

Role Specification

Chief Executive Officer

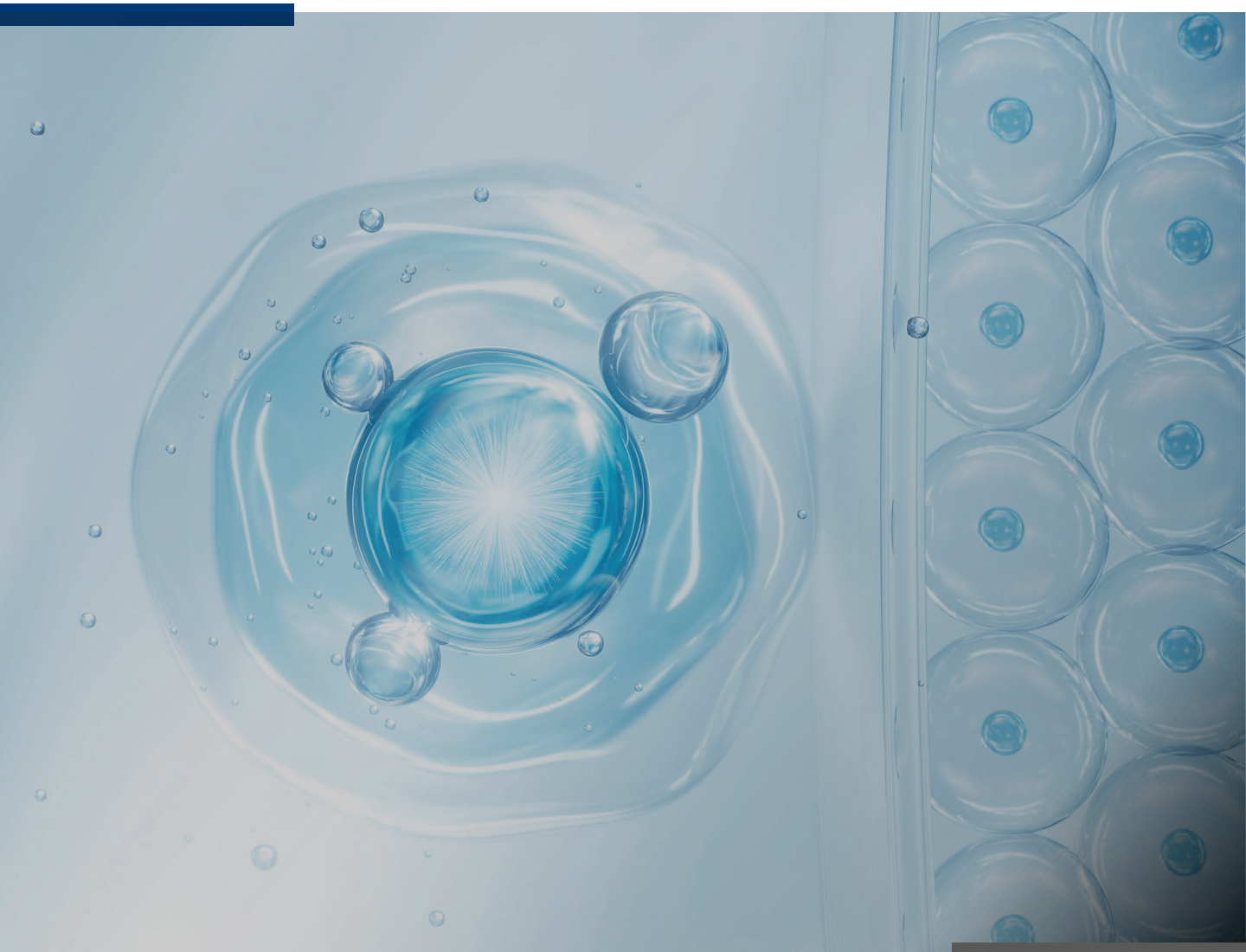
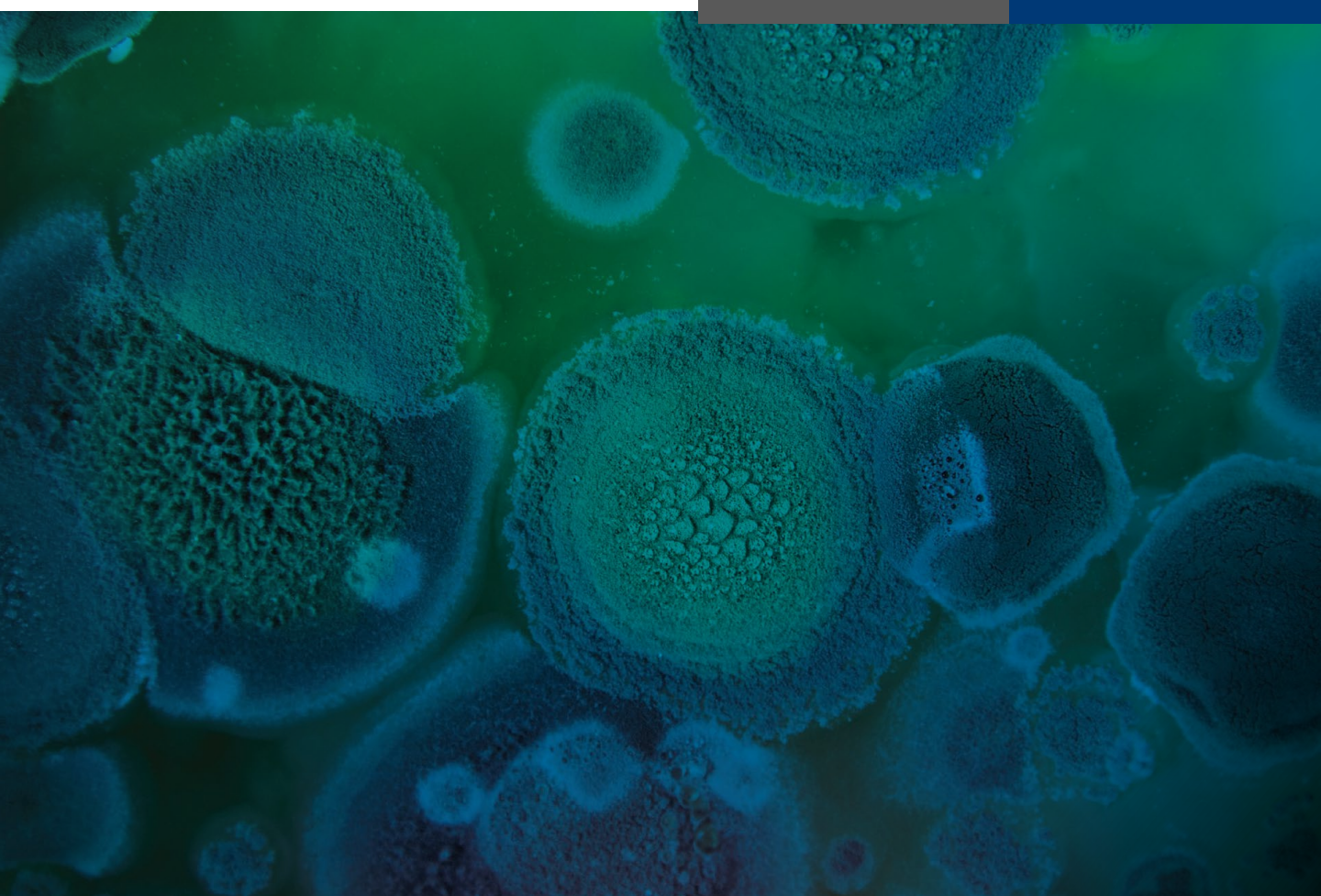


