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Swiss Biotech Report 2026

Talent and Tenacity

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Talent and Tenacity

"Over the past twenty-five years, the chemical, pharma, and life science industries have been responsible for 72% of Switzerland's total export growth. In 2025, they accounted for 53% of Swiss exports; the immunologicals subsector - including therapeutic proteins, cell therapies, and vaccines - alone made up 20% of exports."

Jan Lucht
scienceindustries

"Switzerland's future depends on an ecosystem that invests in talent, rewards determination, supports entrepreneurial freedom, and thrives through international collaboration. Its competitive edge lies in its people: focused on developing solutions for global challenges and building international alliances."

Michael Altorfer
Swiss Biotech Association

"Talent is the foundation of regulatory credibility. By investing in people, fostering collaboration across disciplines and borders, and maintaining a clear commitment to scientific rigor and independence, Swissmedic strengthens the trust placed in regulatory decisions."

Jörg Schläpfer
Swissmedic

"In 2025 Swiss biotech companies recorded record revenues of CHF 7.5 billion, while R&D investments remained at a very high level (CHF 2.5 billion). Overall financing was 2% up on the previous year, and privately funded companies raised a record CHF 1.15 billion. This represents an increase of 38% compared to 2024, and a record 45% relative share of the total funding pot."

Frederik Schmachtenberg
EY

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Guest editorial

André Hoffmann
Vice Chairman of Roche Holding and Co-Chair, World Economic Forum

Innovating with integrity, purpose and accountability: Switzerland's role in shaping the future of biotech

Switzerland's biotech ecosystem stands today at a defining moment. With a strong base of jobs across the broader life sciences sector, sustained growth, and a remarkable capacity to attract global talent, it is clear that our country has built one of the most dynamic and competitive environments for innovation in the world.

But success brings responsibility.
As we look at the continued expansion of biotech, from therapeutics to diagnostics, and increasingly into industrial biotechnology, we must ask ourselves a fundamental question: what kind of innovation are we scaling, and to what end?

The strength of Switzerland lies not only in its scientific excellence, but in its ability to connect disciplines, cultures, and perspectives. The diversity and internationality of our talent pool is not just a statistic. It is a reflection of openness, collaboration, and a shared ambition to solve complex global challenges.

In a world facing unprecedented environmental and societal pressures, biotechnology has a critical role to play. It offers powerful tools to rethink how we produce, heal, and sustain life. Yet, innovation alone is not enough. We must ensure that these advances contribute to a resilient and equitable future.

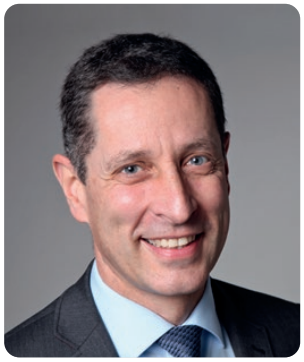
"In a world facing unprecedented environmental pressures, biotechnology offers powerful tools to rethink how we produce, heal, and sustain life."

This requires a shift in mindset.
We need to move beyond short-term performance metrics and embrace a more systemic view of value creation, one that integrates environmental boundaries, long-term health outcomes, and societal impact into the core of business and investment decisions. Switzerland, consistently ranked as the global leader in talent competitiveness, is uniquely positioned to lead this transformation.

A strong pipeline of startups and a growing presence among leading innovation ecosystems demonstrate not only entrepreneurial energy but also the willingness to explore new frontiers. The challenge now is to guide this momentum responsibly. This means fostering ecosystems that encourage long-term thinking, supporting collaboration between public and private actors, and ensuring that regulatory frameworks enable innovation while safeguarding trust.

Ultimately, the future of biotech will not be defined solely by technological breakthroughs, but by our ability to align innovation with the broader needs of society and the planet. Switzerland has the assets, the talent, and the credibility to lead by example. The question is whether we are ready to fully embrace this responsibility.

Editorial Swiss Biotech Report 2026



Michael Altorfer
Chief Executive Officer,
Swiss Biotech Association

Switzerland is an innovation powerhouse. It has held the top position of the Global Innovation Index presented by WIPO for 15 consecutive years, and has dominated both the INSEAD and IMD talent rankings for over a decade. Developing, attracting and retaining talent is a cornerstone of Switzerland's innovation success and its ability to build international collaborations and alliances.

Even the world's most advanced economies and global pharmaceutical giants cannot effectively develop new drugs or healthcare technologies in isolation. For Switzerland this is even more obvious. The lack of a domestic market has compelled Swiss based innovators to form international partnerships to develop innovative processes and products which address global medical needs.

In such a global, collaborative setting, the focus is not on competitiveness but on attractiveness as a collaboration partner – the ability to offer new ideas, know-how and capacity, to earn and build trust, and to adapt to evolving needs. Partnership attractiveness is not earned by force or by power but rather by an ability to listen and contribute, and by a constant search for the best possible, complementary partner globally. As the Swissmedic article stresses (see Page 28) responsible innovation also depends on expertise and integrity, and the ability to build bridges between all the relevant players.

> *"Developing, attracting and retaining talent is a cornerstone of Switzerland's innovation success and its ability to build international collaborations and alliances."*

The Swiss biotech industry is international by design. Swiss citizens only make up 30% of the life science talent pool, and four out of five biotech patents filed in Switzerland include an international partner. Switzerland invests heavily in developing talent, with strong universities, university hospitals, and universities of applied sciences, in addition to highly successful apprentice schemes and public private partnerships. On the other hand, it trusts the power of free markets and refrains from using taxpayer money to promote industrial policies.

Therefore, Swiss entrepreneurs and founders of startup ventures know that they cannot rely on government funding but must convince global venture investors that they offer attractive investment and partnering opportunities (see IPI article, Page 20). Switzerland has not only built an outstanding and growing talent pool but also earned the trust of biotech investors. In a time when the global biotech investment sentiment remains subdued, Swiss biotech companies annually invest > CHF 2.5 billion in their R&D pipeline. In 2025 they attracted close to CHF 2.6 billion in new funds, and privately financed biotech companies reached a new record, attracting CHF 1.15 billion.

On behalf of all the partners of the Swiss Biotech Report 2026, I invite you to dive into the articles in this year's report that address the main topic "talent and tenacity" from their different perspectives. They discuss how the Swiss talent pool benefits from the dual education system blending vocational training with elite academic pathways (CSEM article, Page 44), and how the talent ecosystem extends from academia, to translational research and clinical development, all the way to market access and the support of international headquarters (SNSF article, Page 16, and S-GE article, Page 40). Thereby, the know-how of the talent pools spans all modalities and disease indications, including the rapidly growing and converging market segments of diagnostics, healthtech, and industrial biotech applications (see SATW and scienceindustries articles Pages 24 and 36). By forging international alliances, biotech innovators based in Switzerland are addressing unmet global needs and helping to shape the future of healthcare.

Swiss biotech 2025: Facts & figures

Frederik Schmachtenberg

EY | Partner, Global Life Sciences Lead for Financial Accounting Advisory Services

Helena Rosa

EY | Director, Global Life Sciences, Audit Services

While 2025 remained a challenging year for the global biotech sector due to ongoing challenges in the financing environment of public capital markets, Switzerland continued to buck the trend, with new record revenues (CHF 7.5 billion) and R&D investments remaining at very high levels (CHF 2.5 billion in 2025 compared to CHF 2.6 billion in 2024). In terms of financing, Swiss biotech companies raised CHF 2.6 billion (an increase of 2.1% over 2024), but with one important shift in gravity: privately funded biotech companies raised a new record of CHF 1.15 billion, up 38% compared to 2024, and significantly increased their relative share, now making up 45% of the total funding pot, a testimony to the strong private investor community for Swiss biotech.

Similar to 2023 and 2024, 2025 continued to be a difficult year for the biotech sector overall, mainly due to ongoing challenges in the financing environment of public capital markets. Globally there were only 16 biotech IPOs in 2025 (2024: 30), generating approximately USD 2.5 billion in funds (2024: USD 4.0 billion). Of the IPO class of 2025, 12 were in the US, two in Israel, one in the UK, and one in Switzerland, which was BioVersys' successful IPO on SIX Swiss Exchange in February 2025 raising CHF 80 million, marking the largest biotech IPO in Europe in five years. Please refer to additional details about the BioVersys IPO as part of the SIX interview, Page 60.

Despite the difficult capital market environment, many Swiss biotech companies, especially the privately funded companies, developed strongly in 2025, with the most noteworthy headline that privately funded companies achieved a new record in financing, raising in total CHF 1.15 billion, an increase of 38% compared to 2024. Private company financings in 2025 made up 45% of the total funds raised by Swiss biotech companies, a significant jump compared to the financing share of privately-funded companies in prior years, which was usually around 30% or lower.

Swiss biotech landscape

In 2025, the Swiss biotech industry overall saw a new record in revenues (CHF 7.5 billion in 2025 compared to CHF 7.2 billion in 2024), whereas R&D investments slightly decreased (CHF 2.5 billion in 2025 compared to CHF 2.6 billion in 2024). Also, as a sign of the vibrant Swiss biotech sector, the overall number of FTEs working in Swiss R&D biotech companies increased to a new record of more than 21'000 employees. The increase in FTEs should be seen in the context of more and more companies having advanced to commercial territories, as well as the increased relevance of Swiss CDMOs (see S-GE article, Page 40).

As CDMO activity today includes increasingly complex molecular structures, combined with more rigorous GMP regulations, the specialized R&D and production know-how of Swiss CDMOs have seen a significant uptick in demand. Also, looking at the performance of public and private biotech companies separately, it is impressive how well private biotech companies performed in 2025, with record levels of financing of CHF 1.15 billion (2024: CHF 833 million). Privately financed biotech companies, although R&D expenses remained stable at CHF 1.4 billion in 2025, also set a new record in terms of revenues, with in total CHF 2.1 billion, an increase of 4% compared to 2024, again evidencing how more companies have advanced into the commercial space and are delivering strong growth.

In terms of overall financing, the Swiss biotech industry raised 2.6 billion in 2025 (2024: CHF 2.5 billion), a 2.1% increase compared to 2024, with around CHF 1.4 billion collected by public companies and CHF 1.15 billion collected by private companies. Windward Bio (with CHF 186 million raised) and GlycoEra (with CHF 104 million raised) were the two largest private company financing transactions in 2025, contributing to the new record level of financing for private Swiss biotech companies.

As mentioned above, given the overall difficult capital market environment, there was only one Swiss listing activity in 2025 (BioVersys) which was the only biotech IPO in Europe in 2025. Further, MoonLake Immunotherapeutics in 2025 secured USD 575 million

(CHF 490 million) in two separate financing transactions – first a non-dilutive financing facility from Hercules Capital of USD 500 million in April 2025, and later a follow-on financing for an additional USD 75 million, to fund operating expenses and capital expenditure requirements into the second half of 2027.

In summary, while 2025 was a difficult year in terms of capital markets, and some companies also had to initiate restructuring measures, many companies were able to navigate the difficult environment well and were still able to hit significant development or product approval milestones in 2025. Particularly interesting in 2025 was that these important approval milestones are no longer solely European or US approvals, but increasingly also cover other significant markets (e.g., China). Also, while for private biotech companies total capital investments in 2025 reached a new record, it should be noted that, as in 2024, only relatively few companies benefited, with many companies having received little or no funding in 2025. This is also evidenced by the fact that the total financing of the Top 5 financing transactions in 2025 increased by 9% for private biotech companies, compared to 2024.

In addition to, or one could say as a result of, capital markets being more difficult to access for many companies, Swiss biotech companies continued to be agile in terms of finding alternative ways of financing (licensing, R&D collaborations, but also monetization of assets transactions) which, in a similar way to 2024, provided significant non-dilutive financing.

PUBLIC COMPANIES	CHF MILLION
Moonlake Immunotherapeutics	490
Oculis	274
Idorsia	216
ADC Therapeutics	129
Bioversys	80
Total	**1'189**

Table 1: Major 2025 public financing transactions

PRIVATE COMPANIES	CHF MILLION
Windward Bio	186
GlycoEra	104
Orbis Medicines	84
Nuclidium	79
Rhygaze	78
Total	**531**

Table 2: Major 2025 private financing transactions

M&A and collaborations

Swiss companies were involved in several significant M&A transactions in 2025:

In September 2025, INTEGRA Biosciences Group acquired a minority stake in CleanNA to establish a strategic partnership, aimed at strengthening the collaboration in molecular biology and expanding CleanNA's global reach. Further, in December 2025 Relief Therapeutics and NeuroX completed a reverse merger to form MindMaze Therapeutics, a SIX publicly listed company, focused on AI-driven rehabilitation and neurology combining pharmaceutical treatments with digital neurotherapeutics to treat neurological disorders.

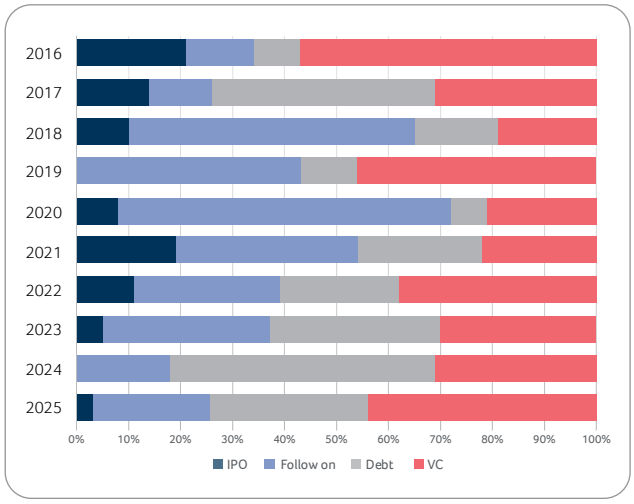


Figure 1: Biotech financing categories in Switzerland 2016 to 2025

At the same time, similar to 2024, entering into new collaboration and licensing agreements was important for Swiss biotech companies, and even increased in terms of the deals entered into compared to 2024, with some of those partnerships containing significant financial components, which – as mentioned above – provided alternative ways of funding (alternatives to equity or debt financings, which continued to be more difficult to obtain in 2025). A selection of such collaboration and licensing transactions is shown below:

- AB2 Bio signed an option and licensing agreement with Nippon Shinyaku for Nippon Shinyaku to receive an option to acquire exclusive US rights to commercialize Tadekinig alfa to treat primary monogenic IL-18 driven hyperinflammatory syndrome, a rare and potentially life-threatening pediatric disease
- BioVersys and Shionogi entered into global research and exclusive license option agreement with Shionogi to jointly develop novel ansamycin leads from BioVersys' BV500 program into clinical candidates, with BioVersys to receive upfront and near-term research payments of CHF 5 million and, upon exercise of the license option, regulatory and sales milestones of up to CHF 479 million as well as royalties on future sales

Swiss biotech 2025: Facts & figures

- Basilea in-licensed ceftibuten-ledaborbactam etzadroxil, a Phase III-ready oral BL/BLI antibiotic for multidrug-resistant cUTI, from Venatorx, strengthening its late-stage pipeline
- Debiopharm licensed SunRock's HER3/HER2 bispecific antibody to develop Debio 2512, a next-gen ADC using its MultiLINK™ technology to tackle resistant HER2-driven cancers
- Boehringer Ingelheim and CDR-Life expanded their collaboration efforts with a global licensing agreement for CDR111, an antibody-based trispecific M-gager® for autoimmune diseases, providing funds to CDR-Life of up to USD 456 million
- Windward Bio in December 2025 signed a licensing agreement with Qyuns Therapeutics for the development and commercialization of WIN027, a highly potent, long-acting bispecific antibody with best-in-disease potential in respiratory and dermatology diseases. With a deal of up to USD 700 million, this licensing agreement will allow Windward Bio to develop and commercialize WIN027 globally, excluding China.

Product developments

In 2025, the industry saw fewer regulatory approvals, following the record approvals in 2024. The EMA approved 104 new drugs in 2025 (2024: 114 new drugs); similarly, there was a slight decrease in FDA approvals (46 new drugs approved compared to 50 in 2024).

- Idorsia's QUVIVIQ expanded into China as Simcere received NDA approval – Idorsia and Simcere updated their licensing agreement
- Biocartis received FDA approval for the Idylla™ CDx MSI Test
- Santhera announced approval in Canada for AGAMREE® (vamorolone) as a treatment for Duchenne muscular dystrophy
- Altamira Therapeutics announced market approval of Bentrio nasal spray in China

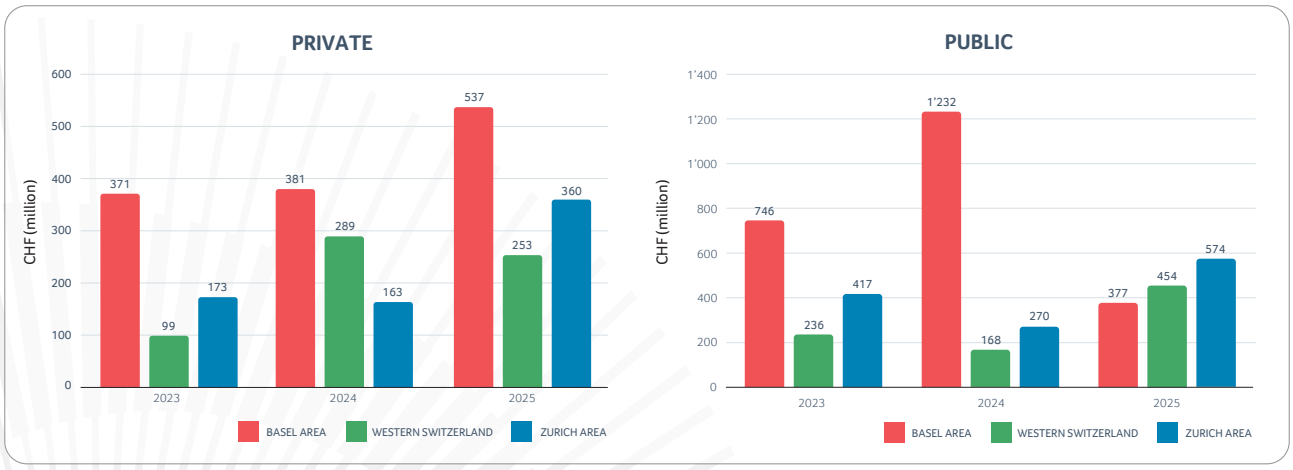
It is particularly interesting that key approval milestones for Swiss biotech companies do not just center around European and US approvals anymore. Instead, in 2025 more key approvals were also obtained in other significant markets, such as China and Canada. In terms of new product approvals in Switzerland (approvals by Swissmedic), a similar trend could be observed. In 2025, Swissmedic approved 40 new products (2024: 46 approved products).

