



Swiss Research Network of
Clinical Pediatric Hubs



Annual Report 10 2022

SwissPedNet

c/o Swiss Clinical Trial Organisation

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Editorial

Dear reader,

SwissPedNet has been on the move for ten years as a network: what we have built up over this decade is something to be proud of. We look forward to consolidating what we have already built and continuing to support clinical research in pediatrics.

I may now lead SwissPedNet into the next decade. Our past president Klara Posfay Barbe handed over the baton to me and I look forward to the tasks ahead.

During our 2022 general assembly, we continued to build the future together. We were able to expand our network and gain a new member: as of 2023, Fribourg will be our tenth hub. The cantonal hospital of Fribourg (Hôpital Cantonal Fribourgeois) is continuously building up its clinical research activity in pediatrics, and we look forward to supporting it and to increasing the number of our partners for multi-center studies.

As we are now recognized as a trusted research network, we are involved in the activities of SPHN and since 2022 support SwissPedHealth, the pediatric personalized research network Switzerland – a Joint Pediatric National Data Stream.

Finally, we contribute to the training of the next generation of pediatric clinical researchers with our “NextGen Program”. Therefore, our well-established translational and clinical research session during the annual conference of pédiatrie suisse will also become part of the NextGen Program, and, in 2023 it will be held in new, exciting formats. Keep your eyes open and be part of the NextGen program in June in Interlaken.

With this report we summarized our activities and highlights during 2022, enjoyable reading!



Prof. Matthias Baumgartner
President SwissPedNet

SwissPedNet Highlights and Activities in 2022

In 2022, again one pediatric clinical research project gets SNSF funds from the ICT program:

Are antibiotics essential in treating lung infections in children? A novel test to detect the most common causes could provide an answer. A randomized controlled trial of macrolide antibiotics for *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* infection in children with community-acquired pneumonia (CAP): The MyTHIC Study by Patrick Meyer Sauter, Christoph Berger, Christoph Aebi, Roger Lauener, and Klara Posfay Barbe.

We congratulate the team and are happy to support this project in our pediatric hubs.

Increasing quality of pediatric healthcare in Switzerland by research and improving children's health through research

In October, we conducted a point-prevalence study (PPS) within our network: PPS of perioperative measures for surgical site infection prevention in pediatric surgery in Switzerland. Isabella Bielicki from UKBB and Kispi Zurich offered the topic and has the lead of this project.

All our hubs were part of this quality survey and entered their data. A dataset of 331 procedures is now in evaluation, publications with recommendations for Switzerland will follow.

On top of this, our eleven member institutions are engaged in over 500 studies or research projects¹. A compilation of ongoing clinical and epidemiological studies can be found on our website (<https://www.swisspednet.ch/de/studies/>).

Connecting within Switzerland and abroad to facilitate conduct of pediatric clinical studies

Our collaborators in the SwissPedNet hubs get organized. We have a co-lead of the Swiss hub staff group with Rahel Kuonen, hub Bern, Rebecca Oppenheim, hub Lausanne, and Margarete von Wantoch, hub Zurich.

The group has two-monthly video calls, meet during the Field Trips and General Assembly, and discuss joint projects which mainly help to align our activities throughout Switzerland in a harmonized manner.

In 2022 we had two Field Trips: In May, all employees of our hubs, the study coordinators and study nurses, were invited by our colleagues from the hub Lausanne/ CHUV. It was an excellent meeting, participants listened to interesting presentations and enjoyed the opportunity to meet and share know-how and expertise. In October, we resumed this activity in Bern at our colleagues from SwissPedRegistry. The day was as interesting and educational as the one in Lausanne.

SwissPedNet is a member of the Consortium of **c4c** (connect4children), the pan-European network that aims to facilitate the development of new drugs and other therapies for the entire pediatric population.

TREOCAPA: This study investigates the efficacy of paracetamol on closure of the ductus arteriosus and increasing survival without severe morbidity in extremely preterm infants. The goal of the study

¹ Multicenter studies open at multiple centers are named by each participating center.

is to recruit approximately 800 babies in 17 European countries. In Switzerland, Zurich, Geneva and Lausanne are participating.

