SWISS BRIDGE
INVEST IN CANCER RESEARCH WORLDWIDE

NEWSLETTER
CHRISTMAS 2024

GOLF EVENT 2024

Golf Club Lenzerheide, 27st August 2024

It was another glorious day of golf
and a wonderful evening.
Many thanks to everyone who turned up
to the loyal sponsors and friends of SWISS BRIDGE
for their great support of this event.

SAVE THE DATE:

SWISS BRIDGE GOLF EVENT 2025 28th August 2025 · Golf Club Meggen

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 into the future with optimism
and take another important step in the fight against cancer!

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

ORGANIZATION

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SPECIAL EDITION
SWISS BRIDGE AWARD 2024

Early Phase Clinical Trials

Half a Million Swiss Francs for two research projects

Zurich, December 2024

Philipp Lücke (CEO), Dr. Tobias Weiss (Winner), Prof. Dr. Adrian Ochsenbein (Chairman Scientific Jury),
Prof. Dr. Juliane Walz (Winner), Prof. Dr. Jakob Passweg (President)

Zurich, 22.10.2024 – Two researchers from Germany and Switzerland have been awarded the SWISS BRIDGE Award 2024 for their innovative research projects. Each will receive prize money of 250'000 Swiss francs to support two clinical trials investigating promising new approaches in cancer treatment using immunotherapies.

Clinical trials are essential for developing new medical treatments and testing their efficacy and safety. Especially for hard-to-treat diseases like cancer, it is crucial to test new approaches as early as possible, so that innovative therapies can be made available more quickly to the patients who need them most.

This year's call for the SWISS BRIDGE Foundation's cancer research award focused on supporting early-phase clinical trials. In these early trials, Phases I and II, a new drug or therapy is tested for the first time in patients with incurable cancers. These studies are the first step in achieving potential treatment breakthroughs and paving the way for further studies in later phases.

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AWARD 2024

Two Immunotherapy Studies Win the Award

A total of 36 young researchers from across Europe applied for the SWISS BRIDGE Award 2024. In a two-stage evaluation process, a distinguished jury prioritized two research projects.

Foto: Universitätsklinikum / Beate Armbruster

Department for Peptide-based Immunotherapy and Clinical Cooperation Unit (CCU) Translational Immunology, University Hospital Tübingen, Germany

Prof. Dr. med. Juliane Walz

Project title:

An Innovative Antibody Against Metastatic Cancer

At the heart of Prof. Walz's study is the investigation of a bispecific antibody. This antibody, developed by Professors Helmut Salih and Gundram Jung in Tübingen, is designed to specifically bind to two different proteins located on different cell types. One protein is found on the surface of immune cells, known as T-cells, and activates them. The other protein is present on both tumor cells and in surrounding tissue and blood vessels, allowing the antibody to target both structures. The researchers expect this dual action to lead to a particularly effective attack on the tumor.

The goal of the clinical trial is to test the safety and efficacy of the antibody in patients with metastatic cancers of the upper gastrointestinal tract, breast, and sarcomas. "This new bispecific antibody has the potential to trigger a more precise and effective immune response against cancer," says Prof. Walz. „We hope to offer a new treatment option for patients who currently have limited options."

Foto: Universitätsklinikum / Britt Moulien

WANT TO SUPPORT
THIS PROJECT?
WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

SWISS BRIDGE
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Prof. Dr. Juliane Walz from the University Hospital Tübingen and **PD Dr. Tobias Weiss** from the University Hospital Zurich will each receive 250'000 Swiss francs to conduct their clinical trials, which explore promising new approaches in immunotherapy for hard-to-treat cancers.

Comprehensive Cancer Center Zurich, Department of Neurology, University Hospital and University of Zurich, Switzerland

PD Dr. med. Dr. sc. nat. Tobias Weiss

Project title:

Pioneering Study on Brain Tumors

Dr. Weiss's team is investigating a new immunotherapeutic approach for recurrent glioblastoma, the most common and aggressive form of brain tumor in adults. In this therapy, immune cells are extracted from the patient's blood, modified, and altered so they can recognize and attack tumor cells. Unlike conventional methods that focus on T-cells and take several weeks to produce, this approach uses a broader range of immune cells that are collected, modified, and re-infused into patients on the same day.

Another innovation of this method is the use of mRNA technology to modify these cells. „Our approach could lead to safer, more cost-effective, and faster treatments than currently available options," says Dr. Weiss. The concept of this study is unique worldwide and could also pave the way for treating other types of cancer.

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