Awards

Several Swiss biotech companies also received various prestigious awards throughout 2025. These awards included:

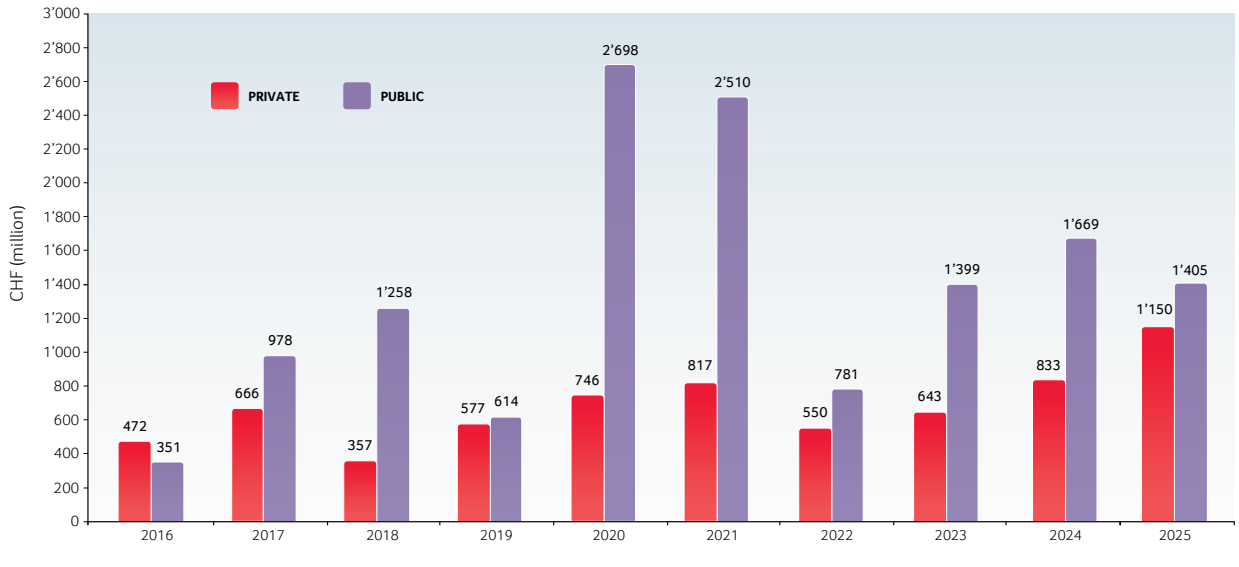
- CUTISS was awarded 2nd place at the 2025 edition of ***The Spark Award - Der Deutsche Digitalpreis***, which recognizes outstanding deep-tech innovation across Germany, Austria, and Switzerland
- Idorsia's treatment for insomnia disorder won the inaugural "Prix Galien Bridges Award" in the "Best Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Product" category

Private & public Swiss biotech regional financing 2023-2025



Capital investments in Swiss biotech companies 2016 -2025

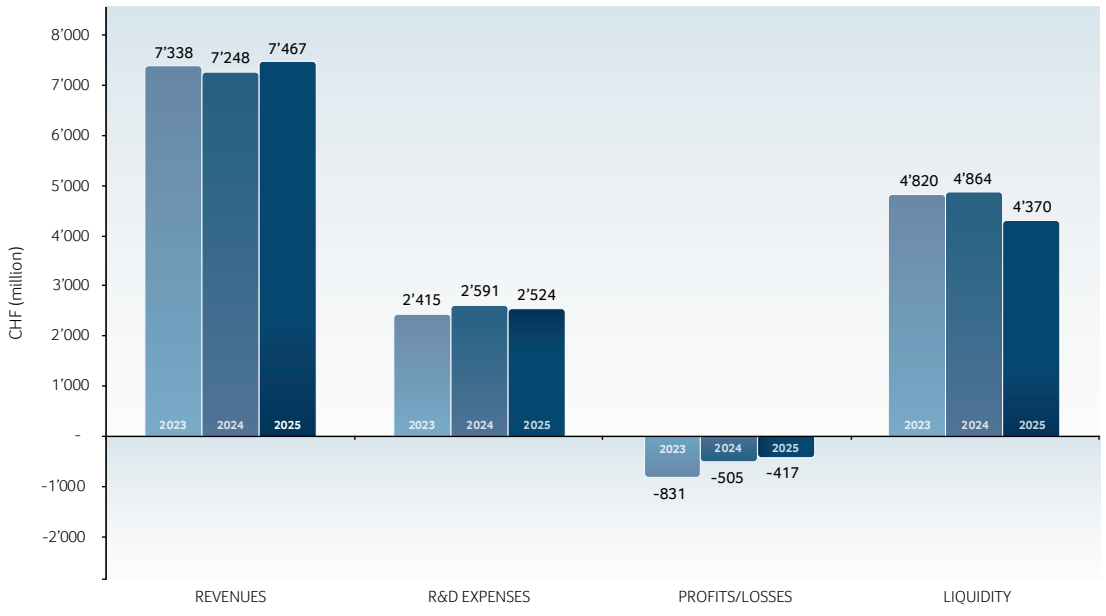
Private & Public Swiss Biotech Companies



Source: EY (Capital investments include convertible bonds)

Revenues, R&D expenses, profit/loss, liquidity 2023-2025

Total Swiss Biotech Companies



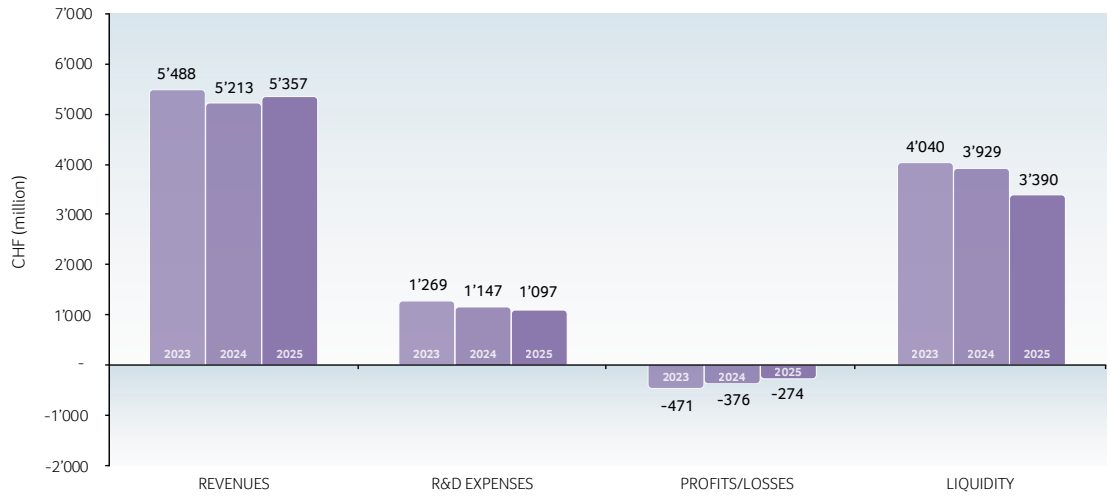
Source: Annual Reports, website information, EY and Swiss Biotech Association

Note: The 2025 data in above tables is based on information that was available up until March 31, 2026. At this time, some of the companies had not yet disclosed their financial figures for 2025. Therefore some figures were carefully extrapolated on the basis of the latest interim data publicly available (i.e. Q3 or Q4 2025).

The year in charts

Revenues, R&D expenses, profit/loss, liquidity 2023-2025

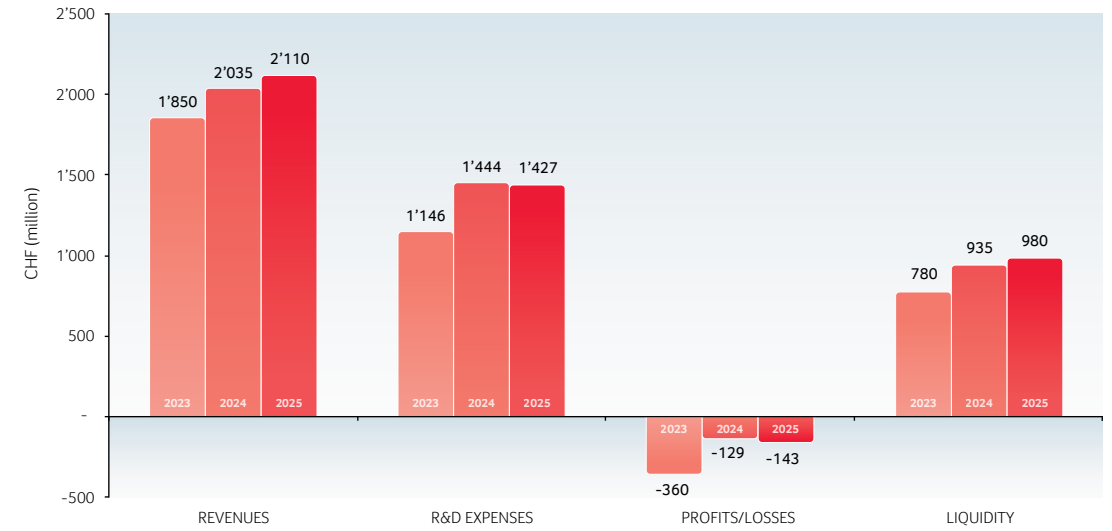
Public Swiss Biotech Companies



Source: Annual Reports, website information and EY

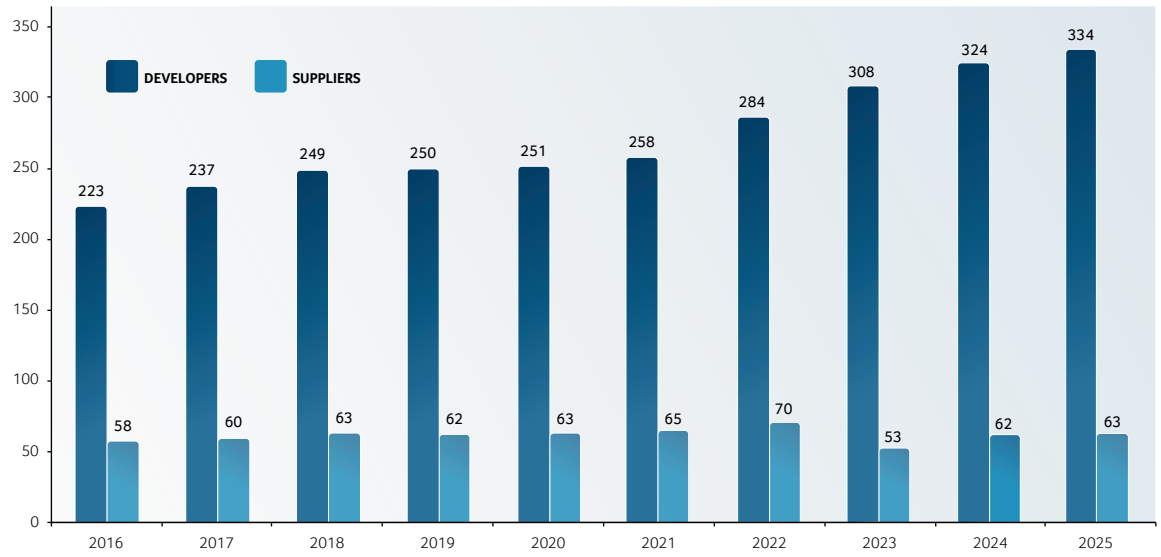
Revenues, R&D expenses, profit/loss, liquidity 2023-2025

Private Swiss Biotech Companies



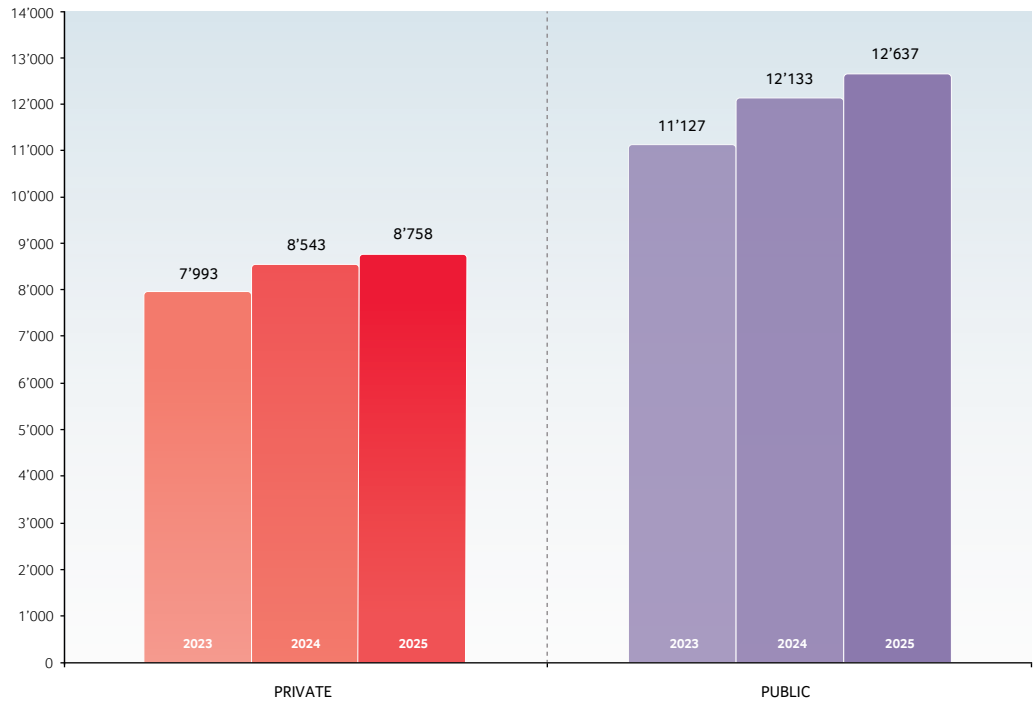
Source: Swiss Biotech Association, EY (incl. estimates and extrapolations based on prior year figures)

Number of biotech companies in Switzerland 2016-2025



Source: Swiss Biotech Association, website information and EY

Number of Swiss biotech employees 2023-2025



Source: Annual Reports, website information, EY and Swiss Biotech Association

Biotech products as a driving force of the Swiss export economy

Jan Lucht

scienceindustries | Head Biotechnology

The chemical, pharmaceutical, and life science industries are driving a fundamental shift in Swiss exports. They accounted for 53% of Swiss exports in 2025, and over the past twenty-five years they have been responsible for 72% of total export growth. The subsector which includes therapeutic proteins, innovative cell therapies, vaccines, and other immunological products made up 20% of exports in 2025, and alone contributed CHF 57.4 billion to Switzerland's economy.

Despite global uncertainties and a challenging environment, Swiss exports reached a new record of CHF 287.0 billion (+1.4%) in 2025. While other economic sectors posted declining or only moderate export growth, exports from the chemical, pharmaceutical, and life sciences industries continued to advance, growing by CHF 3.3 billion (+2.2%) to reach a new record of CHF 152.1 billion.

These industries have been the largest export sector since 2013 and further expanded their lead in 2025, now accounting for 53% of all Swiss exports. This has resulted in a fundamental shift in the relative weight of different export industries over the last quarter of a century (Figure 1).

The growth dynamics of these industries provide a solid foundation for the Swiss economy and its export trade. From 2000 to 2025, 72% of the total export growth (CHF 160.4 billion) came from this sector. The sector has remained remarkably resilient in the face of challenges such as the 2009 global economic crisis and the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. More than three-quarters of these industries' total exports are life sciences products, including pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, vitamins, flavors, and fragrances. Together, life sciences exports accounted for 41% of total Swiss exports.

A detailed analysis of export figures revealed that the immunologicals subsector, which comprises products of modern biotechnology such as monoclonal antibody therapeutics, vaccines, cell cultures, and cell therapies, had the largest single contribution to Swiss exports and the most dynamic growth. In 2025, goods from this category bolstered Swiss exports by CHF 57.4 billion, which is an increase of CHF 5.49 billion (or 10.6%) compared to the previous year.

In 2000, immunologicals accounted for just CHF 1.9 billion in exports, corresponding to 1.4% of total Swiss exports. This figure steadily increased, reaching 20% of total Swiss exports and nearly half of all life sciences exports by 2025. Immunologicals accounted for 35% of total Swiss export growth over the last twenty-five years (CHF 160.4 billion), underscoring the importance of biotechnology and biomanufacturing for Switzerland (see the scienceindustries article on Page 36).

The talent and tenacity of the industry and its workforce, together with excellent framework conditions, earned the Swiss chemical, pharmaceutical, and life sciences industries third place in the Global Industry Competitiveness Index (GICI), which ranks the competitiveness of 40 leading countries in the industry (BAK Economics, 2025). To ensure a global supply and production close to markets, Swiss companies are making significant investments in production facilities abroad. The industry's innovation capacity, global footprint, and strong international network will continue to secure Switzerland's place as a global biotechnology leader.

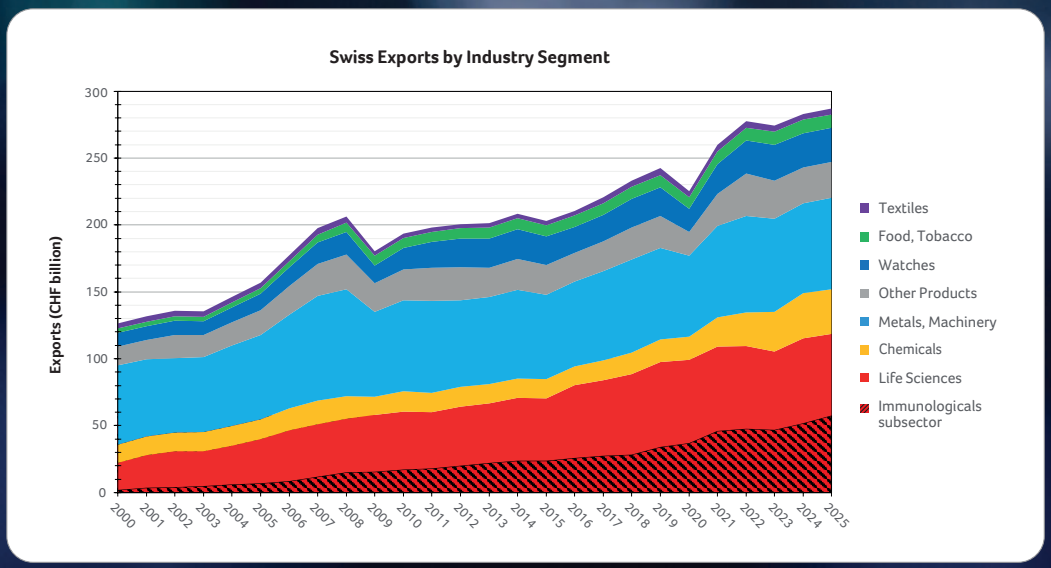


Figure 1: Annual Swiss exports according to industry sector demonstrate the increasing importance of the chemical, pharmaceutical, and life sciences industries. In 2025, the life sciences sector comprised 41% of total Swiss exports. Immunological biotechnology products, including therapeutic proteins and vaccines, accounted for nearly half of this total and are a key driver of growth in the life sciences sector (Data: Federal Customs Administration 2025, Swiss-Impex database)

The SNSF is fostering young talent to drive a resilient economy

Florian Fisch

Swiss National Science Foundation | Science editor

A strong biotech industry needs qualified personnel to develop the innovations for tomorrow's society. The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) empowers today's young researchers to develop their own ideas. By investing in talent development, it contributes to Switzerland's competitiveness and adaptability in a rapidly changing world.

At the heart of Switzerland's high innovative power and excellent global reputation lies a robust research ecosystem. Its strong higher education institutions, with the ETH Zurich, the EPFL, the cantonal universities, and the universities of applied sciences, not only produce scientific breakthroughs but are also training highly qualified personnel for the country's life sciences industry and the economy as a whole. These are the people who will go on to found new biotech startup companies or to develop new drugs in the pharmaceutical sector.

"Transferring knowledge and technology from the public to the private sector gives companies access to the 'raw materials' of qualified labor, advanced knowledge, and the latest technologies, as well as to the infrastructure of Swiss institutions of higher education and research," explain Hans Gersbach and Martin Wörter, both economics professors at the ETH Zurich, in the Zukunftsblog (Future Blog) of the ETH Zurich.

One of the central concerns of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) is therefore to support early-career researchers. The funding schemes tailored to their career stage help young academics to build their expertise and a network of international researchers to maintain the highest quality standards in science.

In its main project funding scheme, the SNSF supports thousands of doctoral students and postdocs about to start their journey to become independent researchers. With Postdoc.Mobility, Ambizione, and SNSF Starting Grants, the whole career pipeline is covered from the postdoc to the first years of attaining a professorship and leading a research group. All these funding schemes enable young scientists to pursue their own ideas, deepen their expertise, and prepare themselves for the fierce international competition in academia and industry alike.

Impact beyond academia

Currently, the SNSF supports over 6'600 doctoral students and around 4'200 postdocs through its career schemes, projects, and programs. It thereby contributes to Switzerland's economic resilience and innovative strength by attracting, training, and retaining the brightest minds. The sustained investment in early-career researchers is not only a commitment to scientific excellence but also a strategic imperative for the nation's future.

The SNSF's commitment yields benefits far beyond university walls. Data from recent cohorts reveal that a significant proportion of SNSF-funded postdocs and graduates transition into the private sector, where their research skills drive innovation and growth. For example, 64% of postdocs who left academia joined the private for-profit sector (Figure 1), and 58% of those in non-academic roles remained engaged in research activities (Figure 2).

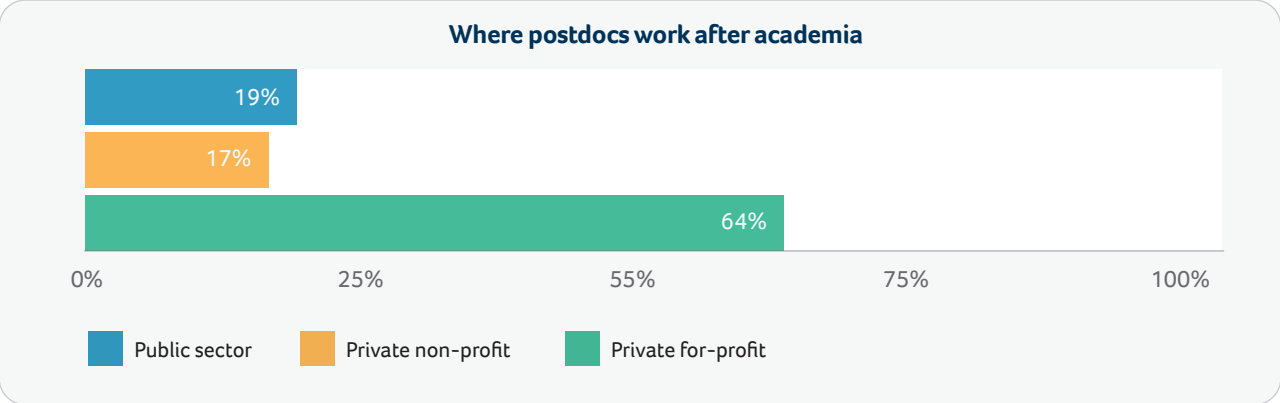


Figure 1: Employment sectors of postdocs funded by SNSF Postdoc.Mobility grants working outside of academia. 2018 cohort after 4 years

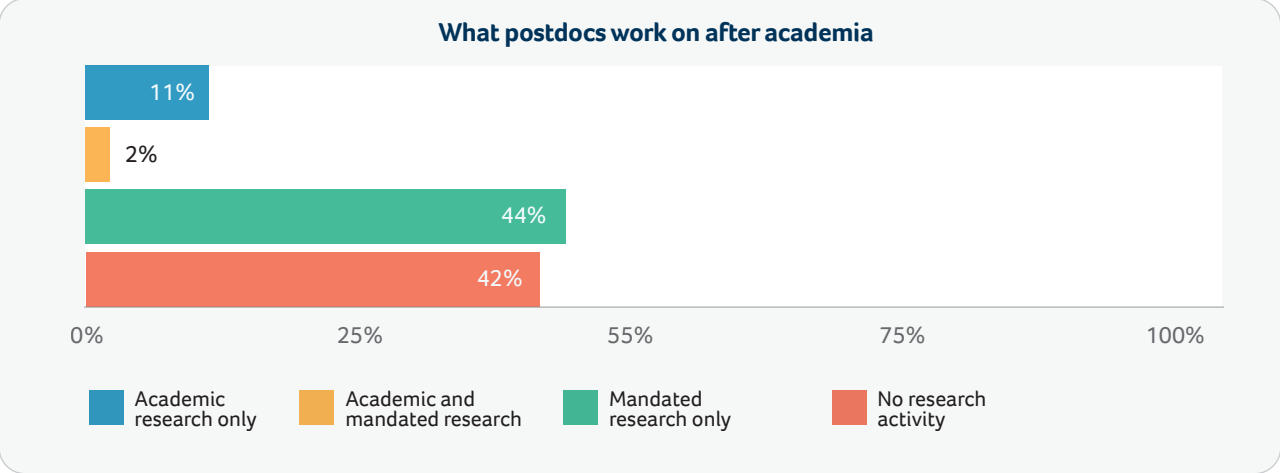


Figure 2: Employment activities of postdocs funded by SNSF Postdoc.Mobility grants working outside of academia. 2018 cohort after 4 years

Spending cuts challenge Swiss success

Despite being well positioned in international science, the development of research talent in Switzerland faces significant challenges. With the understandable aim of balancing the budget, Swiss parliament has decided on budget cuts for the period from 2027 to 2029 which threaten to reduce the number of funded positions. Such cuts disproportionately affect young researchers, as over 80% of SNSF funds are allocated to their salaries. The loss of these positions not only hinders the training of highly qualified professionals but also risks driving talented scientists abroad or out of research altogether. The SNSF hopes that Switzerland will resume its high investments in research and therefore in its innovative strength and competitive edge in the years to come.

