger (UNIGE) for the master thesis, and later I stayed in the same group for the PhD. The main research focus was the discovery and application of new methodologies using peptide nucleic acid (PNA) as a robust analogue of DNA such as PNA-encoded libraries.

During my PhD studies I was also involved in the youngSCS (first as UNIGE representative and later as president) and in the editorial team of the NCCR Chemical Biology blog.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: PostDoc at Heinis lab (EPFL) in collaboration with Bühlmann laboratories.

Research Interests: Drug Discovery, Peptides, Diagnostic assays.

Awards: Best oral presentation award in SCS Fall meeting 2020 and EFMC-YMCS 2021.

Most relevant Publications: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0238089>,
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41557-021-00829-5>.

Extracurricular activities, projects: Former president of the youngSwiss Chemical Society (youngSCS) and current member of the BSNL association.

Current and Future Plans

Currently I am a postdoctoral researcher in the group of Prof. Christian Heinis (EPFL) in collaboration with Bühlmann laboratories. The main goal of our research is to develop protein-free LFA diagnostic assays by replacing the required antibodies with peptides. I am also starting to look for new opportunities in the pharma/biotech sector with either a scientific or project management role.

Leon Gabriel Feld
Class of 2019-2021
Native of Germany



**Alfred
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Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: ETH Zurich
Master's degree at: ETH Zurich
Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Maksym V. Kovalenko

Personal

The Alfred Werner Scholarship allowed me to pursue my Chemistry MSc at ETH Zurich where I immersed myself in the captivating realm of semiconductor nanocrystals and physical methods to investigate their fascinating properties. In an interdisciplinary environment, I gained experience in advanced spectroscopy techniques including single-particle fluorescence spectroscopy and solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance. Furthermore, I had the chance to augment my experimental skills with ab-initio molecular dynamics simulations.

The Alfred Werner Scholarship facilitated my academic pursuit and exposed me to pioneering research in Switzerland's vibrant chemistry community, offering access to state-of-the-art facilities. Moreover, the growing network of former scholars and industry representatives associated with the Werner scholarship is poised to become an invaluable asset as I progress in my career.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: Doctoral student at ETH Zurich

Research Interests: Single-particle spectroscopy, colloidal quantum dots

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s):

Feld, L. G.; Shynkarenko, Y.; Krieg, F.; Rainò, G.; Kovalenko, M. V. *Advanced Optical Materials*, 2021, 9, 2100620. <https://doi.org/10.1002/adom.202100620>.

Current and Future Plans

Intrigued by the ability to monitor individual nanocrystals and their surroundings in real-time, I made the decision to continue my research at ETH Zurich in the group of Prof Kovalenko. I am eager to leverage the knowledge and experience I acquired during my MSc studies, made possible by the Alfred Werner Scholarship, as a solid foundation to explore the frontiers in the realm of nanomaterials. My aspiration is to contribute meaningfully to the field of chemistry by pushing the boundaries of our understanding at the nanoscale.

Jelena Gajić

Class of 2019-2021

Native of Serbia



**Alfred
Werner Fund**
SCS
Foundation

Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: University of Belgrade, Serbia

Master's degree at: University of Geneva

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Robbie Loewith, Prof.

Nicolas Winssinger and Prof. Anne-Claude Gavin

Personal

I graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Belgrade in Serbia. After graduating, I became interested in biology and how chemistry could be used to better understand it. Therefore, I applied for an amazing master program in Chemical Biology at the University of Geneva, and thanks to the Alfred Werner Foundation, I got the opportunity to be a part of it. I did my thesis in an interdisciplinary project under the supervision of three PIs. This gave me the chance to learn many techniques, to meet scientists from diverse backgrounds and, most importantly, to understand science from different perspectives and not just through the lens of a chemist. Now I am a Ph.D. student working on the development of selective inhibitors of the mTOR complex 2.

I became part of the great community in Switzerland as an Alfred Werner Scholar. I got to know a handful of young scientists from all over the world who are currently working at Swiss universities. The journey as a fellow has been amazing in terms of the opportunities I have had for professional and personal growth. Not only did I develop as a scientist and made contacts with inspiring people, but also, among others, I improved my French language and skiing skills. Altogether, it was a very rich and invaluable experience for me.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: PhD student at the University of Geneva under the supervision of Prof. Robbie Loewith and Prof. Nicolas Winssinger

Research Interests: Chemical Biology, Drug Discovery

Extracurricular activities, projects: Scientific Illustration, Dancing, Running, Basketball.

Current and Future Plans

I would like to continue my work at the interface between chemistry and biology, in an attempt to understand the processes in the living organism. Chemical biology is an area of research that ranges from fundamental science to medical applications such as drug discovery and diagnostics and therefore gives me the opportunity to work on interesting and challenging projects. In the long run, my goal is to contribute to human health through my research.

Liliana Galvez-Vazquez

Class of 2021-2023

Native of Mexico



**Alfred
Werner Fund**
SCS
Foundation



Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: Universidad Autonoma de Puebla

Master's degree at: University of Bern

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Peter Broekmann

Awards/Distinctions: Alfred Werner Scholarship (Switzerland 2021-2023), Young Researchers Program Scholarship (Mexico, Jun 2019-Oct 2019), Scholarship for "Academic Excellence" (Mexico 2017)

Personal

Thanks to the Alfred Werner Scholarship, I could carry out my master studies at the University of Bern in Switzerland and with this experience I broaden not only my knowledge, expertise, and capabilities of working in science but also, I had the chance to enrich my overview of the world.

During my master's studies, I worked on three different projects. One of them allowed me to have a closer view of the research that is being carried out by the industry (BASF) by joining the corrosion project for semiconductor applications, a collaboration with BASF and the University of Bern. The second project I was involved, consisted in a collaboration with the University of Mainz in Germany and it comprised the preparation of metal foams for organic electrosynthesis. The last project was about the development of a unique approach based on the preparation of nano-mask by electron beam lithography and its use to investigate corrosion inhibition. This last project was the main topic of my master thesis. Moreover, due to the novelty of the last two research projects, two scientific articles will be published.

