

COFUND: A Swiss Success Story

Switzerland was exceptionally successful in the Marie Curie "COFUND" scheme in FP7. The European Commission introduced this scheme at the beginning of FP7 and Switzerland, together with Spain and Ireland, quickly became one of the biggest beneficiaries. During FP7, 619 fellowships were funded by Swiss-based COFUND programmes.

International fellowships

The idea of COFUND in Horizon 2020 is to enhance postdoctoral and doctoral career opportunities by offering fellowships in another country. The EC funds a certain percentage of the contribution, while the rest comes from the single coordinating beneficiary. COFUND allows the beneficiary to extend an existing fellowship programme or to set up a new programme, and to benefit from the well-known Marie Skłodowska-Curie label while having some flexibility with the programme rules and set-up.

Valuable COFUND experience

Up to now, Switzerland has coordinated 17 COFUND projects in FP7 and Horizon 2020. A recent study carried out by Euresearch (in-depth interviews with Swiss-based COFUND coordinators) showed that both institutions and fellows benefited greatly from COFUND, not only in terms of widening networks and creating new career prospects but also in terms of structural effects at the coordinating institution. New processes were



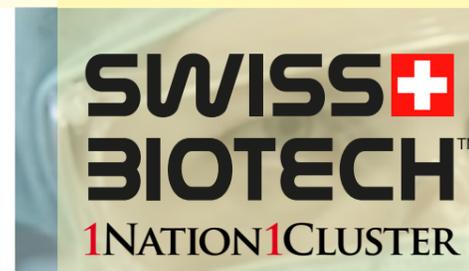
established, new jobs were created and best practice for other Horizon 2020 projects was developed. In general, coordinators appreciated the COFUND experience: "We were able to attract excellent researchers and

our programme became a brand," was the satisfying common experience many coordinators in Switzerland had.

Next COFUND call

With the current CHF-EUR exchange rate, the Swiss institution's contribution lies at about 70% for a fellowship programme and 50% for a doctoral programme. The success rate for the calls in the last 2 years was 25% for both programme types.

The next COFUND call will open on 14 April with a deadline on 29 September. Euresearch is organising an information event on 19 April with Alan Craig from the Research Executive Agency. An evaluator, coordinators and COFUND fellows will also give insight into their experiences. – Source; Euresearch Newsletter – March April 2016



In cooperation with the CTI

KTT-Support
National thematic networks

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Swiss Confederation

Commission for Technology and Innovation CTI

Editorial

Hans-Ulrich Tanner, Consul General



It is with great pleasure that I welcome the Swiss Biotech Association (SBA) and all participants at the Swiss Pavilion at this year's BIO Show in San Francisco, The Bay Area of California features one of the largest biotechnology clusters

worldwide. Swiss biotech companies and academic research institutions including many exhibiting at BIO, have traditionally maintained close cooperative relations with their counterparts in California and this BIO conference provides a yearly opportunity to further strengthen those relations. Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE) is collaborating with the Swiss Business Hub (SBH) in organizing networking events during the Show which are designed to highlight the strengths of the Swiss Biotech sector to US companies interested in exploring opportunities in Europe. Match making for Swiss companies and exhibitors with local counterparts in the areas of R&D and commercial applications is a further asset of this show. It is an honor and a pleasure for me to support this endeavor. I wish each and every one an enjoyable stay in the beautiful City of San Francisco and a successful conference.

H. Tanner

Program of Swiss Biotech™ @ BIO San Francisco

Sunday, June 5

We will have a reception at the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco from 6 to 9 pm, co-hosted by the Swiss Business Hub USA. <https://swissbiosf.eventbrite.com/> Please nominate US companies (partners, investors) that should be invited to the event.

Monday, June 6

Monday: individual programs
SWISS Pavilion: 6244 (build-up)

Tuesday, June 7

Opening Hours: 10.30 - 6.30 on Tuesday
Swiss Pavilion: 6244

Wednesday, June 8

Opening Hours: 10.30 - 5.30 on Wednesday
Swiss Pavilion: 6244

Thursday, June 9

Opening Hours: 10.30 - 4.30 on Thursday
Swiss Pavilion: 6244

Impressions from Swiss Biotech Day



The keynote speakers and special partner programs drew record international crowds.