The SNSF is fostering young talent to drive a resilient economy

SNSF career funding instruments

Postdoc.Mobility:
This fellowship allows researchers to spend up to two years abroad after completing their doctorate. There, they are able to broaden their networks and gain more in-depth knowledge. Bringing their own money into an established research group strengthens their independence and allows them to develop their own academic profile. Fellowship holders can apply for a return grant to finance their initial period of research after returning to Switzerland. Four years after their start, over 30% of SNSF postdocs take their expertise and work outside academia (data based on a 2018 cohort asked in 2022).

Ambizione:
Designed for those taking their next steps towards independence. These grants empower researchers from Switzerland or abroad who have completed their doctoral thesis in the last four years to lead their own projects and teams at a Swiss research institution. The funding instrument has been available continuously since 2008. Grants last for a maximum of four years. In a survey, researchers reported that it has given their career a strong boost, allowing them to improve their competences, their scientific profile, their competitiveness, their research output, and their national and international network.

SNSF Starting Grants:
After several years of experience in research following their doctorate and scientifically relevant and impactful research in their field, applicants may apply for these prestigious grants. They enable researchers who have already contributed to scientifically independent and impactful research to establish independent research groups as assistant professors if that position is available in their home institution in Switzerland. These are the positions that start to form the next generation of skilled workforce.

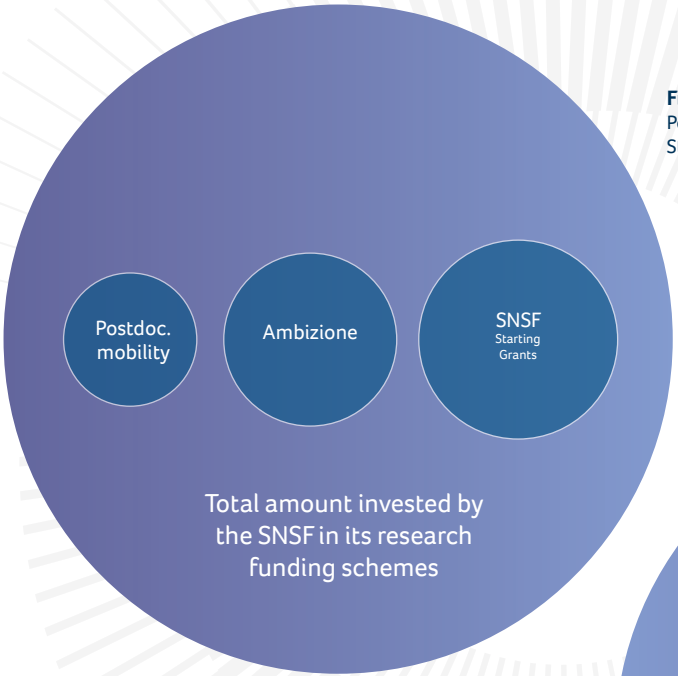


Figure 3: Share of SNSF funding of Postdoc.Mobility, Ambizione and SNSF Starting Grants in 2025

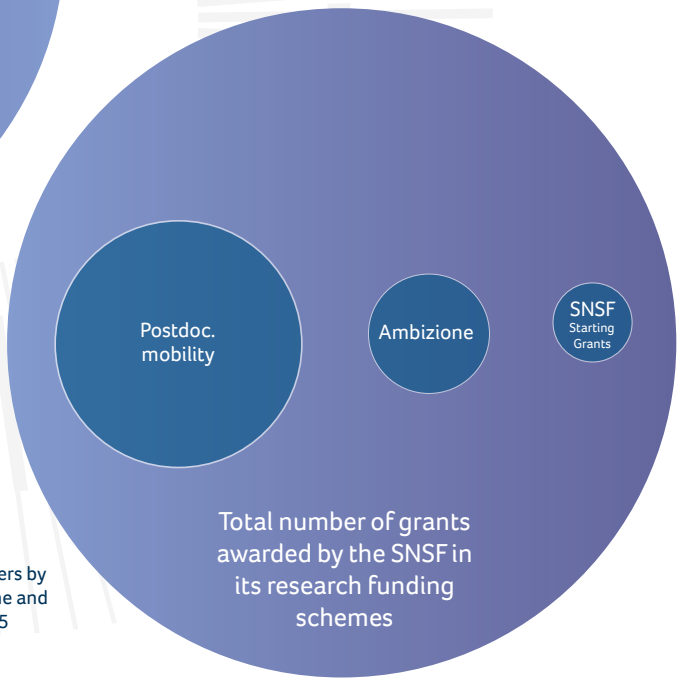


Figure 4: Funded researchers by Postdoc.Mobility, Ambizione and SNSF Starting Grant in 2025

An insight into the motivation and inspiration of standout inventors Christian Klein and Pablo Umaña

Christian Moser Nikles
Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property | Patent Expert

Christel Aebischer-Gumy
Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property | Patent Expert

Swiss-based scientists Christian Klein and Pablo Umaña have been working closely together for over 20 years and are distinguished by both the number and quality of their inventions in biotechnology. The following interview provides insights from the perspective of this biotech inventor dream team. Their shared area of interest is antibodies for immunotherapy, with a focus on bi- and multispecific antibodies.

Pablo Umaña

Pablo Umaña is a chemical engineer and molecular immunologist from Costa Rica. He obtained his PhD at Caltech and followed his professor to ETH Zurich in the mid-1990s. He is one of the co-founders of the company Glycart Biotechnology, acquired by Roche in 2005. Pablo continued to work for Roche Glycart until 2024 and is now co-founder and CEO of a biotech startup company in Zurich.

Christian Klein

Christian Klein is a biochemist from Germany. He started to work for Roche in Germany in 2002. The acquisition of Glycart was the starting point of his collaboration with Pablo. Christian moved to Switzerland in 2009 to join Roche Glycart, where he remained until until 2024. After working with Curie.Bio as a CXO he is now co-founder and CSO of a biotech startup company in Zurich. He also acts as an external lecturer in biochemistry at LMU in Munich.

"A patent is a contract you make with society. You get the protection for a certain time, in exchange for teaching exactly how to carry out a specific procedure, which in turn allows the field to move faster."

Pablo Umaña

"Some of our inventions may not have panned out in an approved drug, but they have advanced the field by inspiring others to find alternative or better solutions."

Christian Klein

Introduction

Between 1994 and 2023, nearly one million patent families were filed worldwide in the field of biotechnology. Of these, around 11'000 patent families list inventors with residence in Switzerland.

Among these patents co-invented in Switzerland, Christian Klein and Pablo Umaña stand out as the two inventors with the highest number of filings (Figure 1). Their names appear as inventors of almost 300 patent families.

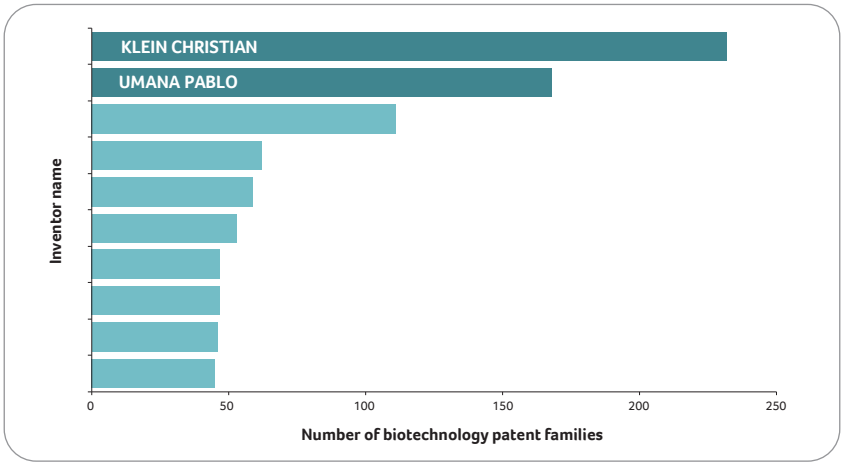


Figure 1: Number of patent families by the top ten inventors with residence in Switzerland

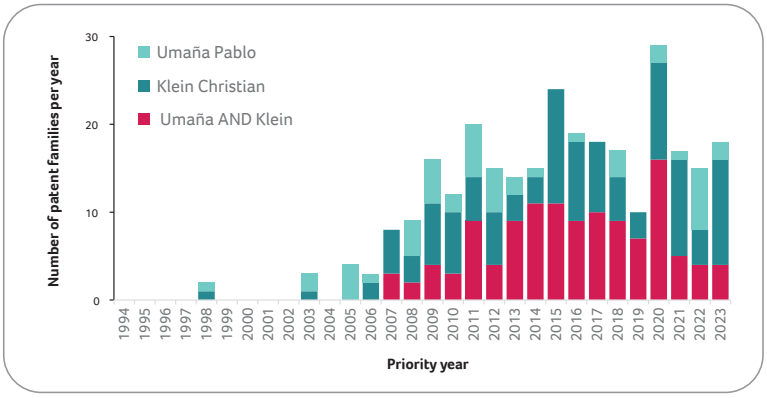


Figure 2: Patent families invented by Pablo Umaña, Christian Klein, or by both of them

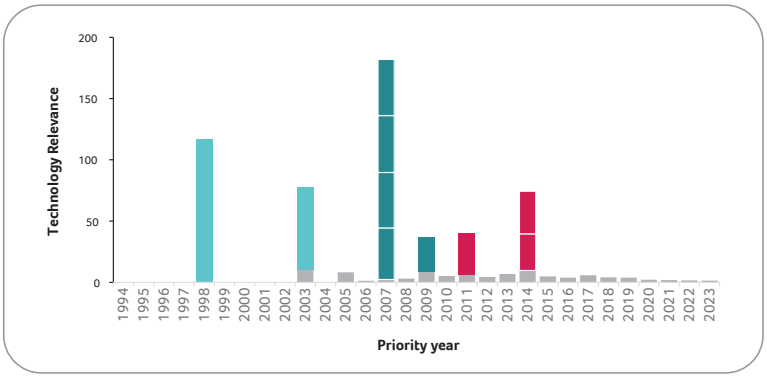


Figure 3: The top ten patent families with regard to Technology Relevance™ of the inventors Pablo Umaña and Christian Klein

The patent data reveals the start of their collaboration, with their first joint priority filings in 2007, followed by multiple filings every year until 2023 (Figure 2).

Christian Klein and Pablo Umaña also excel in terms of the quality of their inventions, measured by Technology Relevance™ (TR), an indicator based on citations. The average TR score of their 300 patent families is 6, compared to an average of 1.9 for all biotech patents from Swiss inventors, and 1 for all biotech patents worldwide (Figure 3).

They made their first high-impact inventions independently of each other: Pablo Umaña filed patents in 1998 and 2003; Christian Klein had filings in 2007 and 2009 while based in Germany.

Three more high-impact families with TR scores over 25 followed in 2011 and 2014, with Pablo and Christian as co-inventors working for Roche-Glycart in Switzerland.

An insight into the motivation and inspiration of standout inventors Christian Klein and Pablo Umaña

Looking at the patent statistics, the two of you are named as inventors of approximately 300 patent families, and you appear as co-inventors in over 120 of these families. How did you become such productive serial inventors?

PU: We are fortunate that we are passionate about our work. We are constantly thinking about relevant challenges, and try to come up with solutions, both inside and outside working hours.

CK: Challenging the status quo and thinking how can things be further improved is what drives us. We are always attracted to the next challenge, not doing a "me-too" kind of thing, but going a step further to develop first-in-class or best-in-class approaches by addressing key questions, even if they appear very difficult in the beginning. At the same time, we need to achieve the right balance by finding solutions that are realistic and can be developed as drugs.

Your track record is even more impressive when looking at quality indicators of your patents. We have identified 10 patent families of particularly high Technology Relevance™.

CK: These scores correspond to what we think are the most relevant patents we have contributed to, for example bispecific antibodies, or cis-targeted cytokines. These patent applications had an impact on how the field developed. You can see that nowadays there are numerous bispecific antibodies using related approaches in clinical development.

The big question in the context of inventions often is: how did the inventors come up with this? Inspiration out of the blue? Hard work towards a goal? Or surprising results that overturn the working hypothesis?

CK: In reality, it is a mixture of all three. There are some inventions that really came out of the blue, but there are many others that are building on what has been done before, finding very specific and new solutions.

PU: The unexpected result itself may be the invention. A surprising finding may make you question all your assumptions. You realize that there is value in attacking the problem in a different way.

When advancing in your career, you probably had increasingly managerial functions rather than being at the bench. How important is the team during the creative process that leads to inventions?

PU: We have always been surrounded by very good teams, which enabled us to collaborate with exceptionally productive and expert colleagues. When no longer working at the bench, both of us still tried to stay very connected to the science and to remain involved in the details of the projects.

CK: But we are not speaking about micro-management, more about the conceptual point of view.

PU: Absolutely. Discussing science is something we like and are good at, so we try to keep that as a component of what we do every day.

When thinking about challenges to solve, what is your starting point?

PU: Our focus is always patients in need of better treatments. Then we think about molecules which might work - first based on our understanding of the biology and then considering protein engineering approaches.

CK: For example, a bispecific antibody can provide a big advantage to the patient for certain diseases. At the same time, we have to think about how to achieve best efficacy with minimal side effects. We will not start developing a fancy technology and only later look for a potential application.

While highly specialized in your main topic of interest, you are also generalists, with the big picture in mind.

CK: That probably explains our productivity to some extent. You may have people who are pure antibody engineers with limited understanding of where their science can be best applied. And then you may have people focused on the biological or clinical aspects, but they lack the insights on how you can make a molecule. It is crucially important to combine both sides.

PU: Ultimately, you need a deep understanding of all aspects of the problem you are trying to address: disease biology, biochemistry, engineering, and drug development. Speed is important too: you need to assess very rapidly the feasibility of your ideas. It works very well with the two of us because we both have this background. Many of our inventions are the result of ideas that bounced between Christian and myself. Of course, this creative process of developing ideas also involves our teams.

Developing a drug is a very long process,starting from ideas to treating real patients. Can you give us an impression of how many ideas you have had to generate these 300 patent families, and what it represents in terms of patient treatment?

CK: It is true that many ideas will never even reach the patent filing level, because they are not feasible, not realistic. Our entire work has generated over 30 drug candidates which have reached the clinical development stage, and at least three of them are approved products for diverse diseases now. Hopefully, a few more will follow in the future.

How much do you think about the patentability of an idea during your development process?

PU: Of course, we have to think about patents from the beginning, because a new product requires significant investment, and to secure this investment you need to obtain a patent. Without a patent, the product will never be developed. That is the reality in the pharma industry.

CK: But on the other hand, the patents will expire after 20 years and everyone is then free to produce biosimilars or generics. That is quite unique. A musician, for example, will keep the rights on his compositions for his entire life and beyond.

You both worked in academia early in your careers and then switched to industry. How do those two worlds differ?

CK: In industry, the primary goal is to develop new products, and the patent is the must have. In academia, the publication is the must have, and the patent is often seen as nice to have. But that means that universities probably miss certain opportunities, because nobody recognizes the value of their inventions.

PU: In academia, you have the same intention to advance the field as we have in mind in industry, yet the focus is completely different.

CK: Let's take the example of a very fancy discovery like CRISPR. You are aware of your academic competitors, so you want to publish before them. In industry, we would take the opportunity of the 18-month period between filing and publication of the patent to maximize the impact of the patent. In academia, scientists do not have time to wait for 18 months.

Based on your experience, what suggestions and advice can you give to young researchers at the beginning of their careers? In general, and in particular with regard to inventorship and patenting?

PU: If you want to be an inventor, you must be passionate about the field you are working in and you need a strong problem-solving mindset. You should also be oriented towards practical applications. You need to stay up to date, to be continuously learning, for example by studying the literature, including patents. Also, you have to be open to collaboration, because team work and interdisciplinary interactions are key.

CK: Sitting alone and doing your things on your own will limit what you can achieve. In the end, you require a team of motivated people with complementary expertise to work jointly on novel solutions.

PU: At least initially, for the conception, you need to have a small group or at least a partner to bounce ideas back and forth, to challenge the ideas. This kind of discussion is an important part of the creative process. It really helps you to improve the initial ideas, rather than just thinking in isolation in a vacuum.

IPI would like to thank you for sharing your insights with readers of the Swiss Biotech Report.

Cultivating tomorrow's biotech pioneers today

Hans-Peter Meyer

SATW | Scientific Advisory Board

Biotechnology - drawing on the versatility, precision, and efficiency of biological systems - offers powerful tools to emulate nature's principles across a wide range of industries, far beyond pharmaceuticals and advanced therapeutics. Switzerland's success in attracting the talent capable of driving a transition from unsustainable to sustainable manufacturing will help to achieve its goal of a circular economy.

Which talents will shape tomorrow?

Which competencies are essential for Switzerland's long-term prosperity? "Forecasts are difficult, especially when they concern the future," as Karl Valentin famously noted. This reminder is particularly apt when considering the major global challenges of the coming decade. Geopolitical fragmentation, pandemics, resource scarcity, technological and AI-related risks feature prominently in many outlooks. Yet climate change and environmental degradation are consistently identified as the most far-reaching and impactful risks. The challenge is therefore unmistakable: Switzerland needs talent capable of driving the transition to sustainable manufacturing and a circular economy.

White and red biotechnology

Relative to its size and population, Switzerland ranks among the global leaders in biologics, immunology, and personalized medicine - fields collectively referred to as red biotechnology (see Table 1). Its industrial and academic ecosystem in this domain is exceptionally strong, and demand for highly skilled talent is expected to remain robust. However, the global transition toward a circular economy calls for talent and expertise that extend beyond red biotechnology. In particular, white (industrial) biotechnology will play a critical role in enabling resource-efficient processes, sustainable manufacturing, and environmentally responsible value chains across multiple industries.

	Red Biotechnology	White Biotechnology
Products	Advancing therapeutics for the pharma markets	Many different products and markets
Market 2024	USD ~550 billion	USD ~320 billion
Molecules	Monoclonal antibodies, cell therapies, etc.	All types of molecules and products
Organisms	Mainly E. coli and CHO cells	Multitude of bacteria, fungi or algae
Technology	Biosynthesis	Biosynthesis & biocatalysis
Process	Submersed cultivation in CSTRs	Submersed cultivation in CSTRs, solid state, and gas fermentation
Regulatory	cGMP	ISO, cGMP

Table 1: Comparison between red biotechnology, where Switzerland holds a strong global leadership position, and white (industrial) biotechnology, where Switzerland currently plays a follower role (CSTR = Continuously Stirred Reactors)

Future needs

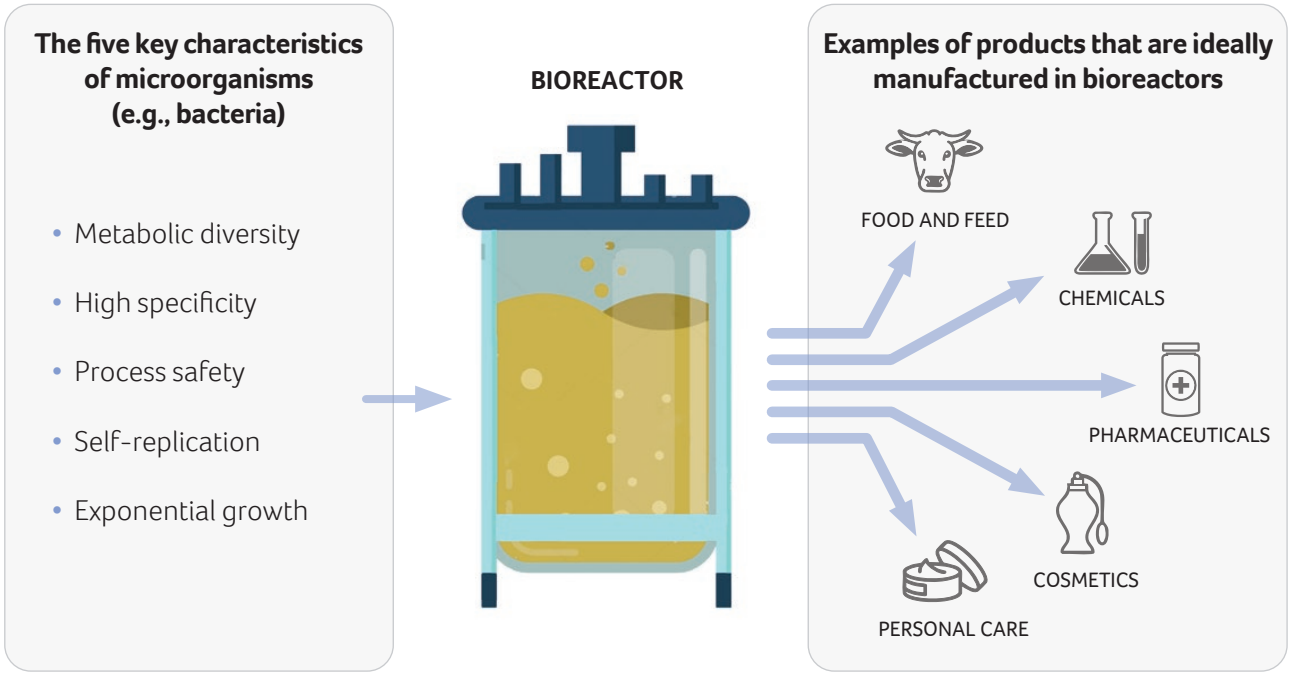
While Switzerland is well positioned to deliver sustainable solutions to global challenges, its domestic biotechnology needs can be narrowed to four key application areas:

- **Small-molecule pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals.** Despite more than 80 years of industrial biotechnology, traditional chemical synthesis still suffers from high E-factors (the environmental factor or E-factor in green chemistry is the total mass of waste divided by the total mass of product). This underscores the need to further adopt regio- and enantioselective biocatalysis and advanced biomanufacturing to improve efficiency, sustainability, and competitiveness.

