

ARCHIVE 2017

RESEARCH PROMOTION

15 December 2017

The Swiss Personalized Health Network supports 15 projects with CHF 15.7 million

The Swiss Personalized Health Network (SPHN) has announced its 2018 contribution to data infrastructure, towards making health-related data interoperable and shareable across Switzerland. The SPHN is allocating CHF 15.7 million to support 15 projects. We are proud to mention that four of these successful projects are SCTO-affiliated!

For three projects, the Department of Clinical Research of the University Hospital Basel was awarded funding. In close collaboration with SCTO network partners, they successfully submitted the following projects:

- › Development and implementation of an electronic General Consent (e-GC)
- › Development and implementation of data governance structure in clinical research
- › NLP-powered mapping of clinical reports onto SNOMED-CT concepts for tumour classification (NLPforTC)

Furthermore, the SCTO partner SwissPedNet, was also successful with its project proposal led by Prof Claudia Kuehni: Harmonising the collection of health-related data and biospecimens in paediatric hospitals throughout Switzerland.

The full list of funded projects is available at www.sphn.ch.

NEWS

ECRIN methodology papers underline value of a pan-European-distributed infrastructure

The European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ECRIN) has published a series of methodology papers addressing the major barriers faced in randomised clinical trials or clinical research in the fields of rare diseases, medical devices, and nutrition. The publications highlight opportunities for improvement and underline the value of a pan-European-distributed infrastructure that helps investigators overcome barriers for multi-country trials in any disease area.

ECRIN supports multinational clinical trials in Europe. The SCTO and the CTU network have contributed to and participated in several ECRIN working groups and workshops.

The publications are available under www.ecrin.org.

NEWS

Moving south to Bern

After eight productive years in Basel, we've flown south to start a new chapter in Bern. Together with our move, in October 2017, we expanded our team with three new members: Andri Christen's responsibilities include setting up the Swiss Clinical Research Education Centre, aiming to address the needs of the next generation and thus strengthen young talent emerging in clinical research. Estelle Jobson has joined the communications team to increase visibility of the SCTO activities. And Jonas Ajrouche has the tricky job of managing our books and of juggling our complex and multifaceted Secretariat.

To see our full team in Bern, see [Executive Office](#).

Our new contact details are listed under [Contact](#).



NEWS

10 November 2017

EMA's unparalleled access to clinical data - one year on

One year ago, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) became the first regulatory authority to give open access to clinical data submitted by companies in support of their marketing authorisation applications. EMA's initiative resulted in over 3,000 clinical documents published, 3,600 registered users and positive stakeholder feedback.

Read more about the initiative under www.ema.europa.eu.

RESEARCH PROMOTION

SGP and SwissPedNet are launching a call for project proposals in paediatric health services research

The Swiss Society of Paediatrics (SGP) and SwissPedNet are launching a call for the promotion of a clinical research project in the area of health services research. The call is intended to bring together paediatricians in primary health care and specialised experts at university and cantonal hospitals in order to jointly carry out a research project. A total of CHF 120,000 is available to solve a pressing current issue arising from everyday practice. SGP intends to collaborate more closely in future with SwissPedNet, the Swiss Research Network of Clinical Pediatric Hubs. It provides federally supported research infrastructure for the conduct of clinical studies throughout Switzerland.

Further information about the call is available at www.swisspednet.ch.

RESEARCH PROMOTION

13 July 2017

Swiss National Science Foundation launches a third call for clinical trials in areas outside the industry focus

With the special programme Investigator Initiated Clinical Trials (IICT), the SNSF is promoting clinical studies in under-researched areas that do not attract industry interest. The call is limited to prospective, randomised, controlled and multicentric intervention studies.

The submission deadline for proposals is 1 November 2017. Researchers wishing to participate need to submit a letter of intent by 1 September 2017. Further information is available at www.snf.ch.

NEWS

4 July 2017

Model of general consent

The Human Research Act (HRA) permits under certain conditions a so-called general consent, which allows persons to agree to the use of their data and samples for research purposes. This proceeding requires comprehensive and understandable information about the benefits and risks of the use of these data.

Together with a working group, the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS) and swissethics have developed a model of general consent, which includes information and a consent form. Further information is available at www.sams.ch.

EVENTS

16 June 2017

Detailed report on SCTO Symposium 2017

The detailed report on the successful event on 1 June 2017 at the University Hospital Basel as well as the anniversary publication of the CTU network can be downloaded under [Symposium 2017](#).

RESEARCH PROMOTION

9 June 2017

Don't miss: Funding programme "Young talents in clinical research"

The Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS) and the Gottfried und Julia Bangerter-Rhyner-Stiftung are jointly launching the funding programme "Young talents in clinical research". The aim of this programme is to enable young, interested medical doctors to have a first research experience by funding 'protected time' for research and 'project grants'.

The submission deadline for the first call is 30 June 2017. The participation requirements, the programme regulations as well as the FAQ are available at www.sams.ch.

→ Flyer "Young talents in clinical research" (pdf, 119.3 KB)

Swiss National Science Foundation approves seven Investigator Initiated Clinical Trials

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) has approved seven investigator initiated clinical trials. With the programme Investigator Initiated Clinical Trials (IICT), the SNSF promotes clinical studies in areas that are not in the industry focus and therefore under-researched. In the 2016 call, the SNSF received 35 proposals, seven of which will be funded with an overall amount of 9.7 million francs.

