

Biotechnet Annual Report 2018

Personnel

Changes in full members are the already announced full membership of Prof. Eliane Müller (University of Bern and Insel Spital) from January 2018. With Eliane, the area of regenerative medicine and cell manufacturing in the TCBM platform acquires additional members and expertise, as it cements the links between biotechnet and the SCRIM platform. In 2018, Eliane co-lead the TCBM platform with S. Zeissberger (Wyss Institute, Zürich). New associated members that joined in 2018 were SUPSI and HESSO Fribourg. Additional individual memberships joined specific thematic platforms. Biotechnet welcomes all new members!

For the next period starting in January 2019, Christoph Griesberger (MCI) and Steffen Zeissberger (Wyss Institute) will leave the steering committee as they have announced a change in their membership status: MCI will become an associated member while S. Zeissberger will leave biotechnet altogether. Biotechnet is grateful for the participation of Christoph and Steffen in the board over the years.

Form the side of the Swiss Biotech Association (SBA) the news are that Michael Altorfer is now CEO from SBA. In the name of biotechnet, Laura Suter-Dick has had several discussions with Michael in 2018 and both associations are committed to continue interactions beyond NTN.

2018 annual financial statements

The 2018 annual accounts show that the year ended better than budgeted. The revenues of about CHF 456,000 are matched by expenditure of approximately CHF 461,000. The return flow to the platforms and members for approved CTI projects amounts to CHF 180,000 and is in line with the budget. Operations and contributions to the NTN Swiss Biotech account for CHF 250,000. Communications and advertising expenses totalled CHF 30,000. Biotechnet contributed about CHF 40,000 towards internal and external events.

What has changed?

Since 1 October 2018, NTN Swiss Biotech has officially ceased to exist and biotechnet Switzerland and SBA are independent associations. In practical terms, this means that the biotechnet board has been focusing on its sustainability for the years to come. To this end, the board had a face-to-face meeting in Oberhofen on the 6th and 7th of March 2018. The members perceived the enhanced networking between its members as a benefit of biotechnet that should be maintained beyond the InnoSuisse funding period. Thus, the board decided to continue key activities for at least 4 years, including the support of key events, collaborative projects (seed money) and summer school 2019. Due to financial constraints, it is key to make a more stringent use of the available financial resources and focus on activities that highlight the visibility of biotechnet. The number of platforms may be reduced to facilitate communication. Specifically, the platforms *Biologics* and *Antibiotics* were considered poorly visible within biotechnet. The steering committee decided that the activities of the *Antibiotics* platform should be better communicated within biotechnet and *Biologics* should be discontinued. The platform *Bioinformatics* was re-branded *Personalized Medicines*, to better reflect its scientific focus. Merging of other platforms was also discussed, but no concrete steps were undertaken in 2018. It was also decided that platforms should actively seek alternative funding sources. The interaction with industry will be further promoted. To this end, and due to the termination of the contractual obligations with SBA, Laura Suter-Dick has worked together with SBA's new CEO, Michael Altorfer, to maintain and enhance the interactions between these two associations. A Memorandum of Understanding was drafted in 2018 setting the framework for such interactions and laying the grounds for future cooperation.

Final report to Innosuisse

The year 2018 was strongly marked by the conclusion of the NTN-Swiss Biotech. In November 2018, a final meeting took place in Bern. A large delegation attended the InnoSuisse final Review 2018 (Cathy Kroll, Michael Altorfer, Bruno Weber, Markus Grütter, Laura Suter-Dick und Daniel Gygax). Daniel Gygax reported, that the InnoSuisse review by went well, that InnoSuisse regrets the end of the NTN-Swiss-Biotech and is very supportive of

the envisaged future interactions between SBA and Biotechnet (draft memorandum of understanding was presented). In addition Marc Bosshard

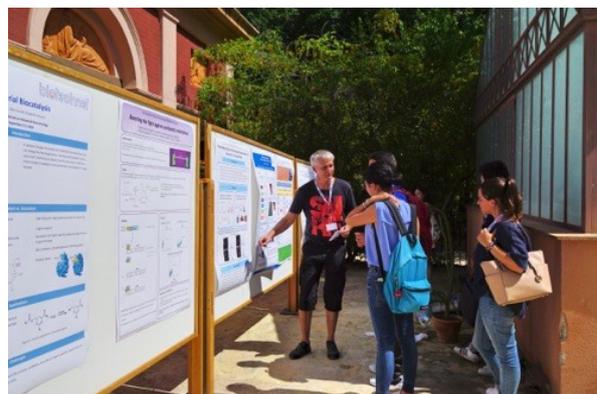
pointed out, that biotechnet members could seek financial support from Innosuisse for a summer schools, meetings and platforms is still possible. As part of the NTN-final reporting, biotechnet and SBA presented the final goal achievement report to InnoSuisse. In 2018, the overall goal achievement was of 90% based on following parameters: new members, projects, other parameters and customer happiness. Regarding the acquired third party financial support, NTN fulfilled its goal and acquired CHF 210'000. This is an excellent result!