- **Food and feed.** Fermentation, the oldest biotechnological application, already contributes roughly 30% of daily food consumption. However, shrinking arable land and climate change necessitate new biotechnological approaches to produce high-value proteins, fats, and other food ingredients. Cellular agriculture, enabling the production of meat, fats, chocolate, coffee, and related products, is emerging as a key solution.

- **Flavor and fragrance.** The flavor and fragrance industry is increasingly shifting towards biotechnological routes for complex molecules, as traditional sourcing from plant and animal metabolites becomes more constrained, costly, and environmentally challenging.

- **Cosmetics and personal care.** To remain competitive, manufacturers must rely on natural or nature-identical ingredients while prioritizing green sourcing, sustainable supply chains, and environmentally benign chemistry.



Biotechnology enables the use of microorganisms across a wide range of industries. Through billions of years of evolution, microorganisms can survive and thrive in environments ranging from deep-sea hydrothermal vents to high-altitude mountainous regions. Their metabolic capabilities are extraordinarily diverse, encompassing countless molecules and biochemical reactions.

The specificity and precision of biological catalysts (enzymes) are unmatched by chemical catalysts. Biological catalysts are also self-replicating, and the exponential growth of microbial cells enables very high space-time yields. Bioprocesses are inherently safe, operating at low temperatures and mild pH values while relying on biocompatible raw materials.

The essential characteristics of microorganisms can be harnessed as a central tool of biotechnology: the bioreactor (also known as a fermentor). This sophisticated system allows microorganisms to grow and produce target compounds under tightly controlled conditions. Products that are ideally manufactured in bioreactors span major industrial sectors.

Figure 1: Biotechnology harnesses the versatility, precision, and efficiency of biological systems

Cultivating tomorrow's biotech pioneers today

White and red biotechnology

Cross-industry innovation occurs when ideas, technologies, or practices from one field inspire transformative advances in another. A major opportunity lies in the strong potential for cross innovation between markets and application areas. Many biotechnology concepts perceived as novel in one sector have long been established in others. For example, the food industry increasingly relies on controlled microbial processes under the label of "precision fermentation", even though these technologies have been developed, refined, and industrially deployed in the pharmaceutical sector for more than 80 years. A similar dynamic applies to cellular agriculture, which aims to replace animal- and plant-derived products using mammalian and plant cell cultures - approaches that are already well established in biopharmaceutical manufacturing. Comparable overlaps exist across all sectors where biobased production and organic chemistry play a central role.

Biobased economy

Switzerland is a country rich in knowledge but poor in natural raw material deposits, and extractive industries such as mining have never had a significant economic role. What was true for mineral-based deposits applies today to biobased raw materials. Switzerland's domestic biomass potential was quantified in 2017 by the Eidg. Forschungsanstalt für Wald, Schnee und Landschaft (WSL).[1] The conclusion was clear: while many types of biomass are available, their quantities are small and, from an industrial perspective, largely insufficient or at best adequate for niche applications. Consequently, a centralized, resource-driven Swiss biobased strategy relying on domestic feedstocks is neither realistic nor necessary. What is needed is a bottom-up approach built on collaboration and consensus among the diverse stakeholders on where this very limited biomass could deliver the greatest value.

Carbon dioxide - from greenhouse gas to raw material

Carbon dioxide occupies a unique position in this context, as it is the only truly abundant domestic "raw material". Achieving global climate neutrality by 2050 requires limiting worldwide CO_2 emissions to approximately 9 to 10 billion tons per year, a dramatic reduction from today's level of more than 40 billion tons. A person living in Switzerland is responsible for around 14 tons of consumption-based CO_2 emissions annually, about twice the per-capita emissions in China, seven times those in India, and roughly thirty-five times those in Tanzania, where emissions amount to just 0.4 tons per person.[2] Emissions reductions alone will be insufficient. Active removal of CO_2 from the atmosphere will be necessary, ideally implemented at major point sources of emissions such as cement plants, biogas facilities, and other industrial operations.

Rather than transporting CO_2 to the North Sea for long-term storage in depleted oil and gas reservoirs, the SATW is currently exploring the potential of using carbon dioxide as a feedstock to produce chemicals, polymers, proteins, and other value-added products.[3] A major challenge in CO_2 utilization lies in the molecule's high thermodynamic stability, which necessitates substantial energy input for its activation and conversion. However, during the course of 3.5 billion years of evolution since the emergence of life, nature has developed highly efficient mechanisms for carbon fixation. Biotechnology therefore offers one of the most realistic and promising pathways for recovering CO_2 as a usable raw material - an opportunity that must be actively pursued.

Blockchain

In an era of intensifying global competition for talent, small countries face a strategic imperative to modernize not only their research capabilities but also their collaboration and data-sharing frameworks. Embracing collective intelligence of talents and enabling scalable, secure data exchange is difficult with traditional models rooted in fragmentation, secrecy, and patent-driven exclusivity. Although blockchain technologies are increasingly deployed in sectors such as law, healthcare administration, and logistics, their application in data-rich biotechnology remains underdeveloped.[4] This represents an opportunity, particularly for Switzerland, which occupies a leading position in the global DLT and blockchain ecosystem, successfully developing technologies that use a decentralized, shared, and synchronized digital database across multiple network participants.

Conclusion

Strengthening resilience and limiting dependencies calls for a new generation of talent proficient in science, engineering, and digital innovation, across fields ranging from advanced pharmaceutical manufacturing to urban mining. Beyond technical expertise, future professionals must embody entrepreneurial and translational mindsets, willing to challenge conventions in how knowledge and experience are shared. In the words of Henry Ford, "We need engineers who do not yet know what cannot be done."

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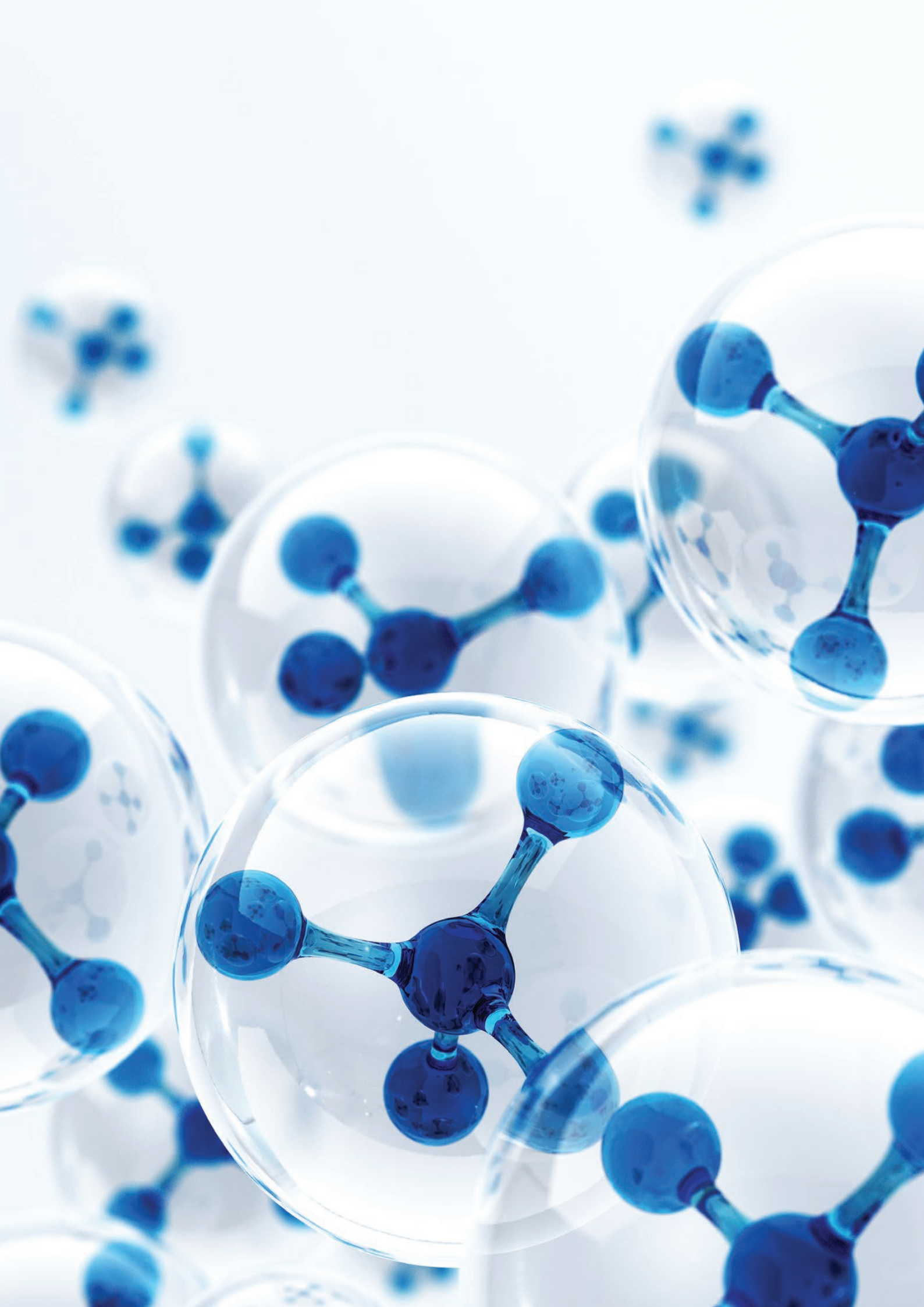

Trusted bridges of expertise that help shape tomorrow's therapies

Jörg Schläpfer

Swissmedic | Head of Staff and External Relations

In a scientific and geopolitical environment that is evolving at unprecedented speed, Swissmedic's role increasingly requires building bridges: between innovators and regulators, between research discoveries and their safe application, between approved therapies and the patients who rely on them, and between global standards and domestic expectations.

Regulation is ultimately a human endeavor. At Swissmedic, the ability to protect public health - while enabling responsible innovation - depends on the expertise, judgment and integrity of the people behind every assessment. Talent is therefore not simply an organizational asset; it is the foundation of regulatory credibility.

Talent as a cornerstone of trustworthy regulation

Trustworthy regulation begins with deep scientific understanding. Therapeutic products arrive with highly heterogeneous data packages, complex manufacturing realities and nuanced benefit-risk considerations. Evaluating them requires assessors who can interpret evidence across disciplines - drawing on expertise in clinical medicine, toxicology, pharmacology, quality, biostatistics or epidemiology. It also requires the ability to ask the right questions, detect inconsistencies, and recognize when a medicinal product may carry hidden risks.

Yet individual expertise alone is not sufficient. Regulatory assessment is never a solitary task; it is a collective process anchored in internal bridge-building. At Swissmedic, cross-functional cooperation is the norm: quality specialists work side by side with clinical assessors; inspectors exchange insights with vigilance experts; and legal advisors help translate scientific conclusions into enforceable regulatory outcomes. The result is a decision-making process that is evidence-based, comprehensive and transparent.

This collaborative culture strengthens Swissmedic's ability to detect potential issues early - ideally before they develop into public health risks - and ensures that regulatory actions remain proportionate and scientifically grounded. In this way, talent becomes more than expertise; it becomes a stabilizing force that underpins trust.

Where talent matters most at Swissmedic

The importance of talent is most visible where scientific complexity meets regulatory responsibility - across early advice, authorization procedures and post-market oversight. As therapeutic products become more specialized and development pathways more demanding, Swissmedic relies on highly qualified internal and external experts[1] who can assess data critically, anticipate risks, and guide innovators through regulatory expectations.

This expertise is not static. At Swissmedic, the promotion and development of talent is understood as an ongoing, structured process that supports both organizational resilience and individual growth. Scientific excellence and regulatory judgment are strengthened over time through targeted development, experience with complex cases, and exposure to cross-functional perspectives.

Talent development is embedded in continuous professional dialogue, rather than treated as a separate or exclusive exercise. It may involve participation in complex regulatory projects, exposure to international activities, targeted training or mentoring, and closer involvement in cross-departmental initiatives. In this way, the development of expertise remains closely linked to Swissmedic's operational needs and strategic priorities.

By developing and sustaining expertise over time, Swissmedic reinforces high-quality scientific advice - especially for Swiss biotech companies in early development. Talent development thus becomes bridge-building, connecting individual expertise with institutional continuity and linking today's regulatory challenges with tomorrow's scientific realities.

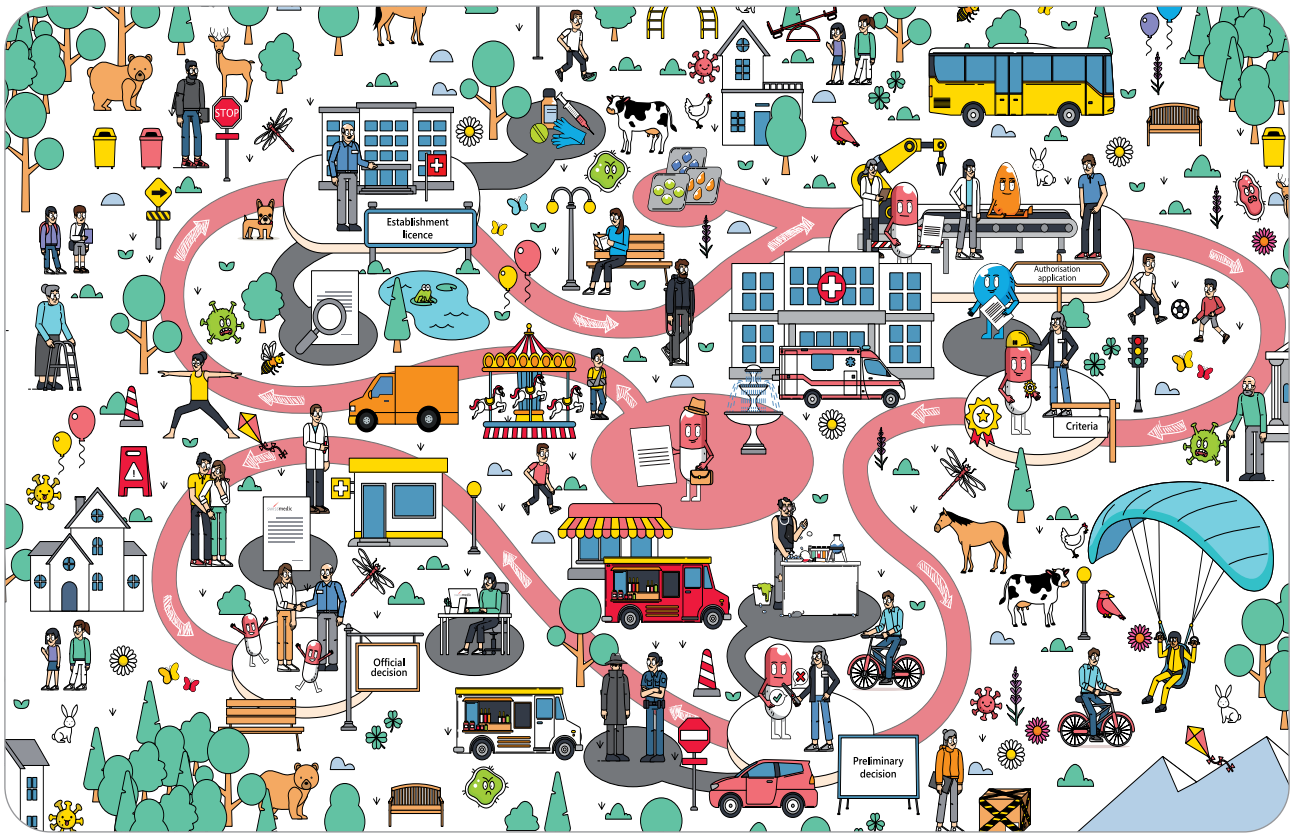

Figure 1: The Road to Authorization: many disciplines and talents shape the evidence. www.swissmedic.ch/pathway. Copyright © Swissmedic

International talent pools between regulators

Regulatory science does not develop in isolation. Globalized supply chains, rapidly evolving technologies, and increasingly complex clinical evidence demand a level of expertise that no single authority - regardless of size or capacity - can cultivate alone. Participation in international talent pools is therefore essential to Swissmedic's work.

Swissmedic's engagement in the Access Consortium[2] illustrates this approach. Joint assessments with partner agencies in Australia, Canada, Singapore, and the United Kingdom create direct knowledge-sharing loops, allowing assessors to compare scientific interpretations, align expectations and integrate insights from different regulatory cultures. The result is stronger evaluations and more predictable outcomes, particularly for smaller biotech companies seeking early clarity across multiple markets.

A similar dynamic exists in Project Orbis[3], a multilateral initiative for oncology medicines coordinated by the U.S. FDA. Through parallel scientific assessments, Swissmedic experts strengthen their understanding of complex oncology data while contributing Swiss perspectives to global deliberations.

Swissmedic's participation in ICH[4] and IMDRF[5] further extends this exchange. By contributing to guideline development and working groups, Swissmedic helps shape global regulatory principles while keeping its assessors at the forefront of emerging methodologies.

Beyond collaboration among high-income authorities, Swissmedic also supports regulatory capacity building worldwide through the WHO–Swissmedic Regulatory Training Programme.[6] These partnerships foster long-term professional relationships and contribute to a more resilient international regulatory ecosystem.

Across all these platforms, the principle is consistent: talent grows through exchange. Shared expertise flows back into Swissmedic's daily work, raising assessment quality and strengthening Switzerland's attractiveness as a location for biotech innovation.

Trusted bridges of expertise that help shape tomorrow's therapies

Ensuring regulatory excellence under changing conditions

Sustaining regulatory excellence requires more than expertise alone. It depends on the ability to retain, motivate, and safeguard talent in an environment where scientific advances accelerate, geopolitical tensions affect supply chains, and expectations for rapid access continue to rise. These conditions underscore the importance of tenacity: the collective determination to uphold high standards even under pressure.

Regulatory complexity has increased markedly in recent years. New therapeutic modalities demand sophisticated assessments, while global instability has sharpened the focus on medicine availability, quality vigilance, and timely response. Swissmedic responds through robust processes and a strong culture of collaboration. When challenges arise, experts from different disciplines work together in integrated teams, ensuring decisions remain consistent, proportionate and evidence-based.

Tenacity is also reflected in Swissmedic's approach to sustaining its workforce. Continuous training, participation in international working groups and engagement in regulatory science help ensure that expertise remains current and effective. At the same time, clear priorities, sound governance and established procedures provide stability even under budgetary and operational constraints.

This stability extends to Swissmedic's external role. Developers, healthcare stakeholders, and international partners rely on Swissmedic as a consistent and credible authority. For Swiss biotech companies in particular, predictable regulatory processes and reliable guidance are strategic assets in an uncertain environment.

Conclusion: talent and tenacity as foundations for trust

Together, talent and tenacity form the backbone of Swissmedic's contribution to Switzerland's life sciences ecosystem. Expertise ensures that regulatory decisions are scientifically sound; perseverance ensures that this quality is sustained over time, even as conditions evolve.

By investing in people, fostering collaboration across disciplines and borders, and maintaining a clear commitment to scientific rigor and independence, Swissmedic strengthens the trust placed in regulatory decisions - by innovators, partners, and patients alike.

In doing so, Swissmedic builds the trusted pathways that allow innovation to move securely from research to regulation, and from regulation to patients - safely, efficiently, and with enduring public trust.

