



... A VIBRANT NETWORK!



GERMAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY



## A strong community

The German Chemical Society (Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker – GDCh) is a non-profit professional association whose goal is to promote the chemical sciences and to enhance public perception of chemistry.

With around 31,000 members drawn from academia, industry, public bodies and the independent sector we are one of the largest and most respected chemical societies in the world.

By working together, we aim to promote a future that is both sustainable and worth living in. We actively nurture diversity and equality of opportunity. The GDCh and its members are committed to the prin-

ciples of freedom, tolerance and truth in scientific endeavours.

We support scientific work, research and teaching and we promote the exchange and dissemination of scientific knowledge. The GDCh and its members create networks, foster interdisciplinary and international collaboration and advance the development of chemical education and training in schools, universities and the workplace.

We seek to engage in public dialogue in order to promote public understanding of chemistry, and we actively share our expertise in an open, ongoing conversation with policy-makers and society.

### We offer

- a dynamic and global **network** with around 31,000 members and numerous international partnerships and cooperative agreements,
- a platform comprising 27 **divisions**<sup>1</sup> and other working groups,
- **local sections** in 60 locations<sup>1</sup> throughout Germany,
- JCF regional forums in over 50 locations<sup>1</sup> (**JCF – Young Chemists Forum** – is the GDCh's youth organisation),
- national and international **scientific meetings, symposia and conferences** covering all areas of chemistry,
- access to the latest scientific discoveries via a number of highly respected international **journals** that we either own or publish, such as 'Angewandte Chemie', 'Chemistry – A European Journal' and the GDCh members' magazine 'Nachrichten aus der Chemie',
- support and recognition of scientific work through the award of **scholarships and prizes**,
- **professional development and training courses** for chemists, chemistry teachers and anyone with an interest in learning more about the latest developments in chemistry,
- **a careers service** for those seeking their first position or looking to take their career to the next level.

<sup>1</sup> figures for 2020



Competence  
Contacts  
Cooperation



## Taking responsibility for the future

Sustainability in chemistry means protecting the environment and our communities, it means research into renewable forms of energy and identifying and developing new sources of raw materials. As one of the largest and most respected chemical societies worldwide, GDCh takes social responsibility very seriously. Chemistry plays a crucial role in preserving the long-term future of our planet and the lives and livelihoods it supports. The research work that chemists perform is a decisive factor in shaping our future.

