

Editorial

Nic Alexakis



This edition of Swiss Biotech™ provides commentary on some key national and international stories. Featured in this bulletin are impressions from international events. The national round-up provides interesting stories

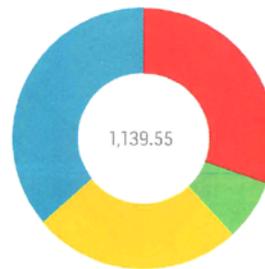
on successful CTI-projects during the 1st semester 2016.



INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

Switzerland's Scorecard

Scientific American published its Country Report 2016 during BIO 2016. The scorecard data, basic statistics and insights on each of the 54 countries featured provides a balanced scorecard for the year. Notably, Switzerland features amongst the top-10 countries.



Switzerland

SAWV SC rank: 6
 Population: 8,061,516
 GDP: 650
 R&D/GDP: 2.96

Although just barely in the global top 100 for population, this small country remains in the top 10 of the SC—with a third-place ranking in Foundations in 2016—and the *Nature Index 2015 Global*. Moreover, Switzerland landed at

third on the 2015 BCI index, which states, "Respondents report that a very effective IP system is in place, both in terms of the legal framework and application on the ground." The SC agrees, ranking Switzerland high in IP protection. Nonetheless, it could improve its standing in the SC's Education/Workforce measurement. Still, this country spawns a wide range of successful companies. As examples, the *Swiss Biotech Report 2015* points out that "some of the largest Swiss companies such as Nestlé, Novartis, Syngenta or Roche are active within life sciences and act globally." The report continues: "For many of these multinationals, Switzerland is the hub of their global network of R&D collaborations and manufacturing sites." The data also show the value of the medical, scientific and technological industries to this country. As the report notes, "The importance of Switzerland as a center for production is illustrated by the fact that in 2014, chemical, pharmaceutical and biotech companies accounted for 41% of total Swiss exports."

Some of the scorecard data was interpreted by the editors. They used a traditional methodology that relies on diverse metrics to gauge global innovation in biotechnology. Seven categories were analyzed : Productivity, Intellectual Property (IP) Protection, Intensity, Enterprise Support, Education/Workforce, Foundations, and Policy & Stability. Further information is available at www.saworldview.com/

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International Council of Biotech Associations

The SBA CEO was present at the ICBA (International Council of Biotech Associations) Ministerial Meeting on Monday, June 6, where Maggie de Block, the Health Minister of Belgium announced 'Pact for the Future', a joint initiative of Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg – more at www.deblock.belgium.be. Given the fact that successful companies in the life science sector have production facilities and regional headquarters in these countries, it may be worthwhile downloading (very easy) and reading the complete document.

NTN partners:



Project partner:



Impressions from BIO 2016 which ran under the theme 'Imagine'



Jim Greenwood opened the event.



Switzerland presented an active partnering booth and Pavilion. Many leads were found during this important exhibition.



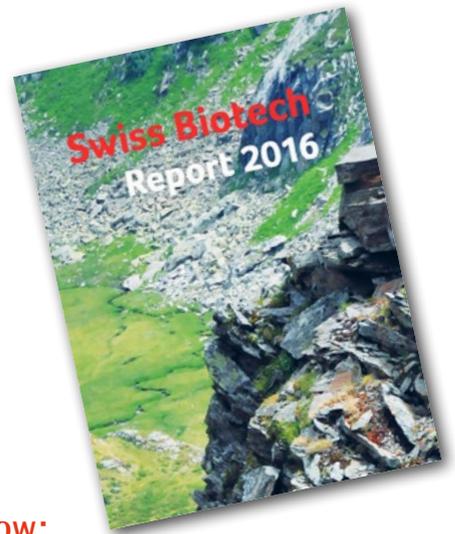
An interesting BIO@women took place on June 9, 2016. Speed-dating for candidates took place in the afternoon. Some 40 women participated in the event, exchanged calling cards and introduced themselves.



Swiss Pavilion: 1Nation1Cluster including partnering at the booth



Welcome speech by the Mayor of San Francisco.



Get a Copy now: Swiss Biotech Report 2016

The expectation is that biotechnology will continue to play a key role in the sustainable development of Switzerland. Boosting innovation in this industry will be vital to economic growth, to our environmental endeavours, to commercialization of new technologies and to public health.

By further strengthening academic output, enablers and competitive clusters, we can create a strong 'bioeconomy' moving forward. The current report highlights major initiatives and key players in the value proposition, and looks at the contribution they make to its success. Download a copy at: www.swissbiotechreport.ch



Visit to South Korea in July 2016

The SBA CEO was invited to speak in South Korea at a conference. This results from a fact-finding visit of a board member to South Korea back in 2015. It is envisaged that there will be a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Biotechnology Association of South Korea, enabled through KOTRA. The delegation will be led by the President of the Federation, Mr. Johann-Schneider Amman. The meeting is in advanced planning stages

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Bell Works

Bell Works, since the home of some of the most monumental technological innovations of the 20th century, is a historical building redesigned for the workplace of the future. Renowned architect Ezra Schwab's timeless open-plan scheme was designed to create a sense of community and collaboration for over 6,000 Bell Labs employees.