> *"Tenacity is the collective determination to uphold high standards even under pressure."*

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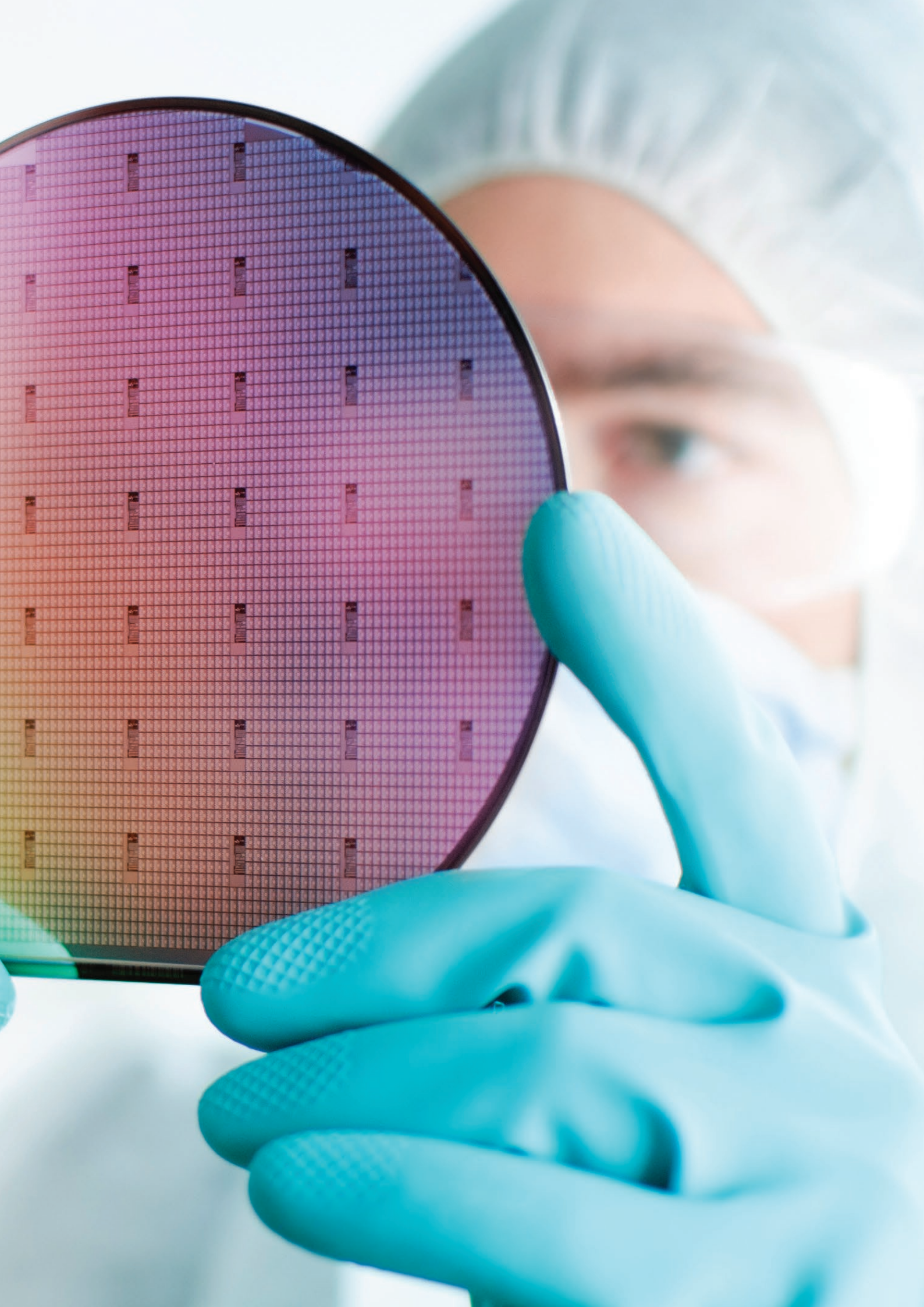

A world-class talent pool helps to position Switzerland as a global partner of choice

Michael Altorfer
Swiss Biotech Association | CEO

Natasha Konstantinova
Swiss Biotech Association | Head of Talent Pool & Academy

In recent years, against a backdrop of geopolitical uncertainty and market volatility, Switzerland's biotech sector has delivered continued growth, powered by innovation, talent, and tenacity. Annual growth rates of aound 5% have been supported by sustained levels of R&D investments, record funding, and accelerated startup creation by venture builders.

A small home market and a national policy to trust the power of free markets, forces Swiss startups to adopt a business proposition designed to attract global investors from the outset and to develop healthcare solutions that address critical global medical needs. Switzerland's progress in the biotech sector in 2025 was neither easy nor linear. Growth came amid tightening capital markets, rising regulatory complexity, and intense global competition. Progress required characteristic Swiss steadfastness: a long-term commitment to scientific rigor, operational excellence, and the determination to turn discovery into impact.

Companies and institutions continued to invest in international alliances, knowledge exchange platforms, and the development of top-tier talent. Biotech advances rarely happen in isolation but in partnership with others, with support across the entire ecosystem. A collaborative approach allows Swiss biotech to maintain momentum, broaden opportunities, and strengthen its role as a powerhouse of innovation and a trusted global partner.

The power and effectiveness of the Swiss talent pool

Small in population, modest in geographical land area, Switzerland is synonymous with precision and durability, and exerts a disproportionate influence on the global biotech landscape. Its economic resilience is underpinned by strong institutions, political stability, world-class infrastructure, and scientific excellence.

At the core of its success in biotech is an enduring commitment to apprenticeship schemes alongside world-class universities, lifelong learning, and talent retention.

The two main global talent rankings, which benchmark countries on their ability to attract, develop, and retain skilled workers, are the INSEAD Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI)[1] and the IMD World Talent Ranking[2]. They differ significantly in scope, focus, and methodology and are not directly comparable.

Switzerland was placed first out of 135 countries in the INSEAD GTC Index for eleven consecutive years from its inception in 2013 to 2023. In 2024 - the latest ranking currently available - it was in second place (see Figure 1). The ranking measures how effectively countries attract, grow, and retain talent and, more importantly, achieve tangible outcomes in skills, productivity, and innovation. Switzerland is recognized as having exceptionally high resilience, reflecting institutional trust, inclusive governance, and social systems built to absorb shocks and to persevere.

Switzerland also continues to dominate the IMD World Talent Ranking; it has held the top spot for twelve consecutive years from its inauguration in 2014 to 2025 (see Figure 1). Switzerland ranks first in investment and the development of its talent, and performs strongly in key areas such as quality of life, high minimum wages, strong healthcare and institutional frameworks. It benefits from a successful apprenticeship system, motivated workers and experienced managers, although there is room for improvement in gender diversity.

Figure 1: Switzerland's performance in global talent rankings

A multinational industry by design

Switzerland is at the heart of Europe and its economic story has always been shaped by movement across borders. From its earliest industrial development, newcomers have built sectors that continue to define the country's commercial identity.

Today Switzerland is one of the world's most globally connected economies: highly specialized, service-driven, and rooted in knowledge and innovation. A 2025 Swiss government study showed that EU workers are crucial to the country's economic strength. A dual migration framework allows EU/EFTA citizens to work freely in Switzerland, and around 6 to 9% of the workforce commutes across borders daily.[3,4] A 2025 study by Demografik of northwestern Switzerland found that roughly 70% of skilled life sciences workers hold foreign citizenship, and around 30% are cross-border commuters.[5]

Across Basel, Bern, Geneva, Lausanne, Zug, and Zurich, companies recruit the best talent from around the world and bring together dozens of nationalities and cultures under one roof.

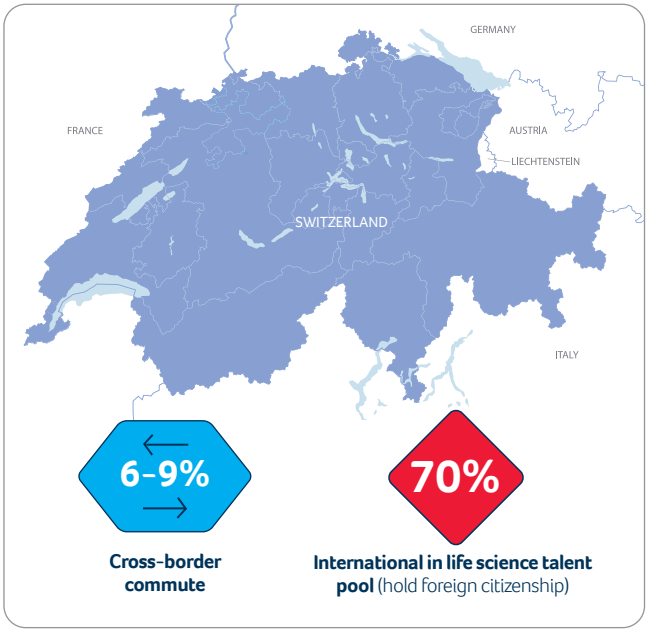

Figure 2: The international nature of Switzerland's life sciences workforce

Skills needed for the coming decade - Switzerland as a magnet and partner for biotech talent

Switzerland is one of the top ten economies by GDP per capita, and is well-positioned to remain a highly attractive collaboration partner. The biotech industry's profound transformation - driven by technological advances and shifting workforce dynamics - is creating growing demand for professionals who can navigate complexity and change. For Swiss biotech SMEs, adaptability, communication, collaboration, resilience, and technological fluency have become essential.

Few countries can match Switzerland's breadth and depth of talent across the biotech value chain in therapeutic modalities including small molecules and biologics, cell and gene therapies, RNA, and digital health. In oncology, rare diseases, immunology, neurology, and infectious diseases Switzerland has built the expertise and capacity to drive innovation at every stage, from discovery to development and delivery.

A world-class talent pool helps to position Switzerland as a global partner of choice

Switzerland offers a rare continuity: from intellectual property creation and academic discovery to clinical development, regulatory strategy, market access, manufacturing, and distribution. This is an ecosystem in which startups and university spin-offs coexist with scale-ups, CDMOs, and global biopharma hubs.

The Swiss talent pool is more than a domestic resource; it is a global one. The country attracts innovators and entrepreneurs from around the world, and their impact is significant: internationally-led enterprises consistently rank among Switzerland's top-performing businesses. In 2025, Switzerland reached a record high in the number of company startups, attracting a growing number of foreign entrepreneurs.

In 2025, the INSEAD index highlighted that adaptability and cooperative skills set Swiss workforces apart.[1] These capabilities are emerging as key drivers of talent development, enabling organizations in Switzerland to upskill their people and remain agile in a rapidly evolving global economy.

The IMD World Talent Ranking also emphasizes a shift in global talent mobility.[2] Ongoing geopolitical and economic uncertainty, rising living costs and inflation, stronger global competition for talent, and the long-term effects of global crises are changing how people make career and relocation decisions.

In times of uncertainty, countries like Switzerland, which provide economic security, political stability, and strong earning potential, are likely to become even more appealing destinations for highly skilled talent worldwide.

Tenacity: the driving strength behind Swiss biotech success

While luck can influence certain outcomes, true innovation requires purpose, focus, rigor, and perseverance to drive inventions and breakthroughs.

Switzerland's ecosystem provides a significant advantage. Universities and research institutions continue to enable disruptive innovation, while spin-offs frequently secure top funding rounds, and successful exits are now more common, encouraging capital to flow back into the ecosystem. Major biopharma deals demonstrate Switzerland's ability to deliver globally advanced life science solutions.[6]

The Financial Times, in collaboration with Statista and Sifted, named Switzerland a thriving hub for startup innovation in its 2025 ranking, positioning the country as a significant player in Europe's startup landscape.[7] The 2025 Top 100 Swiss Startups ranking identified 20 biotech companies as the most promising early-stage ventures poised to scale, disrupt, and shape the future.[8]

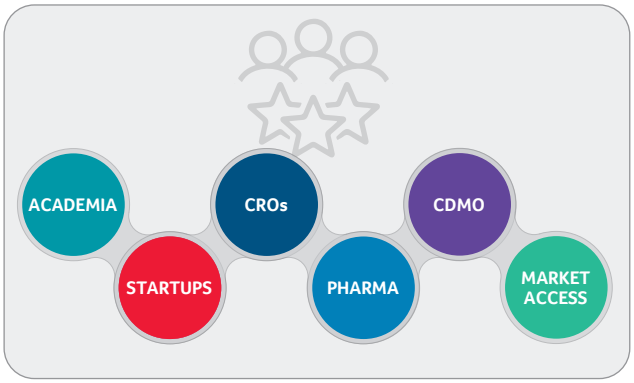

Figure 3: Swiss biotech talent ecosystem

Switzerland – a reliable and attractive partner

A multilingual nation bridging four distinct cultural regions, and unified in its commitment to excellence, Switzerland is able to attract and retain exceptional talent and funding, driving impact on global biotech. Yet Switzerland cannot succeed in isolation; international collaboration is essential. Many Swiss biotech projects are multinational from the outset, built on academic-industrial partnerships and supported by global R&D networks.

It is the combination of diverse, international top-tier talent and Swiss tenacity that has proven capable of turning innovation into impact. A culture of persistence, entrepreneurial spirit, and ownership can transform the most daunting challenges into unprecedented opportunities and breakthrough discoveries. The high level of patent filing, the sustained growth and investment in R&D projects and infrastructure are strong forward-looking indicators that show that Switzerland is on a solid track to remain a powerful center of innovation and collaboration.

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“Switzerland’s future depends on an ecosystem that invests in talent, rewards determination, supports entrepreneurial freedom, and thrives through international collaboration. Its competitive edge lies in its people: focused on developing solutions for global challenges and building international alliances.”

Switzerland as a global biomanufacturing hub

Jan Lucht

scienceindustries | Head Biotechnology

Switzerland is the chosen location of a large number of world-class biomanufacturing facilities. In addition to its strong focus on therapeutics and drug products, Switzerland's biomanufacturing sector extends beyond the pharmaceutical industry. Strong talent, innovation, collaboration, and long-term strategy are some of the factors that underpin Switzerland's global impact.

Biomanufacturing has strong roots in Switzerland, a significant current presence and promising prospects.[1] The foundation for the Swiss pharmaceutical industry was laid in the second half of the 19th century, when the demand for synthetic textile dyes stimulated the development of an organic chemistry industry around Basel in north-west Switzerland. F. Hoffmann-La Roche & Co was established as a purely pharmaceutical company in 1896; André Hoffmann, great-grandson of Fritz Hoffmann-La Roche, the company founder, is this year's guest editor (see Page 5). Early in the 20th century, chemical companies Ciba, Geigy, and Sandoz shifted their focus to pharmacological products.

Development of Swiss biomanufacturing

Swiss chemical and pharmaceutical companies embraced new production technologies as they became available. In 1934, Roche became the first Swiss company to use a microbiological fermentation process to synthesize vitamin C, marking the beginning of biomanufacturing in Switzerland. Swiss companies were active in fermentation R&D and process development, but production facilities were mostly located outside of Switzerland.

In the 1970s, genetic engineering tools became available, enabling US companies to develop the market for recombinant proteins. In Switzerland, Biogen, one of the world's first biotech companies, was founded in Geneva in 1978. The company initially focused strongly on R&D.

However, the commercial development of biomanufacturing using genetically modified organisms was hindered in the EU and Switzerland by the absence of a clear regulatory framework. The construction of Switzerland's first major recombinant protein production facility, the Ciba-Geigy 'Biotechnikum', was relocated just across the border to Huningue, France, in 1991 due to societal and political resistance in Basel.

Just a few years later, the framework conditions had improved so much that companies were making major investments in biomanufacturing facilities in Switzerland. Examples include Serono in Vevey in 1999 (now Merck), Roche in Basel in 2014, UCB in Bulle in 2014, CSL Behring in Lengnau in 2015 (now operated by Thermo Fisher Scientific), and Biogen in Luterbach in 2016. Many more companies followed suit in selecting Switzerland as the location for biomanufacturing plants.

Swiss biomanufacturing today

Switzerland is now firmly established as a major global biomanufacturing hub, hosting several world-class sites spread throughout the country. Some of these are clustered around the regions of Zurich, Basel, and in Western Switzerland (Bern, Lausanne, Geneva and Valais; see Figure 1). Most of these sites focus on pharmaceutical products such as therapeutic monoclonal antibodies and biologicals, as well as vaccines and innovative cell and gene therapies. In addition to globally leading Swiss companies such as Roche, Novartis, and Lonza, international companies with headquarters abroad have been attracted to Switzerland to establish biotech production facilities and make the country part of their global production network. Conversely, Swiss companies also invest in biomanufacturing plants abroad to ensure production close to global markets.

A look at the Swiss export statistics provides an insight into the importance of biomanufacturing in Switzerland for the global healthcare supply and the local economy. In 2025, biomanufactured immunological products, including monoclonal antibodies and vaccines, contributed 20% (CHF 57.4 billion) to the total Swiss exports of CHF 287 billion (see export article, Page14).

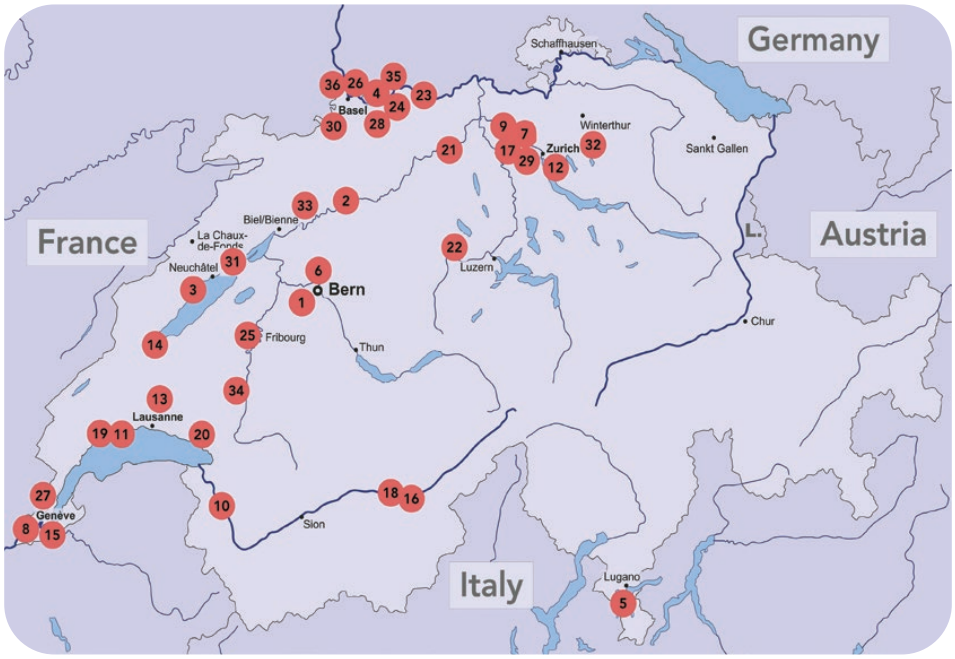

Figure 1: Selected Biomanufacturing Locations in Switzerland (details see Altorfer et al. 2025)[1]: **1** Bavarian Nordic Berna GmbH; **2** Biogen International GmbH; **3** Bristol-Myers Squibb; **4** Celonic AG; **5** Cerbios; **6** CSL Behring; **7** Siegfried DINAMIQS AG; **8** dsm-firmenich; **9** Evitria; **10** ExcellGene; **11** Ferring; **12** Givaudan; **13** Ichnos Glenmark Innovation; 1**14** Incyte; **15** KBI Biopharma; **16** Kodiak Sciences; **17** LimmaTech; **18** LONZA; **19-20** Merck; **21** Mibelle Biochemistry; **22** MSD; **23-26** Novartis; **27** Om Pharma; **28-29** Roche; **30** T3 Pharmaceuticals; **31** Takeda; **32** The Cultured Hub; **33** Thermo Fisher Scientific; **34** UCB Farchim SA; **35** DSM Nutritional Products (D); **36** Novartis (F)

Switzerland is not only an important global biomanufacturing hub. Swiss companies also drive biomanufacturing developments globally and contribute to the continuous expansion of biotechnology applications for industrial production.

Extension beyond pharma

Biomanufacturing provides a means of producing valuable compounds for various applications. For certain product categories, such as biologicals and monoclonal antibodies, biotechnological production is the only viable option. In other cases, such as for fine chemicals, biomanufacturing offers economic and ecological advantages. It can contribute to replacing fossil inputs with renewable resources, thereby helping to protect the climate, and it can provide more reliable alternatives to limited natural raw materials.

Biomanufacturing is therefore increasingly being used in Switzerland for products outside the pharmaceutical sector. In 2000, Roche launched a large-scale biotechnological production plant for riboflavin (vitamin B2) for use in health products, food, and animal feed; it is located in Grenzach, Germany, close to the Swiss border and just across the Rhine River. The plant is now owned by dsm-firmenich.

In a groundbreaking innovation for the flavor and fragrance industry, the Swiss company Firmenich (now part of dsm-firmenich) introduced Clearwood® in 2014. This is the first fragrance compound developed and produced by industrial "white" biotechnology, and combines the creamy warmth of amber with a dark, woody character reminiscent of patchouli. Givaudan, alongside dsm-firmenich, is one of the world's leading flavor and fragrance producers and is increasingly using biotechnology to produce compounds.

There are Swiss companies involved in developing biomanufacturing processes outside the pharmaceutical sector, where final production facilities are located abroad. Examples include Arxada's versatile CDMO biomanufacturing site for specialty chemicals in Kouřim, Czech Republic, and dsm-firmenich's involvement in joint ventures for the Avansya fermentation plant for low-calorie sweeteners in Blair, Nebraska, and the Veramaris production facility for valuable microalgal omega-3 fatty acids in the same location.

Talent and tenacity secure Switzerland's place in global biomanufacturing

Switzerland occupies a unique position in the global biomanufacturing landscape due to a combination of factors. These include political stability, highly skilled employees, and excellent academic and industrial research facilities. Swiss virtues such as long-term strategic foresight and the ability to manage challenges also contribute to this success.