On the other hand, living in Switzerland brought me unique experiences by doing indoor and outdoor sports in their beautiful mountains, rivers, and lakes. Moreover, I could meet extraordinary people worldwide due to this beautiful adventure and get familiar with other languages and cultures.

This scholarship is an excellent opportunity to grow not only as a scientist but also as a person. Living abroad has given me one of the most valuable experiences in my life.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: PhD student at University of Bern at the Interfacial Electrochemistry Group

Research Interests: Catalysis and Electrosynthesis.

Extracurricular activities, projects: dancing, fitness, baking, and reading.

Current and Future Plans

At the beginning of May 2023, I started my PhD project at the University of Bern. My research topic consists in the electrochemical oxidation of 5-hydroxymethylfurfural, a derivative of biomass to valuable products.

My future plans are to successfully finish my PhD studies and to continue learning German. After that, I would like to apply for a job in the industry.

Valeriia Hutskalova

Class of 2019-2021

Native of Ukraine



**Alfred
Werner Fund**
SCS
Foundation

**Education / Training**

Bachelor's degree at: Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Master's degree at: University of Basel

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Christof Sparr

Awards/Distinctions: Camille und Henry Dreyfus Stipendium (2023), Award for the best oral presentation (SCS Fall Meeting 2022)

Personal

Thanks to the Alfred Werner Scholarship program, I had a great opportunity to perform my Master studies at the University of Basel and to join the group of Prof. Dr. Christof Sparr, where my research was aimed at the development of new synthetic methods for the preparation and applications of acridinium photocatalysts. In 2020, I started my PhD studies in the same group with a focus on stereoselective catalysis and photochemistry.

Having more than 3 years of the industrial experience (as a synthetic chemist and an assistant project manager at Enamine Ltd), I was also excited to learn more about industrial research in Switzerland due to the Alfred Werner Fund Meet & Greet events and local conferences. This scholarship gave a chance to be a part of the great research team and to participate in fruitful collaborations with industry during my PhD studies. All the acquired knowledge and skills will create a strong foundation for my future career.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: PhD student at the University of Basel (Prof. Sparr group):

Research Interests: Organic Synthesis, Catalysis, Medicinal Chemistry

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s):

- [1] Hutskalova, V.; Sparr, C. Control over N–N Stereogenic Axes by the Pd-catalyzed 5-endo-Hydroaminocyclization, *Synthesis*, 2022, 55, doi: 10.1055/a-1993-6899.
- [2] Hutskalova, V.; Sparr, C. Ad Hoc Adjustment of Photoredox Properties by the Late-Stage Diversification of Acridinium Photocatalysts. *Org. Lett.* 2021, 23, 5143.
- [3] Hutskalova, V.; Sparr, C. Synthesis and Applications of Acridinium Salts. In *Science of Synthesis*; 2022, 1, 1–44.
- [4] Hutskalova, V.; Sparr, C. The Versatility of the Aryne–Imine–Aryne Coupling for the Synthesis of Acridinium Photocatalysts. *Synlett* 2022, 33, 1180.

Zlatko Jončev
Class of 2016-2018
Native of Serbia



**Alfred
Werner Fund**
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Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: University of Belgrade
Internship at the Medicinal Chemistry Department at Hoffmann-La Roche

Master's degree at: University of Basel

PhD degree at: University of Basel

PhD thesis supervisor: Prof. Christof Sparr

Personal

My first scientific experience in Switzerland happened at the Medicinal Chemistry department at Hoffman-La Roche, where I was exposed to a very vibrant and diverse environment of innovation in the Basel Area. The Alfred Werner fund played a significant role in helping me understand how everyday scientific research gets translated into successful businesses that improve people's lives. Furthermore, the Alfred Werner Scholarship is a hub that allowed me to meet many great people over the years and orient myself in the scientific community.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: employed by Chemspeed Technologies

Research Interests: AI and Robotics Accelerated Material Discovery

Most relevant Publication: Z. Jončev, C. Sparr, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2022, 61,e202211168.

Current and Future Plans

Looking ahead, my goal is to bridge the gap between the fields of robotics and AI, and experimental chemistry. I am driven by the belief that the integration of these disciplines has the potential to revolutionize scientific research. By leveraging the power of robotics and AI, we can speed up laborious and repetitive tasks in the laboratory, freeing up researchers' time and resources for more creative and exploratory work.



Alfred
Werner Fund
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Artem Kononenko
Class of 2018-2020
Native of Ukraine



Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Master's degree at: University of Geneva

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Nicolas Winssinger

Awards/Distinctions: Silver medal in iGEM 2019 synthetic biology competition in Boston

Personal

In 2018 I received my Bachelor's degree in molecular biology from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and performed my BSc thesis at IOCB Prague. The Alfred Werner scholarship allowed me to continue my academic path by pursuing Master studies in chemical biology at the University of Geneva and EPFL.

During this period, I had a unique opportunity to work on the development of high-throughput screening platform for the discovery of stapled peptides. This hands-on experience not only expanded my experimental repertoire but also deepened my theoretical knowledge across various domains of study.

Receiving the prestigious Alfred Werner Scholarship was an exceptional honor that served as an additional source of motivation for me. It inspired me to go beyond excelling in my academic performance and encouraged me to actively participate in extracurricular scientific projects. Consequently, I eagerly joined the UNIGE iGEM team, where we embarked on a project that ultimately earned a silver medal at the iGEM 2019 competition and paved the way for the establishment of "Fluorosphaera" start-up company.

