

# Swiss Biotech Success Stories award winner 2025

Dr. Pascale Vonmont – a promoter of innovation and entrepreneurship  
CEO of a leading innovation foundation for over 25 years



Established in 1998 by Heinrich Gebert following the sale of the internationally successful family company Geberit, Gebert Rüt Stiftung is Switzerland's largest private science and innovation foundation. Pascale Vonmont, CEO and Director of Gebert Rüt Stiftung, has held a leadership position at the foundation since 1999.

Guided by the conviction that innovation is key to economic and social progress, the foundation fosters breakthrough technologies and cultivates an entrepreneurial mindset through educational and transfer projects. With an annual budget of up to CHF 15 million, it plays a crucial role in strengthening Switzerland's innovation landscape.

For over 25 years, Pascale Vonmont has been a driving force in advancing innovation and entrepreneurship. As a passionate bridge-builder between science, business, and society, she is committed to accelerating knowledge transfer and ensuring that groundbreaking research translates into real-world applications.

Holding a PhD in Biopolymers from ETH Zurich and additional credentials in foundation management from the European Business School EBS, her expertise spans interdisciplinary research funding, strategic philanthropy, and entrepreneurial support. She has led foundation life science research programs in fields such as rare diseases and microbials, addressing critical gaps and fostering high-impact solutions. She has also played a pivotal role in initiatives like Venture Kick, the Kick Foundation initiated by Gebert Rüt Stiftung, and Startupticker, empowering startups and positioning Switzerland as a global innovation hub.

Beyond her work at Gebert Rüt Stiftung, she is actively engaged in shaping Switzerland's foundation sector. As a board member of SwissFoundations, she advocates for a strong and liberal philanthropic landscape. She is also a member of the Advisory Board of the Center for Philanthropy Studies and has represented the foundation consortium on the Board of Directors of StiftungSchweiz since 2022. In 2024, she was appointed Vice President of the Peter Bopp Stiftung für Forschung und Technik.

**Innovation remains a rare focus in philanthropy.** Only 3% of all active and newly established foundations have an innovation-oriented mission like Gebert Rüt Stiftung. However, by supporting innovation projects, philanthropists can make a significant impact and generate powerful leverage effects.

**The numbers illustrate this impact:** Since its inception, Gebert Rüt Stiftung has funded over 1'400 projects with CHF 270 million, triggering CHF 8.7 billion in follow-up financing. The Kick Foundation initiative continues to solidify Switzerland's status as an innovation leader. Since 2007, Venture Kick has provided CHF 80 million in funding to 1'121 Swiss startup projects. These ventures have attracted CHF 9 billion in global investment, resulting in a portfolio of 750 high-tech companies and the creation of 14'441 jobs.

***"Future Through Innovation,  
this is the shared vision."***

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