Education program

As reported last year, several local companies such as BioGen, CelGene, CLS-Behring, Lonza, Vifor and UCB had requested support from the directors of the Universities of Applied Sciences, who channelled their efforts through the 2017-founded biotechnet "Training for Pharma/Biotech", led by Prof. Daniel Gygax. The activities in 2018 were fewer than expected. However, the collaboration between the directors of several institutions has generated an unmet opportunity for the discussion of the future of biotechnet in the next years. These activities will continue in 2019.

Summer school

XIII Summer School on Advanced Biotechnology, where biologists traditionally gather to exchange ideas, took place in Palermo, hosted by the Università degli studi di Palermo in the beautiful botanical gardens (Sala Lanza, Orto Botanico Palermo) from the 2 to the 5 September 2018. Biotechnet supported this summer school with a budget of about CHF 20,000. Students and presenters from several members (ZHAW, HES-SO, FHNW, MCI, University of Zurich) took part of the meeting. In total 46 students from Switzerland and Austria participated the summer school at Palermo.



The XIV Summer School is planned for September 2019 in Muttenz and will also be supported by biotechnet.

NTN Swiss Biotech Research Day 2018 on 12 September 2018

Antibiotics brought by NTN SwissBiotech Congress Center Basel, 12 September 2018. The event was supported by biotechnet CHF 8'000 and was integrated into Basel Life Science Week, which was held from 11 – 14 September 2018. The meeting was well attended with 40-50 participants and followed by a speaker's dinner with fruitful exchanges.

Supported events

In 2018, biotechnet was again a strong supporter of scientific events. These provided an excellent opportunity for scientific exchange and networking between members and industry. Some examples are listed below.

European Congress on Biotechnology

The EC2018 was held in Geneva on 1 – 4 July 2018, supported by biotechnet. With two highlight events on 2 and 3 July dedicated to the "Swiss-made Biotech". The programme included a NTN-sponsored session and speakers from NTN-biotech, industry (start-ups, SMEs and large companies) and Applied Sciences Universities and Innosuisse.

Industrial biocatalysis

Industrial Biocatalysis, 10th Wädenswil Day of Life Sciences hosts 2nd CC BIO Symposium, June 7th, 2018, ZHAW Wädenswil, Switzerland. The meeting was summarized on a CHIMIA article (2018 No 9).

15th International Symposium on Persistent Toxic Substances

This international congress with strong contingent of Chinese scientists took place in the new FHNW-Campus in Muttenz in November. The congress was well attended and had an outstanding scientific program including key note speakers such as Janet Hering (Eawag / ETH Zürich, Switzerland), Kevin Jones (Lancaster University, UK), John Sumpter (Brunel University, UK), and Weidong Qu (Fudan University, China). It also included a retrospective session on the work of Prof. Karl Fent.

c/o Prof. L. Suter-Dick, HLS (FHNW)
Hofackerstrasse 30, CH-4132 Muttenz

Swiss Symposium in POC diagnostics

After a very successful conference in 2017, the 2nd Swiss Symposium in Point-of-Care Diagnostics was held in Chur, Thursday, October 18, 2018. With this, biotechnet shows its support in a field of upcoming importance, in particular due to upcoming regulatory requirements.

TEDD Annual Meeting

The traditional annual meeting of TEDD Competence Centre Tissue Engineering for Drug Development and Substance Testing took place at ZHAW Wädenswil on the 25th October 2018. Once again, M. Raghunath managed to attract key players in the area of tissue engineering, including academic and industrial partners.

Publications

In addition to the highlighted conferences, biotechnet has been made visible through eight publications in Chimia.

- CHIMIA 2018, No 1/2: TEDD Annual Meeting 2017 with 3 D Bioprinting Workshop
- CHIMIA 2018, No 1/2: Quo Vadis Point-of-Care Diagnostics?
- CHIMIA 2018, No 3: A new Approach in the Fight against Cancer
- Annual Report 2017
- CHIMIA 2018 No 6: The New, Stringent MDR and IVDR Regulations: Viewing this Change as an Opportunity
- CHIMIA 2018, No 9: Where do Personalized Health Technologies stand today?
- Revue Polytechnique : Les exigences des nouveaux règlements RIM et 10 / 2018 RDIV
- CHIMIA 2018 No 9: 2nd CCBIO Symposium "Industrial Biocatalysis"

Basel, 20 May 2019
\biotechnet\AnnualReport2018