As I reflect on my journey thus far, I believe that the Alfred Werner Scholarship is an outstanding platform for personal growth that opens doors to invaluable experiences, mentorship, and networking opportunities.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: PhD student at EPFL (Prof. Maartje Bastings lab)

Research Interests: Bio/Chemical engineering, Chemical biology, Medicinal Chemistry, Supramolecular Chemistry

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s):

(1) Bila, H.; Paloja, K.; Caroprese, V.; Kononenko, A.; Bastings, M. M. C. Multivalent Pattern Recognition through Control of Nano-Spacing in Low-Valency Super-Selective Materials. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2022, 144 (47), 21576–21586. <https://doi.org/10.1021/jacs.2c08529>.

Extracurricular activities, projects: Chess, gym, drawing, coding for fun on CheckiO and Rosalind.

Current and Future Plans

After completing my PhD, I am planning to transition to the pharmaceutical industry and pursue a career within one of the prestigious Swiss Pharma companies. This strategic move represents the culmination of my academic journey and aligns perfectly with my aspirations to contribute to groundbreaking research and development in the field.

Denys Kvasha
Class of 2022-2024
Native of Ukraine



**Alfred
Werner Fund**
SCS
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Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Master's degree at: ETH Zurich

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Jeffrey W. Bode

Awards/Distinctions: 3rd grade diploma of All-Ukrainian Student's Olympiad in Chemistry (2019). Lecturer and instructor of Organic Synthesis practicum of IChO's participants from Ukraine (2018-2019)

Personal

I started my studying of Chemistry in Kyiv and after the first semester began to work as a synthetic chemist on Enamine Ltd, where I had been for 4 years. During my Bachelor's studies, I was developing synthetic landscape and tools for difluorocarbene incorporation using Ruppert-Prakash reagent (TMSCF₃).

I left my country when the war had begun and thanks to Alfred Werner Scholarship I was able to join ETH for Master's studies and conduct cutting-edge research in this unique environment. I started my research in Prof. Dr. Shana J. Sturla's lab with synthesis of irlofulven analogs. As a part of my Master's thesis research, I am exploring possibilities of C-terminal peptide modifications with various nucleophiles as a part of Prof. Dr. Jeffrey W. Bode's group research. Such a method can help both in exploring the chemical space of peptides for drug discovery as well as for biochemical modification of biomolecules with various peptides.

The Scholarship offers me unique opportunities to join different projects and develop new skills with clear implementation of results.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: Master Student in Chemistry at ETH Zurich

Research Interests: Medicinal Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, TM Catalysis, Chemical Biology, Bioanalytics.

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s): Eur. J. Org. Chem. 2021, 2021, 6604; The Journal of Organic Chemistry 2023 88 (1), 163-171.

Extracurricular activities, projects: travelling, hiking, basketball, cooking.

Current and Future Plans

After completing my master's degree, I am going to start PhD in fields of Organic and Medicinal Chemistry and continue progressing in these areas, particularly expanding practical skills in Biology and Biochemistry.



**Alfred
Werner Fund**
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Jana Lukic

Class of 2021-2023

Native of Serbia



Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: University of Belgrade, Serbia

Master's degree at: EPFL Lausanne

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Francois Marechal and Marie Jones (LPDC and IPESE laboratory)

Internship at Firmenich SA in process intensification

Personal

SCS Foundation's "Alfred Werner Scholarship" made it possible for me to attend Master Program in Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology at EPFL, which changed both my academic and personal life. It gave me the chance to explore sustainability related issues and the impact I can have with respect to them. Diverse projects in the curriculum offered me a unique opportunity to combine disciplines in generating interesting results but also provided a critical perspective on the work itself, all of which proved how different and inspiring the atmosphere of studying in Switzerland is!

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: Master graduate from EPFL, IPESE laboratory (EPFL Energypolis, Sion)

Research Interests: Sustainability, Recycling, Computer Modeling and Simulation

Extracurricular activities, projects: developing and building a self-heating lunch box¹, exploring the correlation between improvisation arts and engineering², investigating a local bio-ethanol production starting from food waste at EPFL and developing a sustainable industrial process as a part of EURECHA 2023 contest

Current and Future Plans

Deeply inspired by the work I did as a part of my master project on the "Potential of carbon neutral life cycle of bio-plastics", where the potential short-term industrial solutions were assessed by modeling and optimization approach, I aspire to give my contribution in the same field and widen my knowledge and practical experience. I am greatly thankful for the opportunity the SCS Foundation provided me and proud to be one of the Alfred Werner Scholars. I hope to give my contribution to the environment and continue to enlarge and exchange my experience.

Anna Rosa Masoni
Class of 2022-2024
Native of Italy



**Alfred
Werner Fund**
SCS
Foundation



Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: Università degli Studi di Pavia

Master's degree at: University of Basel

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Dennis Gillingham

Awards/Distinctions: full fellowship at College Santa Caterina da Siena, Pavia, merit based University College recognized by the Ministry of University and Research. The fellowship is awarded to the student highest ranking within the non-biomedical area.

Personal

Bridging academical life and practical training in an international environment

After completing my Bachelor's degree in Chemistry at the University of Pavia, I wanted to further continue my studies in a foreign country, specifically in Switzerland. In this regard, the Alfred Werner Scholarship gave me the opportunity to do my Chemistry Master's degree at the University of Basel. I was very interested in this University, since it comprehends a chemistry degree which offers an interdisciplinary study program. Furthermore, the Master comprises two elective internships of six weeks, which have offered me the chance to strengthen my practical and theoretical knowledge on specific areas of the Chemistry field. Besides these academical opportunities, as an Alfred Werner's student, I also had the great chance to experience the international environment that characterizes both the University of Basel and the Werner scholarship program.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: MSc student at Universität Basel

Research Interests: Chemical Biology, Analytical Chemistry, Organic Synthesis.

Achievements: renewable fellowship at College Santa Caterina da Siena, Pavia.

