



University
of Basel

Department of
Biomedical Engineering

DBE Newsletter

February 2026

Congratulations



Prof. Philipp Honigmann appointed Adjunct Professor

Philipp, co-head of the Swiss Medical Additive Manufacturing (Swiss MAM) research group, has been appointed Adjunct Professor of Hand Surgery. Philipp works as hand surgeon, is co-founder of the Handzentrum Nordwestschweiz and teaches in our master's program. He exemplifies interdisciplinary excellence, seamlessly bridging surgery with biomedical engineering and digital innovation. [Read more.](#)



New Junior Group Leader: Prof. Martin Styner

Martin has been appointed Junior Group Leader and will lead his research group NeuroImaging Analysis Group (NIAG), a sub-unit of the Center for Image Analysis and Navigation (CIAN). Martin is an internationally recognized expert in medical image computing and neuroimaging, with a distinguished academic career. His research focuses on developing and applying novel neuroimaging methods as well as open-source software tools for the analysis of structural and diffusion MRI data. [Read more.](#)



Prof. Raphael Guzman Receives Propelling Grant for EvoNav Project

The Innovation Office has awarded a 50'000 CHF [Propelling Grant](#) to support the EvoNav project. The EvoNav project is a collaborative effort between University Hospital Basel and MEDivation, together with Daniel de Wilde and Dr. Attil Saemann. The project combines clinical expertise and technological innovation to improve neurosurgical care. The research focuses on bringing the world's first single-use, sterile neuronavigation tracking system, iVation, into clinical practice for minimally invasive external ventricular drain (EVD) insertion. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Claudia Weidensteiner and Dr. Francesco Santini receive CHF 37,000 grant

Claudia and Francesco have received a CHF 37,000 grant from the Swiss Muscle Foundation (FSRMM) for the project, "Test of Acquisition and Analysis of Muscle MRI Data in a Traveling Volunteer Multicenter Study" that they will conduct together with Dr. Olivier Scheidegger (Inselspital, Bern). The aim is to assess the readiness of quantitative MRI methods for clinical trials in a multicenter setting. Healthy volunteers and patients with neuromuscular diseases will undergo muscle MRI scans in seven imaging centers across Europe. This will allow the researchers to investigate inter-site and intra-site variability.

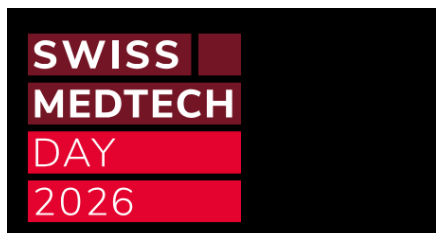
About us - highlighted



New laser beam shape sets record in bone surgery research

Researchers at the Centre for Intelligent Optics (CIO), led by Dr. Ferda Canbaz, have demonstrated that modifying a laser's beam shape can significantly improve bone-cutting depth. By optimizing the beam profile, the team achieved cuts of up to 4.5 cm — substantially deeper than conventional laser beam shapes, which typically reach only 2 to 3 cm. Rather than increasing laser power, the breakthrough was accomplished by reshaping the beam into a "top-hat" profile. This design distributes energy more uniformly across the target area, enabling deeper and more efficient cuts. [Read more.](#)

Events



Swiss Medtech Day 2026 | 10 June | Bern

The overarching theme for 2024-2026 is Mastering Complexity. This theme addresses the dynamic changes in the world and the challenges faced by the medical technology industry. Moving beyond isolated solutions, Switzerland's Medtech industry must embrace integration — across technologies, patient journeys, and collaborations — to master rising complexity and deliver real value to patients and the healthcare system. [More information.](#)



Swiss Society for Biomaterials & Regenerative Medicine Annual Meeting | 8-10 July | Lugano

The 2026 annual meeting is dedicated to "Research on biomaterials & in vitro models, Industrial and Clinical translation", with keynote and invited speakers providing an overview and insights into latest developments in these fields. The conference is open to everybody interested in the scientific and medical aspects of biomaterial-related topics and targets scientists and engineers from academia and industry, as well as healthcare professionals dealing with biomaterials, tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. [More information.](#)



Swiss Medtech National Regulatory Conference | 29 October | Bern

This conference will offer crucial insights into regulatory shifts and what they mean for Swiss medtech companies. Join industry experts and peers for practical guidance, interactive discussions, and valuable networking opportunities. [More information.](#)

Research Funding



Bridge Discovery for experienced researchers | Submission deadline: 28.04.26

The [Bridge Discovery grant](#) funds projects for up to four years and max CHF 850'000.



Project funding | Submission deadline: 01.04.26

The [project funding](#) scheme enables qualified researchers to independently carry out projects on topics and research objectives of their own choosing.

Starting grants | Submission deadline: 05.05.26

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

Postdoc.Mobility | Submission deadline: 04.08.26

[Postdoc.Mobility fellowships](#) are aimed at researchers who have done a doctorate and who wish to conduct a research stay abroad. The objective of a research stay abroad is to enable them to acquire more in-depth knowledge, to extend their scientific network and independence and to enhance their research profile, in view of a future scientific or academic career in Switzerland.

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



ERC Plus grants: a new opportunity for ambitious research | Submission deadline: 02.09.26
The European Research Council (ERC) has announced an extraordinary new funding scheme: ERC Plus grants. These grants, worth up to EUR 7 million each, are designed to support high-impact, long-term research projects across all disciplines. [Read more](#).

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.

Would you like to publish in the newsletter?
Please write us at communication-dbe@unibas.ch



Universität
Basel



Universitätsspital
Basel

