

SWISS BIOTECH SUCCESS STORIES

Celebrating and honoring major achievements



Dr. Pascale Vonmont

A Champion of Swiss Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- 25 years leading Gebert Rűf Stiftung
- From science to innovation leadership
- PhD in Biopolymers, ETHZ
- Bridging science & entrepreneurship

**WISSENSCHAFT.
BEWEGEN**
GEBERT RűF STIFTUNG

Empowering Science, Business and Society since 1999

Pascale Vonmont is the CEO and Director of Gebert Rűf Stiftung – Switzerland's largest private science and innovation foundation. With an annual budget of up to CHF 15 million, it fosters breakthrough technologies and cultivates an entrepreneurial mindset by building initiatives like the Kick Program, which accompanies Switzerland's best entrepreneurial talents along the entire value chain.

Life Sciences

Holding a PhD in Biopolymers from ETH Zurich, Vonmont has led the foundation's life science research programs, addressing critical gaps in research and funding and fostering high-impact solutions:

- Rare Diseases: 31 projects, total budget of CHF 12.3 Mio. 50% achieved a diagnostic or therapeutic success.
- Microbials: Exploiting the potential and widespread use of microbial resources in health and technology. 29 projects supported, total budget of CHF 10 Mio. Resulted in the successful promotion of young talents, product prototypes to successful founding and financing of companies.

Expertise and Engagement

Vonmont is a pioneer in innovation leadership, building bridges between science and entrepreneurship and shaping the future of Swiss philanthropy through strategic funding and collaboration:

- Board member of SwissFoundations and StiftungSchweiz
- Advisor to the Center for Philanthropy Studies
- Key actor in initiating the media platform Startupticker.ch, that showcases Swiss innovations and positions Switzerland as a global innovation hub.

SUCCESS CATEGORIES

- ★ Scientific breakthrough
- ★ New technology
- ★ Strong impact on society
- ★ Involvement of one or more Swiss citizens

Creating a Sustainable Value Chain

The programs under “Kick Foundation” and the “Kickfund” are a unique combination of funding and investment. The “Kick Program” offers Switzerland's best talents a broad-based training and funding program for business, technology and innovation. The lean, legally independent Kickfund is directly linked to the funding program. The fund invests systematically in Venture Kick finalists and uses part of the returns to regenerate the pipeline, creating a funding cycle with sustainable added value.

SUSTAINABLE KICK VALUE CHAIN



The Untapped Potential of Innovation Philanthropy

Despite this transformative potential, only 3% of all philanthropic funds are dedicated to innovation. GRS demonstrates how philanthropy can drive sustainable change and create lasting impact:

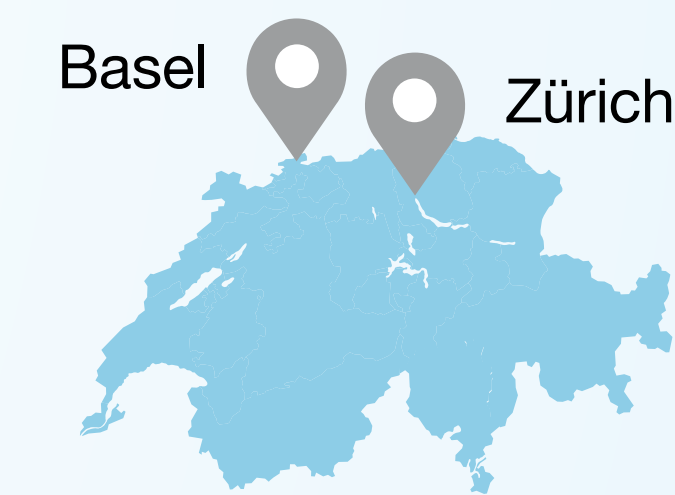
- 1,400+ innovation projects supported
- CHF 270M+ in funding, resulting in CHF 8.7B follow-up financing
- 750+ startups created, 14,441 jobs generated
- Venture Kick: CHF 80M in support for 1,121 startup projects

It is Vonmont's mission to make sure that the sunset foundation's legacy lives on in Switzerland's innovation landscape.

Award winner 2025

Pascale Vonmont's life principle:

By fostering breakthrough technologies and an entrepreneurial mindset, **we create lasting impact.**



Future through Innovation – **let's start building together.**