One example of this is Lonza. In the 1980s, the company developed tools for microbial fermentation. In the 1990s, it expanded into mammalian cell culture. In the 2010s, Lonza developed its IBEX® strategy for highly flexible CDMO production facilities. These preparations, together with the successful management of a rapidly expanding workforce, enabled the significant increase in production capacity for the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines in 2021 at its Visp site. A strong focus on customers' needs, together with technological flexibility, supports the further expansion of Lonza's activities.

Of course, producing innovative healthcare solutions from biomanufactured APIs requires specialized high-tech knowledge and equipment. An example for this is ten23 health, which has significantly increased its sterile manufacturing capacity at its facility in Visp to meet rising demand for complex drug products. It is also collaborating with BD and other partners to pilot innovative Radio Frequency ID-enabled traceability for prefillable syringes. This technology assigns a unique Container Unique Identifier to each syringe via an RFID tag, enabling individual unit tracking, enhanced process efficiency, automated reconciliation, and improved supply chain visibility from filling to final assembly.

National and international collaborations between companies and academia are also important drivers of Swiss innovation in biomanufacturing. For instance, the Swiss Industrial Biocatalysis Consortium (SIBC) is a collaboration of several industry partners and Swiss academic scientists that has allowed for the development of innovative, cross-sector biocatalytic approaches.[2]

Technological innovations and investments in future talent (see also SATW article, Page 24) will be crucial in maintaining Switzerland's position as a biomanufacturing hub amid increasing global competition. Most importantly, framework conditions must be continuously reviewed and strengthened to ensure that Switzerland remains a leading biomanufacturing hub amid global change.

Picture 1: Large-scale microbial biomanufacturing at the Lonza Visp facility (©Lonza, reproduced under license)

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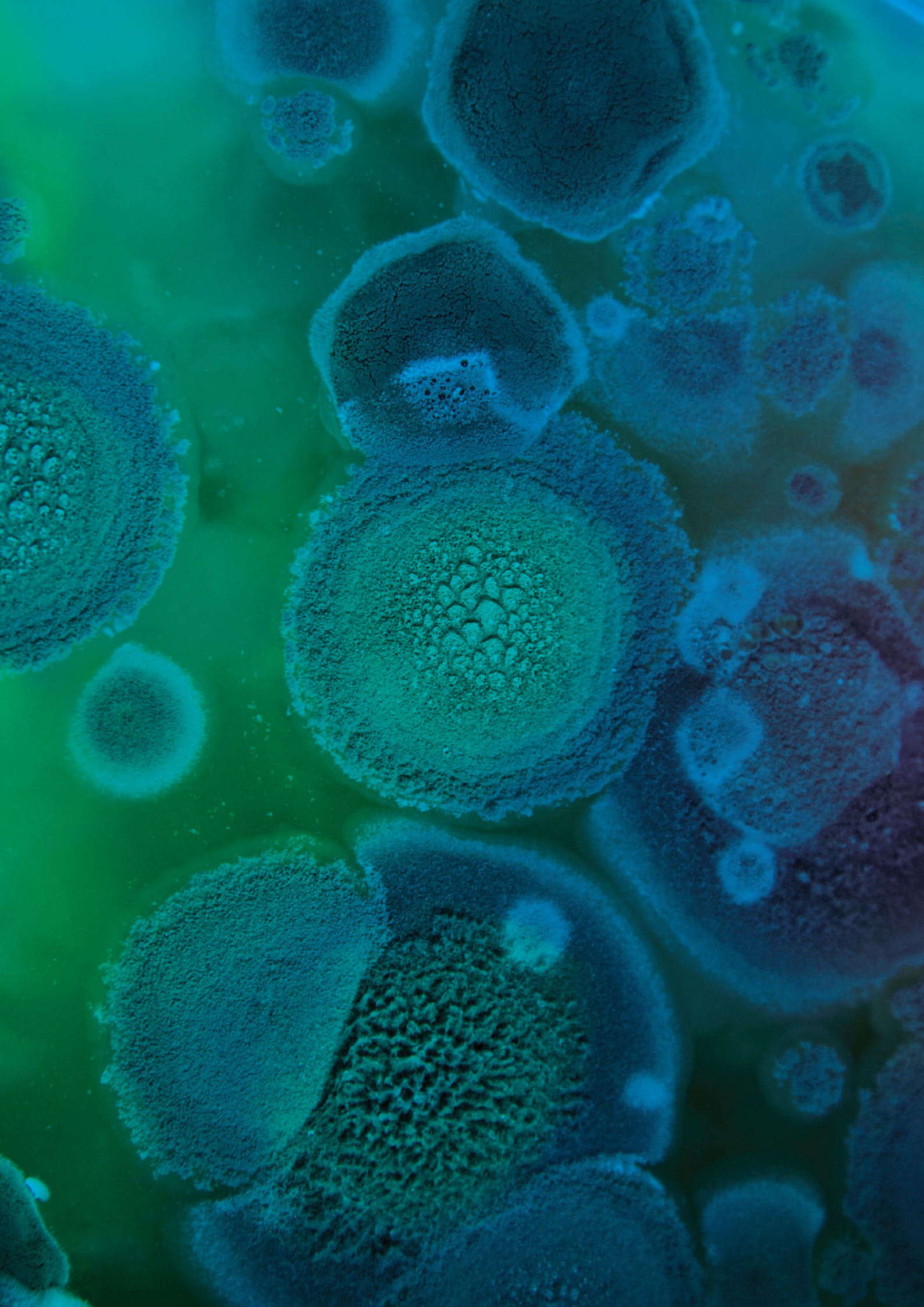


From discovery to commercial HQ: Switzerland's talent advantage

Sirpa Tsimal

Switzerland Global Enterprise | Director Investment Promotion

Switzerland's strength as a global biotech hub is often described in terms of innovation, productivity, and quality. At the heart of all three lies a decisive factor: talent. From early scientific discovery to large-scale manufacturing and global commercial leadership, Switzerland offers a talent ecosystem that supports the entire biotech value chain.

In this article, Sirpa Tsimal talks to Carl Deutsch of NBE Therapeutic to gain insights into how the Swiss research and talent ecosystem supports scientific discovery, translational research, and the development of next-generation therapies in oncology. She considers why the availability of specialized talent is also a vital ingredient for the manufacture of biologics and advanced therapies for global markets. In the final section Sirpa speaks to Alexey Kutahov of Mirum Pharmaceuticals, who explains how Switzerland supports global launches, leadership development, and long-term talent retention.

Discovery and R&D - Interview with Carl Deutsch, Chief Scientific Officer, NBE Therapeutic

At the discovery and R&D end of the biotech value chain, Switzerland offers a distributed talent environment spanning several regions. The Basel area plays a central role, supported by strong academic and applied research hubs in Zurich, Lausanne, and other regions, enabling close interaction between industry, research institutions, and clinical partners.

Carl Deutsch

Chief Scientific Officer, NBE Therapeutics

Could you briefly outline NBE Therapeutics' core scientific and R&D focus areas?

NBE Therapeutics focuses on advancing next-generation antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) for oncology. ADCs are a special type of antibodies that deliver a chemotherapy drug (also called a payload) directly to tumor cells. Since becoming part of Boehringer Ingelheim in 2020, we've combined our proprietary payload and antibody-conjugation technologies with the expanded scientific capabilities available through the pharmaceutical company. This collaborative setup allows us to design ADCs with precision, developing targeted therapies that aim to deliver potent treatments directly to cancer cells while sparing healthy tissue.

Our team contributes to a growing ADC pipeline designed to bring first- and best-in-class solutions to patients with difficult-to-treat cancers. The integration of NBE's deep expertise with Boehringer Ingelheim's translational and clinical strengths creates a powerful engine for innovation in precision oncology.

What were the key reasons for establishing NBE Therapeutics' R&D operations in Switzerland, and how did access to scientific and technical talent influence that decision?

NBE Therapeutics chose to build its R&D operations in Basel because the region offers an unusually rich environment for biotech innovation. Basel has one of Europe's most concentrated life sciences ecosystems, where global pharma companies, growing biotechs, and ambitious startups sit practically side by side. This creates a culture of collaboration, fast learning, and easy access to specialized infrastructure that young companies rarely find elsewhere.

Just as important is the talent pool: Basel draws scientists and technical experts from Switzerland's top universities, from across the border in France and Germany, and increasingly from further afield. The city's international character, strong academic networks, and cross-border mobility make it an ideal place to attract and retain world-class researchers. Together, these factors make Basel a uniquely compelling home for NBE Therapeutics' R&D engine. Furthermore, this environment not only supported NBE's growth but continues to strengthen our role within Boehringer Ingelheim's European R&D footprint.

From your perspective, what specific strengths does Switzerland's life sciences ecosystem offer when it comes to attracting, developing, and retaining top-tier R&D talent, such as scientists, translational researchers, and technical specialists?

Switzerland combines scientific excellence and expertise with an exceptional quality of life. The country is home to world-class universities and research institutes, supported by strong biotech–pharma clusters in Basel, Zurich, and Lausanne that provide scientists with diverse career opportunities. What sets the country apart is its seamless infrastructure: short distances between academic hubs, efficient public services, and well-established networks that connect researchers across institutions and industries.

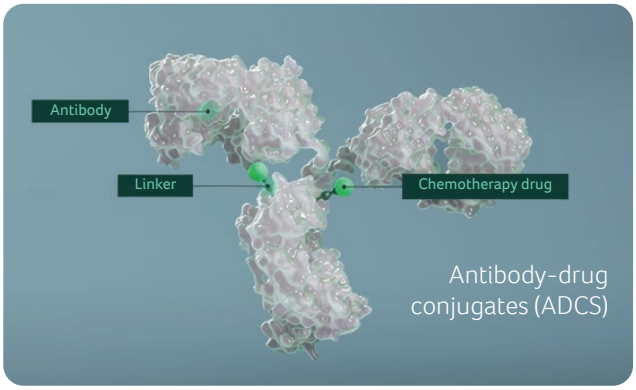
This combination creates a melting pot for new ideas, fosters collaboration, and promotes innovation.

On top of the infrastructure, a stable and reliable regulatory framework, including strong IP protection and competitive salaries make Switzerland an attractive place for scientists. It is important to note that all of this is made possible by highly efficient and supportive public and governmental services, which make Basel, and Switzerland as a whole, a truly attractive environment for scientific careers.

What is NBE Therapeutics' broader European and international growth strategy?

NBE Therapeutics has played a strategic role in shaping Boehringer's ambitions in next-generation ADCs. Our scientific and clinical expansion, including the establishment of a new ADC R&D center in Basel, is fully aligned with Boehringer Ingelheim's global oncology strategy and supported by its broad research infrastructure, partnerships and development expertise.

Together, we are growing an integrated ADC capability, from discovery to clinical development. This includes partnering with top external innovators (e.g., Synaffix, AimedBio) and building the specialized facilities and teams needed to accelerate breakthroughs. Several ADC programs are already advancing through the pipeline, reflecting the shared commitment to bringing transformative therapies to patients worldwide.



From discovery to commercial HQ: Switzerland's talent advantage

Enhancing Swiss manufacturing capacity and capabilities

Switzerland offers regional, high-tech production of biologics and advanced therapies for global markets, supported by a specialized talent base and a strong regulatory environment. Manufacturing activities range from large-scale commercial supply to highly complex and flexible production of biologics, peptides, and advanced modalities.

Alongside Swiss-based manufacturers such as Lonza and Bachem, which provide mammalian and microbial bioproduction, cell and gene therapy manufacturing, peptide synthesis, and advanced process development, Switzerland hosts significant production activities of multinational pharmaceutical companies including Novartis and Roche. Several international players like Biogen, CSL Behring, Takeda, Johnson & Johnson, and Merck have established manufacturing operations in Switzerland, reflecting the country's role as a trusted location for complex and regulated production.

A key enabler is Switzerland's dual education and vocational training system, which provides a steady pipeline of skilled technicians, laboratory specialists, and engineers trained in GMP environments. These profiles are complemented by process scientists, automation engineers, and data specialists educated at universities and universities of applied sciences, reflecting the increasing technological complexity of modern biomanufacturing.

This combination of vocational and academic talent allows Swiss manufacturing hubs to operate highly regulated, technology-intensive production sites, implement new platforms and modalities, and scale processes efficiently, positioning Switzerland as a location for advanced biologics manufacturing serving global companies.

Commercial HQ – Interview with Alexey Kutahov, Head of International Region, Mirum Pharmaceuticals

For commercial headquarters functions, Switzerland provides a talent environment that supports global leadership, market access, and international coordination. Many biotech companies have chosen Switzerland as a base for commercial and regional headquarters, benefiting from a multilingual workforce, proximity to European markets, and a stable regulatory and political framework.

Alexey Kutahov

Head of International Region, Mirum Pharmaceuticals

Could you briefly outline Mirum's core focus areas?

At Mirum, we focus on bringing high impact medicines to patients with rare diseases that have historically been overlooked. We're a global rare disease company, but what truly defines us is how closely our teams are connected to science, patients, and to one another.

The cornerstone of our portfolio of commercial medicines is LIVMARLI®, which is approved for the treatment of cholestatic pruritus in patients with Alagille syndrome (ALGS) and progressive familial intrahepatic cholestatis (PFIC). In these conditions, impaired bile flow leads to bile acid buildup and debilitating symptoms, severely impacting patients' lives.

Alongside our approved medicines, we continue to invest in the next generation of Mirum medicines, with a pipeline of late-stage programs across rare liver and neurological diseases which we believe have the potential to meaningfully improve patients' health and wellbeing.

What were the key reasons for establishing Mirum's commercial headquarters in Switzerland, and what role did the local talent ecosystem play in that decision?

Switzerland was a deliberate choice for Mirum's global commercial headquarters because it sits at the center of one of the world's strongest life sciences ecosystems. This country brings together global pharmaceutical leaders, innovative mid-sized companies, and emerging biotechs, creating a dynamic environment and a local talent pool with experience across the full lifecycle of medicines. That breadth of experience is especially important for a rare disease company like Mirum, where launches and long-term patient support require specialized knowledge, and close collaboration. Switzerland is also ideally positioned geographically, enabling close engagement with clinical sites, physicians, and patient communities across Europe.

What is Mirum's broader European and international growth strategy?

Mirum's European and international growth strategy is focused on expanding access to our medicines while building a sustainable global footprint.

Our commercial approach is intentionally multifaceted. We commercialize directly in North America and Western Europe, where we have established capabilities, and partner strategically in other regions to efficiently reach patients globally.

At the same time, we are focused on advancing a robust late-stage pipeline with global potential. A key near term catalyst will be for brelovitug, which we recently added through our acquisition of Bluejay Therapeutics and are developing for chronic hepatitis delta virus, the most severe form of viral hepatitis. Brelovitug has received EMA PRIME designation, and we expect topline Phase III data from our EU registrational AZURE-2 and AZURE-3 studies in the first half of 2028.

Today, what specific advantages does Switzerland's life sciences ecosystem offer when it comes to attracting, developing, and retaining senior commercial and executive talent?

I have been part of the life sciences community in Switzerland for more than 12 years and have also worked across other European life science hubs during my 25-year career in pharmaceuticals.

> *"What stands out to me about Switzerland is the depth and maturity of its commercial and executive talent. Leaders here gain exposure to complex launches, global market access, and multiple therapeutic areas, while also having the opportunity to grow their scope and impact without needing to move between regions - which is critical for long-term retention."*

Combined with strong international connectivity and a high quality of life that appeals to globally mobile leaders and their families, Switzerland enables companies like Mirum to attract experienced talent, continue developing leadership capabilities, and retain senior teams over time.

As Mirum continues to scale internationally, how do you see the role of Switzerland evolving?

As our company continues to scale, Switzerland will remain our European and international base. As our global footprint of approved products expands and our pipeline of investigational medicines advances, we expect our Swiss operations in Zug and Basel to continue growing across essential functions, helping us bring more breakthrough therapies to rare disease patients around the world.

TechBio talent & tenacity: driving Switzerland's next wave of innovation

Samantha Paoletti
Head of Research and BD Life Science Technologies | CSEM

Gilles Weder
Head of Research and BD Life Science Technologies | CSEM

For the 15th consecutive year, Switzerland tops the Global Innovation Index (GII), leading globally in knowledge and technology outputs and creative industries, even amid global R&D and venture capital headwinds. This sustained performance reflects a powerful mix of exceptional talent, deep collaboration, and long-term commitment to innovation.

A globally competitive talent engine

Switzerland's dual education system blends strong vocational training with elite academic pathways, spanning ETH Zurich, EPFL, the country's ten universities, and eight universities of applied sciences, enabling lifelong mobility and global competitiveness. Its innovation ecosystem is also remarkably international. Foreign nationals account for roughly half of startup founders, 78% of unicorn founders, and the majority of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering Mathematics) PhD graduates - a diversity that greatly exceeds their approximately 26% share of the Swiss population. Openness to global talent strengthens innovation capacity and accelerates cross disciplinary exchange.

This is particularly impactful in TechBio, where biology, data, engineering, and digital tools converge to unlock new possibilities in health, sustainability, and industrial biotechnology. Such bioconvergence thrives in ecosystems with fluid expertise and high mobility.

Collaboration amplifies impact. International co-authorship boosts scientific relevance, while participation in Horizon Europe strengthens Switzerland's integration into global research networks. The Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology, ETH Zurich and EPFL Lausanne, rank among Europe's most efficient universities in converting research into high-value spin-outs relative to population and STEM graduates. This strength - central to Switzerland's TechBio growth - is reinforced by CSEM's role as a key translational bridge, supporting industrialization, applied research, and technology transfer from lab to market.

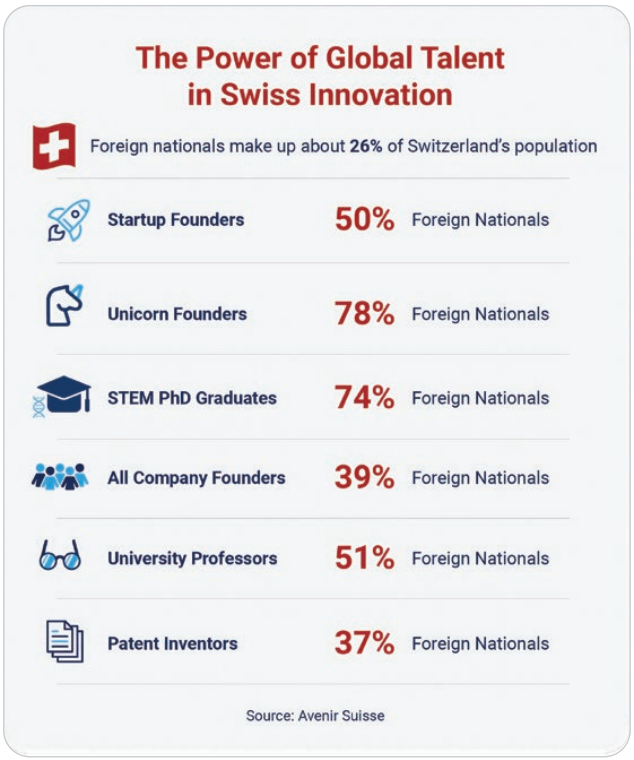


Table 1: International Swiss innovation ecosystem

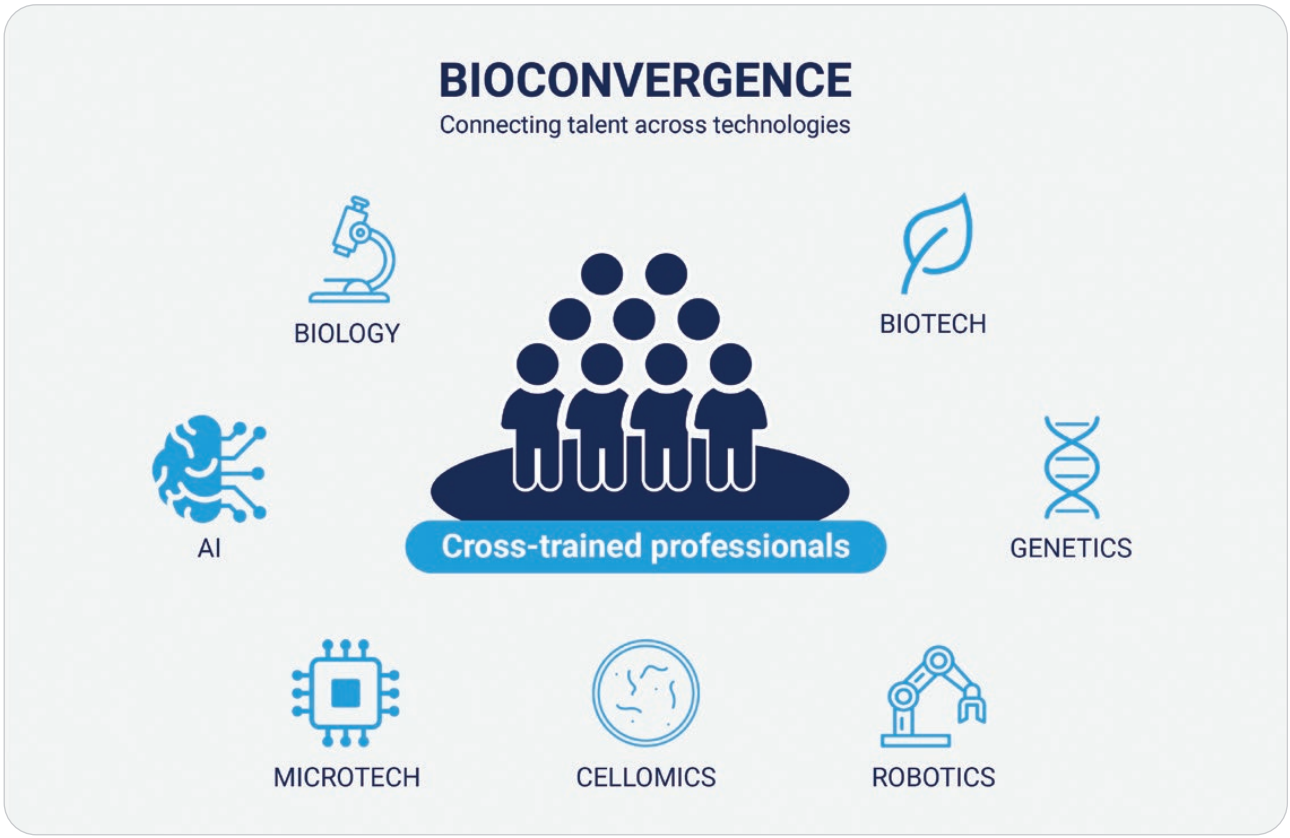


Figure 1: Bioconvergence connecting talent across technologies

Tenacity: innovating for the long run

Swiss innovation leadership is built on long-termism. Deeptech often requires years of iteration, especially in regulated markets such as for medical, biotech or pharmaceutical applications. Aktiia, a CSEM spin-off, illustrates this model: its cuffless blood-pressure monitoring technology matured through sustained in-house engineering and extensive clinical validation before reaching market readiness. Similarly, VeriPlate, co-developed by CSEM in partnership with Hamilton, advanced only once technology readiness aligned with market needs. Funding mechanisms such as Innosuisse help early-stage ventures survive critical phases, embedding tenacity into the national innovation culture.

