

SWISS BRIDGE  
AWARD 2024



AWARD  
2024

Early Phase Clinical Trials

Since 2000, the **SWISS BRIDGE AWARD** has been granted to support high-quality cancer research projects in Europe. This year, young investigators (under the age of 45 holding a PhD or MD) with projects focusing on Early Phase Clinical Trials are eligible for application.

Topic: Early Phase Clinical Trials  
Prize money: CHF 500'000

The award ceremony for this year's winners of the **SWISS BRIDGE AWARD 2024** will take place on **October 22, 2024** at noon at the magnificently situated Restaurant Heugümper in Zurich. If you would like to be present at the ceremony, please use the attached form or send us an email: [info@swissbridge.ch](mailto:info@swissbridge.ch)

SAVE THE DATE!

Golf-Event Golf Club Lenzerheide  
Tuesday, August 27, 2024







Interested?  
Please use  
the enclosed  
form!



WHY SWISS BRIDGE

What sets us apart from the rest in the field of cancer research?  
It is the extremely positive feedback we continuously receive from all our partners:

-  Distinguished reputation of the SWISS BRIDGE Award
-  Identification of specific projects in Switzerland and in other countries
-  Professional scientific jury
-  Designated donations are made available in full to screened and selected cancer researches & projects
-  Low cost for advertising, PR, IT and fees, covered by supporters & friends of the foundation

This unique concept enables us to look to the future with optimism and take another important step in the fight against cancer!

In 2024, we will again support numerous research projects, some of which we have listed in this newsletter. **The SWISS BRIDGE AWARD** is also currently in its critical phase, and we look forward to seeing which scientists the SWISS BRIDGE Scientific Jury will select as winners.

Donations: Credit Suisse · 8070 Zurich · IBAN: CH52 0483 5095 7385 1100 0

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SWISS BRIDGE Foundation  
P.O. Box 1556, 8027 Zurich  
Phone + 41 (0) 43 31 71 360  
[info@swissbridge.ch](mailto:info@swissbridge.ch)

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NEWSLETTER

April 2024



## Dear friends of the SWISS BRIDGE Foundation

With the help of your support, we have been able to achieve so much over the past 27 years. The days when a cancer diagnosis was a death sentence are long gone, and cancer patients are receiving better and better care.

Nevertheless, there is still much to do! Not only is it essential to further improve the chances of recovery for those affected, but cancer must also be prevented from developing in the first place. This newsletter highlights the activities we have promoted over the past year, so that we can duly acknowledge the projects you support and we assist. Please see the attached overview for insights into our currently funded research projects.

The **SWISS BRIDGE AWARD**, one of the most highly endowed cancer prizes in Europe, was once again an amazing success in 2023, and in 2024, it will be conferred for the 25th time. Your support has made funding high-level cancer research projects possible, both in Switzerland and abroad. SWISS BRIDGE would be delighted to see your continued involvement. Please challenge us!

Thank you, dear reader, for your interest, your support, your commitment, your involvement and especially for your trust.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and look forward to continuing our successful collaboration.

With kind regards,



**Prof. Dr. Jakob Passweg**  
President



**Philipp Lücke**  
CEO

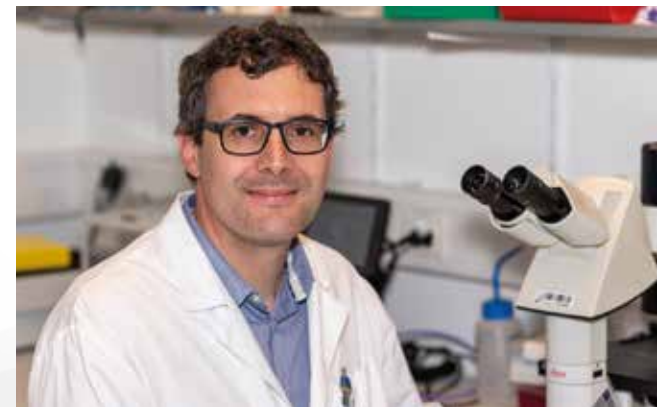
## SWISS BRIDGE AWARD 24. October 2023



This year's award ceremony took place at the traditional Restaurant Heugümper in Zurich. After the keynote speech by the President of SWISS BRIDGE Prof. Dr. Jakob Passweg, the two winners for 2023 were duly honored by the Chairman of the Scientific Jury Prof. Dr. Adrian Ochsenbein.

### Resistance to cancer therapies: Half a million Swiss francs for two research projects

Two researchers from Austria and Switzerland receive the **SWISS BRIDGE Award 2023** for their promising research projects. The prize money of 250'000 francs each will contribute to a better understanding of the development of therapy resistance in cancers and to finding new treatment options.



**Lukas Flatz**  
(MD)

Institute of Immunobiology  
Kantonsspital St. Gallen  
Rorschacherstrasse 95  
9007 St. Gallen  
Switzerland

We are planning a visit to Prof. Flatz's laboratory soon, where you can have him and his team explain their research activities to you. If you would like to attend in person, please let us know by returning the enclosed reply form.



**Anna Christina Obenaus**  
(PhD)

Research Institute  
of Molecular Pathology (IMP)  
Campus-Vienna-Biocenter 1  
1030 Vienna  
Austria

At the luncheon afterwards, all guests had the opportunity to discuss the latest developments in cancer research with current and former prizewinners.

**Would you like to see the detailed project descriptions?  
Simply tick the box on the reply form.**

## SUMMARY OF CURRENT PROJECTS 2024

### Title: **Childhood Cancer, Targeting the kinome in oncofusion-driven pediatric gliomas**

Research lead: Dr. MD PhD Ana S. Stücklein, Department of Oncology and Children's Research Center, University Children's Hospital Zurich  
Budget: CHF 125'000 p.a.

### Title: **Development of a new surgical technique to de-escalate axillary surgery for breast cancer**

Research lead: Prof. Dr. Walter P. Weber, Head of Division Breast Surgery, University Hospital Basel  
Budget: CHF 284'000

### Title: **Autophagy: a potential new approach to the treatment of lymphoma**

Research lead: Prof. Dr. med. Urban Novak, Deputy Chief Physician, University Clinic for Medical Oncology Bern  
Budget: CHF 226'600 p.a.

### Title: **Development of new therapies for men with metastatic prostate cancer**

Research lead: Prof. Dr. med. Mark A. Rubin, Department for Biomedical Research (DBMR), Universität Bern; Prof. Nicola Aceto, Department of Biology, ETH Zürich; Dr. med. Dilara Akhoundova Sanoyan, Medizinische Onkologie, Inselspital, Bern  
Budget: CHF 343'650

### Title: **Development of novel therapies for cervical cancer**

Research lead: Prof. Dr. Douglas Hanahan, Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research (ISREC), Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne  
Budget: CHF 150'000 p.a.

### Title: **Childhood Cancer: Identifying novel therapeutic targets for childhood brain tumors using CRISPR in vivo screens in orthotropic mouse models**

Research lead: Dr. PhD David T.W. Jones, Hopp Children's Cancer Center Heidelberg  
Budget: EUR 125'000 p.a.

### Title: **Natural killer cells as immunotherapy in patients with leukemia**

Research lead: Dr. med. Laurent Schmiech, Clinic for Hematology, University Hospital Basel  
Budget: CHF 165'000 p.a.

**Curious about how to support a project?**

**With the help of our scientific jury, we would be pleased to find individual cancer research projects for you in Switzerland or abroad. Please get in touch!**