35% higher attendance from last year benefitted the opportunity to network.



The partnering platform brought all the right people together at tables or in the booths.



The summing up of a successful day with special thanks to the organizers, partners and attendees.

New Directory 2015/2016 – Available now



Secure your copy now!

The Directory 2015/2016 is now in distribution. Beyond core biotechnology, the directory includes industry members involved on the supply ranging from technology providers, suppliers of equipment and services to contract research, bioinformatics, consulting and finance companies.

New Drugs approved by FDA from 2010-2015

19 of the 195 products came from Switzerland, which is 10.26%!

Drug Name	Active Ingredient	FDA Approval Date	Year	NCE/ Biologic	Sponsor/Owner (Country)	Therapeutic Area
Actemra	tocilizumab	08.01.2010	2010	Biologic	Roche (Switzerland)	Immunology
Arcapta Neohaler	indacaterol	01.07.2011	2011	NCE	Novartis (Switzerland)	Respiratory
Zelboraf	vemurafenib	17.08.2011	2011	NCE	Roche (Switzerland)	Cancer
Erivedge	vismodegib	30.01.2012	2012	NCE	Roche (Switzerland)	Cancer
Perjeta	pertuzumab	08.06.2012	2012	Biologic	Roche (Switzerland)	Cancer
Signifor	pasireotide daspartate	14.12.2012	2012	NCE	Novartis (Switzerland)	Diabetes/Metabolic/Endocrinology
Kadcyla	ado-trastuzumab emtastine	22.02.2013	2013	Biologic	Roche (Switzerland)	Cancer
Opsumit	macitentan	18.10.2013	2013	NCE	Actelion (Switzerland)	Cardiovascular/Vascular
Gazyva	obinutuzumab	01.11.2013	2013	Biologic	Roche (Switzerland)	Cancer
Zykadia	ceritinib	29.04.2014	2014	NCE	Novartis (Switzerland)	Cancer
Esbriet	pirfenidone	15.10.2014	2014	NCE	Roche (Switzerland)	Respiratory
Xtoro	finafloxacin	17.12.2014	2014	NCE	Alcon (Switzerland)	Infections bacterial
Cosentyx	secukinumab	21.01.2015	2015	Biologic	Novartis (Switzerland)	Immunology
Farydak	panobinostat	23.02.2015	2015	NCE	Novartis (Switzerland)	Cancer
Odomzo	erismodegib	24.07.2015	2015	NCE	Novartis (Switzerland)	Cancer
Cotellic	cobimetinib	10.11.2015	2015	NCE	Roche (Switzerland)	Cancer
Alecensa	alectinib	11.12.2015	2015	NCE	Roche (Switzerland)	Cancer
Upravi	selexipag	22.12.2015	2015	NCE	Actelion (Switzerland)	Cardiovascular/Vascular

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Get a Copy now: Swiss Biotech Report 2016

The expectation is that biotechnology will continue to play a key role in the sustainable development of Switzerland. Boosting innovation in this industry will be vital to economic growth, to our environmental endeavours, to commercialization of new technologies and to public health.

By further strengthening academic output, enablers and competitive clusters, we can create a strong 'bioeconomy' moving forward. The current report highlights major initiatives and key players in the value proposition, and looks at the contribution they make to its success. Download a copy at: www.swissbiotechreport.ch

NTN partners:



Project partner:



