



University  
of Basel

Department of  
Biomedical Engineering

# DBE Newsletter

## December 2019

### We Congratulate!



#### Eccellenza Grant for Dr. Mathieu Sarraçanie

[Dr. Mathieu Sarraçanie](#) has attracted an [Eccellenza Professorial Fellowship Grant](#) from the SNSF with his project “Acute Stroke MRI Exploiting the Physics of Low-field Regimes”. The project will take place in the AMT-group hosted at the Department of Biomedical Engineering, with objectives to develop accessible MRI technology for stroke imaging at low magnetic field (<0.1T), and leverage unexplored nuclear relaxation mechanisms as potential markers of the hyperacute stage. Stroke currently represents the second most common cause of death worldwide, and the third most common cause of disability. MRI is a modality of choice in the management of stroke patients, yet it is currently less available or flexible than X-ray or ultrasound imaging. The ambitious long term goal of this project is an improvement of recovery and survival rates in patients from accelerated detection and decision making. Congratulations to Mathieu and all the best for the project! For more information on SNSF Eccellenza grants see below.



#### Prof. Ludwig Kappos is a “Highly Cited Researcher (HCR)” 2019.

Since 2002, the Highly Cited Researchers list has identified global research scientists and social scientists who have demonstrated exceptional influence – reflected through their publication of multiple papers frequently cited by their peers during the last decade. We congratulate Prof. Ludwig Kappos for being one of the five researchers from the University of Basel belonging to the [Highly Cited Researchers \(HCR\) 2019](#).

### Events



#### New Year Apéro at DBE on January 7, 2020, 16:30h

The DBE Management cordially invites you to an informal get-together in Allschwil. Let’s meet to exchange and connect with other DBE members in a relaxed atmosphere while enjoying snacks and drinks sponsored by the department. We are looking forward to welcome many researchers and staff not only from Allschwil but also from the USB and UKBB on January 7, 2020 at 16.30h in the study area of the DBE (Gewerbstrasse 14, 3rd floor). Please save the date and [register online](#).



#### National MDR&IVDR Conference in Berne – April 1, 2020

How well is the medical technology industry prepared for the deadline of the new EU regulations? What additional challenges does Switzerland face as a non-member of the European Union? Reserve 1 April 2020 to find answers to these and other important questions about the introduction of MDR. Participants can expect a varied programme with keynote speeches, panel discussions, networking and five breakout sessions, each with a thematic focus. Please find the programme and registration [here](#).



#### Swiss Medtech Day 2020 – June 9, 2020 at Kursaal Bern

The most important event of the Swiss medical technology industry brings all the influential players to Bern. It will deliver important insights into the challenges and opportunities affecting our industry. Swiss Medtech and its principle partner Innosuisse invites you to become an active participant! Apply to enter the [Swiss Medtech Award competition](#) before March 1, 2020. [Present your medtech innovation](#) in the Poster Session, apply by March 8, 2020 To attend the Swiss Medtech Day 2020 [register online](#).

### Research Funding and Career Programmes



#### Antelope Career Program

You are a highly qualified female postdoctoral researcher or an extremely promising doctoral student shortly before graduation at the University of Basel or at a Basel university clinic? You want to advance your academic career, optimize your skills profile, and prepare yourself for future appointment procedures? Then **antelope** is the right program for you! Apply now until January 12, 2020! Further information: [www.unibas.ch/antelope](http://www.unibas.ch/antelope).



#### ZOOM@Novartis

You are a female doctoral student or a female postdoctoral researcher at the University of Basel and want to optimize your skills profile and actively plan your career? You are interested in career guidance and want to find out about career pathways in industry?

Then ZOOM@Novartis is the right program for you! Apply now until January 12, 2020! [Further information >](#)



University  
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Vice Rectorate  
for Research

#### Call 2020 Research Funding of the University of Basel

[There are three different calls for funding:](#)

- #1 aimed at **Junior Researchers** at the University of Basel who wish to pursue an academic career and who have already distinguished themselves through their outstanding achievements. Apply for up to CHF 80'000.—by February 1, 2020.
- #2 provides seed money for **Strategic Research Projects** for the preparation of a major project application (NCCR, ERC, H2020 coordination) or the realization of an interdisciplinary project idea (e.g. Sinergia application). Professors or group leaders are eligible for funding of up to CHF 50'000.— by February 1, 2020.
- #3 for **Projects of established Research Networks** where members of the University of Basel have the possibility to ask for support for specific research projects financed by the Forschungsfonds by January 15, 2020.





#### SNF Eccellenza

The next deadline for the SNF instrument "[Eccellenza](#)" is February 1, 2020 (as this is a Saturday, proposals can be submitted until Monday February 3, 5pm). Eccellenza Grants are aimed at individuals that have recently taken up (or will take up) a Tenure Track Assistant Professor (TTAP) position. Eccellenza Professorial Fellowships are for highly qualified young researchers (with 3 to 8 years PostDoc experience) aiming for a professorship. Please make a [grants.unibas.ch](https://grants.unibas.ch) entry and send a letter of support signed by the head of the department to the Grants Office by January 15, 2020. External applicants can contact the Grants Office directly for an account.

#### Early Postdoc.Mobility

Please note that the last two submission deadlines for [Early Postdoc.Mobility](#) will be 2020. As of 2021, the Early Postdoc.Mobility fellowships will be merged with the [Postdoc.Mobility](#) scheme.

