

# SWISS BIOTECH SUCCESS STORIES

Celebrating and honoring major achievements

Award winner 2026



## Patrick Aebischer

Patrick Aebischer is a prominent figure in the Swiss biotech landscape, whose career is characterized by a convergence of cutting-edge research, institutional leadership, and entrepreneurial achievements.

- Trained as an MD (1980) and a Neuroscientist (1983) at the Universities of Geneva and Fribourg
- Faculty member at **Brown University**, USA (1984 to 1992), **University of Lausanne** (1992 to 2000) and **EPFL** (2000 to 2019)
- President of **EPFL** from 2000 to 2016
- Founder of four biotech companies: **CytoTherapeutics**, **Modex**, **Amazentis** (Timeline) & **Vandria**
- Board member of **Nestlé** (since 2015), **Polypeptide** (since 2020). Previously board member of **Lonza** and **Logitech**
- Managing partner at **Limani Partners**. Previously senior partner at **ND Capital** and chairman of the **Novartis Venture Fund**

### The scientist

Focus on translational neuroscience. Development of cell and gene therapy for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases with a particular emphasis on Parkinson's disease and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). The demonstration that lentiviral vector-mediated silencing of superoxide dismutase (SOD1) through RNA interference retards disease onset and progression led to an approved treatment for ALS patients suffering from SOD1 mutations.

### The EPFL President

As president of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL), Patrick Aebischer profoundly transformed the institution and strengthened its position among the world's leading research Universities. Today EPFL is an open, interdisciplinary, innovation-focused research technical University ranked as one of the best Institute of Technology worldwide. His mandate was also marked by the de novo creation of a Faculty of life sciences at EPFL.



### The Entrepreneur

Founder of four biotech companies.



**CytoTherapeutics** – founded in the United States in the 1989 – developed cell encapsulation technologies enabling continuous delivery of therapeutic proteins for neurodegenerative and ophthalmological diseases. The company went public on the Nasdaq in 1996. The technology was then acquired by **Neurotech** that developed Encelto (encapsulated cells genetically engineered to secrete CNTF), an FDA approved treatment for macular telangiectasia type 2.



**Modex Therapeutics** – founded in Switzerland in 1996 – developed encapsulated insulin secreting cells for the treatment of type I diabetes and cell-derived skin grafts for wound treatment. The company went public on the Swiss stock market in 2000.



**Amazentis** – founded in 2008 – is developing postbiotic-derived supplements inducing mitophagy to promote healthspan. The flagship product urolithin A marketed under the Timeline brand successfully sells its product in the US through DTC (direct-to-consumer channel). Lancôme, a L'Oréal owned-brand, recently announced a strategic partnership with Timeline for cosmetic applications of urolithin A.



**Vandria** – founded in 2021 – is developing new chemical entities derived from urolithin A for the treatment of age-related and chronic diseases with a focus on cognitive deficits. The company has recently successfully conducted a phase I trial.

### Patrick Aebischer's life principle:

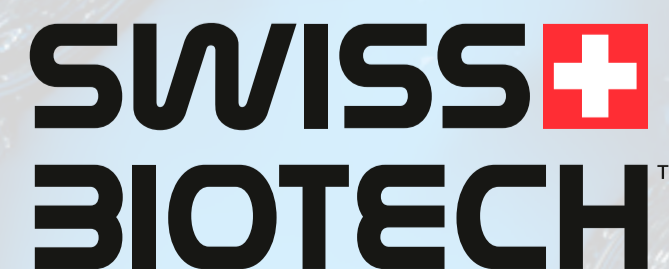
- Be curious
- Think outside the box
- Never give up
- Be generous



Lausanne

## SUCCESS CATEGORIES

- ★ Completed achievement with lasting impact
- ★ Strong impact on society
- ★ Involvement of one or more Swiss citizens
- ★ Swiss-based company/institution
- ★ Creation of jobs in Switzerland
- ★ Other aspect with a direct link to Switzerland
- ★ Enabler for the biotech industry
- ★ Swissness: Think global, made in Switzerland



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