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Organization Overview

The Swiss Biotech Association is the national industry association representing Switzerland's biotech sector. Under the Swiss Biotech™ brand, the SBA serves as the central platform for advocacy, international visibility, partnering, talent, and investment attraction.

Switzerland is one of the world's leading biotech hubs, supported by a strong SME base, global pharma partnerships, and an innovation-driven regulatory and funding environment. More than 96% of Swiss biotech companies are privately financed, making capital formation and investor access a strategic priority.

Over the last years, the SBA has grown substantially and gained national and international visibility. To open a new chapter of the association and successfully lead into it, a new CEO is being searched. This document summarizes the role and outlines the candidate's profile.

Key facts & figures:

- **Organisation:** Swiss Biotech Association (SBA)
- **Legal Form:** Non-profit association (Verein) under Swiss law
- **Founded:** 1998
- **Headquarters:** Zürich, Löwenstrasse 11; operationally cross-Switzerland
- **Industry Scope:** Biotechnology, pharma, diagnostics, health technologies, industrial biotech, and enabling services
- **Ecosystem Reach:** ~1,700 Swiss biotech companies, ~60,000 jobs
- **Members:** ~700 member companies (~40% of the ecosystem)
- **Annual Revenues:** CHF >3 million (non-profit, balanced-budget approach)



Organization Overview

Context

The Swiss Biotech Association is initiating a leadership transition from a position of strength. The current CEO Michael Altorfer has expressed his intention to conclude his mandate by spring 2027, bringing to a close a highly successful ten-year tenure dedicated to advancing the association and the Swiss biotech ecosystem. The Swiss Biotech Association is looking forward to a successful succession and smooth transition with the full support of Michael building on the association's achievements.

Reporting lines

To date, the CEO leads a team of 10 Headcount (6 FTE), which is located across Switzerland. The CEO him-/herself reports to the Board of Directors of the Swiss Biotech Association, which is chaired by Patrick Amstutz (CEO of Molecular Partners).

