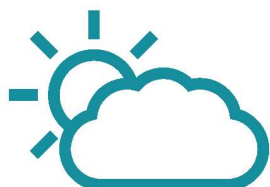


Catalyzer 20/07

International Chemistry Olympiad, Zurich, Switzerland

20 July 2023
Today's Weather



28°C

Schedule

Students

13:30 - 18:00 Visit the Paul Scherrer Institute in 2 Groups

Mentors and observers

08:00 - 18:00 Translation theoretical exam, Crowne Plaza
18:00 - 22:00 S(h)ip & Dine, Lake Cruise, BBQ and Drinks, Lake Zurich

Relax Barometer



Students



Mentors

Happy Birthday



Ketevan Peranidze,
Georgia, Student



First Part of the Exams: Done

That's how fast it goes: the practical exams are already history. The students were able to demonstrate their skills and knowledge during five hours. Congratulations on this achievement! Also thanks to everyone who helped that all of the 348 students arrived on time at the ETH and their examination places. But how did the practical exam go? We asked some of the students.

The tasks were based around the topics of advanced separation techniques, thin layer chromatography and advanced inorganic qualitative analysis. Especially the second titration seemed to have caused some differences: "Was it blue or grey? No one here really knows", explained Judd from South Africa. Seljan from Azerbaijan, on the other hand, is convinced, "The second titration definitely got grey! All in all, the practical exam was awesome." Peradol from Thailand

agrees, "It was quite challenging but still fun." For Dániel from Hungary it was primarily the time management that was the most challenging. The tasks, however, were well designed, he said.

Did you know that translating all the exams is an enormous effort, done by our mentors? They meet before the exams and discuss all the tasks in detail. Then it is time to translate. The English translation provides the basis. So, a few countries are lucky and can keep the language. Nevertheless, there are about 50 translations into other languages that need to be made and that means a lot of work. So today, while students get a day to explore, all mentors will be busy translating for the theoretical exams tomorrow. In some cases, mentors choose to go for the English term if there is no direct translation. (If/sa)

Bircher- müesli



Birchermüesli is a traditional Swiss breakfast dish that was created by Swiss physician Maximilian Bircher-Benner in the late 19th century. Birchermüesli typically consists of grains, fruits, nuts, and seeds.

Birchermüesli is typically served cold and can be enjoyed as a refreshing breakfast or snack. It is known for being a healthy and nutri-

tious meal, providing a good balance of complex carbohydrates, fiber, protein, healthy fats, vitamins, and minerals. The dish is highly customisable, and additional toppings like fresh berries, shredded coconut, or a sprinkle of cinnamon can be added for extra flavor and texture. Birchermüesli

has gained popularity worldwide for its simplicity, freshness, and wholesome ingredients. It is a versatile dish that can be adjusted to personal preferences and dietary needs, making it a go-to choice for those seeking a nutritious and satisfying breakfast option. (al)



Paul Karrer - From Carrots to Vitamins

Did you know that Paul Karrer won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his research on the structure of carotenoids, the pigments that give carrots and other vegetables their characteristic colour?

Paul Karrer studied chemistry at the University of Zurich, where he was mentored by the Nobel Prize winner Alfred Werner. After

completing his PhD in 1911, he moved to Frankfurt am Main (Germany) where he developed an interest in biological as well as medical applications.



In 1918, Karrer returned to Zurich and was subsequently appointed Professor of Chemistry as well as Director of the Chemical Institute. He then reoriented the focus of his research towards biologically active natural substances.

Paul Karrer received the Nobel Prize in 1937, shared with the British chemist Norman Haworth, for his investigations on carotenoids, flavins and vitamins A and B2. He passed away in 1971 at the age of 82, after more than 40 years of research career at the University of Zurich. (Jaime Martin)

Question of the Day:

Which of the following helps to remove ink stains and rust from clothes?

A. Oxalic acid

B. HCl

C. NaOCl

D. NaOH



Yesterday's solution: A: Most paper is made of wood, which consists of cellulose and lignin mostly. Lignin is susceptible to oxidation and the added oxygen alters the structure of the polymer creating chromophoric regions responsible for the colour change.



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Pictures: various sources

Yesterday in Pictures