Current and Future Plans

My first internship was in a Chemical Biology laboratory. There, I learnt new techniques and I widened my biochemistry knowledge. I found the practical very interesting, therefore I am planning on doing my Master's thesis with the same research group. The second internship was in the Analytical Chemistry field. There, I enriched my theoretical and practical skills on NMR spectroscopy: a field which I am considering to further explore too. Besides Biological and Analytical Chemistry, I am also interested in Organic Synthesis and Organometallics. Therefore, I would also like to gain some experience in these areas of research. After completing the Master's program, I plan to stay in Switzerland and do either a PhD or to directly start working in the Industry. On the longer term, I am still figuring whether I would like to pursue an academical career or not. In this regard, doing a PhD could made me better understand what the best decision would be. Nonetheless, I also consider directly working in the Industry to be a valid alternative.

Eibhlin Meade

Class of 2021-2023

Native of Ireland

**Alfred
Werner Fund**
SCS
Foundation**Education / Training**

Bachelor's degree at: University College Dublin

Master's degree at: University of Basel

Master thesis supervisor: Dr. Murielle Delley

Personal

I am extremely proud to be undertaking a master's degree at the University of Basel as an Alfred Werner Scholar. Ever since completing my bachelor's research project on carbon photocatalysts for sustainable water treatment in Dublin, I have been inspired to expand my knowledge of sustainable catalytic materials. With the Alfred Werner Scholars I've been able to follow my interest to Switzerland. I've had an amazing experience here so far, trying everything from hiking up mountains to floating down the Rheine. Here, I've been able to reach new heights both academically and on the Swiss Alps. As well as studying in University of Basel, I completed a 5-month internship at the Paul Scherrer Institute working on fuel cell catalysts. This came with the fantastic opportunity of working with the Swiss Light Source synchrotron and provided hands on training with various advanced instruments.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: Master Student at University of Basel

Research Interests: Sustainable materials, catalysis, fuel cell and battery materials

Extracurricular activities, projects

Current and Future Plans

My current master's thesis project works on surface modification of nickel-based catalysts for hydro-treating reactions. This project allows me to continue studying the fascinating field of surface chemistry as well as hone my skills with many important characterization techniques.

Viktoriia Morad
Class of 2016-2018
Native of Ukraine



**Alfred
Werner Fund**
SCS
Foundation



Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine

Master's degree at: ETH Zurich

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Maksym Kovalenko

Awards/Distinctions: ETH Medal for Outstanding

Master's thesis 2018, SCNAT Travel Award 2021

Personal

Couple years before finishing high school, I have found my passion in studying chemistry and continued with it as my university major. The Alfred Werner Scholarship allowed my passion towards chemistry to crystalize. I have enjoyed different projects in my Master's studies at ETHZ, carrying on into PhD. During my doctorate in the Prof. Kovalenko Lab at ETHZ (2018-2023), I was involved and leading a variety of activities exploring a broad portfolio of novel inorganic luminescent materials, from molecular emitters to semiconductor quantum dots, collaborating with various research groups and industrial partners. The greatest achievement of the Alfred Werner Foundation, in my opinion, is the omnipresent network of support for young scholars, that you feel well after Master studies are finished.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: Postdoctoral researcher at ETH Zürich, Kovalenko Lab

Research Interests: Material science, Luminescent materials, Colloidal chemistry, Inorganic synthesis, Semiconductor nanocrystals

Achievements/Awards: Best Oral Presentation Award at the Symposium EQ09 at MRS Spring Meeting 2022, Honolulu, USA; Best Poster Award at the GRC on Unconventional Semiconductors and Their Applications 2022, Ventura, USA

Key publications:

- Morad, V.; Shynkarenko, Y.; Yakunin, S.; Brumberg, A.; Schaller, R. D.; Kovalenko, M. V., *JACS* 2019, 141 (25), 9764-9768;
- Morad, V.; Cherniukh, I.; Pötttschacher, L.; Shynkarenko, Y.; Yakunin, S.; Kovalenko, M. V., *Chem. Mater.* 2019, 31 (24), 10161-10169;
- Morad, V.; Yakunin, S.; Benin, B. M.; Shynkarenko, Y.; Grotevent, M. J.; Shorubalko, I.; Boehme, S. C.; Kovalenko, M. V., *Adv. Mater.* 2021, 2007355.

Current and Future Plans

I am currently interested in pursuing academic career, focusing on material chemistry. Utilizing inorganic materials, like quantum dots, in biosystems (imaging, therapeutics, etc.) is a topic that I find worth pursuing as an independent researcher.

Kleni Mulliri

Class of 2017-2019

Native of Albania



**Alfred
Werner Fund**
SCS
Foundation

Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: University of Tirana, Albania

Master's degree at: University of Tirana and University of Bern

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Philippe Renaud

Personal

After completing an internship at the University of Bern as part of my initial master's studies, I made a significant decision to completely switch my field of study to Organic Chemistry. The Alfred Werner Scholarship opened a new pathway for me, granting me the opportunity to pursue further education in Switzerland and immerse myself in a different academic environment. During my master's studies under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Phillippe Renaud, I engaged in research involving radical chain monoalkylation of pyridines, collaborating with a group of exceptionally talented individuals. This experience captivated me, ultimately leading me to embark on a Ph.D. journey within the esteemed group of Prof. Dr. Jean-Louis Reymond. My current research revolves around synthesizing innovative compounds with potential biological activities, driven by advanced computer tools and models. The positive impact of this scholarship on both my scientific and personal growth is evident, even as I approach the conclusion of my Ph.D. studies. I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity bestowed upon me and eagerly anticipate contributing to the advancement of chemistry in Switzerland.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: PhD student at University of Bern in the group of Prof. Dr. Jean-Louis Reymond

Research Interests: Medicinal Chemistry, Organic Synthesis, Computational tools.

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s):

Radical chain monoalkylation of pyridines. Rieder, S., Meléndez, C., Dénès, F., Jangra, H., Mulliri, K., Zipse, H., Renaud, P. *Chemical Science*, 2021, 12(46), 15362-15373.