Platforms like the Deep Tech Nation Switzerland further reinforce this culture of long-term innovation. Deep Tech Nation acts as a catalyst for the Swiss innovation ecosystem, aiming to improve conditions for deeptech startups and scale-ups and to mobilize significantly more venture capital over the next decade. Its mission underscores that deeptech requires sustained investment, patient capital and a supportive ecosystem that can survive extended R&D phases - exactly the kind of tenacity that the Swiss culture of innovation embodies.

Collaboration at scale: the Swiss way

Switzerland is globally recognized for academia-industry partnerships that accelerate the path from discovery to market. Research organizations, universities, startups, and established companies cocreate solutions that are robust, scalable, and industry-ready. CSEM exemplifies this approach. Since 1984, it has executed roughly 250 industrial collaborations per year, maintained about 200 patent families, and supported a steady pipeline of spin-outs in precision manufacturing, digital technologies, and sustainable energy.

Concrete examples show how this model delivers impact:

- **Visienco** evolved from CSEM technologies to automate organoid sorting, co-developed with IOB for retinal-disease research.
- **Cutiss** initially supported by CSEM, now partners with Tecan to automate bioengineered-skin production.
- **SUN bioscience**, another CSEM-supported startup, was acquired by InSphero to expand 3D cell-model capabilities.

A journey of 4 years

Figure 2: Visienco technology evolution from applied research to product

Why it matters

Switzerland offers a replicable blueprint: open talent pipelines, structured collaboration, and long-term support for deeptech. Talent without tenacity doesn't compound. Tenacity without collaboration doesn't scale. Switzerland's leadership comes from combining all three - and turning complexity into impact.

Celebrating and honoring outstanding contributions to the industry

The Swiss Biotech Success Stories Awards are presented each year at Swiss Biotech Day to honor those who have made important and sustainable contributions to the biotech industry in Switzerland. The awards reflect the diversity and achievements of this innovative sector.

Switzerland is one of the world's leading biotech hubs and attracts many foreign companies, specialists, and investors. It provides over 60'000 jobs in R&D biotech companies and specialized biotech suppliers and advisors; and, together with the pharmaceutical and chemical industries, it accounts for almost half of Swiss exports. To make the industry's impact more visible, the Swiss Biotech Success Stories initiative was launched in 2018. Selected success stories are showcased to illustrate how Swiss biotech companies help patients, improve healthcare worldwide, and make a valuable and significant contribution to the Swiss and global economy.

Laureates are individuals or groups of extraordinary merit in scientific, translational, medical or commercial fields, who have a positive impact on the biotech and life science industry and society in Switzerland.

> *"It is essential to share with the public the importance and success factors of biotech companies and ensure that decision-makers understand what it takes for the industry to develop and remain competitive.*
>
> *"Young talent should be inspired and motivated to take a closer look at the great variety of career profiles in biotech."*
>
> **Michael Altorfer**, CEO
> Swiss Biotech Association.

12 success categories

- Completed achievement with lasting impact
- Scientific breakthrough
- New technology
- Strong impact on society
- Product approval and sustainable revenues
- Important IP, innovative deal-making, acquisition
- 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

The winner of this year's Swiss Biotech Success Stories Awards is the internationally recognized scientist, inspirational leader, serial entrepreneur, and board member of major Swiss companies, Patrick Aebischer.

Independent jury of experts

Jürg Zürcher

President of the jury

Independent biotechnology leader and expert

Igor Fisch

President Fongit

CEO & Co-Founder

NewBiologix

Stefanie Flückiger-Mangual

CEO and Co-Founder

Tolremo

Gabrielle Gache

CEO at Sappiens

Founder at Neixora Partners

Gabriela Güntherodt

EY Partner & Biotech Sector Leader Switzerland/Europe West

Chandra P. Leo

Investment Advisor Private Equity HBM Partners

Daniela Marino

CEO and Co-Founder

Cutiss

Thomas Staffelbach

Secretary of the jury

TS Kommunikation

Sponsors

EY Building a better working world

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Basel-Stadt

TS Kommunikation

Organized by

Swiss Biotech Association

Swiss Biotech Success Stories award winner 2026

Patrick Aebischer – scientist, leader, entrepreneur

The life principles which have guided Patrick Aebischer's exceptional success are: be curious, think outside the box, never give up, and be generous.

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

As a scientist, his primary focus is on translational neuroscience and the 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). One of his key achievements is the development of an approved treatment for ALS patients suffering from SOD1 mutations.

Dr. Aebischer qualified as an MD and subsequently as a neuroscientist at the Universities of Geneva and Fribourg. He moved to Brown University in the US in 1984, where he remained for eight years, advancing from research scientist to associate professor and chairing the section on artificial organs, biomaterials, and cellular technology. He returned to Switzerland as professor of surgery and director of the Surgical Research Division and Gene Therapy Center at Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV).

From 2000 to 2016, he served as president of the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), transforming it into a top global research institution. Today EPFL is an open, interdisciplinary, innovation-focused research technical University ranked as one of the best institutes of technology worldwide. His mandate was also marked by the creation of a faculty of life sciences at EPFL.

Alongside his academic posts, Dr. Aebischer is the founder of four biotech companies: CytoTherapeutics, Modex, Amazentis (Timeline) and Vandria. He is currently a board member of Nestlé (since 2015) and Polypeptide (since 2020), and has previously served as board member of Lonza and Logitech. He is also managing partner at Limani Partners, and was previously senior partner at ND Capital and chairman of the Novartis Venture Fund.

Find more info at swissbiotech.org/success-stories

Hall of fame 2019 – 2025

Headquartered in Allschwil, Actelion is part of the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies. Its ground-breaking research and medicines have been a key contributor to improve the lives of people affected by pulmonary hypertension, and made Actelion an industry leader in this area.

Werner Arber

Werner Arber, Swiss microbiologist and geneticist, won the 1978 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his discovery of restriction endonucleases. His groundbreaking research in the field of molecular genetics was instrumental in the development of biotechnology.

Bachem situated in Bubendorf is a leading company specializing in development and manufacture of peptides and oligonucleotides. With over 50 years of experience and expertise, Bachem provides products and services for research, clinical development and commercial application to pharmaceutical and biotechnology globally.

Basilea Pharmaceutica in Allschwil is a biopharmaceutical R&D company, focused on the development of products that address the medical challenges in the therapeutic area of anti-infectives. They are committed to developing and commercializing innovative pharmaceutical products to meet the medical needs of patients with serious and life-threatening conditions.

Biogen in Baar is a leading biotechnology company that pioneers innovative science and delivers new medicines to transform patients' lives. A broad portfolio of medicines to treat multiple sclerosis, the first approved treatment for spinal muscular atrophy, and the state-of-the-art biologics manufacturing facility in Luterbach are proof of Biogen's pioneering approach.

Family-owned Debiopharm from Lausanne identifies high-potential compounds in oncology and for the treatment of bacterial infections. They are tested in clinical development and licensed to business partners globally. Millions of patients benefit from their therapies every year.

Hall of fame 2019 – 2025

ESBATech, now a Novartis company, is recognized for its pioneering role in developing single-chain antibody fragments for ophthalmic indications. The most advanced product from the ESBATech platform received marked approval by the FDA in October 2019 and shortly thereafter in all major markets.

The foundation promotes scientific research on neuromuscular diseases (myopathies) affecting children and adults. It awards grants to young researchers and has provided seed funding for two startups. It has established a scientific forum to encourage exchange of ideas, and also supports centers which care for patients.

Genedata, global market leader for software solutions that digitalize data-rich and complex bio-pharmaceutical R&D processes, enables an R&D revolution driven by precision medicines and artificial intelligence approaches. It helps the industry to deliver innovative biotherapeutics, vaccines and cell & gene therapies faster.

The Schlieren-based company has been an integral part of Roche Pharmaceutical Research and Early Development since 2005, and is a pioneer in antibody engineering in cancer immunotherapy. Its antibody glycosylation technology increases immune-mediated cancer cell killing and builds the basis for improved cancer medicines.

Helsinn, an important employer in Ticino, has a broad portfolio of marketed cancer care products and a deep development pipeline. It has built significant R&D and manufacturing capacities, also advances patient care and supports healthcare innovation with its investment fund.

Humabs BioMed, subsidiary of Vir Biotechnology, uses its immunologic expertise and cutting-edge technology to combat infectious diseases and other serious conditions. It is a pioneer in the discovery, engineering, and development of human monoclonal antibodies, e.g. crucial for fighting Ebola and COVID-19, and has helped transform the infectious disease landscape.

Hall of fame 2019 – 2025

Etienne Jornod, Swiss entrepreneur, was Executive Chairman of the Vifor-Galenica Group delivering 25 consecutive double-digit net profit growth, supporting millions of patients and creating thousands of jobs. In 2020, he acquired OM Pharma with friends, aiming to create a unique biopharmaceutical company based on bacteria lysates expertise.

Lonza

Lonza is one of the world's largest healthcare manufacturing organizations, serving pharmaceutical, biotech and nutritional markets. Lonza's work enables its customers to develop and commercialize their therapeutic discoveries, allowing their patients to benefit from life-saving and life-enhancing treatments.

Henri B. Meier's first contact with biotechnology occurred at the age of 54. The inspiration came through the acquisition of Genentech by F. Hoffmann-La Roche in 1990. Genentech were pioneers in recombinant DNA (rDNA) technology. This technology allowed a human gene to be inserted into the genetic material of bacteria. By inserting the human insulin gene, such "recombinant bacteria" could then produce insulin. This became the first recombinant drug approved by the FDA using rDNA technology.

novimmune

Founded by the renowned immunologist, Professor Bernard Mach MD PhD, privately-owned Novimmune is a leading light in the discovery and development of fully-human, antibody-based drugs used to fight autoimmune and inflammatory diseases and cancer.

okairos
from genes to vaccines

Fully integrated into GlaxoSmithKline since 2013, Okairos from Basel developed innovative T-cell based vaccines for major infectious diseases such as malaria, hepatitis C, HIV, and Ebola. Its novel replication-incompetent adenovirus vectors could enable the development of important new vaccines and offer immunizations against illnesses that lack vaccines.

SELEXIS®

The advanced technologies in protein expression by Selexis provide biotech and pharmaceutical companies a rapid, stable, and cost-effective solution for the production of recombinant proteins. Nearly a hundred drug candidates in clinical development and three commercial products utilize the technologies of the Plan-les-Ouates-based company.

Hall of fame 2019 – 2025

SOPHiA GENETICS generates clinically actionable insights and improved patient outcomes from a global data-sharing network. It democratizes data-driven medicine globally through a cloud-based, decentralized SaaS platform, empowering shared insights among clinicians and researchers, and aiming for equal access to knowledge and improved clinical outcomes.

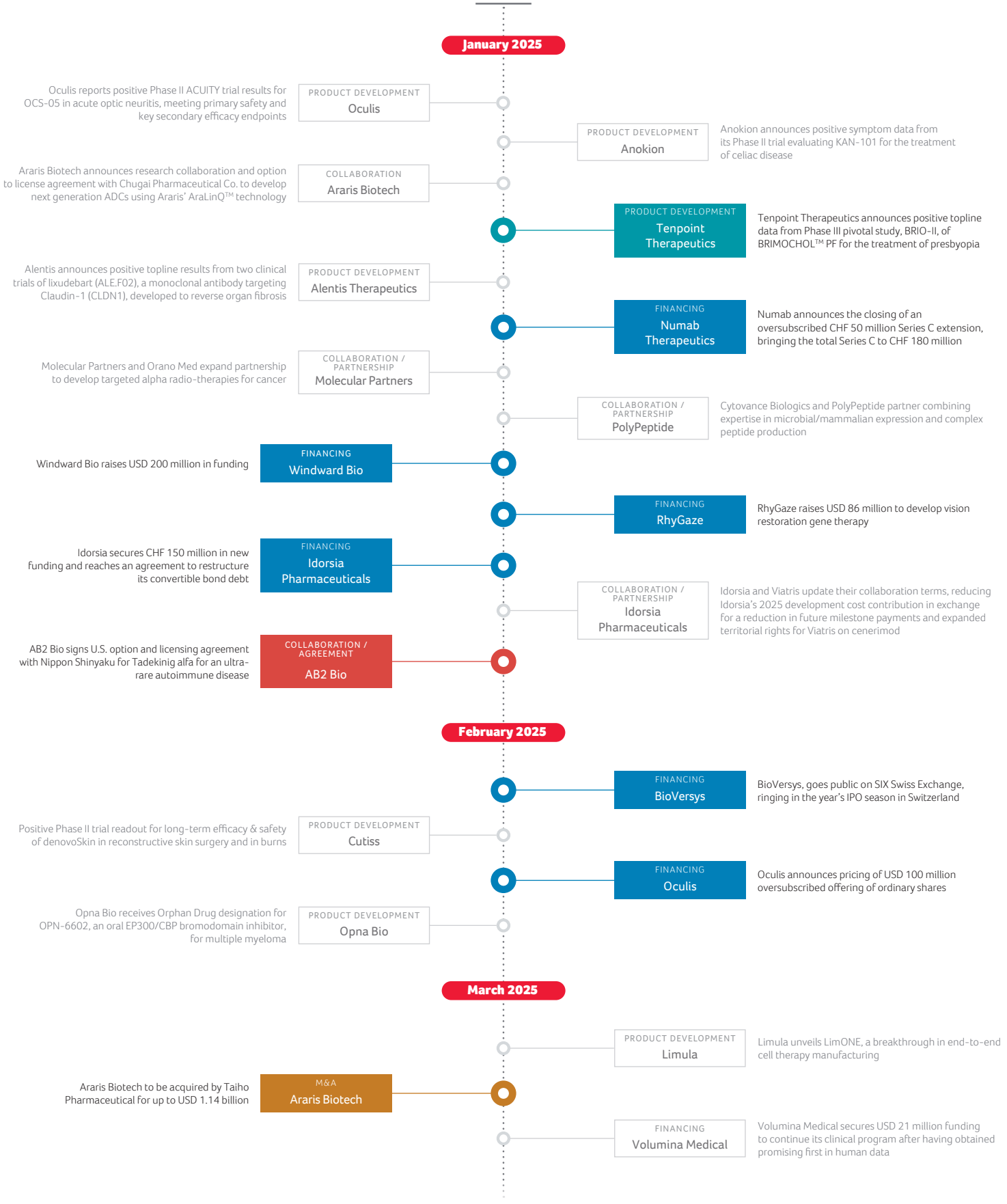
Dr. Hans-Peter Strebel founded Fumapharm AG with three other scientists in 1983. Its successful research led to the development of Tecfidera, a disease modifying therapy for relapsing multiple sclerosis (MS). More than 600'000 patients worldwide have already benefited from the therapy.

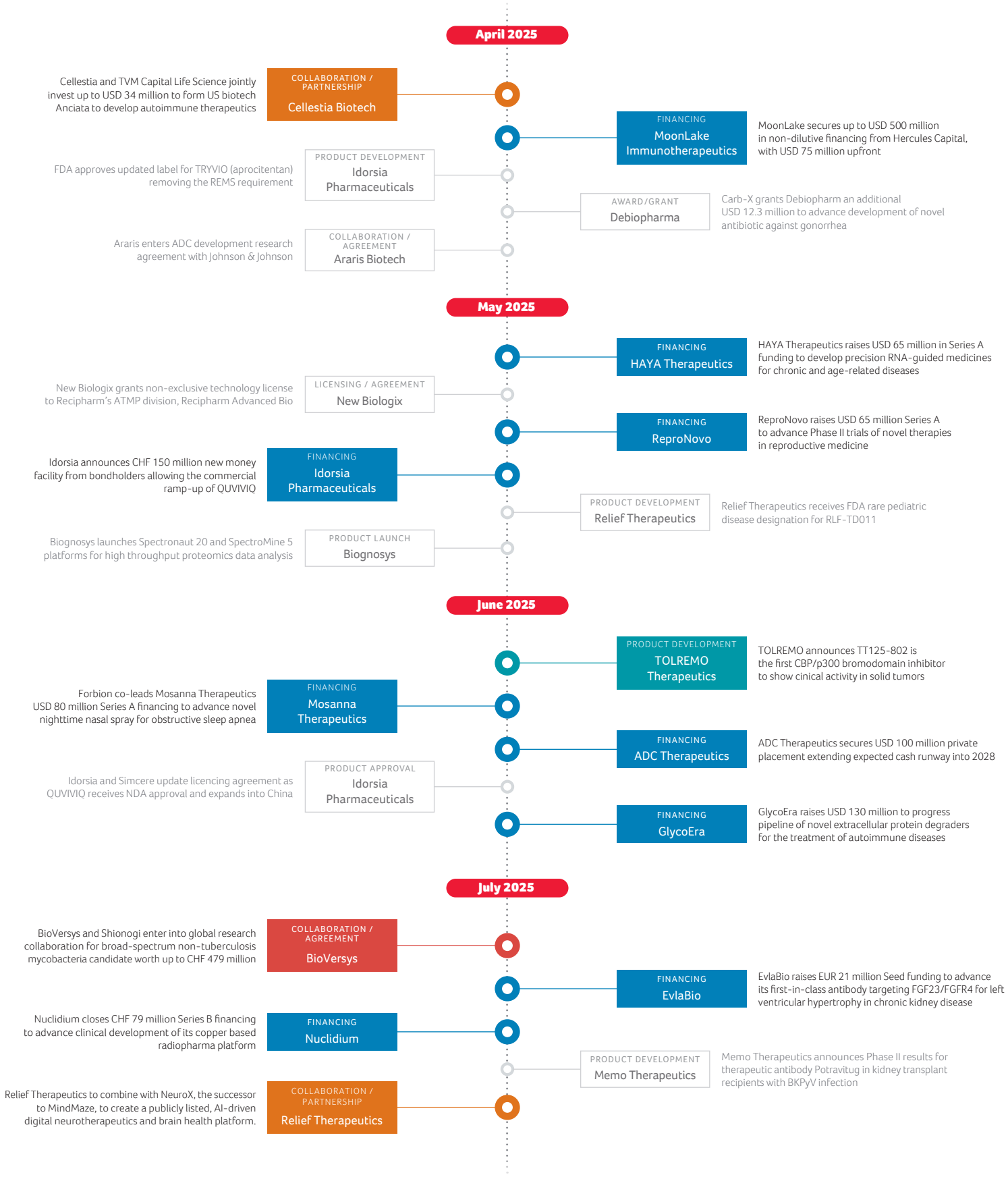
The trio of foundations has been supporting biotech startups with great success for more than 10 years, thereby making a significant contribution to the growth of the Swiss biotech industry. They share the nomination for the Swiss Biotech Success Stories Award.

This transformational joint venture provides Vifor Pharma direct access to dialysis patients, facilitating the product distribution and recruitment for clinical development. It transformed the company from Glattbrugg rapidly into a global nephrology corporation. Such vertical integration is a role model for the convergence of different life sciences sectors.