BIO 2016 San Francisco, June 6-9, 2016 SWISS Pavilion – Booth No. 6244

	Company	Company description	Name	Phone	E-Mail	Website
	AC Immune SA	AC Immune develops innovative therapeutics and diagnostics for Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases.	Prof. Andrea Pfeifer	Phone +41 21 693 9121	info@acimmune.com	www.acimmune.com
	Actelion Pharmaceuticals Ltd	Actelion Ltd. is a leading biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of innovative drugs for diseases with significant unmet medical needs.	Mr. Nicholas Franco	Phone +41 61 565 5503	licensing@actelion.com	www.actelion.com
	BioAlps Life Science Western	Foster and promote the excellence and performance of the "Health Valley" life science sectors worldwide	Mr. Claude Joris	Phone +41 22 604 4049	claudio.joris@bioalps.org	www.bioalps.org
	Cerbios-Pharma SA	Cerbios-Pharma SA is a privately held company specialized in the development and manufacturing of chemical and biological API's. Services are offered in the area of HPALs and Biopharmaceuticals.	Ms. Mara Camillo	Phone +41 79 618 0988	mara.camillo@cerbios.ch	www.cerbios.ch
	Life Science Zurich Business Network	The LSZ Business Network promotes cooperations between Life Science stakeholders in academia, industry and the public sector.	Dr. Isabel Klusman	Phone +41 44 635 3501	info@lifescience.uzh.ch	www.lifescience-businessnetwork.ch
	Molecular Partners AG	Molecular Partners create medicines using a novel class of biologicals (DARPin) for diseases with unmet medical needs.	Dr. Patrick Amstutz	Phone +41 44 755 7700	patrick.amstutz@molecularpartners.com	www.molecularpartners.com
	Numab AG	Numab focuses on the discovery and development of innovative antibody fragment-based therapeutics.	Mr. Oliver Middendorp	Phone +41 44 533 0471	info@numab.com	www.numab.com
	PRECLIN Biosystems AG	Comprehensive in vivo preclinical testing platform for the identification and validation of lead candidate therapeutics.	Ms. Bettina Ernst	Phone + 41 44 586 0776	ernst@preclinbiosystems.com	www.preclinbiosystems.com
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	Sulzer Mixpac AG	Leading packaging, mixing and dispensing solutions for pharma and healthcare applications globally.	Mr. Daniel Strasser	Phone +41 79 427 73 41	daniel.strasser@sulzer.com	www.sulzer.com
	Swiss Biotech Association	The Swiss Biotech Association represents the interests of the biotech sector, supports the entrepreneurship of biotech companies, and generates value for members and the industry.	Mr. Domenico P. Alexakis	Phone +41 44 455 5678	info@swissbiotech.org	www.swissbiotech.org
	Wyss Translational Center Zurich	Fostering an efficient translation of discoveries into new medical therapies and innovative products.	Mr. Michael Stucky	Phone +41 44 633 89 79	michael.stucky@wysszurich.ch	www.wysszurich.uzh.ch

Spending on drugs tops health-care concerns

The price of drugs is the U.S. public's top health-care concern in opinion polls, and the 2016 presidential candidates are increasingly paying attention.

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR - The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Medicare spending on breakthrough medications for hepatitis C will nearly double this year, passing \$9 billion, according to new government figures. That's raising insurance costs for all beneficiaries, whether or not they have the liver-wasting viral disease. The price of drugs is the public's top health-care concern in opinion polls, and the 2016 presidential candidates are increasingly paying attention. The federal Department of Health and Human Services will hold a public forum next week to examine the high cost of new drugs for difficult diseases. The challenge: How to reward drug-company research while keeping innovative medications affordable for patients, insurers, employers and government programs. New cost estimates indicate that Medicare's popular prescription-drug program will spend \$9.2 billion on hepatitis C drugs this year, a 96 percent increase from \$4.7 billion in 2014. That works out to nearly 7 percent of drug costs for all of Part D, as the program is known. The Associated Press requested the numbers from Medicare's Office of the Chief Actuary, a unit that handles economic analysis. Hepatitis C affects some 3 million people in the U.S. and kills more people in the U.S. than AIDS. More than 3 of 4 infected adults are baby boomers, the age group now entering Medicare. It's primarily spread by contact with infected blood. Patients say "hep C" feels like a bad flu that never goes away. While the disease advances gradually, it can ultimately destroy the liver, requir-

