



University  
of Basel

Department of  
Biomedical Engineering

# DBE Newsletter

## March 2026

### Congratulations



#### International AI-Research Award for the Facial and Cranial Anomalies Research Group

The FCA research group at the DBE and the Clinic for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery of the University Hospital of Basel received the “AI in Dentistry: Faculty and Clinician Impact Award” from Harvard School of Dental Medicine. The team, led by Dr. Prasad Nalabothu and Prof. Andreas Albert Müller, was recognized for advancing AI-based solutions to improve care for children with craniofacial anomalies. Supported by the Botnar Research Centre for Child Health and international partners, the project reinforces Basel’s leading role in patient-centered innovation. [Read more.](#)



#### Prof. em. Dr. Ludwig Kappos honored with John Dystel Prize for MS Research

Prof. em. Dr. Kappos, neurologist and a founding member of the department, has received the 2026 John Dystel Prize for Multiple Sclerosis Research, one of the most prestigious distinctions in the field. The prize recognizes his outstanding and pioneering contributions to the research and treatment of multiple sclerosis. Over several decades, he has helped shape the development of modern therapies and made a lasting impact on clinical research in neuroimmunology. [Read more.](#)

### About us – highlighted



#### Master’s Info Evening: inspiring 200 prospective students to Biomedical Engineering

During the University of Basel’s Master’s Info Evening, our team proudly presented the Joint Degree Master program in Biomechanical Engineering to over 200 attendees, both on-site and online. The event provided a comprehensive overview of the program’s curriculum, interdisciplinary approach and research opportunities. We look forward to welcoming the next cohort of applicants for the upcoming semester!



#### High school students explore the future of surgery at the University Hospital of Basel

On March 17, 2026, Prof. Dr. Florian Thieringer, Head of Swiss MAM, welcomed final-year students from Gymnasium Liestal to the Clinic of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University Hospital of Basel. The visit offered students valuable insight into modern medicine, with a particular focus on the application of 3D printing in surgical practice, and meaningful exposure to potential career paths in this field. [Read more.](#)

### About us - we welcome



**Eric Freiermuth** has joined the Center for Intelligent Optics as a PhD student under the supervision of Dr. Ferda Canbaz. With a background in applied physics and a specialization in machine learning and optics, he will be developing novel methods for characterizing tissues retrieved from hip implants failures using multimodal spectroscopic analysis and deep-learning approaches.



**Martina Anna Krummenacher** is now part of the Center for Intelligent Optics (CIO) as a technician, working with Dr. Ferda Canbaz. With a background in nanoscience, spectroscopy, and biomedical analysis, she contributes to a project investigating the role of polyethylene wear particles in long-term total hip arthroplasty failure. Her work focuses on establishing and applying FTIR and Raman imaging techniques for the analysis of biological tissues.



**Marie Haas**, who recently joined the Research Support & Communication Team led by Dr. Daniela Vavrecka-Sidler. She will collaborate closely with Dr. Sara Freund to develop and implement the Department’s communication strategy, manage social media channels and provide support for event organization.

### Events



#### Share your research at Pint of Science 2026 – Call for Applications | 10 – 20 May | Basel

Pint of Science invites scientists to present their work in a relaxed, accessible setting, bringing cutting-edge discoveries directly to the public in local bars and cafés. Whether you are a PhD student, postdoc, or clinician, the festival offers a unique platform to engage with a curious audience and spark conversations around your research. [More information.](#)



#### Industry Night | 24 April | Basel

Industry Night will offer new insights into the fascinating working environments of Basel Region. Participants include the Department of Physics at the University of Basel, the Basel Quantum Center, the Swiss Nanoscience Institute, and the Swiss Economic Archives. [More information.](#)

**SWISS  
MEDTECH  
DAY  
2026**

#### Swiss Medtech Day 2026 | 10 June | Berne

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.](#)

## Research Funding



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#### Become a Junior Research Group Leader at DBE | Submission 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. Candidates must be supported by a mentor (i.e. a Senior Group Leader). Applications will be reviewed by the DBE Executive board. See [DBE website](#) for further details.



#### Swiss National MD-PhD Fellowships Program | Submission deadline: 15.05.2026

The Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS) supports talented young physicians who wish to pursue an MD-PhD degree at an associated Swiss university. The scholarship typically lasts 2-3 years and requires a primary focus on research. Applications must be submitted via the [SAMS platform](#).



#### 2026 Research Prize of the Hemmi Foundation | Submission deadline: 30.06.2026

The "Hemmi Foundation" for the Promotion of Clinical Research is awarding two prizes of 25'000 Swiss francs each in 2026. The call is aimed at young researchers conducting projects in medical research, with a particular focus on oncology, at Swiss clinics, institutes, or private practices. [Read more.](#)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
Swiss Confederation  
Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency

#### Joint Innovation Projects run by Innosuisse – KIAT | Submission deadline: 30.06.2026

The call is dedicated to consortia of companies and research institutions seeking to undertake science-based joint R&D projects with the goal of developing ready-to-market solutions or products. Swiss applicants apply to Innosuisse, Korean applicants apply to KIAT. [Read more.](#)



**Swiss National  
Science Foundation**

#### 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.

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