



University
of Basel

Department of
Biomedical Engineering

DBE Newsletter

June 2026

Congratulations



AI-Driven Deceased Identification Research Grant for Dr. sc. med Dominique Neuhaus

Dominique has received a CHF 77'000 grant from the University of Basel's Excellent Junior Researcher Fund for his project on AI-based identification of deceased individuals. His work combines artificial intelligence and image processing to automate dental radiological comparisons, aiming to improve the speed, reliability, and objectivity of forensic identification in mass disaster scenarios. [Read more.](#)



Jan Schimmelpfenning and Sathvik Kadimisetty elected as new PhD student representatives

Jan and Sathvik have been elected as the new PhD student representatives. Coming from international and interdisciplinary backgrounds, both researchers share a passion for robotics and a strong commitment to strengthening the PhD community. Together, they aim to foster connections across the department by organizing social events, encouraging collaboration between research groups and supporting a more engaging PhD experience. [Read more.](#)

About us – highlighted



PhD Day 2026: Scientific talks, Community Building and Coffee Tasting

DBE's PhD community came together on April 28 for a day of scientific talks, networking activities and even, a coffee tasting. Highlights included keynotes by Prof. Markus Gerber on Stress regulation and Sport as well as by Prof. Jens Gaab on Placebo effects. Research group pitches and interactive activities such as quizzes and games further encouraged networking. A social evening concluded this special day: a perfect blend of scientific inspiration, fun, and community!

About us – we welcome



Karolina Wójcik joined the Dynamic Biomaterials Group as a PhD candidate under the supervision of Dr. Zarah Walsh-Korb and Prof. Dr. Bert Müller. She is working on an animal-free, mechanically tunable platform for advanced organoid culture and disease modelling.

Upcoming Events



Junior Group Leader Applicant Seminar | June 25, 16:30 | DBE Science Lounge

Join us to hear about this year's candidates projects:

- Dr. Marco Barbieri: Multiparametric evaluation of osteosarcopenia using magnetic resonance imaging.
- Dr. Maxime Lafarge: Mining rare proteins from diagnostic histopathology slides.
- Dr. Magdalena Solyga: Predictive processing-based biomarkers for brain disorders.



Basel Postdoc Network Meeting 2026 | September 30-October 2 | Klosters

Connect with fellow researchers from life sciences, chemistry, medicine, physics and engineering at the 15th annual gathering for Basel's postdoc community in Klosters. Registration is open until July 15th, and abstracts are due before August 15th. [Read more.](#)



AI in Health 2026 | November 10-11 | Muttenz

Join industry partners, clinicians, and academics for a 2-day conference exploring AI applications in health. The event features three sessions — AI for Diagnostics, AI for Therapeutics, and AI in Citizen Health — with presentations and panel discussions on current research, challenges, and future developments, including the role of digital twins. Abstract submission and conference registration are now open. [More information.](#)

Research Funding



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Junior Research Group Leader at DBE | Submission deadline: 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.



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.



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.](#)



ERC Plus grants: a new opportunity for ambitious research | Submission deadline: 02.09.2026

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.](#)



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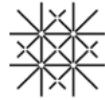
SVFF Travel Grants to Finland | Submission deadline: 15.10.2026

The SVFF Foundation for Study Contributions annually supports students and professionals developing collaboration between Finland and Switzerland. Swiss candidates interested in a study visit to Finland can submit an application for the following year until October 15.

See [SVFF website](#) (in German) for further details.

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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