



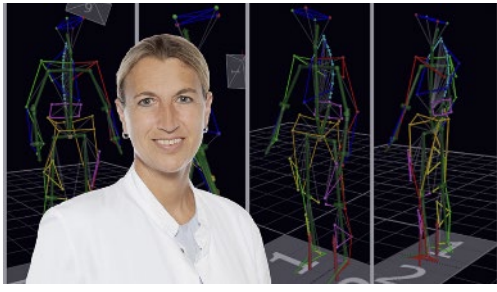
University
of Basel

Department of
Biomedical Engineering

DBE Newsletter

April 2026

Congratulations



Prof. Cordula Netzer receives CHF 1.3 million for the second phase of the RoLSSroice project
Cordula's team has been awarded CHF 1.3 million from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) for the second phase of the RoLSSroice project. Building on an existing dataset of 122 patients, RoLSSroice II will extend follow-up to four years and include a carefully matched cohort of healthy older adults for comparison. By combining re- and post-operative data, the project seeks to deepen understanding of postoperative recovery in lumbar spinal stenosis and explore why outcomes differ so widely between individuals. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Méлина Richard receives CHF 85'000 for PRIM-TxAIR project
Méлина, co-deputy head of the SinueLab, has received a CHF 85'000 grant from the Gottfried and Julia Bangerter-Rhyner Foundation less than six months after completing her PhD, marking an early milestone in her career. Her project, PRIM-TxAIR, aims to transform kidney transplant monitoring by predicting blood biomarkers from exhaled air using mass spectrometry and advanced regression models. This non-invasive approach could detect complications earlier and reduce blood sampling by up to 50%, improving patient comfort and care. [Read more.](#)

About us - highlighted



Our Research Support – Combined expertise

Just as the whole department has evolved over the years, so too has our Support Team. Led by Dr. Daniela Vavrecka-Sidler, this centralized crew of experts in administration, communication, security, research and teaching coordination is available to all research groups. All within an efficient, lean structure, they ensure smooth operations and facilitate research and education at every stage. Have a question or need support? Feel free to [reach out!](#)

About us – we welcome



Aikaterina Grava has joined the Center for Intelligent Optics group as a PhD student under the supervision of Dr. Ferda Canbaz. Aikaterina is working on Optical Coherence Tomography and spectroscopy methods to improve imaging and extract information about optical properties of tissue, aiming to provide critical feedback during tissue ablation surgeries.

Events



Coffee Lectures Health & Science | April 15 – June 15 | Online via Zoom

Coffee Lectures Health & Science is a lecture series organized by the science team and the Medical Library of the University Library Basel, in collaboration with the University Hospital Basel. These compact 15-minute lectures are specifically designed for researchers in Health & Science and provide valuable knowledge along with practical tools for scientific success. [More information.](#)



Graduate School Medical and Health Sciences PhD Day | May 5 | Basel

The GSMHS invites all PhD to join the 2026 PhD Day, a yearly event to connect with PhD colleagues from Medical and Health Sciences. Enjoy presentations from fellow students, get to know each other and participate in networking activities! [More information.](#)



DBE Research Day | August 26 | Basel

The registration for our next research day is now open! Stay tuned for the full program — with talks from evaluated groups, new groups at the DBE, alumni tandem talks, poster session, and awards for best poster and best research paper. [Register here!](#)

Research Funding



University
of Basel

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Junior Research Group Leader at DBE | Submission deadline: 11.05.2026 & 12.10.2026

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

This [program](#) 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.

Young Talents in Clinical Research Program | Submission deadline: 30.06.2026

This [program](#) supports resident physicians working in Switzerland as they enter the field of clinical research — with Beginner Grants to provide dedicated research time and Project Grants to fund their own subsequent research projects. Applications must be submitted via the SAMS platform.



Swiss National Science Foundation

SNSF reforms career support for postdoctoral researchers

The SNSF is reorganizing its career support instruments and will launch a new funding instrument for researchers at the postdoc level in early 2028. It is intended to allow for greater autonomy, better accommodate diverse career paths, and replace Ambizione and Postdoc.Mobility (final calls for proposals scheduled for November 2026 and August 2027).

[More information.](#)

Joint call with Australia in AI-supported healthcare | Submission deadline: 17.06.26

The [project funding](#) for joint research projects (JRPs) allows researchers in Switzerland to collaborate with academic partners in Australia. The theme of this collaboration is: artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare for populations of diverse sex, gender or sexual orientations or other underrepresented population groups.

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



Helmut Horten Stiftung

PIONEER-Spark Programme | Submission deadline: 28.07.2026

The Pioneer Spark programme by the Helmut Horten Foundation is a new initiative to boost early-stage biomedical innovation. With a CHF 50 million funding envelope, it is the largest philanthropic endeavour of its kind in Switzerland. The programme supports bold, milestone-driven precision oncology projects that connect scientific excellence with clinical implementation and measurable patient benefit. [Read more.](#)



Collective Health

Collective X Women's Health & Performance Research | Applications opening: June 2026

Collective X Health has partnered with Momentous, a leading human performance company focused on supplementation and nutrition, to launch the Collective X Women's Health & Performance Research Grant Program. The program is a \$200,000 commitment to fund research that puts female physiology at the center. [Read more.](#)

Submission deadline short proposals: every first Tuesday of the month.

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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