



University
of Basel

Department of
Biomedical Engineering

DBE Newsletter

October 2025

Congratulations



Titular Professorship for Prof. Cordula Netzer

Cordula is the first woman in Switzerland to be appointed titular professor in spine surgery. She is Head of the Spine Center and Senior Consultant in Spine Surgery at the University Hospital Basel. At the DBE, she leads the Translational Spine Research and Biomechanics Group and serves as the medical lead for the Core Facility CADENCE Clinical Biomechanics & Ergonomics Engineering. Her clinical focus is on spinal tumor surgery and her research focus is in the area of degenerative spine diseases. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Peter Wahl and Dr. Ferda Canbaz receive CHF 2.9 million on their SNSF Project

Led by Peter, a multidisciplinary team has secured an SNSF research grant for the project “Comprehensive analysis of determinants of polyethylene wear and the related tissue response to improve outcomes in total hip arthroplasty.” The initiative—co-led by Ferda, and other external partners—was awarded CHF 2.9 million in funding to be spent over four years. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Philippe Valmaggia and PD Dr. Peter Maloca receive CHF 12’000 grant

Philippe and Peter have received a grant of CHF 12’000 from the Freiwillige Akademische Gesellschaft Basel to support their research project "Modeling Disease Trajectories in Age-Related Macular Degeneration Using Conditional Diffusion Models". The project will be conducted in partnership with the [Eye Clinic](#) of the University Hospital Basel and the [Center for medical Image Analysis & Navigation](#).

About us – Highlights



Universität
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Call for Junior Group Leaders | Application deadline: 11.05.2026

Join the DBE as Junior Group Leader – drive innovative, translational research within our cutting-edge competence clusters and shape the future of science! If you intend to apply for a major grant as a Starting Grant with the DBE as your host, you first have to apply to become a Junior Group Leader at the DBE. [More information.](#)

About us – We welcome



Dr. Edward Ashworth, who started a postdoctoral researcher in the Cardiopulmonary Physiology and Mechanical Support group, led by Prof. David Berger. Originally from New Zealand, Edward has a background in physiology and engineering in both extreme and clinical environments. He will conduct clinical, animal, and benchtop experiments and integrate these datasets into individualized computational models designed to inform ICU decision-making and enhance patient outcomes.



Dr. Paul Fischer, who joined Prof. Ece Özkan Elsen's Analytics and Informatics for Child Health (AICH) group as a postdoctoral researcher. Paul is working on uncertainty quantification, explainability and trustworthiness for machine learning methods in pediatrics.

Events



SwissRN 4th Annual Meeting | 05.12.2025 | Basel and online

The program will feature leading voices in the field of reproducibility and open science to share their expertise and insights. [More information and registration.](#)

Research Funding



ERC Grants | Submission deadline 13.01.2025

[ERC Consolidator Grant Call 2026](#): for applicants with 7-12 years post PhD experience. Get in touch with grants@unibas.ch, they offer support and advice.



Swiss National
Science Foundation

SNSF Starting Grants | Submission deadline: 05.05.2026

The [Starting Grants](#) represent the SNSF’s highest level of career funding. The call enables researchers to carry out their own independent project and lead a research team in Switzerland.

See [SNSF website](#) for further calls.



Bridge Proof of Concept | Submission deadline: 01.12.2025

The “[BRIDGE Proof of Concept](#)” funding scheme fosters the further development of scientific results to evaluate their market and/or societal potential. It supports researchers on their way to entrepreneurship or their efforts to implement and apply their research results with an economic and/or societal partner.



Funding opportunities from private foundations

Do you need additional funds for an ongoing research project? Do you plan a short pilot project? Do you plan a longer research or training stay? Are you looking for other funding beyond the major and known funding opportunities? Why not look for private funding instead or in addition? [Here you find an overview of private funding organizations in Basel](#), many exclusively for researchers at the University of Basel.

At the Department of Biomedical Engineering, we translate basic science and engineering into medical knowledge and healthcare innovations. We provide high quality education and capacity building for academics, clinicians, and industrial partners. The DBE is a joint venture of the University of Basel, the University Hospital Basel and the University Children's Hospital Basel.

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