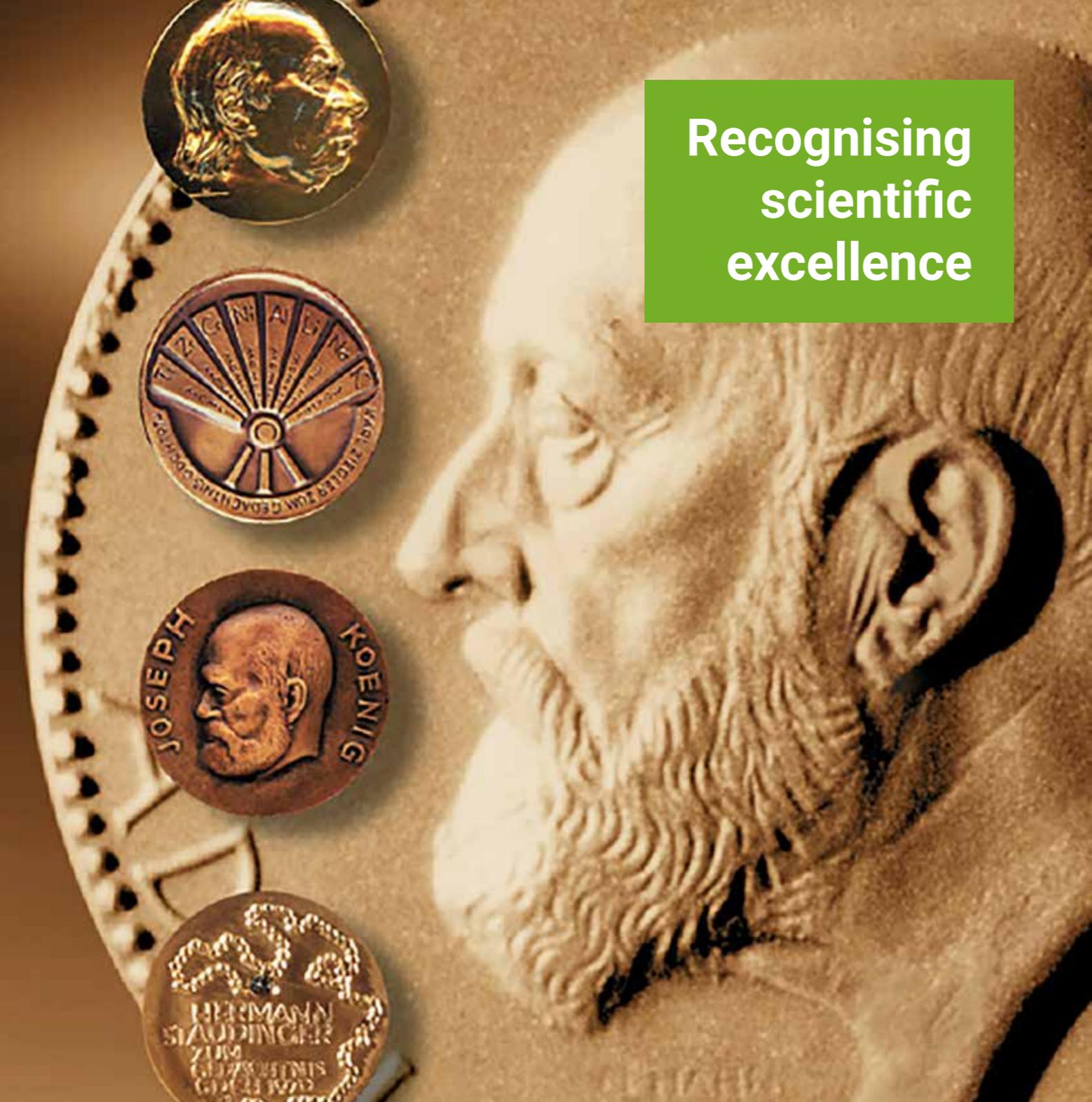
The GDCh code of conduct requires that the society and its members act to promote the long-term sustainable development of society, the economy and the environment. Our actions are mediated by an awareness of our responsibility towards future generations. We respect the laws and international conventions that apply to our work and to the impact that it has and we oppose the misuse of chemistry for malign purposes, such as the production of chemical weapons or addictive substances.

The GDCh contributes in many different ways to discussions and activities at both national and international levels. Nationally, we collaborate closely with other organisations in the chemistry sector and we actively cooperate with other professional bodies on topics of particular current relevance. We are also a founding member of the Science Bridges Cultures initiative ([www.science-bridges-cultures.de](http://www.science-bridges-cultures.de)), which was established in cooperation with DVGeo, the umbrella organisation representing the geosciences in Germany, the German Mathematical Society (DMV) the German Physical Society (DPG) and the German Life

Sciences Association (VBIO). The five largest professional societies in the fields of mathematics and the natural sciences regularly organise joint activities designed to make sure that their voices are heard in the public sphere.

The GDCh has a strong network of international ties. For example, we are a member of the European Chemical Society (EuChemS) and are also active in the International Union for Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC). We also have bilateral cooperative agreements with chemical societies in many other countries, including the USA, China, Israel and Korea.





## Recognising scientific excellence

The GDCh bestows numerous prestigious prizes and awards with the aim of recognising outstanding scientific achievements or exceptional contributions to the advancement of chemistry.

In addition to a number of traditional GDCh prizes that have been awarded regularly for over a century, the society also bestows a number of more recent awards, many of which are endowed through newly established foundations. The August Wilhelm von Hofmann Medal and the Liebig Medal were awarded for the first time in 1903 by the GDCh's predecessor organisations the DChG (Deutsche Chemische Gesellschaft) and VDCh (Verein Deutscher Chemiker). One of the largest monetary prizes is that awarded by the Karl Ziegler Foundation, which bears the name of the first

president of the GDCh. Other highly respected prizes include the Klaus Grohe Award and the Otto Hahn Prize. The latter prize is a biennial award bestowed jointly by GDCh, the German Physical Society (Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft) and the city of Frankfurt am Main in a ceremony held in the historical Paulskirche in Frankfurt.

Outstanding achievements by young researchers are also recognised. Every year the GDCh and its divisions award numerous prizes to talented young researchers. The GDCh also presents awards to the top-performing high school chemistry graduates and to the best-in-year students on training and apprenticeship schemes in the chemical sector.

One of the objectives written into the statutes of the GDCh is to work to promote the public perception of chemistry and the chemical sciences. By issuing regular press releases and having a pool of expert contacts available for comment and analysis, we ensure that key topics are getting appropriate media coverage and are reaching an audience of millions.