Extracurricular activities, projects: road cycling, bouldering, climbing, hiking/via ferrata.

Current and Future Plans

I will be finishing my PhD in medicinal and organic chemistry by the end of the year, aiming for a future carrier in pharmaceutical industry here in Switzerland.

Dieu Khanh An Nguyen

Class of 2020-2022

Native of Vietnam



Alfred
Werner Fund
SCS
Foundation



Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: University of Strasbourg, France

Master's degree at: University of Geneva

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Sascha Hoogendoorn

Personal

During my Bachelor's degree in Chemistry in Strasbourg, France, I had the opportunity to go on an Erasmus exchange to Cambridge, UK. It was during my time here that I fell in love with the interdisciplinary domain between Chemistry, Chemical Biology, and Molecular Biology, and their vast potential application. This was the reason I applied to the Biochemistry Master's program at the University of Geneva.

Among the uncertainties created by the global pandemic and economic crisis, the Alfred Werner Scholarship provided the financial support I needed to pursue my studies. Alongside different courses, I have had hands-on experience in various laboratories across Switzerland. In Hoogendoorn's lab in Geneva, I was introduced to the world of ciliary signalling, where I different synthetic inhibitory molecules of the Hedgehog pathway. During complementary internship in the NSE lab at ETHZ/EMPA St. Gallen, where I worked on stimuli-responsive hydrogel adhesives for gastrointestinal surgeries. Finally, I am currently working on my thesis at Epithelix, developing a lung fibrosis model using primary cells to study the disease and related treatments. My interest in science and discovery has led me to incredible places and acquainted me with amazing people; in turn, these experiences have allowed me to widen my horizons and deepen my passion for science.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: Master Student (September 2023)

Research Interests: Chemical Biology, Organic Chemistry Synthesis, Biomaterial

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s):

LTT. Nguyen et al., "In vitro and in silico antioxidant and α -glucosidase inhibitory potential of compounds isolated from *Garcinia gaudichaudii*," *Natural Product Research*, Jun. 2022

TKT. Vu et al., "Effects of Au and F co-modification by thermal shock method on the photocatalytic activity of ZnO," *Materials Chemistry and Physics*, vol. 260, p. 124092, Feb. 2021

Current and Future Plans

After my Master's thesis defence in September 2023, I will join Hoogendoorn's lab as a PhD student working on intercellular sortagging. The project entails the study of cellular uptake of synthetic sortagging nucleophiles, potential synthesis of a second generation of nucleophiles as well as chemical biology, cell and molecular biology methods to generate stable cell lines.

Anamarija Nikoletić

Class of 2021-2023

Native of Serbia



**Alfred
Werner Fund**
SCS
Foundation

**Education / Training**

Bachelor's degree at: University of Belgrade

Master's degree at: University of Basel

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Cornelia Palivan

Personal

I'm coming from Belgrade, Serbia, where I've done my BSc in Chemistry. The Alfred Werner Scholarship gave me an amazing opportunity to move to Basel in 2021 and pursue my MSc in Chemistry. During my studies, I got to learn more about topics that interest me, be a part of exciting research and participate in a lot of networking events and meet inspiring people. As part of my master's I joined Housecroft-Constable and Meier-Palivan research groups and worked with coordination polymers and self-assembly and synthesis of block copolymers. I was interested in polymers and their bioapplications since high school when I tried to make soft contact lenses that could cure conjunctivitis. Polymeric drug delivery systems still spark my interest, and I was excited to synthesize new clickable pH-responsive polymer during my MSc thesis. I wish to profoundly thank the Alfred Werner Foundation for the opportunity to do my master's studies in Basel and for connecting me with other chemists in Switzerland.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: PhD student at the Swiss Nanoscience Institute (SNI), working in groups of Prof.

Current status: PhD student at the Swiss Nanoscience Institute (SNI), working in groups of Prof.

Oya Tagit (FHNW, School of Life Sciences) and Prof. Cornelia Palivan (University of Basel)

Research Interests: Polymer chemistry, Drug delivery

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s): Rocco, D.; Nikoletić, A.; Prescimone, A.; Constable, E.C.; Housecroft, C.E. To Be or Not to Be a (4,4) Net: Reactions of 4'-{4-(N,N-Diethylaminophenyl)}- and 4'-{4-(N,N-Diphenylaminophenyl)}-3,2':6',3''- and 4,2':6',4''-Terpyridines with Cobalt(II) Thiocyanate. *Crystals* 2022, 12(8), 1136

Extracurricular activities, projects: Volunteer at the 55th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) in Zurich this summer.

Current and Future Plans

I started my PhD in March as part of the SNI PhD school with joint supervision between groups at the University of Basel and FHNW. During my PhD I'll continue my work on block copolymers synthesis and self-assembly with the goal of developing multi-compartment nanofactories for on-site and on-demand drug synthesis and delivery. After finishing my PhD, I plan to join the industry, hopefully in the field of polymer chemistry.

Oleksandra Ortikova

Class of 2022-2024

Native of Ukraine



**Alfred
Werner Fund**
SCS
Foundation



Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Master's degree at: ETH Zurich

Awards/Distinctions: Bachelor's Diploma with Honours, Bronze medal of International Mendeleev Chemistry Olympiad

Personal

I became an Alfred Werner Scholar in hard times for me and my country, so this amazing opportunity was important for me professionally and personally. The way Alfred Werner Fund showed their support for Ukrainian students is absolutely remarkable.

On a professional level, Alfred Werner Scholarship made my studies in Switzerland possible in the first place. I could not only focus exclusively on my studies but also meet a lot of great people: fellow Alfred Werner Scholars, and professionals from industry and academia. Being an Alfred Werner Scholar is being a part of an impressive community of talented prospective specialists.

