

Annual Report 2018

Swiss Research Platform of National Importance

With the completion of the extension building and the official opening of the new centers in November 2018, operations and use of the new infrastructure commenced:

- The team of the Swiss Center for Musculoskeletal Imaging (**SCMI**), headed by Prof. Daniel Nanz, was supplemented in September by an expert in medical-technical radiology (MTRA). Two university graduates employed by Siemens also moved into their workplaces on site, ensuring the best possible research support for all users and a successful research collaboration with Siemens.
- The Swiss Center for Musculoskeletal Biobanking (**SCMB**), headed by Dr. Sander Botter, was supplemented by an employee. This guarantees smooth transfer of the tissue samples to the biobank and optimal support for the research groups in using the equipment.
- In the Swiss Center for Clinical Movement Analysis (**SCMA**), Dr. Linard Filli took over the operational management from Dr. Marc Bolliger. He will provide the basis for a broad use of the gait analysis infrastructures.

Management Balgrist Campus AG

In December, the Balgrist Association offered Managing Director Thomas Huggler the opportunity to succeed Dr. Serge Altmann, who was leaving the company as Managing Director of the Balgrist University Hospital. In accordance with his wishes, Thomas Huggler's employment relationship with Balgrist Campus AG will be terminated as of June 1, 2019, in the knowledge that he is committed to continue to serve Balgrist Campus AG as a member of the Board of Directors. The impressive, four-and-a-half-year development as the first managing director of Balgrist Campus AG is greatly appreciated and respectfully thanked. The search for a suitable successor has already begun.

Opening of the new infrastructures

After just over a year of construction work, the new technology platforms of the Balgrist Campus were officially opened on 23 November 2018. The invited guests from industry, medicine and research were welcomed by Silvia Steiner (Government Council Canton Zurich), Professor Christian Gerber (initiator of the Balgrist Campus), Professor Michael Hengartner (Rector of the University of Zurich) and Prof. Mazda Farshad (Medical Director of the Balgrist University Hospital). During the guided tours of the campus, the three new centers were open to the visitors and the future users explained and demonstrated the potential of the facilities on site. Before the end of the year 6 SCMB projects and 9 SCMI projects could be initiated.

Finances

The third operating year closed with a slight profit. On the earnings side, rental income increased slightly, and the Balgrist Foundation and Baugarten Zurich Foundation also made donations to the infrastructure extension. On the expense side, a large portion of personnel and operating costs for the new infrastructure are covered by federal contributions. In addition to the unchanged loans from the Swiss Balgrist Association and the Balgrist Foundation, the Zürcher Kantonalbank ZKB also took out a bridging loan of CHF 7,000,000 to offset the time between the procurement of the equipment and the tiered receipt of the federal funds.

Further donors will have to be found over the next few years for the extension and conversion work, which cannot be financed by federal funds. Corresponding efforts are in progress.

New tenants

At the end of 2018, preparations were made to accommodate a research group of 41 people from the Zurich Children's Hospital in the laboratory. The Balgrist Campus will thus be fully let as of 1 January 2019. The new users are expected to carry out their research activities in the Campus for four years until the opening of the two new buildings of the Children's Hospital within the Lengg area. There are already very good contacts with campus research groups, which will be further expanded with the move.

Organization

The 7th Annual General Meeting on 28 June 2018 approved all proposals of the Board of Directors. All members of the Board of Directors were re-elected for a further period of 3 years until the 10th General Meeting. The Board of Directors held four meetings in 2018. The discussions focused on the conclusion of new rental agreements, the construction and procurement of the new infrastructure, sales territory planning for Lengg Cluster and the organization of a second "Group Sabbatical".

The Science Committee (SAB) met for the third time on 23 November 2018 and dealt with the occupancy of the campus, the Group Sabbatical concept and the SERI infrastructure.

The bookkeeping and payment systems were still managed by Interconsulta AG (formerly Peter Leuthold AG), Zurich. The audit was carried out by Lienhard Audit AG, which was elected in 2017.

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