We showcase chemistry and the strength of the chemistry community at national and international exhibitions, trade fairs, conferences and events. We use a wide range of formats to address the general public, policy-makers and specialist audiences.

The GDCh also supplies comprehensive information packs to those interested in specific topics. In addition to providing expert commentary and

opinion and issuing position papers, the GDCh also produces articles and materials for popular science audiences. On its information platform [faszinationchemie.de](http://faszinationchemie.de), GDCh presents facts, opinions and entertaining insights into the world of chemistry.

The GDCh also publishes fact sheets on important topics that are written to be accessible to non-specialists. These fact sheets are compiled by the 'ChemFacts for Future' committee, in which experts from different divisions within the GDCh work together to explain and illuminate relevant topics.

And the GDCh has an active presence on the most important social media platforms and online networks (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Xing and Instagram).

**If you do something worthwhile, make sure people hear about it!**





**Science drives progress**

The GDCh organises numerous national and international conferences and symposia every year. In addition to showcasing current research, these events provide an ideal forum for participants to expand their professional networks. Our conferences and symposia also provide the backdrop for award ceremonies featuring scientists who have made outstanding contributions in their areas of research.

The scientific meetings organised by the GDCh focus on areas of important current research and provide a space for the international scientific community to meet and share ideas. We have

close ties to leading national and international chemical societies. We also offer travel scholarships that allow chemistry students and young researchers to take part in important national and international scientific meetings.

The GDCh organises the Science Forum Chemistry (Wissenschaftsforum Chemie – WiFo), which is held every two years at a different location in Germany. This major German chemistry conference hosts some of the most renowned international researchers as invited speakers. The WiFo also provides the setting in which the GDCh awards some of its most prestigious prizes.

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GDCh is the owner and publisher or the co-owner/co-publisher of a number of highly respected journals covering almost all areas of the chemical sciences. The best-known our publications is the 'Angewandte Chemie'. Published weekly, the 'Angewandte' is regarded as one of the world's leading chemistry journals.

GDCh members receive eleven issues a year of 'Nachrichten aus der Chemie', which, in addition to specialist articles and news from the world of chemistry, also contains reports on GDCh matters.

At present, the GDCh has some 30 titles and its pu-

blications portfolio is being continuously expanded. Many of the journals are published by Chemistry Europe (formerly ChemPubSoc Europe), an alliance of sixteen European chemical societies.

The online portal 'ChemistryViews' offers short topical reports from the global chemistry community. It also publishes information on chemistry prizes and includes a regularly updated events calendar.

To meet today's demand for mobile reading, nearly all of our journals can be read via apps on a smartphone, tablet or other digital device.



Spreading  
knowledge

## Getting involved: Divisions, local sections and the Young Chemists Forum



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Keeping up to date with the latest developments in your field is essential for career success – particularly in the rapidly changing world of the molecular sciences. For scientists looking to interact with others in their specialist field or for those interested in cross-disciplinary cooperation, each of GDCh's divisions provide an ideal forum for exchanging knowledge and sharing ideas with other experts, learning about the latest developments, analysing market conditions or training in a particular field of interest.

From Kiel in the north to Konstanz in the south, from Aachen in the west to Dresden in the east, chemists across Germany meet up regularly in

their local sections, which are located in all of the major sites of academic research and industry. The local sections organise events ranging from specialist invited lectures to science slams.

The Young Chemists Forum (JCF – JungChemikerForum) is the organisation that represents the interests of young members in the GDCh. The JCF coordinates and organises activities and events that reflect the interests of the younger chemical community. The largest event in its calendar is the JCF Spring Symposium, which has been held annually since 1999 and which is attended by hundreds of young chemists from around the world.

GDCh members benefit not only from a vibrant network of contacts, they also receive professional support from the GDCh careers service. For example, in our successful mentoring programme CheMento experienced chemists provide support and guidance to younger members who are looking to start their careers or who are unsure about which career path to take.

The careers service is present at numerous career fairs and offers assistance to job seekers as well as to experienced professionals looking for their next career move. Talks and presentations are held in a large numbers of towns and cities to provide information on current developments in the labour market, effective job application strategies

and on areas in which chemists are being recruited. The careers service also runs a job applications workshop where chemists learn how to market themselves effectively to employers.

Every year, the career service compiles reliable information on current income levels in the chemistry sector. It also presents a statistical analysis of study programmes in the chemical sciences that provides an overview of the chemistry education and training landscape in Germany as well as current job prospects.