The **FIONA** (FInerenone for the treatment of children with chronic kidney disease and proteinuria) from Bayer is investigating a new agent, already successfully tested in adults, for its proper use in children. In 2021 the hub Lausanne initiated the study in Switzerland, in 2022 additional study sites were identified in Basel and Zurich.

Anticipating future development and innovation in clinical science

In 2022 the patient target of the Swissped-Recovery trial was achieved. Swissped-Recovery is a sister trial to the RECOVERY international trial with the implementation of the study at ten Swiss study sites.

The protocol describes an overarching trial design to provide reliable evidence on the efficacy of candidate therapies for children hospitalised with Pediatric Inflammatory Multisystem Syndrome-Temporally Associated With SARS-CoV-2 (PIMS-TS). It is structured as a **pragmatic platform trial** with open-label randomisation. The UKBB and Zurich were jointly leading and UKBB coordinated the trial in Switzerland. The results have been published.

Providing training opportunities for young pediatric investigators and researchers, fostering continuous learning and adaptation

For the 9th time, the **SwissPedNet Translational & Clinical Research Session** was held again at the annual conference of pédiatrie suisse, in 2022 in Luzern. We congratulate the winners of the SwissPedNet Translational & Clinical Research Award 2022:

Viviane Richard, University Hospitals Geneva HUG for her research project "Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children's and adolescents' quality of life and mental health" (SPN5) and **Flavia Wehrle**, University Children's Hospital Zurich for her research project "Similarities and differences in the neurodevelopment outcome of children with congenital heart disease and children born very preterm at preschool age" (SPN6).

The pädiatrie schweiz | pédiatrie suisse kindly offered the award of CHF 6000.-.

General Assembly 2022

The 10th SwissPedNet General Assembly has been held on November 25, 2022 with the overall topic "10 years SwissPedNet and beyond".

Federal funding period 2021 to 2024

In 2022, a standard amount has been paid to the nine clinical pediatric research hubs of SwissPedNet. The remaining funds were distributed equally among hospitals that want to take part in data extraction in relation to SwissPedData and SwissPedHealth.

SwissPedHealth is the newly funded National Data Stream that will be developed over the next three years to enable efficient and safe access to routine data collected in children's hospitals and pediatric departments in Switzerland. In parallel, the SwissPedNet board has agreed that a federated approach to data extraction should also be pursued within the SwissPedNet infrastructure.

A call was done and all SwissPedNet clinical pediatric hubs applied to establish the research infrastructure for data streams.

Election of the president and the board

Matthias Baumgartner, president, Julia Bielicki, vice-president, and Michael Büttcher, assessor are unanimously elected in their functions and into the board.

Klara Posfay Barbe remains as past-president in the board representing the Romandie.

Appointing the Auditors

For the coming year, PD Dr Barbara Goeggel Simonetti and a member of the hub Bern will act as auditors of SwissPedNet.

Acceptance of a new member: Hôpital fribourgeois HFR

The Hôpital fribourgeois HFR, Dr Petra Zimmermann, applied for membership as 12th SwissPedNet member and 10th SwissPedNet hub. Today, Petra Zimmermann represents HFR and gives a short update on the research activities of Fribourg.

The HFR responded to all our requests and their research activity report is promising. The GA voted to welcome HFR and Petra Zimmermann as its representative to SwissPedNet.

Acknowledgment

Our thanks go again to the SCTO and their continuous support for the pediatric research infrastructure and their support in collaboration with European projects.

pädiatrie schweiz | pédiatrie suisse granted the SwissPedNet translational and clinical research award. Pfizer donated an educational grant. All are most appreciated!

Outlook and next steps

We plan to continue performing point-prevalence studies, at least one will follow in 2023: Prevalence of traumatic brain injuries in children treated in Swiss Children's hospitals under the lead of Michelle Seiler, Kispil ZH.

We will give our network a new governance structure with a Master Service Agreement (MSA). The MSA is a strategy for consolidating research collaboration: The MSA could replace or at least facilitate the traditional model of clinical study agreements (CTA), that need to be done individually with each study site. The plan is to have it signed by all members until the next General Assembly.

