

News from Member Societies



SWISS SCC – SWISS Society of Cosmetic Chemists

Annual Conference NEWS »Main actors in cosmetics«

End of January 2005 the annual conference of the SWISS SCC took place in Neuchâtel. During the general assembly the SWISS SCC president *Dr. Philippe Auderset* highlighted, that SWISS SCC has got much more profile based on its excellent conferences in 2004 (as, the Forum Cosmeticum in Lucerne, the training course »GMP in cosmetics: national and international aspects« and the 22nd winter seminar in Champfêr). Abstracts or summaries of these conferences are published in various journals and also available on the SWISS SCC website (www.swissccc.ch). The award of the **Kurt-Pfeiffer-Prize** (5000.– Sfr) is a special grateful acknowledgement for outstanding performance in cosmetics. This year the prize was split into equal parts for *Jürg Zysset* (before Lever-Fabergé/Unilever) and *Barbara Wiesmann* (before BAG) for their highly appreciated endeavours for cosmetics in the last decades.



Picture: Prize award to *Barbara Wiesmann*

About 100 participants came to listen to the four »**Main actors in cosmetics**« under the scientific responsibility of *Catherine Schneider*, Rausch AG.

Dr. Michel Donat/BAG Schweiz entered the »**Territory of the laws**«, focusing the consequence of the European System for Switzerland and demonstrating possible partnerships. The compatibility with legal systems outside of Europe as i.e. US and Asia still shows a lot of opportunities for improvement. The harmonization of chemical law with the EC should be installed by mid 2005, including the VBP (regulation of the biocides). A new structure within the alimentary law is foreseen to be able to adapt much quicker accepted changes of EC amendments. By the end 2006 the 7th amendment will be enforced within CH with the exception of animal trials, as valid alternative methods are still missing.

Dr. Ulrich Eigener/Beiersdorf AG demonstrated the »**Microbiological dwarves**«. Cosmetics have to be of impeccable quality and safety without any health risk for the consumer. This target can only be reached if the product is observed during the total life cycle with adequate microbiological approaches/controls. The system of microbiological quality management (MQM) summarizes all these measurements: The analysis and judgement of microbiological risks in all part of the process, the requirement to avoid the risk and the ref. marks and controls. Four central risk factors of a product contamination exist: the raw materials, the formula, the production process/filling and the application – and for all these sectors a microbiological quality steering is necessary. An adequate technical competence is precondition to get an effective MQM-system installed and also from organization point of view the microbiology has to be involved with clear competences and responsibilities.

The future actors and their projects at the »**Magic charm school**« were in the center of the presentation of **Petra Huber**/University Wädenswil (HSW). At HSW within food-technology the students can specialize in cosmetics with final degree as engineers. The SWISS SCC supports this special direction with money and with

teachers/Swiss SCC members of the industry (*U. Baur T. Breda, M. Fröschle B. Gabard, C. Schneider, C. Lenzin*). Using the example of a tooth-paste, during the last year in a cooperation with the company Mibelle AG, the target of a study work was to define, if and how the HACCP – concept of the food sector could be transferred to cosmetic products (near-food-sector). For a cosmetic production process the hazards (»risks«) of the HACCP – concept were defined in a new way: At **CCP** (critical control points) the health risk of a cosmetic product is recognized and eliminated with ref. measurements. At **QCP** however (quality control/steering points) a risk for the quality of cosmetics exist with a possible big economic damage or high loss of prestige for the company (published in SÖFW Journal, 8, 2003). As a next project, according an expert inquiry in German speaking Switzerland, the development of a sensory panel is highly required. The »Student-think-tanks«-projects this semester are actual at the HSW. Food-trends have to be transferred to cosmetics, issuing the ref. product dossiers with all technical documents. Primarily raw materials/ingredients deriving from the Swiss food-sector have to be additionally prepared from marketing point of view with an original marketing story.

With the title »**Clean me the fur, but do not make me wet**« **Dr. Peter Busch**/before Henkel, Cognis, demonstrated that a lot of sectors in life including cosmetics are located between benefit/risk or advantage/disadvantage, based on the ambivalence of all technical doings of human beings. Each advantage based on a technical improvement, meaning also a product with a positive effect, is combined with a disadvantage, a non-wanted side effect. The ambivalence with its force to continuous improvement could also be regarded as central »progress motor«. The requirement of a product dossier incl. efficacy and safety data – according the 6th amendment of the European cosmetic directive 76/768 EEC – shows the changed need of the consumer to reach an objec-

tively proved efficacy with highest possible safety. The efficacy of a cosmetic product differentiates between objective, measurable effects and subjective »experiences«. The understanding of effects and side effect today is primarily based on technical/scientific base, under the simple condition: Each effect has as precursor = a scientifically proved cause. Nevertheless these assumptions are contradictory to existing placebo effects or homeopathic effects. The subjective experience of efficacy can not be objective as the influences of the very complicated subjective own perception also relies on the social environment. The wish of a young, attractive body is mandatory. In the plastic surgery more and more risks are accepted, which are not protected within any insurance. The benefit/risk debate gets even more severe and aggressive.



Picture: f.l.: Dr. Marion Fröschle, Dr. Peter Busch, Mildred Jeudi

Mildred Jeudi, head of export, introduced »Herboretum®« at the final presentation of the conference. This association, founded from Alban Muller, owner of the Alban Muller International group and from well known experts, tries to make natural substances and ref. products more valuable, offering also a creative idea exchange and training concepts for natural substances. (www.herboretum.org)

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