Board of Directors



Patrick Amstutz, PhD

CEO Molecular Partners



Anne Marie de Jonge-Schuermans, PhD

Global Head Biologics & Injectables Operations, Sandoz



Madiha Derouazi, PhD

CEO SwitchKine



Bettina Ernst, PhD

CEO BERNINA BioInvest



Igor Fisch, PhD

President Fongit, CEO & Co-Founder New Biologix



Matthias Fehr, PhD

Head of Private Equity HBM Partners



Filippo Riva, MBA

Senior Vice President Vir Biotechnology



David Urech, PhD

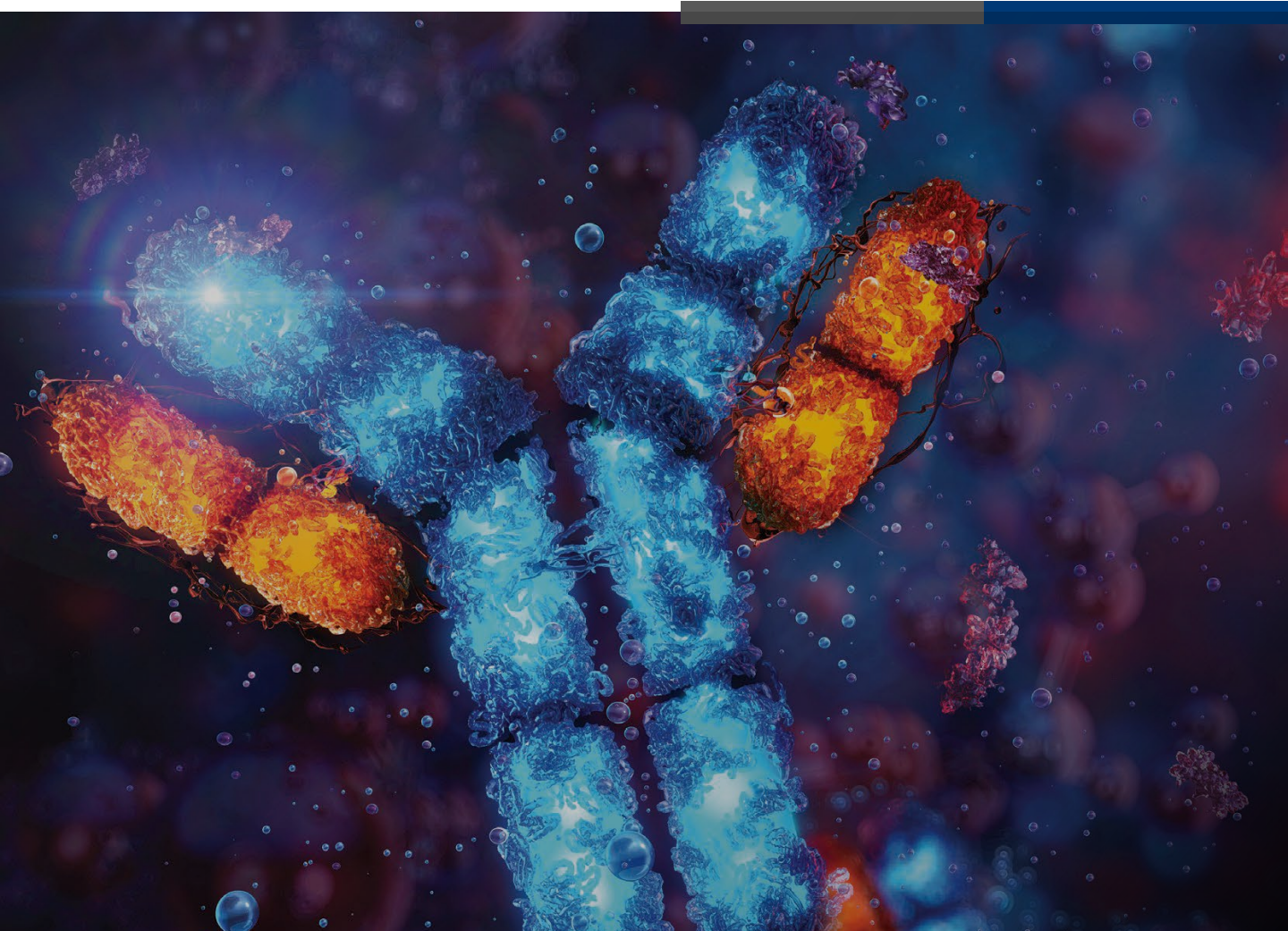
Co-Founder & Board Member, Numab

Purpose of the Role

The CEO is the Leader of the Swiss Biotech Association, accountable for strategic leadership, operational excellence, team leadership, financial sustainability, and external representation of the Swiss biotech industry. Reporting to and working closely with the Board of Directors and its President, the CEO ensures that the SBA fulfils its mission as the central resource for the Swiss biotech ecosystem.

This is a high-visibility leadership role at the intersection of biotechnology, public policy, international business development, and association management. The CEO acts as a trusted voice for startups, SMEs, large pharma, investors, service providers, regulators, and academic institutions in Switzerland and internationally.

In essence, the CEO of the Swiss Biotech Association brings the purpose of the organization to life, by being an inspiring, engaging leader and creating an even stronger biotech community in Switzerland.



Key Responsibilities (1/2)

A. Strategic Leadership

- Define, implement, and execute a multi-year strategy in alignment with the Board, supported by clear KPIs.
- Strengthen the Swiss Biotech™ brand and Switzerland's positioning as a top-tier global biotech hub, including biotech companies, investors, talent, regulatory framework.
- Anticipate and respond to emerging industry trends (e.g., advanced therapies, AI in drug discovery, sustainability, biosecurity).
- Expand and diversify the membership base across regions, company stages, and biotech sub-segments, and continue strengthening the member community.
- Develop sustainable revenue streams while maintaining the non-profit character and independence of the association.

B. Platforms, Events & Content

- Own the strategic positioning, content, and financial performance of Swiss Biotech Day, one of Europe's leading biotech conferences (>3,500 participants, 58 countries).
- Curate executive peer-to-peer Days (CEO, CFO, CSO, HR event) and Insight Event series.
- Oversee the Swiss Biotech Directory, Swiss Biotech Ventures, Swiss Biotech Orbit (talent platform), and SBA Academy.
- Lead the editorial direction and quality of the Swiss Biotech Report in partnership with EY and other contributors.
- Build and curate additional platforms and events as needed.

C. Industry Representation & Advocacy

- Serve as the primary spokesperson and representative of the Swiss biotech industry nationally and internationally.
- Lead advocacy efforts with Swiss federal and cantonal authorities, Swissmedic, Innosuisse, SECO, and international bodies.
- Shape industry positions on IP protection, regulatory harmonization, pricing, market access, talent mobility, and research funding.
- Build and maintain senior-level relationships with policymakers, investors, pharma executives, clusters, and academic leaders.
- Represent the SBA in global fora such as ICBA and major international biotech conferences.