The third IICT call will be launched in mid-July 2017. The approved projects can be found at www.snf.ch.

EVENTS

2 June 2017

170 participants at the SCTO Symposium 2017

The SCTO looks back on an exciting and successful event: 170 participants attended the 8th SCTO Symposium on 1 June 2017 at the University Hospital Basel. This year's event was dedicated to the theme "Adding value in clinical research: what's been achieved and how do we manage new challenges?"

The presentations are available under [Symposium 2017](#).

PUBLICATIONS

21 April 2017

Overview of activities – SCTO Short Report 2016

The SCTO reports regularly on its activities and publishes a brief review of the year 2016.

The report is available under [Publications](#).

EVENTS

31 March 2017

Invitation SCTO Symposium 2017: "Adding value in clinical research"

On **1 June 2017**, international experts and stakeholders are addressing the topic "Adding value in clinical research" at the **University Hospital Basel**.

Read more about the interesting programme and [register online](#) by 22 May 2017.

Save the date: Study Nurses and Study Coordinators celebrate foundation of association

The third Study Nurse/Study Coordinator Meeting is taking place on **15 September 2017 in Basel**. Besides presentations on issues arising from daily practice and work processes, the network takes the opportunity to lay the foundation for the association "Swiss Professionals of Clinical Research Coordination".

For more information about previous Study Nurse/Study Coordinator Meetings please see our [event calendar](#).

NEWS

7 March 2017

Future generation in clinical research

The Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS) and the Gottfried und Julia Bangerter-Rhyner-Stiftung are launching the joint funding programme "Future generation in clinical research". The aim is to enable young physicians to acquire first research experiences through protected research time and project grants. The funding programme is taking account of the *[Roadmap for developing the next generation of clinical researchers](#)* presented by the Federal Office of Public Health in 2016.

Read more (in German or French) at [samw.ch](#).

NEWS

2 March 2017

Publication of SSIC report related to funding under Art. 15 RIPA

Between late 2015 and early 2016, the Swiss Science and Innovation Council (SSIC) assessed the multi-year plans of 30 research institutes, including the SCTO, on behalf of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). In December 2016, the Confederation made its funding decisions, among other things based on the analysis of the SSIC, for the period 2017-2020 under Art. 15 RIPA of the Federal Act on the Promotion of Research and Innovation (RIPA).

The SERI subsequently released the assessment report for publication, which is available in French and German at [swir.ch](#).

EVENTS

10 February 2017

Pre-announcement SCTO Symposium 2017: 'Adding value in clinical research: what's been achieved and how do we manage new challenges?'

What are the main sources of wasted resources in clinical research? What role can Clinical Trial Units, researchers, academic institutions, funders and scientific journal editors assume in enhancing clinical research quality in the future? Experts and stakeholders will discuss these and other important questions on 1 June 2017 at the University Hospital Basel.

The preliminary programme is available under [event calendar](#).

[Register online](#)

NEWS

2 February 2017

Press release "PedCRIN kick-off"

ECRIN has announced the launch of the Paediatric Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (PedCRIN). The three-year project brings together ECRIN and the founding partners of the European Paediatric Clinical Trial Research Infrastructure (EPCT-RI) to develop capacity for the management of multinational paediatric clinical trials.

Beneficiary of this Horizon 2020 project in Switzerland is [SwissPedNet](#), the Swiss Research Network of Clinical Pediatric Hubs and hence the Swiss hub of the EPCT-RI and PedCRIN. Further information is available at [swisspednet.ch](#) and at [ecrin.org](#).

EVENTS

27 January 2017

SCTO Forum "Clinical Research" 2017

Close to 90 participants attended the 7th Forum "Clinical Research" in Bern on 25 January 2017. Once more, the SCTO successfully launched an important discussion: this year on the topic **"A more patient- and research-friendly future thanks to dynamic consent and e-consent?"**.

A summary of the event will follow shortly. The presentations of the forum are available under [event calendar](#).

NEWS

5 January 2017

10th IMI 2 Call is open

On 4 January 2017 IMI (Innovative Medicines Initiative) launched its 10th call for submission of project proposals under the IMI 2 programme. The deadline for submitting proposals under Call 10 is 28 March 2017.

Further information is available at euresearch.ch and at imi.europa.eu.

NEWS

3 January 2017

ERA-NET E-Rare on Rare Diseases

The E-Rare network launches its 9th transnational call for funding multilateral research projects in the field of "Innovative Therapeutic Approaches for Rare Diseases". The submission deadline for pre-proposals is 1 February 2017. Learn more about this topic at snf.ch and erare.eu.

The SCTO actively promotes adequate research funding, irrespective of the pathology. For more information see [research promotion](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Media reports on clinical research in Switzerland

The media interest in clinical research is growing, both in Switzerland and abroad. The SCTO feels the effects of this trend, too. In the course of 2016, the SCTO as umbrella organisation commented on current themes and issues in the field of clinical research. The respective media releases and articles are available under [Publications](#).

As the central cooperation platform for patient-oriented clinical research in Switzerland, the SCTO is committed to high-quality and independent information concerning clinical research issues and promotes a factual exchange on its risks and benefits.

For older news and press releases please see our news archives [2016](#), [2015](#), [2014](#) and [2013](#).