



2025 Chemistry Travel Award by SCNAT and SCS

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The Platform Chemistry of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) and the Swiss Chemical Society (SCS) are proud to announce the 45 recipients of the Chemistry Travel Award 2025. This Award provides exceptional PhD students across all fields of chemistry financial support to actively participate in international conferences and to present their research. The awardees were chosen through a thorough evaluation process involving a committee comprising four renowned chemists representing different branches of chemistry: Prof. Dr. Laura Nyström (SCNAT, ETH Zurich, committee chair), Prof. a. Pablo Rivera Fuentes (SCS, University of Zurich), Dr. Alain de Mesmaeker (SCS), and Prof. Dr. Rebecca Buller (SCNAT, ZHAW). The jury members carefully assessed and evaluated each application, with the exception of those where a conflict of interest existed. We sincerely thank the committee for their dedication and congratulate all winners. We wish them a rewarding and inspiring experience at their conferences.



Ayush Agarwal, PSI and EPFL
Advisor: Christian Ludwig
Conference: IUPAC 2025
Contribution: Bridging Analytical Methods and Practical Solutions: Accurate Quantification of Siloxanes and Sulfur in Biogas



Ghewa AlSabeih, EPFL and AMI
Advisor: Jovana Milic
Conference: MATSUS 2025
Contribution: Enhancing the Functionality of Layered Hybrid Perovskites



Malte Sebastian Beccard, Empa
Advisor: Dorina Opris
Conference: EPF 2025
Contribution: Synthesis and Characterization of Polysiloxanes with Photoswitchable Dielectric Properties



Lena-Kristina Beiersdörfer, ETHZ
Advisor: Helma Wennemers
Conference: APS 2025
Contribution: Selective Recognition of Sucrose by a Synthetic Peptide Receptor in Water



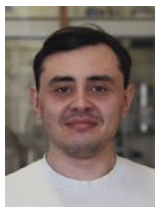
Bence Béla Botlik, ETHZ
Advisor: Bill Morandi
Conference: ESOC 2025
Contribution: Streamlining the Synthesis of Pyridones Through Oxidative Amination of Cyclopentenones



Yannick Brägger, ETHZ
Advisor: Bill Morandi
Conference: ESOC 2025
Contribution: Oxidative Amination by Nitrogen Atom Insertion into Carbon-Carbon Double Bonds.



Leonie Braks, UniFr
Advisor: Ali Coskun
Conference: MRS 2025
Contribution: Lithium Metal Interface Engineering Using Organic Additives and Coatings in Sulfide-Based All-Solid-State Batteries



Anton Budev, UniBas
Advisor: Christof Sparr
Conference: ESOC 2025
Contribution: Catalyst Control Over Pentavalent Stereocentres



Julien Chong, UniGe
Advisor: Claude Piguet
Conference: ISMSC 2025
Contribution: Complex-as-Ligand Strategy Using 2,2'-Bimidazole for Bridging Cr^{III}...Ln^{III} in Metallosupramolecular Assemblies



Dominic Egger, ETHZ
Advisor: Bill Morandi
Conference: ESOC 2025
Contribution: Iridium-Catalyzed C–N Bond Metathesis of Tertiary Amines



Noga Eren, EPFL
Advisor: Kay Severin
Conference: ISMSC 2025
Contribution: π -Basic Au₃(pyrazolate)₃ Complexes as Building Blocks for the Construction of Molecular Cages



Roman Mmanda Fortunatus, AMI
 Advisor: Alke Fink
 Conference: 4th Food Chemistry Conference
 Contribution: Probing the Stability and Interactions of Tocopherol and β -Carotene in Zein Nanoparticles Using Raman Spectroscopy.



Hwangseok Kim, ETHZ
 Advisor: Tae-Lim Choi
 Conference: ACS Spring 2026
 Contribution: Development of Low-Temperature Pd/Ag Dual-Catalytic Direct Arylation Polymerization for the Sustainable Synthesis of a Library of Donor–Acceptor Conjugated Polymers.