I am eternally thankful for this fantastic opportunity, which allowed me to explore different fields of chemistry and establish myself as a young scientist.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: MSc Chemistry student at ETH Zürich

Research Interests: Material Science, Physical Chemistry

Extracurricular activities, projects: board member of Ukrainian Association of Students and Academics in Zürich

Current and Future Plans

My long-term goal is to explore the world we are living in. Being a scientist is a continuous exploration, and I am constantly gaining new knowledge about the fascinating world of Nature. That is why I want to continue my path in academia, getting a PhD in Chemistry.

Ojaswita Pant
Class of 2022-2024
Native of India



**Alfred
Werner Fund**
SCS
Foundation



Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: Miranda House, University of Delhi, India

Master's degree at: University of Geneva

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Fabien Sorin and Prof. Takuji Adachi

Personal

Having done my bachelor's in Chemistry with a minor in Mathematics, I honed my analytical and problem-solving skills, allowing me to tackle challenges with a creative and interdisciplinary approach. My research expertise ranges from the synthesis of small-molecule therapeutics to modify chemotherapy strategies to the optical characterization and bio-oriented demonstrations of harmonic nanoparticles for bioimaging and theranostic applications. It was only because of the Alfred Werner Scholarship that I was able to cross continents, extend my knowledge and resources far beyond my studies, and have a dynamic platform to nurture the budding researcher in me. Being an active member of the Swiss Women in Chemistry and the young SCS has so far been the most exciting part for me because it gives me access to unique mentoring and networking opportunities. As the Lemman Region's representative, I am now working to launch the first cohort of the SCS mentoring program, and I am excited to organize more such activities in the future.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: Master's student at Université de Genève, Switzerland

Research Interests: Nanomaterials, Biophotonics, Organic Synthesis, Chemical Biology, Optics

Achievements/Extracurricular activities: <https://ojaswitapant1999.wixsite.com/portfolio>

Current and Future Plans

In July, I will start my Master's Thesis in EPFL and will be working on the development of LCE-based soft materials which can be magnetically actuated for application in electronics and biomedicine. My long-term research interests lie at the intersection of Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Medicine, and Engineering. In the future, I wish to pursue a Ph.D. to develop R&D technologies in the healthcare sector with translational implications. I believe that as a first-generation woman in STEM, pursuing my M.Sc. studies as an Alfred Werner Scholar is the first step towards my aim of creating a global impact through my research and eventually becoming a role model for the young women in my family and community.

Zahra Pourmand Tehrani

Class of 2016-2018

Native of Iran



Alfred
Werner Fund
SCS
Foundation



Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: Amirkabir University of Technology, Tehran, Iran

Master's degree at: EPFL Lausanne

PhD's degree at: ETH Zurich

PhD thesis supervisor: Prof. Thomas Lippert

Personal

Thanks to the Alfred Werner Scholarship, I joined EPFL where I worked on different projects on the chemical reactions and electronic pathways occurring in material and biological interfaces. I went on to further work on this topic during my Ph.D., where I focused on material deposition and characterization using in-situ and operando techniques. After my Ph.D., I joined J&J, where I am developing a strong vision of the pharmaceutical industry.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: Senior Analyst, Project Specialist at Johnson & Johnson (J&J)

Research Interests: Catalysis, Material Science, Chemistry, Project Management

Most relevant Publications:

- Tehrani, Z. P., Roddatis, V., Stahn, J., Schneider, C. W., Pergolesi, D., & Lippert, T. Keeping photocatalytic material safe from harm during photoelectrochemistry: a neutron reflectometry and transmission electron microscopy approach. Manuscript in preparation
- Shepelin, N. A., Tehrani, Z. P., Ohannessian, N., Schneider, C. W., Pergolesi, D., & Lippert, T. (2023). A practical guide to pulsed laser deposition. *Chemical Society Reviews*.

Extracurricular activities, projects:

- Member of the EquipSent team at ETH - to enable education and research in low-income countries through the transfer of scientific equipment
- Member of the Jury for the leaders of tomorrow at the St. Gallen Symposium

Current and Future Plans

With a passion for collaborative work and interdisciplinary research, I have worked with different research groups during my studies. At J&J, I am exploring new innovative frontiers. I am looking forward to contributing to the scientific development and management of innovative projects having direct impacts on people's lives.

Pau Reolid Coll
 Class of 2022-2024
 Native of Spain



**Alfred
 Werner Fund**
 SCS
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Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: Universitat de Barcelona
 Master's degree at: University of Geneva
 Master thesis supervisor: tbd.
 Awards/Distinctions:
 National fellowships for research and Erasmus stays.

Personal

When considering my career as a pharmacist, Switzerland always held a special place in my mind. This country has been at the forefront of pharmaceutical development and the discovery of new drugs. From an early stage in my career, I was determined to contribute to the field as a researcher and help advance treatments for unmet medical needs. I considered that the Master in Chemical Biology would help me gather the abilities to succeed in my objective.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Fortunately, the Alfred Werner Scholarship has provided me with both financial support and mentorship, enabling me to give my best. I am truly grateful for this incredible opportunity.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: Student of Master in Chemical Biology

Research Interests: Medicinal Chemistry, Chemical Biology and Drug Discovery.

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s):

Co-inventorship of a patent: Title: Compounds for the treatment of malaria

Number of applications: PCT/EP2022/079438

Extracurricular activities, projects:

Volunteer at ONG Sumum(2018)

Current and Future Plans

My professional interests are related to the interaction between chemical entities, specially small molecules, and biology. I want to redirect my path with this MSc, even though I have had experience in Medicinal Chemistry my interests point towards more biology-related fields of drug discovery.

My longer-terms goals point towards making my research translational by actively opening new lines of research related to drug discovery, protecting intellectual property and even developing spin-off companies.

