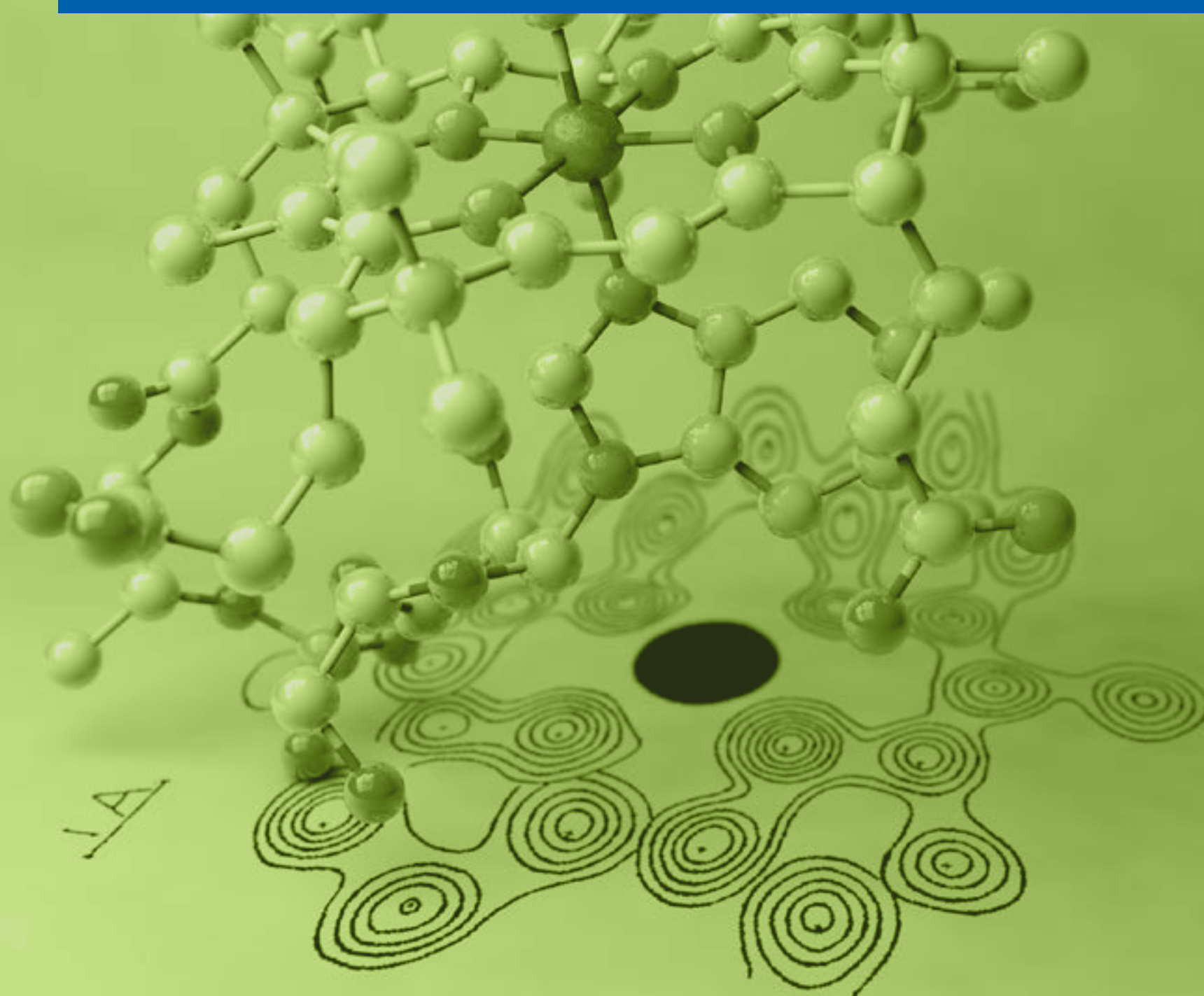


Exhibition

Albert Eschenmoser: A Century of Impact

June 6 to August 31, 2025
Monday to Friday 8 am – 8 pm

Chemistry | Biology | Pharmacy Information Center
HCl, G floor, ETH Zurich Hönggerberg



Prof. Dr. Albert Eschenmoser: A Century of Impact

This exhibition is dedicated to Prof. Dr. Albert Eschenmoser who shaped the organic and bioorganic chemistry of the 20th century and would have celebrated his 100th birthday in August 2025.

Prof. Albert Eschenmoser studied at the Department of Chemistry at ETH Zurich from 1944 to 1949. In 1951, he received his doctorate from Nobel Prize winner Leopold Ružička under the supervision of Hans Schinz for his work on acid-catalyzed cyclizations in mono- and sesquiterpene compounds. He became a Privatdozent in organic chemistry at ETH in 1956, an associate professor in 1960, and a full professor in 1967.

Prof. Eschenmoser made outstanding contributions to the theory of terpene biosynthesis, the structure elucidation of natural products, stereochemistry and reaction mechanisms in organic and bioorganic chemistry, the development of new methods for organic synthesis, the total synthesis of complex natural products, and the chemical etiology of biomolecular structures.

During his career, he was awarded numerous distinctions including memberships in eight national academies, eight honorary doctorates, state honors from Germany and Austria, the Paul Karrer Medal in Gold, and was a serious contender for the Nobel Prize. After his retirement in 1992, he continued his research at ETH Zurich and other institutions around the world.

This exhibition showcases a selection of various objects which are related to his work.

In 2017 Prof. Dr. Albert Eschenmoser donated a curated collection of works from his private library to the Chemistry | Biology | Pharmacy Information Center. This “Eschenmoser Collection” reflects his perspective on significant science of the time and includes subjects such as evolution, DNA structure and function, and the contributions of women scientists. A selection of these titles is featured here; the entire collection is available for borrowing and can be found in the library on the H-floor shelves 749-750.