

New CEO announced

SWISS BIOTECH DAY The 2017 Swiss Biotech Day Fall has focused on current trends within the development of antibodies for therapy and diagnostics towards precision medicine. Executives from the Swiss Biotech Industry gathered at the Swiss Biotech Day Fall in Eysin this year.

The Swiss Biotech Day Fall 2017 in Eysin on Precision Medicine took place within the European Biotech Week, a celebration of biotechnology, including over 100 events across Europe. Hosted by Becton Dickinson Switzerland, inputs featured the current developments and challenges of biologics development and application for diagnostics and targeted therapies. The case presented by Dr. David Hickmann, AC Immune, was complemented by insights into developments in application, clinical research, and intellectual property. The tour through the BD Innovation and Engagement Center sets new standards in interaction with stakeholders. The SBA took advantage of this successful event to announce that Michael Altorfer has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer effective January 1st, 2018.



Michael Altorfer, new CEO of Swiss Biotech Association

Dr. Michael Altorfer has more than 20 years of experience in the life science industry, comprising positions at both big pharma and smaller biotech organizations. As a member of the Executive Committee, he supported the build-up of Polyphor Ltd in many different roles (Head BD&L,



UPCOMING EVENTS

- › **16 October 2017, Bern**
NTN Antibiotics Working Group Meeting
- › **26 October 2017, Sierre**
Swiss Symposium in Point-of-Care Diagnostics
- › **8 November 2017, Wädenswil**
TEDD Annual Meeting

CFO, COO and CEO). Michael started his career as a scientist in pharmaceutical research at Sandoz, Ciba-Geigy (Summit, NJ, USA), and Roche. From 1996 to 2001 he held program management and line management roles at the investment bank UBS Warburg. Michael studied Natural Sciences at the ETH and he obtained his Ph.D. in Chemistry under the supervision of Prof. Dr. H.-J. Hansen (University of Zurich) and Prof. Dr. K. Müller (Roche), and holds an MBA degree from the University of Rochester, NY, USA. ■

Stimulate exchange

NETWORK The National Thematic Network (NTN) Swiss Biotech™ is a unique network that supports the competitiveness of the biotech ecosystem, fueled by close ties between industry and research and sponsored by the Commission of Technology and Innovation (CTI). The Swiss Biotech Association and biotechnet Switzerland, a network of Universities of Applied Sciences and research institutions, joined forces and applied for CTI funding within the National Thematic Network funding scheme. After successful approval of a first phase from 2013 to 2016, CTI confirmed the value of this network by approving the second phase from 2017 to 2018.

NTN Swiss Biotech has set ambitious objectives, which are important when it comes to adding value to the technology value chain:

- › combining core competences of innovative companies with academic knowledge and practices;
- › concentrating knowledge and technology around platforms;
- › supporting the building up of important alliances;
- › enabling access to a reliable network.

Furthermore, NTN Swiss Biotech makes use of effective instruments to implement the set objectives. For example it:

- › organises events;

- › provides platforms;
- › brings together competences and chapters the phase of partner finding;
- › supports national and international activities;
- › promotes events, workshops, successful R&D projects through publications and website coverage;
- › provides seed money to academic partners to set-up CTI projects with industry partners. ■

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BIOTECH™**
National Thematic Network