#### Second Spark call scheduled for February 2020

Because of the high share of original project proposals, the Research Council has decided to launch a further call for [Spark](#) in 2020. The call will open in mid-February.

#### ERA.Net RUS Plus Call 2019

The SNSF is taking part in the third call for proposals of the [ERA.Net RUS Plus programme](#). It will provide funding for joint projects involving researchers in Switzerland, Russia and at least one other European country. Research proposals can be submitted in the fields Nanotechnology, Health, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Robotics.



#### "Call for Proposals 2021" - Congressi Stefano Franscini (ETH Zürich)

The Congressi Stefano Franscini is ETH Zurich's conference platform located at Monte Verità, a beautiful hilltop overlooking Ascona and Lago Maggiore in Southern Switzerland (Ticino). Since 1989, the CSF gives professors and researchers working in Switzerland the opportunity to organize a subsidized international scientific event at Monte Verità, international collaborations are welcome. The application season for CSF Conferences 2021 is open, the deadline for submission is January 15, 2020. Submissions for 2020 Workshops are still possible. For further information, please refer to the [web page](#) or contact [therese.egli@csf.ethz.ch](mailto:therese.egli@csf.ethz.ch).



#### ERC Consolidator Grants (for researchers with 7 -12 years of post-PhD experience)

The next deadline for submitting [ERC Consolidator Grant](#) applications is February 4, 2020. Applicants require a Host Commitment Letter, which will be issued by the Grants Office. Applicants are requested to enter the details of their application in the [Grants Tool](#), by January 20 the latest. Once the Grants Tool entry has been confirmed by the Department and the budget has been reviewed, the Grants Office will send the Host Commitment Letter to the applicant. Applicants are requested to inform the Grants Office about their application as early as possible as, together with the colleagues from Euresearch, as they offer support and advice to ERC applicants.



#### Swiss Medtech Award - CHF 50,000 for outstanding medical technology achievements

The [Swiss Medtech Award](#) recognizes outstanding achievements in the field of medical technology. The call for entries for next year's competition ends on 1 March 2020. Have you successfully launched new medical devices with proven patient benefits; or are you developing solutions that lead to cost savings or increased efficiency in healthcare; or are you pioneering the development of groundbreaking technologies or processes?

If so, please apply [here](#) for the third Swiss Medtech Award.

## Good to know



#### "Hope for MS patients? Basler Unispital founds research centre with elite physicians".

Under the leadership of Prof. Ludwig Kappos, the University Hospital Basel (USB) and the University of Basel have established a new foundation called "Research Center for Clinical Neuroimmunology and Neuroscience (RC2NB)". The aim of the foundation is to promote and coordinate the activities of the various researchers at the USB and the university as well as industry in the field of neuroimmunology and multiple sclerosis (MS). [Read this article in the BZ \(in German\)](#).



#### Annual closure of accounts

All bills and expenditure claims from 2019 must be forwarded on January 8, 2020 at the very latest. After that date, the budget of 2019 will be closed by the University. We recommend to submit all bills/claims even before the holidays. If your group does not send invoices individually, the dedicated envelope can be found as usual in front of the DBE admin office 14.03.010.

## About us



#### News of the group "Translational Medicine Breath Research" in Uni Nova

A person's exhalation reveals their personal metabolic profile. The DBE research group "Translational Medicine Breath Research" of Prof. Pablo Sinues at the University Children's Hospital Basel (UKBB) are investigating how this information can be used to diagnose and monitor particular illnesses. An article about the DBE project has been published in [Uni Nova](#).



#### TV broadcast Puls reports about SpectoVR

On December 9, the well-known Swiss TV program *Puls* showed a report about the application of SpectoVR technology developed at the Department of Biomedical Engineering. Using the example of an aneurysm patient at the University Hospital Basel, it illustrates how SpectoVR not only supports surgeons in the preparation and execution of complex operations, but also contributes to patient information. The broadcast can be downloaded [here](#).



On November 14 for the second time school children (5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> class) visited the DBE on the occasion of the National Future Day 2019. The goal of this event is to promote open career and life planning for school children, regardless of gender. For the first time our program was announced through the general University webpage and it received very high resonance. With the support of the MIRACLE project, the Biomaterials Science Center (BMC) and the Center for medical Image Analysis & Navigation (CIAN) an interesting program was organized. 10 children enjoyed insights into a broad range of research including laser, X-rays, artificial intelligence and were taken on a visual journey into the skeleton head of an alligator.



**We welcome a new member at the DBE:**

**Reina Ayde** started her postdoc in the AMT group of Prof. Najat Salameh and Prof. Mathieu Sarracanie. Originally, she is from Lebanon where she obtained her master degree in Nanoscience and Functional Materials. Hereafter she received her PhD from the University of Claude Bernard Lyon 1. Her thesis focused on optical transmission of MRI signal. Before becoming a member of DBE, she worked on a low field MRI system at CEA (France) and was involved in a project employing machine learning algorithms to classify tumors. For her postdoc she will be working on a deep learning algorithm for image reconstruction as well as sequences developing.

The Department of Biomedical Engineering bridges the gap between natural science and medicine in order to improve procedures and technologies for medical treatment. It is a joint venture of the University of Basel, the University Hospital Basel and the University Children's Hospital Basel.

You would like to publish news in the newsletter?

Please write us to [news-dbe@unibas.ch](mailto:news-dbe@unibas.ch)



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