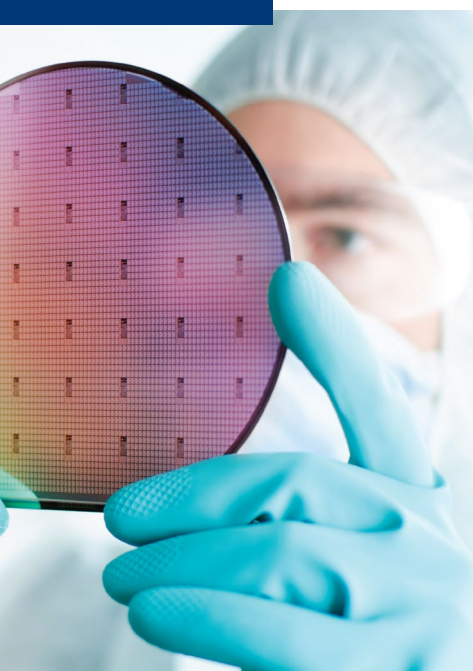
Key Responsibilities (2/2)

D. Operational, Team & Financial Management

- Lead and develop the SBA team in an inclusive, open-minded, collaborative manner (~10 team members, ~6 FTE), fostering a high-performance, service-oriented, collaborative culture.
- Manage budgeting, accounting, and financial governance with disciplined stewardship.
- Coordinate external partners, including event, IT, marketing, and accounting providers.
- Prepare Board meetings, reporting, and the Annual General Assembly.
- Ensure strong digital infrastructure, data governance, and communications (website, newsletters, LinkedIn).

E. Ecosystem Building & Partnerships

- Cultivate strategic partnerships with S-GE, scienceindustries, biotechnet Switzerland, economiesuisse, regional clusters, and international biotech associations.
- Strengthen links between industry and Swiss research institutions (ETH, EPFL, universities, hospitals, Innosuisse).
- Support capital formation, startup creation, and international companies relocating or expanding in Switzerland.
- Act as inclusive and engaging integrator across Switzerland's multilingual and multi-regional biotech landscape.



Candidate Profile

Education & Experience	Must Have	Preferred
15+ years of professional experience in biotech, pharma, life sciences investing, or related fields.	●	
Proven senior leadership experience (e.g., CEO, COO, CSO, VC fund).	●	
PhD, MD, or equivalent advanced degree in life sciences or a related field; MBA or management qualification is a strong asset.	●	
Experience in association leadership, public-private partnerships, or policy engagement.		●
Industry Know-How		
Deep understanding of the full biotech value chain from academic spin-offs to commercialization and the Swiss biotech ecosystem.	●	
Strong familiarity with biotech financing and partnering (VC, public markets, licensing, M&A).	●	
Knowledge of Swiss and international regulatory frameworks (Swissmedic, EMA, FDA, Access Consortium).	●	
Leadership Competencies		
Visionary and strategic thinker with execution capability.	●	
Outstanding stakeholder manager and network builder.	●	
Strong advocacy, political acumen, and credibility with regulators and policymakers.	●	
Excellent communicator, public speaker, and media representative.	●	
Operationally rigorous, financially disciplined, and entrepreneurial in mindset.	●	
Culturally fluent across Switzerland and comfortable in international environments.	●	
Personality & Other		
High integrity, independence, and absence of conflicts of interest.	●	
Service-oriented, collaborative, and humble leadership style.	●	
High energy, resilience, and enthusiasm for the biotech mission.	●	
Willingness to travel extensively.	●	
Fluent English and at least one official Swiss national language	●	
Other languages, incl. German, French and Italian		●

Terms & Conditions

Employment Terms

- **Employment:** Full-time position, employed by the Swiss Biotech Association (Verein)
- **Reporting:** Board of Directors (Board President: Dr. Patrick Amstutz)
- **Compensation:** Competitive package, aligned with seniority and non-profit nature
- **Start Date:** By mutual agreement

Location

- **Location:** Zurich, Switzerland [some flexibility on location]
- **Mobility:** Frequent domestic and international travel



The background of the entire page is a light blue, semi-transparent image of several molecular models. These models consist of dark blue spheres connected by thin, light blue rods, representing atoms and chemical bonds. The models are scattered across the page, with some in sharp focus and others blurred in the background, creating a sense of depth and scientific context.

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