ing a transplant to save the patient's life. The new drugs cure the disease but treatment can cost from \$80,000 to \$100,000. Medicare's economic analysts say hepatitis drugs have become one of the main cost drivers for the prescription program. Without the hepatitis C medications, costs per beneficiary would have risen by 4.6 percent this year. Instead the growth rate will be considerably higher, 7.9 percent. The pressure is expected to ease next year, partly due to competition from more medications entering the market. In addition, rebates expected from drug manufacturers are expected to reduce Medicare's ultimate costs, but the amount of those won't be known for months. Meanwhile, Medicare beneficiaries will face rising premiums and deductibles. Because Medicare prescription benefits are delivered through private insurance companies, it's difficult to tease out the effect on premiums. But another indicator called the Part D deductible gives a general idea. A deductible is the amount of drug costs that beneficiaries are responsible for each year before their insurance kicks in. In 2016, the prescription program's standard deductible is going up by \$40, to \$360. It's by far the largest increase in the deductible since the inception of Part D 10 years ago. Tricia Neuman of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation says the cost of new medications has been "a sleeper issue" for Medicare, but that's about to change. "This increase already seems to be having an impact on premiums and deductibles," said Neuman. "We also have anti-cholesterol drugs that are coming on the market." Previous treatments for hepatitis C were hit and miss, and many patients couldn't tolerate the side effects. With new drugs like Harvoni and Viekira Pak, patients finally have a choice among highly effective cures with minimal side effects. But the costs are straining government programs and private insurers alike.

Jobs in France on Health – Statistic 2015

Professions de santé en 2015, France					
Professions médicales et pharmaceutiques	2012	2013	2014	2015	Densité pour 100 000 habitants (1) en 2015
Médecins	216 762	218 296	219 834	222 150	337
Médecins généralistes	101 896	101 803	102 140	102 485	155
Médecins libéraux	64 638	63 595	62 986	62 211	94
Médecins salariés	32 447	32 597	32 914	33 475	51
Médecins "mixtes" (2)	4 811	5 611	6 240	6 799	10
Médecins spécialistes	114 866	116 493	117 694	119 665	181
Médecins libéraux	47 387	46 386	45 688	45 142	68
Médecins salariés	54 594	55 593	56 625	58 226	88
Médecins "mixtes" (2)	12 885	14 514	15 381	16 297	25
Chirurgiens-dentistes	40 599	40 833	41 186	41 495	63
Sages-femmes (3)	19 535	20 235	20 772	21 632	148
Pharmaciens	72 811	73 670	73 598	74 345	113
Auxiliaires médicaux					
Infirmiers diplômés d'État et autorisés	567 564	595 594	616 796	638 248	967
Masseurs-kinésithérapeutes	75 164	77 778	80 759	83 619	127
Pédicures-podologues	12 085	12 430	12 850	13 250	20
Orthophonistes	21 220	21 902	22 744	23 521	36
Orthoptistes	3 655	3 826	4 016	4 185	6
Opticiens-lunetiers	25 010	27 340	29 071	32 245	49
Psychomotriciens	8 385	8 891	9 516	10 252	16
Manipulateurs E.R.M	30 201	31 242	32 316	33 464	51
Ergothérapeutes	8 079	8 539	9 122	9 691	15
Audio-prothésistes	2 625	2 768	2 920	3 090	5

This chart shows the number of medical jobs. The number increased steadily. Some of the jobs are located in the French speaking part of Switzerland, called Romandie.

(1) : nombre de professionnels en activité pour 100 000 habitants.
 (2) : les médecins "mixtes" exercent une activité libérale mais peuvent être en partie des médecins hospitaliers au titre d'une activité secondaire.
 (3) : la densité des sages-femmes est calculée sur la population féminine de 15 à 49 ans.
 Note : effectifs au 1er janvier.
 Champ : France.
 Sources : Drees ; Insee, estimations de pop. 1.1.2015.