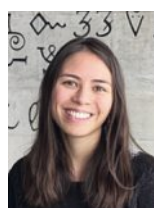
Domenico Gioffrè, ETHZ
 Advisor: Christophe Copéret
 Conference: EUROMAR 2025
 Contribution: Classification and Identification of Facet- and Edge-Specific γ -Al₂O₃ Surface Sites from ¹H/²⁷Al NMR Cross-Signatures and DFT Modelling



Mingliang Liu, UniFr
 Advisor: Ali Coskun
 Conference: IBA 2025
 Contribution: Accelerated Reversible Conversion of Li₂S₂ to Li₂S by Spidroin Regulated Li⁺ Flux for High-performance Li-Sulfur Batteries.



Natasha Hales, PSI
 Advisor: Emiliana Fabbri
 Conference: ICE 2025
 Contribution: Confining Surface Oxygen Redox in Double Perovskites for Enhanced Oxygen Evolution Reaction Activity and Stability



Christine Marty, EPFL
 Advisor: Jerome Waser
 Conference: ICHIC 8, 2025
 Contribution: Ligand-directed Bioconjugation of Native Protein with Hypervalent Iodine-based Ethynylbenziodoxolones (EBXs) Reagents.



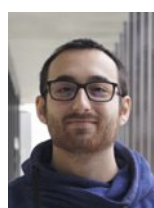
Rahel Heeb, ETHZ
 Advisor: Helma Wennemers
 Conference: APS 2025
 Contribution: pH-Dependent Cellular Uptake of CPPs – Guanidinium versus Oxyguanidinium Proline



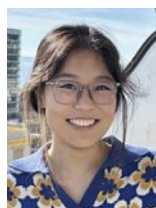
Christeena Mathew, EPFL
 Advisor: Kay Severin
 Conference: EFMC-ASMC 2025
 Contribution: Vicinal Disubstitution Reactions of Densely Substituted Arenes *via* 1,2-Bis-Triazenylarenes



Steffen Honrath, ETHZ
 Advisor: Jean-Christophe Leroux
 Conference: ASGCT 2025
 Contribution: Closing the Gap: Boosting the TFAMoplex Transfection System with bZIP Domains Allows Comparison *Versus* AAVs



Anton Natter, UZH
 Advisor: Alexandria Deliz Liang
 Conference: 2025 GRC Protein Engineering
 Contribution: Directed Evolution by Codon Reassignment



Na Jin, UniBe
 Advisor: Eva Hevia
 Conference: OMCOS XXII
 Contribution: Regioselective Direct Cobaltation of N-heterocyclic Molecules Mediated by a Super Basic Co(II) Amide



Marta Oggioni, AMI
 Advisor: Christoph Weder
 Conference: EPF 2025
 Contribution: A Systems Approach to Stimuli-Responsive Supramolecular Polymeric Materials



Péter Pál Kalapos, ETHZ
 Advisor: Peter Chen
 Conference: OMCOS XXII
 Contribution: Reactivity of a Rhenium(VII)-Methyldyne Complex: Kinetic Protonation and Olefin Metathesis



Yanlin Pan, ETHZ
 Advisor: Máté Bezdek
 Conference: 247th ECS Meeting
 Contribution: Triphenylphosphine Oxide: A Versatile Covalent Functionality for Carbon Nanotubes



Kasimir Kienbeck, UZH
 Advisor: Roland Sigel
 Conference: RNA 2025
 Contribution: *Theta* Ribozymes: Making the Cut in tRNA Maturation



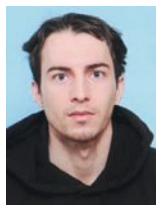
Ann-Sophie Paschke, ETHZ
 Advisor: Bill Morandi
 Conference: ESOC 2025
 Contribution: Carbon-to-Nitrogen Atom Swap Enables Direct Access to Benzimidazoles from Drug-like Indoles



Laura Marie Poller, ETHZ
 Advisor: Helma Wennemers
 Conference: APS 2025
 Contribution: Collagen Cross-Linking: Structure and Sequence Selectivity of Lysyl Oxidase-Like 2



Sebastian Sjöström, ETHZ
 Advisor: Jonathan Hall
 Conference: OTS 2025
 Contribution: Selective Anti-UMOD ASOs Reduce Kidney Disease Aggregates in Mice with ADTKD-UMOD