Tomas Rodriguez Gil

Class of 2021-2023

Native of Spain



Alfred
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Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: University of Seville

Master's degree at: University of Geneva / EPFL
Lausanne

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Sascha Hoogendoorn

Awards/Distinctions: 3rd place at the Andalusian Best Bachelor's Thesis Awards – Andalusian Society of Biologists (03/2022) // 2nd Best Biochemistry Graduate of Spain – Spanish Society of Academic Excellence (SEDEA) (11/2021)

Personal

After finishing my BSc degree in Biochemistry with great results, the Alfred Werner Scholarship allowed me to continue my education through a MSc degree in Chemical Biology at the University of Geneva and EPFL. There, I worked for my master thesis at Prof. Hoogendoorn's group, where I synthesized chemical tools capable of impairing the Hedgehog signaling pathway. In parallel, I worked as a private tutor, became a member of the university film society, mastered my French and came to be fluent in German. Currently, I am seeking to transition to the industrial world through an internship, both in Romandy or elsewhere in Switzerland.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: looking for a position in industry

Research Interests: Chemical Biology, Organic Synthesis

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s): Rodríguez-Gil, T.; Torrado, A.; Iniesta-Pallarés, M.; Álvarez, C.; Mariscal, V.; Molina-Heredia, F.P. Cytochrome cM Is Probably a Membrane Protein Similar to the C Subunit of the Bacterial Nitric Oxide Reductase. Appl. Sci. 2021, 11, 9396. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app11209396>

Extracurricular activities, projects: I am an avid language learner, cyclist, and film enthusiast.

Current and Future Plans

I would like to transition to a private company to gain first-hand experience of the industrial world. I am interested in both scientific and managerial positions, as I have developed strong organizational and interpersonal skills working as the Chair of the IAESTE Local Committee of my faculty first and more recently as a private tutor in Geneva.

Nathalie Rowlinson

Class of 2022-2024

Native of Canada



**Alfred
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**Education / Training**

Bachelor's degree at: University of Ottawa, Canada

Master's degree at: University of Bern

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Martin Albrecht

Personal

I have long been interested in sustainable chemistry, in particular, in the development of catalytic systems and new synthetic tools that reduce the environmental impact of current syntheses.

During my bachelor's degree, I came to Switzerland to learn more about transition metal catalysts and their application in synthesis by pursuing a research internship with Prof. Dr. Martin Albrecht. After four months in his research group, I knew I wanted to return for my master's studies and see first-hand what this field has yet to offer. The Alfred Werner scholarship program has greatly facilitated this next step in my academic career. I am now pursuing my master's thesis in the Albrecht Research group, exploring the use of highly active, Earth-abundant metal catalysts in challenging catalytic transformations. Not only has this scholarship program allowed me to contribute to an exciting field with extensive synthetic applications, but it has also given me invaluable support to pursue my academic and professional goals, all while growing as a researcher.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: MSc student

Research Interests: Catalysis, Organic Synthesis, Green & Sustainable Chemistry.

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s):

Extracurricular activities, projects: Swiss Women in Chemistry Mentorship program

Current and Future Plans

In the future, I plan to pursue PhD studies in catalytic chemistry and work towards a career in process chemistry.

Alona Slastennikova

Class of 2022-2024

Native of Ukraine



**Alfred
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Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Master's degree at: ETH Zurich

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Shana J. Sturla

Awards/Distinctions: Bachelor's Diploma with honors.

Instructor of Organic Synthesis practicum of IChO's participants from Ukraine (2019)

Personal

I started my studying of Chemistry in Kyiv and after the first semester began to work as a synthetic chemist on Enamine Ltd, where I had been working for 3 years. Then, I had opportunity to work as a sales manager in ChemSpace Ltd. for 3 months and as a Bioanalytical Scientist in Bienta Ltd. for next 6 months.

When the war had begun, I moved to Zurich and Alfred Werner Scholarship offered me the opportunity to continue my studies in ETH and conduct cutting-edge research. I started my studies in Prof. Dr. Shana J. Sturla's Toxicology lab. As a part of my Master's Thesis research, I am developing procedures for measuring of O^6 -CMdG in real samples with LC-MS/MS. Such a tool will help us to explore DNA damages in patients' blood/tissues and can become a useful tool in early diagnostics.

The Scholarship offers me unique opportunity to continue my progress in an environment of talented, smart and ambitious colleagues. I believe that such a strong support helps students to find their own way and scientific interests.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: Master Student in Chemistry at ETH Zurich

Research Interests: Bioanalytics, Organic Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, Chemical Biology.

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s): Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements, 2020, 195:9, 713-717.

Extracurricular activities, projects: yoga, travelling, hiking

Current and Future Plans

After completing my master's degree, I am going to start PhD in Bioanalytics and expand my knowledge and skills in this field as well as in Biochemistry and Medicinal Chemistry

Uroš Stojiljković
 Class of 2021-2023
 Native of Serbia



**Alfred
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Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: University of Belgrade, Serbia

Master's degree at: University of Basel

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Oliver Baudoin

Personal

It was thanks to the Alfred Werner Scholarship that I was able to come to Switzerland and join University of Basel after I finished B.Sc. studies at the University of Belgrade under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Igor Opsenica. At the University of Basel, I had a chance to work in a research group of Prof. Dr. Matthias Wymann, where I focused on the development of novel blood-brain barrier-penetrant mTOR inhibitors. I finished my M.Sc. studies in Chemistry under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Olivier Baudoin. As a part of my research, we developed a novel iridium-catalyzed C(sp³)-H amination reaction for the synthesis of 1,2-diamine motifs. After graduating from the University of Basel, I was fortunate to start working as a master's graduate at Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research (NIBR), where I work on medicinal chemistry and drug discovery projects. This exciting journey did not only include long hours in the lab, but also fun and exciting moments in Basel and throughout Switzerland. For all of that, I am deeply thankful to the Swiss Chemical Society Foundation.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: Master's graduate at Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research

Research Interests: Medicinal Chemistry; Drug Discovery; Organic Synthesis; Organometallic Chemistry; Density Functional Theory

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s): Stojiljkovic, U., Meyer, C., Boulay, P., Hebeisen, P., Rageot, D., Wymann, M.P., Borsari, C., Stereospecific Synthesis of Substituted Sulfamides as Privileged Morpholine Building Blocks, *Synthesis*, 2023, 55, 499-509

Current and Future Plans

After finishing an internship at Novartis, I will join Baudoin group at the University of Basel for PhD studies, where I will continue working on the development of novel C-H activation reactions. As medicinal chemistry is a field that I love, I want to pursue a career as a medicinal chemist after my PhD studies, hopefully in Switzerland.