Now, it's being reimagined as a dynamic, collaborative workspace complete with a blossoming extension of technology, traditional office, retail, and hospitality tenants.

It's well known that companies throughout the nation are flocking to cities in search of a work setting that's connected to culture, entertainment, restaurants, and most of all, people. At two million square feet, Bell Works will not only provide the dining, retail, and healthcare conveniences of a traditional downtown, but also the ability to step outside the office and into a concentrated community of diverse innovators. We're adding a new dimension to the way in which we work - one that respects the holistic divide and blurs the lines between working and living.

Even in its early redevelopment stages, Bell Works proved to be a magnet for technology-focused companies in search of vibrant, collaborative space outside of the major metropolitan. Dubbed a "New Jersey Tech Hub" by Bloomberg, the building recently welcomed several new companies including NOVARTIS, Avesco Communications, Symbolix ID, and iCollaboration Hub.

To learn more about Bell Works and what's in store for this year, visit our website at bellworks.com or connect with us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

NOVARTIS
PHARMACEUTICALS

Novartis' mission is to discover new ways to improve and extend people's lives. We use science-based innovation to address some of today's most challenging healthcare issues. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, we're the world's global company with leading positions in patient care, pharmaceuticals and generic pharmaceuticals, and eye care.

Our Pharmaceuticals Division offers groundbreaking treatments in oncology, cardiology, immunology, neurology, neurodegeneration and ophthalmics pharmaceuticals to enhance health outcomes for patients and health care providers. Active focuses on helping people worldwide can further through its advanced surgical and vision care portfolio, while Lanthea - a global leader in the rapidly growing generics industry - makes affordable, high-quality retail generics, OTC pharmaceuticals and imaging pharmaceuticals, and anti-infectives available to more people. Currently, Novartis products are available in more than 180 countries.

Powering these three divisions is our research engine. The Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research (NIBR), with a combined workforce of 12,000 scientists, facilitates cross-divisional collaboration and drives efficiency and productivity.

Novartis ensures approximately 118,000 full-time equivalent associates work tirelessly on reducing the number of patient care and enabling partners to live longer and better lives. Our vision is to be a trusted leader in changing the practice of medicine.

For more information, please visit www.novartis.com.

This pictures shows that the global competition is actively seeking companies to sustain their cluster initiatives. The goal should be to re-instate this going forward.

Innovation Centre Peptide and Protein Technologies HES-SO Sion: Pioneer in an Emerging Market

Abstract: Peptides are small proteins typically containing a chain of up to 100 amino acids.

In our bodies, they are produced every day in vast quantities and perform highly specific biological activities. As there is increased interest in peptides for pharmaceutical applications, the HES-SO Valais-Wallis created a research group to focus on peptide and protein technologies.

Keywords: peptide and protein technologies.

Read the full story:

www.swissbiotech.org/sites/swissbiotech.org/files/textmitbild/dateien/chimia-peptides_hes-so_sion.pdf

Avicenna Oncology and the Big Challenge: The Fight against Aggressive and Resistant Cancers

Antibodies can be linked with the toxins that are released in a tumour and gradually destroy it by apoptosis, the term used when referring to a programmed cell death. That's how antibody drug conjugates (ADCs) work in cancer therapy. ADCs are the focus of interest of Avicenna Oncology GmbH in Basel, which is developing a new generation of toxic payloads associated with antibodies or tumour-targeting agents; especially to treat aggressive and resistant cancers.

www.swissbiotech.org/sites/swissbiotech.org/files/textmitbild/dateien/avicenna_oncology.pdf

AlloCyte – New Hope for Patients Suffering from Autoimmune Diseases

AlloCyte Pharmaceuticals AG is developing a new class of small molecule drugs for patients suffering from severe autoimmune diseases. AlloCyte's orally available 'integrin silencers' are designed to restore patients' self-protective immune balance, translating into lasting disease control. – The Basel Incubator opened in 2009 and houses interesting companies on the verge of becoming solid SMEs.

www.swissbiotech.org/sites/swissbiotech.org/files/textmitbild/dateien/allocyte_pharmaceuticals.pdf

The ZHAW Industrial Biocatalysis Event

The Platform was Inaugurated by the Scientific Lead, Dr. Rebecca Buller.

Biocatalysis enables the sustainable production of chiral and highly functionalized compounds for the chemical and pharmaceutical industry. Recent key advances in DNA sequencing, gene synthesis and data analysis are enabling scientists to tailor biocatalysts according to industrial needs and to reorganize enzymes into new biosynthetic pathways. The aim of the Symposium 'Industrial Biocatalysis' is to provide for scientific knowledge transfer and dialogue for participants from industry and academia working in this growing research field.



Contact:

NTN-SwissBiotech

Editor D. Alexakis - info@swissbiotech.org
Advertising C. Kroll - kroll@swissbiotech.org
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Main Office, Zürich

Swiss Biotech Association
Stauffacherstrasse 16
8004 Zürich

Office Romandie

Swiss Biotech Association
rue Haldimand 15
1003 Lausanne