Please visit our website: www.swisspednet.ch. Here you will find more information about the activities of our network.

Annual Financial Statement

Accounts 1.10.2021 to 30.9.2022 and Balance sheet as per 30.9.2022

Accounts 01.10.2021 - 30.09.2022			
Balance sheet 30.09.2022			
	2020	2021	2022
1. Income	CHF	CHF	CHF
Membership fees	11'000.00	11'000.00	11'000.00
Educational Grant Pfizer	4'129.70	0.00	0.00
Sponsoring (sgp/ssp) Research Award	0.00	6'000.00	6'000.00
Sponsoring NextGen RD	7'700.00	4'500.00	5'500.00
Registration fee NextGen RD	0.00	480.00	2'580.00
<i>Total income:</i>	22'829.70	21'980.00	25'080.00
2. Expenses			
General Assembly	3'300.73	0.00	1'997.35
Website Hosting	549.28	274.64	744.26
Website Development and Support	51.16	3'683.34	1'066.23
Website domain name	99.00	83.50	93.80
Award SwissPedNet Clinical Research Session	0.00	6'000.00	6'000.00
SwissPedNet NextGen Research Day	4'616.50	0.00	9'989.20
SwissPedNet Retreat	117.90	182.95	226.00
SwissPedNet (general costs & expenses)	1'242.51	363.70	2'992.45
Postfinance account management	60.00	60.00	62.40
<i>Total expenses:</i>	10'037.08	10'648.13	23'171.69
Total income:	22'829.70	21'980.00	25'080.00
Total expenses:	10'037.08	10'648.13	23'171.69
<i>Total profit margin / loss of profits:</i>	12'792.62	11'331.87	1908.31
3. Balance as per 30.9.2022			
	Liabilities		
Account balance PC 60-488628-5	94'188.84		
Deferred charges to income	1'000.00		1x membership fee
Deferred charges to expenses		3'420.00	NextGen RD 2022
Capital of the association		91'768.84	
	95'188.84	95'188.84	
4. Association assets			
	CHF		
Asset as per 30.09.2021	89'860.53		
Asset as per 30.09.2022	91'768.84		
<i>profit margin:</i>	1'908.31		

People of SwissPedNet

Members of the Board

President:	Prof. Matthias Baumgartner
Vice-president:	PD Dr Julia Bielicki
Assessors:	KD Dr Michael Büttcher
	Prof. Claudia Kühni
	Prof. Roger Lauener
	Prof. Marc Pfister
	Prof. Dr Klara Posfay-Barbe

Auditors

PD Dr Barbara Goeggel Simonetti
PD Dr Philipp Agyeman, Rahel Kuonen

Member institutions and their representatives

University Children's Hospital Basel, PD Dr Julia Bielicki, Prof. Ulrich Heininger
University Children's Hospital Bern, Prof. Christa Flück, PD Dr Philipp Agyeman
University Children's Hospital Geneva, Prof. Klara Posfay Barbe, Prof. Patrick Pétignat
University Children's Hospital Lausanne, Dr Manuel Diezi, Prof. François Angoulvant
University Children's Hospital Zurich, Prof. Matthias Baumgartner, PD Dr Patrick Meyer Sauter
Children's Hospital Aarau, Prof. Henrik Köhler, Dr Csongor Deak
Children's Hospital Luzern, KD Dr Michael Büttcher
Children's Hospital of Eastern Switzerland, St. Gallen, Prof. Roger Lauener, Dr Christian Kahlert
Children's Hospital EOC Ticino, Bellinzona, Prof. Giacomo Simonetti, PD Dr Barbara Goeggel
SwissPedRegistry, Pediatric Registry Center, ISPM, University of Bern, Prof. Claudia Kühni, Dr Anne Tschertter
SwissPedPha, Pediatric Pharmacology and Pharmacometrics Research Center at the UKBB, Prof. Marc Pfister, Prof. Johannes van den Anker

Coordinator SwissPedNet

Pascale Wenger, Swiss Clinical Trial Organisation SCTO

SwissPedNet Advisory Board

Prof. Evelyne Jacqz-Aigrin, CHU Paris - Hôpital Robert Debré, France
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