

# Pharmaceutical Research Depends on Strong Cooperation: The Past, the Present and the Future

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*"The supreme property of chemical matter is its potency to have given rise to the emergence of life. Life as we know it is a chemical life."* (Albert Eschenmoser in *Tetrahedron* 63 (2007) 12821–12844)

The interplay between chemistry as a science and chemistry as an engineering skill has been intense and fruitful in the past. The application of chemistry to solve pharmaceutical problems is one of the most attractive scientific and research activities. The multitude of problems, which have to be mastered, before a molecule can reach the patients is such that cooperation between different disciplines and between many experts in the same discipline has been one of the hallmarks of pharmaceutical research, especially in the pharmaceutical industry.

A personal selection of the **Swiss contribution to the field of medicinal chemistry** will be presented. This point of view has been chosen to limit the field and to present survey. A selection of both the academic and the industrial contributions has been chosen to illustrate the importance of cooperation in this field. The challenges for fundamental research and its industrial application have changed due to the explosion of results from structural biology and the application of new, highly efficient technologies. The years to come will be full of challenges for the pharmaceutical industry as we know it. Major changes in the way to approach these challenges will have to be implanted as expressed in the sentence: *"Pharmaceutical industry seeks stronger ties with academia in bid to speed up drug development"*. The analysis of the past and the present is clear, the outlook for the future will, as always, be a surprise to us. Some personal remarks on the importance of cooperation and the role of academic research will be presented.