To round of its portfolio, the GDCh careers service also publishes jobs listings and careers information materials that are available in printed or digital form.

## Finding your dream job





## Driving chemical education

Germany's degree programmes and vocational training schemes in the chemical sciences are highly respected throughout the world. To help things stay that way, the GDCh keeps a close eye on university education and vocational training programmes. Our panels of subject specialists compile recommendations for teaching chemistry in schools, vocational training and apprenticeship schemes, teacher training programmes and for university degree courses.

Our Chemical Education division offers a broad range of activities and materials designed to enhance the quality and appeal of school chemistry lessons. The GDCh is also actively involved in providing continuing education opportunities for chemistry teachers. We operate a number of continuing education centres for teachers across Ger-

many. These centres offer chemistry teachers a wide variety of courses that have been developed and designed to meet the curricular requirements of Germany's sixteen federal states.

But we also encourage young people to choose vocational training in the chemicals sector or to study for a degree in the chemical sciences. School students who want to learn more about their options can visit [www.chemie-studieren.de](http://www.chemie-studieren.de) where they will find a wealth of information on university degree programmes and vocational career paths in the field of chemistry.

The GDCh is also keen to recognise school students who have achieved excellence in the chemistry classroom. Each year we present awards to the best students graduating from German high schools.

A culture of continuous learning helps to meet the challenges of an ever-changing working world. New input is important for both personal and professional development. The portfolio of courses offered by GDCh ensures that its members have the opportunity to get up to speed with the latest advances in a very wide range of areas.

The continuing professional development programme compiled each year by GDCh offers high-quality content on the latest topics delivered efficiently – also as in-house and e-learning courses. Invited speakers from industry, academia or research institutions offer insights into recent re-

search results and into the latest methodologies and techniques. Each year, a committee assesses the existing courses and makes recommendations for new courses that are then implemented by the GDCh management team.

The GDCh also coordinates professional development courses that are specifically designed for chemistry teachers. Teachers from all school types within the German education system can take courses at our dedicated continuing education centres, where they can gain ideas for imaginative and inspiring ways to teach chemistry.

A photograph of a diverse group of people in a meeting room. In the foreground, a woman with short blonde hair and black-rimmed glasses is smiling at the camera. Behind her, several other people are looking towards a whiteboard. The whiteboard is covered with colorful sticky notes (green, orange, purple) and a pen is visible on a table in front of it. The background is slightly blurred, showing a window and office interior.

**Keeping our members  
one step ahead**



**Become  
a member**

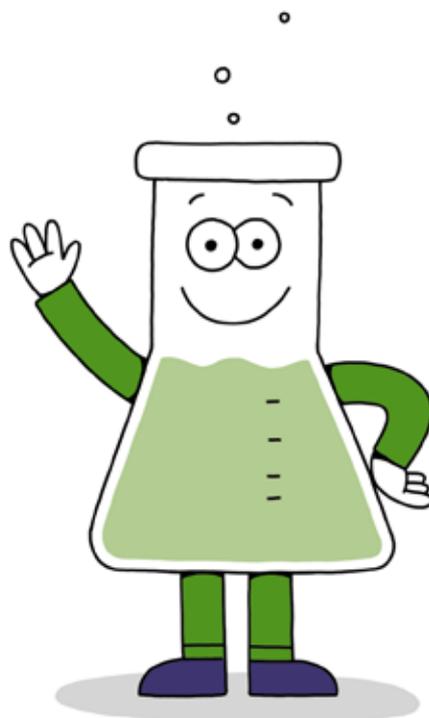
Are you looking to get ahead professionally and to add your voice to important scientific, political and economic topics? Do you want to share ideas with other experts in your field and keep up to date with the latest news from the world of chemistry? Is science important to you and do you want to support talented young scientists?

At GDCh, chemists and those interested in chemistry can become part of a strong community. At <https://en.gdch.de/benefits> you'll find a summary of all the benefits that membership in the GDCh has to offer: Get to know our vibrant network! Membership gives you the following benefits: our regular members' magazine 'Nachrichten aus der

Chemie', information and advice from our careers service team, price reductions on GDCh conferences and our education and training courses and discounts on high-quality scientific journals.

By becoming a member you will also be supporting the GDCh mission to promote chemistry in science, research, education and the economy and you'll help the public at large to become better acquainted with chemistry and the key role it plays in our lives.

If these things are important to you, then join us at GDCh and apply for membership today. We look forward to welcoming you!



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GDCh

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