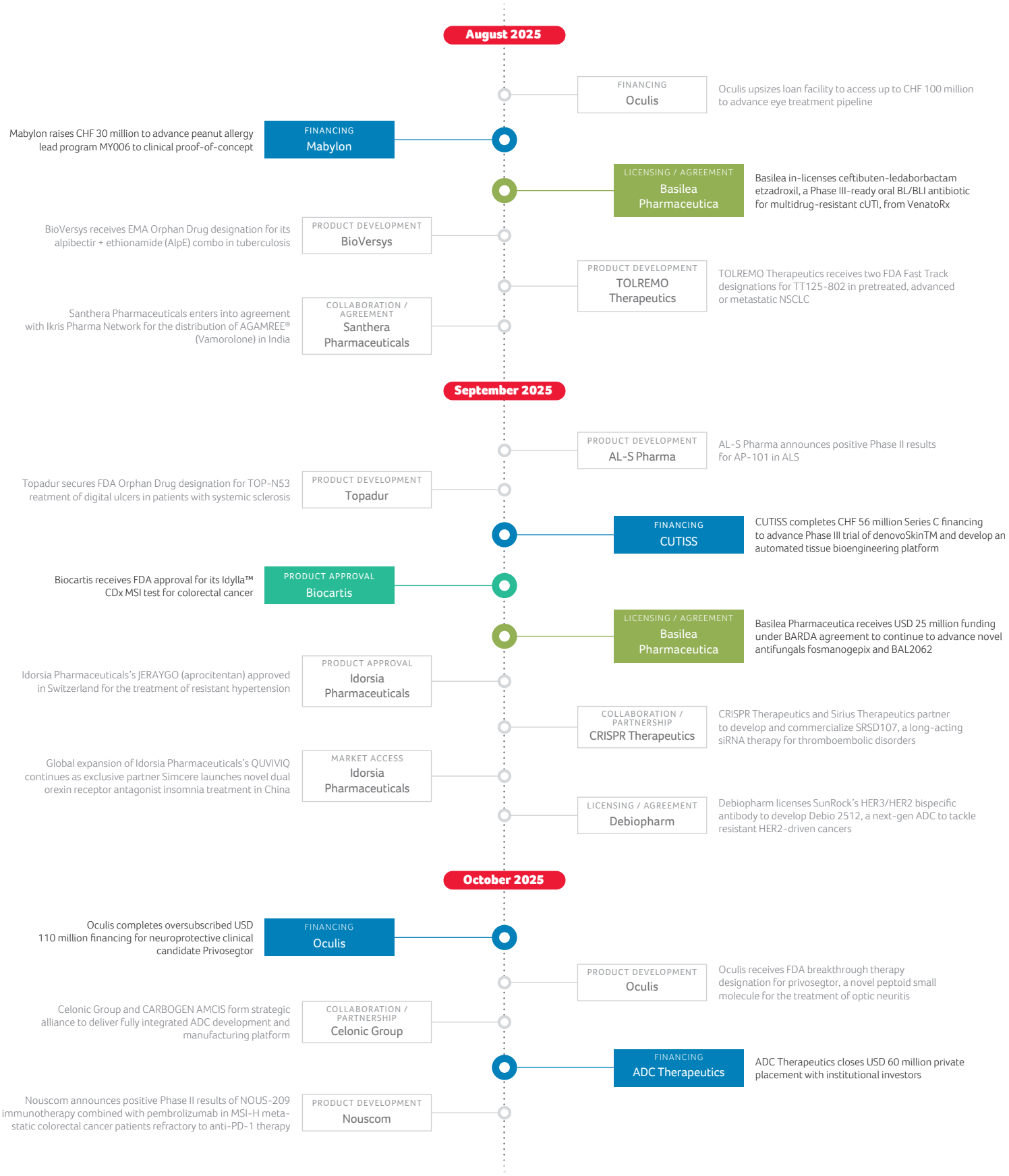
Established in 1998 by Heinrich Gebert following the sale of the internationally successful family company Geberit, Gebert Rüf Stiftung is Switzerland's largest private science and innovation foundation. Pascale Vonmont, CEO and Director of Gebert Rüf Stiftung, has held a leadership position at the foundation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

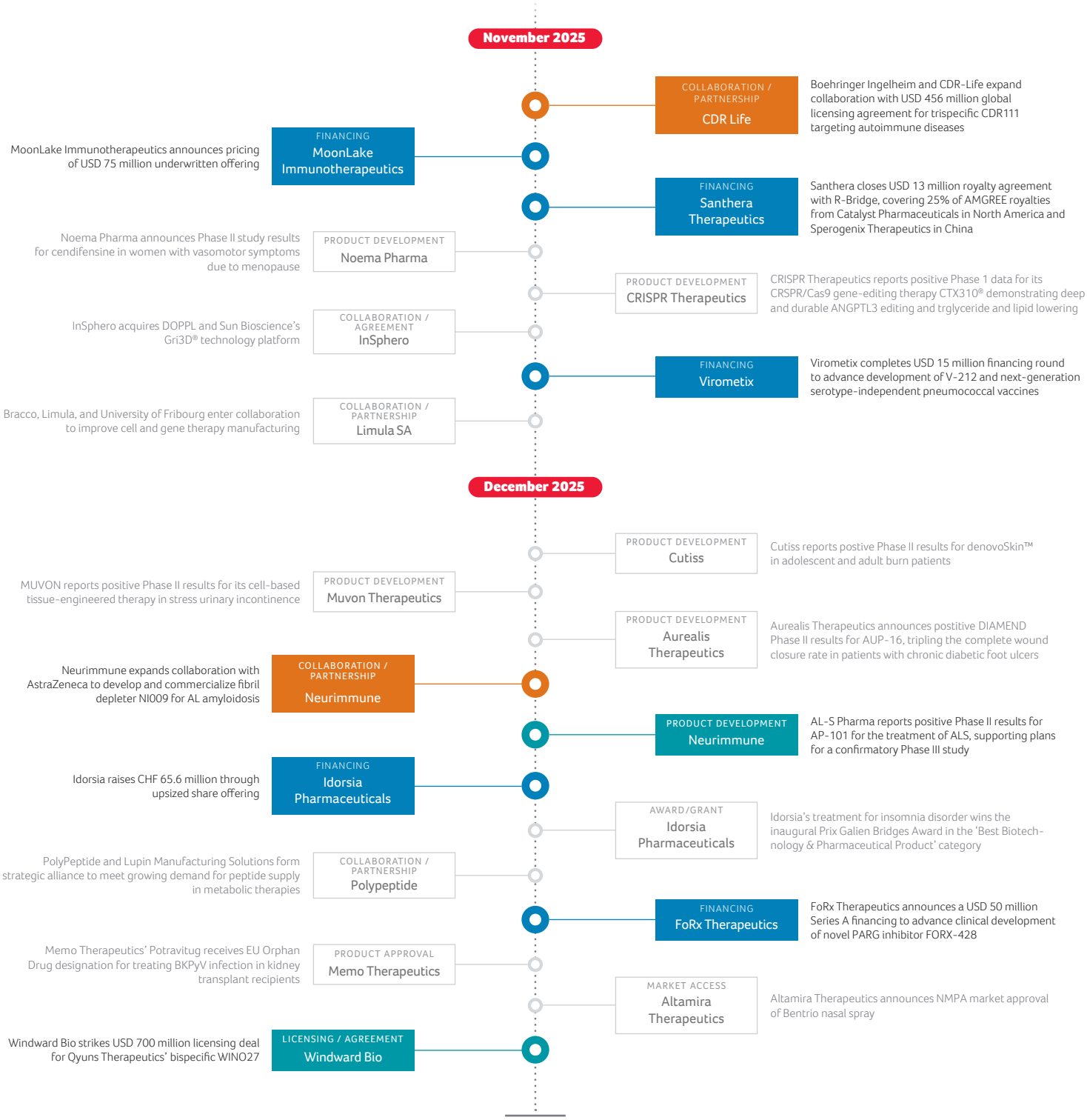
Swiss biotech events of 2025




April 2025
Cellestia and TVM Capital Life Science jointly invest up to USD 34 million to form US biotech Anciata to develop autoimmune therapeutics
COLLABORATION / PARTNERSHIP
Cellestia Biotech
FINANCING
MoonLake Immunotherapeutics
MoonLake secures up to USD 500 million in non-dilutive financing from Hercules Capital, with USD 75 million upfront
FDA approves updated label for TRYVIO (aprocitentan) removing the REMS requirement
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT
Idorsia Pharmaceuticals
AWARD/GRANT
Debiopharma
Carb-X grants Debiopharm an additional USD 12.3 million to advance development of novel antibiotic against gonorrhea
Araris enters ADC development research agreement with Johnson & Johnson
COLLABORATION / AGREEMENT
Araris Biotech
May 2025
FINANCING
HAYA Therapeutics
HAYA Therapeutics raises USD 65 million in Series A funding to develop precision RNA-guided medicines for chronic and age-related diseases
New Biologix grants non-exclusive technology license to Recipharm's ATMP division, Recipharm Advanced Bio
LICENSING / AGREEMENT
New Biologix
FINANCING
ReproNovo
ReproNovo raises USD 65 million Series A to advance Phase II trials of novel therapies in reproductive medicine
Idorsia announces CHF 150 million new money facility from bondholders allowing the commercial ramp-up of QUVIVIQ
FINANCING
Idorsia Pharmaceuticals
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT
Relief Therapeutics
Relief Therapeutics receives FDA rare pediatric disease designation for RLF-TD011
Biognosys launches Spectronaut 20 and SpectroMine 5 platforms for high throughput proteomics data analysis
PRODUCT LAUNCH
Biognosys
June 2025
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT
TOLREMO Therapeutics
TOLREMO announces TT125-802 is the first CBP/p300 bromodomain inhibitor to show cinical activity in solid tumors
Forbion co-leads Mosanna Therapeutics USD 80 million Series A financing to advance novel nighttime nasal spray for obstructive sleep apnea
FINANCING
Mosanna Therapeutics
FINANCING
ADC Therapeutics
ADC Therapeutics secures USD 100 million private placement extending expected cash runway into 2028
Idorsia and Simcere update licencing agreement as QUVIVIQ receives NDA approval and expands into China
PRODUCT APPROVAL
Idorsia Pharmaceuticals
FINANCING
GlycoEra
GlycoEra raises USD 130 million to progress pipeline of novel extracellular protein degraders for the treatment of autoimmune diseases
July 2025
BioVersys and Shionogi enter into global research collaboration for broad-spectrum non-tuberculosis mycobacteria candidate worth up to CHF 479 million
COLLABORATION / AGREEMENT
BioVersys
FINANCING
EvlaBio
EvlaBio raises EUR 21 million Seed funding to advance its first-in-class antibody targeting FGF23/FGFR4 for left ventricular hypertrophy in chronic kidney disease
Nuclidium closes CHF 79 million Series B financing to advance clinical development of its copper based radiopharma platform
FINANCING
Nuclidium
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT
Memo Therapeutics
Memo Therapeutics announces Phase II results for therapeutic antibody Potravitug in kidney transplant recipients with BKPyV infection
Relief Therapeutics to combine with NeuroX, the successor to MindMaze, to create a publicly listed, AI-driven digital neurotherapeutics and brain health platform.
COLLABORATION / PARTNERSHIP
Relief Therapeutics

Swiss biotech events of 2025





Please note that the above presented information is only a selection of publicly available information. We therefore cannot guarantee that all events are included in the above summary for 2025.

SIX Swiss Exchange talks to: BioVersys on how it is turning scientific excellence into investor confidence

Fabian Gerber

SIX Swiss Exchange AG | Head Origination, Primary Markets

SIX Swiss Exchange reviews publicly listed companies included in 'Highlights of 2025: Year in Review' (Pages 56 to 59). This year it recognizes the notable success of BioVersys, which has rapidly grown from an ETH spin-off to become the first SIX biotech IPO since 2018.

In February 2025, BioVersys reached a defining milestone by listing on SIX Swiss Exchange. The CHF 80 million fixed-price offering marked the largest biotech IPO in Europe in five years, with proceeds dedicated to advancing a late-stage pipeline targeting drug-resistant infections.

In this interview, **Marc Gitzinger, Co-founder and CEO of BioVersys**, speaks with Fabian Gerber, Head Origination at SIX Swiss Exchange, about the company's journey to become a publicly listed biotech with global ambitions. He shares what mattered most to investors during the IPO, why SIX was the natural choice, and how being public is accelerating BioVersys' mission to deliver life-saving antibiotics for areas of highest unmet medical need.

What did investors focus on most during the IPO process?

Beyond general corporate maturity and IPO readiness, three factors were particularly important. First, a convincing equity story with some key ingredients: the medical need we address, the maturity of our lead programs, and the depth of our pipeline. Investors examined what differentiates our assets, the strength of our intellectual property, and the long-term commercial potential, including possible value-creation or exit scenarios.

Second, the quality and relevance of our clinical data, including indications and patient populations. Robust Phase I and Phase II data are critical for assessing development risk, and de-risking future clinical and regulatory pathways.

Third, whether the leadership team has the experience and capabilities to guide BioVersys through its next growth phase and manage the increased complexity and transparency of being a public company.

> *"Biotechnology success is like elite sport: it demands discipline, focus, and problem-solving, combined with talent, experience, and, admittedly, a small element of luck."*

How does being public support BioVersys' goals and why did you choose to list on SIX Swiss Exchange?

Becoming a public company provided the capital to advance and expand our pipeline of life-saving antibiotics. The IPO fully funds our development programs and operating costs into 2028, with priority on BV100, which has now entered Phase III clinical development. This positions us to generate the data required for a potential approval.

The IPO significantly increased our visibility in Switzerland and internationally. We attracted a strong base of institutional investors and retail shareholders, helping us to attract talent, partners, and clinical trial sites. Listing on SIX was a natural choice given our Swiss roots and long-term growth ambitions. While Nasdaq remains a relevant alternative, Switzerland offers clear strategic advantages. Targeted policy adjustments, such as allowing pension funds to allocate up to 2% of assets to venture and small-cap growth investments, could further strengthen SIX's attractiveness for growth companies.

Can you tell us more about BioVersys' pipeline?

We have a diverse pipeline focused on severe infections caused by drug-resistant bacteria. Our lead program, BV100, targets life-threatening hospital-acquired infections caused by Gram-negative bacteria, initially focusing on pneumonia and bloodstream infections, with potential label expansions thereafter. In Phase II studies, BV100 reduced all-cause mortality to 25%, compared with 60% under best available therapy. We have now initiated a global Phase III registration trial, alongside a Phase IIb study to support future commercial positioning.

Our second clinical asset, Alpibectir, targets tuberculosis, which still claims more than one million lives annually. Developed in partnership with GSK, a strategic partner and shareholder, Alpibectir demonstrated proof of concept in a Phase IIa trial and is currently being evaluated in additional Phase II trials in meningeal and pulmonary TB. In the preclinical pipeline, BV200 addresses Staphylococcus aureus in atopic dermatitis, while BV500 targets non-tuberculous mycobacterial infections in patients with chronic lung diseases such as cystic fibrosis and COPD. For BV500, we recently entered a collaboration and license option agreement with Shionogi, further validating our approach.

What are the key value inflection points you are currently focusing on?

We are very confident about 2026 and expect strong, consistent news flow driven by key clinical and strategic milestones. For BV100, we plan to initiate patient recruitment in pivotal studies, advance development in China, and report first interim Phase IIb data toward the end of the year. In parallel, we intend to initiate a Phase II study of Alpibectir in tuberculosis meningitis, a severe and underserved indication. Alongside clinical progress, we will continue to pursue additional partnerships which could create meaningful value and new strategic opportunities.

Antimicrobial resistance is a major global threat - are you seeing increased political and economic support?

The political and economic environment for novel antibiotics has improved markedly in recent years. Historically, antibiotic development suffered from low returns due to limited patient numbers and pricing models that failed to reflect their societal value. As drug-resistant infections rise globally, policymakers increasingly recognize antibiotics as essential healthcare infrastructure. Without effective antibiotics, even routine medical procedures become high risk, and complex treatments may no longer be viable. Infections are the second leading cause of death among cancer patients.

In response, governments are beginning to address the economic disincentives in antibiotic development. While higher prices are being accepted in some markets, novel antibiotics must be used sparingly, making volume-delinked reimbursement models particularly important. A key milestone is the EU's planned introduction of a Transferable Exclusivity Voucher for high-value new antibiotics, expected to launch in 2026. The voucher provides a 12-month market exclusivity extension for another drug and can be used or sold, with experts estimating its value at around CHF 150 million. Together, these measures significantly improve the outlook for antibiotic innovation and create meaningful opportunities for BioVersys.

How can BioVersys play a leading role in addressing the urgent need for new antibiotics?

BioVersys is well positioned in antibiotic innovation because we focus exclusively on life-threatening infections caused by the most highly resistant pathogens, where current treatment options are inadequate. Our two clinical-stage programs, BV100 and Alpibectir, target the most difficult-to-treat priority pathogens and address the WHO's two top AMR priorities: hospital-acquired infections and tuberculosis. Their successful development would represent a meaningful contribution to global public health.

We collaborate with leading pharmaceutical companies to concentrate internal resources while benefiting from their expertise and validation. This credibility is reinforced by our participation in industry bodies shaping regulatory and policy advances in AMR. Additional validation comes from our selection for multiple EU innovation funding programs. Most importantly, our confidence is grounded in clinical evidence. Data generated to date for both BV100 and Alpibectir support our leadership position in the AMR field, with Phase II results for BV100 highlighting the potentially transformative impact of our approach.

How have talent and tenacity shaped BioVersys' development?

Our highly motivated team strongly identifies with our mission to make a meaningful difference for patients with drug-resistant infections. Beyond scientific expertise, our progress has required perseverance - the ability to overcome setbacks, stay focused, and go the extra mile to reach patients. Advancing programs into global Phase III trials, completing a successful IPO, and building a sustainable pipeline would not have been possible without this collective dedication.

Contributors' profiles

Swiss Biotech Association
The Swiss Biotech Association has represented the interests of the Swiss biotech industry since 1998. To support its members in a competitive market, the Swiss Biotech Association works to secure favorable framework conditions and facilitate access to talents, novel technologies and financial resources. To strengthen and promote the Swiss biotech industry, the Swiss Biotech Association also collaborates with numerous partners and life science clusters globally under the brand Swiss Biotech.™
www.swissbiotech.org

EY
EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. The insights and quality services we deliver help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the world over. Our Global Life Sciences Sector brings together a worldwide network of 38,000 sector-focused professionals to anticipate trends, identify their implications and help our clients create competitive advantage. We can help you navigate your way forward and achieve sustainable success in the new health-outcomes-driven ecosystem.
www.ey.com/lifesciences

scienceindustries
scienceindustries is the Swiss business association of chemistry, pharma, and life sciences. It supports around 250 member companies: fostering an innovation-friendly environment in Switzerland, creating a competitive production and business framework, enabling attractive market conditions, and facilitating worldwide market access.
www.scienceindustries.ch

Swiss National Science Foundation
The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) is Switzerland's foremost research funding agency. In accordance with its government mandate, the SNSF supports scientific research in all disciplines, from physics to medicine to sociology. Each year the best new projects are awarded around CHF one billion in total based on rigorous evaluation processes. The SNSF supported up to 6000 projects involving more than 22,000 researchers at year-end 2024.
www.snsf.ch

Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property
The Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI) is the federal center of competence for patents, trademarks, geographical indications, design, and copyright. Individuals and companies can register their inventions and creations with the IPI to protect them from being copied. In addition to this, the IPI informs the public about the IP rights system of protection. It also fulfils a political mandate in all areas of intellectual property in that it prepares legislation, advises the federal authorities, and represents Switzerland within international organisations and vis-à-vis other countries.
www.ige.ch

Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences SATW
The Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences SATW is the most important network of experts for engineering sciences in Switzerland and is in contact with the highest Swiss bodies for science, politics and industry. The network is comprised of elected individual members, member organisations and experts. SATW promotes the interests and understanding of technology in the population, including young people in particular.
www.satw.ch

Swissmedic
Swissmedic, the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products, is the Swiss authority for the authorization and monitoring of therapeutic products (medicinal products and medical devices). The Agency is attached to the Federal Department of Home Affairs, is independently organized and managed, and has its own budget. Statements made in the Swiss Biotech Report represent the view of Swissmedic from the regulatory perspective.
www.swissmedic.ch

Switzerland Global Enterprise
Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE) is mandated by the Swiss government for export and investment promotion. In its role as a center of excellence for internationalization, its mission is to help Swiss SMEs develop new potential for their international business and to strengthen Switzerland as an economic hub. S-GE assists foreign companies in evaluating Switzerland as a business and technology location, and together with its cantonal partners helps companies during the entire site selection and incorporation process.
www.s-ge.com

Guest contributor - CSEM
CSEM (Swiss Center for Electronics and Microtechnology) is a public-private, non-profit technology innovation center in Switzerland. It develops and transfers advanced technologies in precision manufacturing, digitalization, and sustainable energy, while supporting pharmaceutical and healthcare innovation from research to industrial and clinical application.
www.csem.ch

SIX
SIX Swiss Exchange is the leading European stock exchange for life sciences companies looking to scale and succeed on the global stage. SIX offers a deep and diversified investor base, strong liquidity, and a stable regulatory framework. Switzerland's globally recognized life sciences ecosystem, combined with SIX's efficient listing process and access to specialist investors, makes it the exchange of choice for innovative healthcare companies.
www.six-swiss-exchange.com

The contributors have been listed in order of appearance in this report

Talent and Tenacity

"The SNSF funding schemes enable young scientists to pursue their own ideas, deepen their expertise and prepare themselves for the fierce international competition in academia or private industry."

Florian Fisch
Swiss National Science Foundation

"A true Swiss-based biotech inventor dream team with an impressive number of patent filings coupled to an outstanding quality measurement for their patents share with us their motivation and inspiration."

Christian Moser Nikles
Swiss Federal Institute of
Intellectual Property

"Switzerland's ability to attract, develop, and retain the talent will be key to achieving a circular sustainable economy. Industrial biotechnology will play a critical role in developing resource-efficient processes, sustainable manufacturing, and environmentally responsible value chains across multiple industries."

Hans-Peter Meyer
SATW

"Switzerland offers a talent ecosystem that spans the entire biotech value chain - from early discovery to translational research to biomanufacturing. For commercial headquarters functions, Switzerland's ability to attract talent supports global leadership, market access, and international coordination."

Sirpa Tsimal
S-GE

SWISS BIOTECH™

Impressum

Steering Committee
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Florian Fisch, Swiss National Science Foundation
Jan Lucht, scienceindustries
Hans-Peter Meyer, SATW
Christian Moser Nikles, Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property
Jörg Schläpfer, Swissmedic
Frederik Schmachtenberg, EY
Sirpa Tsimal, Switzerland Global Enterprise

Project lead
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