Domen Pregelj, ETHZ
 Advisor: Sereina Riniker
 Conference: ACS Fall 2025
 Contribution: Advancing Free-Energy Calculations by Combining Multiscale Modeling and Multistate Enhanced Sampling



Helena Solé Àvila, EPFL
 Advisor: Jerome Waser
 Conference: GRC Heterocyclic Compounds
 Contribution: Strategies in Carboamination: Unlocking Heterocyclic Enamine Synthesis from π Bonds



Jikson Pulparayil Mathew, UniBas
 Advisor: Jonathan De Roo
 Conference: ACIN 2025
 Contribution: Oxo-Clusters as Atomically Precise Nanocrystals in Zirconium-based Esterification Catalysis



Shuqing Song, EPFL
 Advisor: Kumar Varoon Agrawal
 Conference: AIChE 2025
 Contribution: Eco-Friendly Synthesis of Ultrathin $Zn_2(bim)_4$ Membranes for High-Performance H_2/CO_2 Separation Under Pressurized Conditions



Jonas Rackl, ETHZ
 Advisor: Helma Wennemers
 Conference: GRC Organic Reactions and Processes
 Contribution: Organocatalyzed Stereoselective Macrocyclizations



Nikolai Tiuftiakov, UniGe
 Advisor: Eric Bakker
 Conference: ISE 2025
 Contribution: Exploring the Fundamental Limits and Opportunities of Reference Electrodes based on Organic Electrolytes



Giacomo Rigoni, UniBe
 Advisor: Martin Albrecht
 Conference: ISCNC 2025
 Contribution: Carbene-supported Dinickel Complexes for Efficient Hydroxylation of Benzene to Phenol



Marc-Eduard Usteri, ETHZ
 Advisor: Javier Pérez-Ramírez
 Conference: EuropaCat 2025
 Contribution: Explainable Artificial Intelligence Elucidates Synthesis-Structure-Property-Function Relationships in Nanostructured Catalysts



Victor Sabanza Gil, EPFL
 Advisor: Philippe Schwaller
 Conference: ACS Fall 2025
 Contribution: Generative Molecular Design with Steerable and Granular Synthesizability Control



Roberto Valenza, EPFL
 Advisor: Sophia Haussener
 Conference: MRS Fall Meeting 2025
 Contribution: Membraneless Electrolysis for H_2 Production from Organic Waste with Integrated CO_2 Capture



Alexandre Schoepfer, EPFL
 Advisor: Clemence Corminboeuf
 Conference: GRC Physical Organic Chemistry
 Contribution: Feature Selection in Multivariate Linear Regression Models for Data-Efficient Reaction Optimization



Vasiliki Valsamidou, UniBe
 Advisor: Dmitry Katayev
 Conference: Pacificchem 2025
 Contribution: Mechanochemical Nitration of Arenes and Alcohols Using a Bench-Stable Organic Nitrating Reagent



Amrita Singh-Morgan, ETHZ
 Advisor: Victor Mougél
 Conference: ICCDU 2025
 Contribution: Engineering a High Conversion System for CO_2 Electroreduction to Formic Acid



Dorothee Wagner, UniBas
 Advisor: Oliver S. Wenger
 Conference: ISPPCC 2025
 Contribution: Long-lived Terphenyl Radical Anion Super-reductant for Photocatalysis Formed *via* Upconversion



Wuchao Wang, Empa
Advisor: Kongchang Wei
Conference: ICGSC2025
Contribution: Green Fabrication of PLA Bio-
medical Devices with Bio-based Solvents



Lionel Wettstein, ETHZ
Advisor: Máté Bezdek
Conference: 247th ECS Meeting
Contribution: A Dye-Sensitized Sensor for
Oxygen Detection under Visible Light

Further details on the activities organized by the Platform Chemistry at SCNAT can be found under chem.scnat.ch. If you are not amongst this year's winners: make sure you don't miss out on the opportunity to participate in the 2026 Chemistry Travel Award. The announcement will appear early 2026 on chem.scnat.ch/travel_award and in *CHIMIA*.

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