

## Annual Report 2019

**Mrs. Caroline Sciuлло took over the general management. The first year of operation of the new research platform of national importance was successful. Balgrist Campus has expanded its range of tenants and its networking, is fully let and financially sound.**

### Swiss research platform of national importance

2019 was marked by the first year of operation of the three platforms. All three centers have commenced orderly operations, defined their processes and acquired and invoiced their first research projects. As expected, most projects in the service research are still being carried out on behalf of Balgrist University Hospital or other user groups within the Balgrist Campus.

- The team at the *Swiss Center for Musculoskeletal Imaging (SCMI)* headed by Prof. Daniel Nanz functions both as a research and development unit in its own right and as a research service provider. In its own research work, the group, in collaboration with Siemens on-site scientists, successfully focused on improving TSE and UTE sequences, which are of central importance for musculoskeletal applications at 7T. Its performance is documented by the fact that it has already been integrated into major national and international research applications.

In the research services area the processes have been defined, first studies started and by the end of 2019 more than 45 active academic projects were either underway or planned at the SCMI.

- In 2019, employees of the *Swiss Center for Musculoskeletal Biobanking (SCMB)*, which is headed by Dr. Sander Botter, attended various courses and trainings to ensure the legally compliant and secure use of the platform.  
In its first year of operation, the SCMB supervised a total of 30 projects and made targeted efforts to establish external academic and commercial contacts, to make its attractiveness known and thus to come a step closer to financial independence.
- The *Swiss Center for Clinical Movement Analysis (SCMA)*, operationally managed by Dr. Linard Filli, was strengthened during the year under review by the addition of a research assistant (Marina Hitz).

The SCMA was significantly expanded in calendar year 2019 with targeted investments in order to be optimally equipped not only for paraplegiological but also for orthopaedic and chiropractic issues. The investments in the infrastructure will be completed in 2020. Since mid-year, the SCMA has been increasingly used by various research groups in orthopaedics, chiropractic and neurology (paraplegiology).

## **Management**

In June 2019, Mrs. Caroline Sciullo seamlessly took over the management of the company from Thomas Huggler, who was then appointed operational Hospital Director of Balgrist University Hospital.

## **Finances**

The fourth operating year was also concluded with a slight surplus. On the income side, rental income could be increased slightly. This year, the Balgrist Foundation again generously assumed the entire costs of the «Guest Sabbatical» and supported specific projects such as the 3-D production of patient-specific bones, making it a major provider of third-party funding for the Balgrist Campus. On the cost side, personnel and operating costs of the new infrastructure are covered by federal contributions. In addition, there are still loans from the Balgrist Association and the Balgrist Foundation, as well as a bridging loan of CHF 8 million from the ZKB, which compensates for the time between the procurement of equipment for the three new infrastructures and the staggered receipt of federal funding.

Accounting and payments continued to be handled by Interconsulta AG, Zurich. The audit was carried out by the elected Lienhard Audit AG.

## **New tenants on campus**

The Balgrist Campus has been fully let since 1 January 2019. We have been able to take on three research groups from the University Children's Hospital in Zurich, working in the fields of paediatric oncology (Prof. B. Schäfer), leukaemia research (Dr. B. Bornhauser) and brain tumour research (PD Dr. M. Baumgartner). They will be based at Balgrist Campus until the new research building of the Children's Hospital in Lengg is completed. Another researcher from the Children's Hospital is Prof. J. Nazarian, who works at Balgrist Campus, investigating diffuse intrinsic pons gliomas (DIPG).

In the year under review we were able to benefit from Prof. Nassir Navab and his team from the Technical University of Munich as part of the "Guest Sabbatical". Prof. Navab's chair focuses on computer science applications in medicine and augmented reality. The focus is on the development of technologies with the aim of improving the quality of medical interventions. As part of this guest sabbatical, a "Medical Augmented Reality Summer School" was held at Balgrist Campus and Balgrist University Hospital in August 2019 with the aim of building relationships between surgeons, researchers, engineers and the medical industry and learning more about medical AR, as well as promoting the future of Medical Augmented Reality through new projects and ideas. The two-week event was a complete success, also thanks to the valuable support of the TU Munich.

## **Organization**

The 8th General Meeting of Shareholders on 11 June 2019 approved all the proposals of the Board of Directors. The position on the Board of Directors vacated by the resignation of Dr. Serge Altmann was filled by Mr. Thomas Huggler who is the predecessor of Mrs. Sciuolo as COO of Campus and the new operational Hospital Director of Balgrist University Hospital.

In particular, the General Meeting also approved an amendment to the statutes: With the appointment of the Balgrist Campus as a "research infrastructure of national importance", the Swiss Confederation (SBFI) applied for observer status on the Board of Directors, which was approved with the following amendment to the statutes:

*(Article 14 paragraph 2): Observer status of the Confederation*

*With the appointment of Balgrist Campus as a research infrastructure of national importance by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and the associated financial support, the Confederation is entitled to observer status (without voting rights) on the Board of Directors of Balgrist Campus AG, with regard to all SERI business. The SERI appoints the person who has this observer status.*

The Board of Directors held four meetings in 2019. Discussions focused on the finances of Balgrist Campus and the three infrastructures SCMI, SCMB and SCMA, the room allocations within Balgrist Campus and the new 'Simulation Operating Room' construction project.

The Scientific Committee (SAB) did not meet in 2019; Prof. C. Gerber contacted members of the SAB bilaterally. On behalf of the SAB, a survey was carried out among all research groups on infrastructure requirements and possibilities for strengthening intra-institutional cooperation, which provides basic information for further operational adjustments.

The Board of Directors and Management would like to thank all employees and users of the Balgrist Campus for the excellent cooperation, but especially for the substantial help of all Balgrist Campus supporters.



Christian Gerber  
Chairman of the Board of Directors



Caroline Sciuillo  
Managing Director

28 April 2020