Marina Teixeira Chagas

Class of 2021-2023

Native of Brazil



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Werner Fund
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Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ)

Master's degree at: ETH Zurich

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Gonzalo Guillén Gosálbez

Awards/Distinctions: *magna cum laude* (Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering)

Personal

I studied Chemical Engineering at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil, and came to Switzerland to study for my master's degree in Chemical and Bioengineering at ETH Zürich with the support of the Swiss Chemical Society Foundation. During my studies, I joined the Sustainable Process Systems Engineering Lab (SUPERLab), where I carried out a research project and my master thesis. In both cases, I worked with process modeling and optimization, life cycle assessment, and techno-economic assessment. During the research project I focused on green methanol, whereas for the master thesis I studied Fischer-Tropsch electrofuels production. With the Alfred Werner Scholarship, I have had the opportunity not only to study in one of the best institutions in the world for my field but also to be in contact with the chemical and pharmaceutical industry in Switzerland from the beginning of my master studies. It has been an amazing experience and I am very grateful for this opportunity.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: Internship in Process Engineering at Climeworks

Research Interests: Process Development, Process Modeling and Optimization, Life Cycle Assessment, Techno-Economic Assessment

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s): *magna cum laude* (Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering)

Extracurricular activities, projects: Research Project and Master Thesis at the Sustainable Process Systems Engineering Lab (SUPERLab)

Current and Future Plans

I am particularly interested in process engineering and intend to continue working in this field once I complete my studies. Currently, I am doing an internship in process engineering at Climeworks.

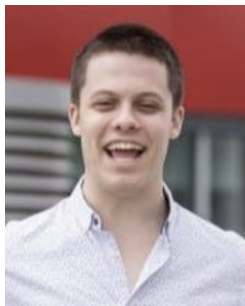
Alexandru-Tudor Toderasç

Class of 2022-2024

Native of Romania



**Alfred
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**Education / Training**

Bachelor's degree at: University of Bucharest

Master's degree at: ETH Zurich

Master thesis supervisor: not determined yet

Personal

I am a chemistry student coming from the University of Bucharest with a strong interest in Heterogeneous Catalysis. Being an Alfred Werner Scholar has enabled me to make the transition to an elite University and top research institution, where I had (and will have) the opportunity to work on some of the most difficult challenges in Heterogeneous Catalysis while making use of world-class facilities. My studies at ETH Zürich also allow me to expand my knowledge horizon beyond my Chemistry training, as I have the opportunity to delve into various Physics and Chemical Engineering-related courses, which can prove to be essential for my research endeavors. I am also very excited to meet and establish connections with leading industrial partners as an Alfred Werner Scholar and thus understand more about the research-and-development sector in the chemical industry.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: Master's student in Chemistry at ETH Zürich

Research Interests: Heterogeneous Catalysis, Small-molecule valorization, Design and characterization of solid catalysts.

Achievements/Awards/Most relevant Publication(s):

Toderasç, A.-T. et al., Appl. Catal. A Gen., 653 (2023), 119063

Extracurricular activities, projects: Basketball.

Current and Future Plans

I am currently looking to gain and extend my knowledge in the design of heterogeneous catalysts and the use of relevant standard ex situ and in situ/operando spectroscopic characterization techniques, all while working on projects involving the conversion of molecules such as CH₄, CO₂, CH₃OH or NO_x/NH₃ into relevant chemicals or hydrocarbon feeds for various industrial sectors. After the completion of my Master's studies with the support of an Alfred Werner Scholarship, the invaluable help of the SCS Foundation and its industrial partners being kindly acknowledged, I intend to soon enroll in a PhD program and work on a topic within the fields of Heterogeneous Catalysis and Sustainable Chemistry.

Arjun, Shah

Class of 2019-2021

Native of India



Education / Training

Bachelor's degree at: Institute of Chemical Technology, India

Master's degree at: ETH Zurich

Master thesis supervisor: Prof. Javier Pérez-Ramírez

Awards: J.N. Tata Scholar, Narotam Sekhsaria Scholar



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Personal

The Alfred Werner scholarship was instrumental in paving the path for me in Switzerland after my Bachelor's in Mumbai, India. It enabled me to focus on a variety of research topics during my Master's and smoothly transition into the life-science industry post graduation. Through it's various events, I was able to learn from my peers and those in industry alike. Having a predisposition to catalysis, engineering and scaling up chemistry, I was able to meet professionals working and researching the same through the scholarship network for which I am truly grateful.

Further Education / Employment / Achievements

Current status: Employed by BakerHicks AG

Research Interests: Catalysis & Engineering

Most relevant Publication: Impact of hybrid CO₂-CO feeds on methanol synthesis over In₂O₃-based catalysts, Applied Catalysis B: Environmental, 2021

Extracurricular activities: Chosen out of 345 students for DSM Match! week, a technical business course. Participated in ETH Week 2019 (Rethinking mobility).

Current and Future Plans

My professional interests lie in solving real-world problems having sustainability rooted in its core. Currently, I work as a chemical process engineer at BakerHicks AG, Basel which has enabled me to work on a multitude of life-science projects. While I have a preference for catalysis, engineering and scaling-up chemistry, I find myself extremely interested in learning more about the life-science industry.

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