










SSM Annual Report 2025

INFO 73



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FOLLOW US

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Nathalie Mermoud

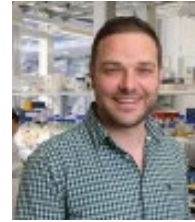
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President 2025-2027**Past President****Treasurer****General Secretary**

Prof. Dr. Martin Pilhofer

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Department of Biology
Institute of Molecular Biology & Biophysics
Otto-Stern-Weg 5
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**Molecular Microbiology
Section**



Prof. Adrian Egli

Director, Institute of Medical Microbiology
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**Clinical Microbiology
Section**



Prof. Volker Thiel

Institut für Virologie und Immunologie IVI
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Virology Section



Dr. David Johnson

Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and
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Department of Environmental Microbiology
BU-F04, Überlandstrasse 133
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Microbial Ecology Section



Dr. Alix Coste

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Mycology Section



Prof. Pilar Junier

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e-mail: pilar.junier@unine.ch

**Lay Communication
Section**

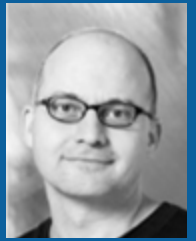


Dr. Florian Tagini, MD-PhD

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Early Career





Dear Microbiologists,

The SSM Annual Meeting 2025 is approaching fast, and I am very much looking forward to this exciting event, which will be held in Interlaken from August 27-28. The different scientific sections of our society have done an outstanding job curating five engaging sessions each, resulting in a total of 25 parallel sessions. In addition, two special lunch symposia will feature thought-provoking talks and sessions: “Climate Change and Microbiology” by Klaus Butterbach-Bahl (Aarhus University) and “Emerging Pathogens in Switzerland” presented by Philipp Bossard (University Hospital Zürich) and Gilbert Greub (University Hospital Lausanne). The program will also be enriched by events organized by the Early Career and Lay Communication sections. I hope many of you are eager to share your research, meet friends and colleagues, and have already registered for the meeting <https://swissmicrobiology.ch/connecting/annual-meeting-and-assembly/2025>.

The SSM and its board are continuously evolving. Pending approval by the society's members, Alexander Harms, Silke Stertz and Marion Aruanno will assume the roles of coordinators for the Molecular Microbiology, Virology and Early Career sections, respectively. Alexander, Silke and Marion are highly active and accomplished scientists, committed to strong and sustained engagement within the SSM. Please find their CVs and letter of motivation in this annual report. The election will take place during the upcoming general assembly, scheduled at the end of the first day of the annual meeting. Over the past years, the minutes of the general assembly and the board meetings – as well as many other essential tasks – have been diligently managed by the SSM General Secretary, Nathalie Mermoud. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nathalie for her long-standing dedication to the SSM.

The SSM promotes Microbiology in Switzerland across scientific, industrial, educational, and political spheres. In addition to its own initiatives, the SSM is a member of both national and international umbrella organizations, including the Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS) and the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT). These organizations are instrumental in supporting scientific meetings and events – such as the distinguished three-days SCNAT Rigi Workshop on interdisciplinary topics subsidized by the Platform Biology – and in fostering early-career researchers through travel grants and awards. As the SSM representative, I recently attended the SCNAT Annual Delegates Assembly, where Jean-Marc Piveteau was elected as the new president. He is expected to continue and further strengthen the commitment of the SCNAT to open, integrative, and collaborative science. Finally, as widely reported in the media, the Swiss Federal Council plans to drastically cut the budget of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). Let's hope – and take every appropriate action – that these cuts are not enforced.

Truly yours,

Hubert Hilbi

SSM President 2025 to 2027

NEW COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

The SSM is pleased to announce the candidacy of two new members to the committee, who will succeed Prof. Dr. Martin Pilhofer (Molecular Microbiology coordinator), Prof. Volker Thiel (Virology coordinator) and Dr. Florian Tagini (Early Career coordinator).

We would like to sincerely thank Prof. Pilhofer, Prof. Thiel and Dr. Tagini for their valuable contributions and dedicated efforts to the committee.

Please find in the next pages the CV of Alexander Harms, Silke Stertz and Marion Aruanno, who will assume the roles of coordinators for the Molecular Microbiology, Virology and Early Career sections, respectively.

Alexander Harms Application



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

Institute of Food, Nutrition and Health

Prof. Dr. Alexander Harms
Lab of Molecular Phage Biology

ETH Zürich
Schmelzbergstrasse 7
CH-8092 Zurich
Switzerland

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<https://molecularphagebiology.ethz.ch>

Candidacy as coordinator of the Molecular Microbiology section

Zürich, 08.05.2025

Dear members of the Swiss Society for Microbiology (SSM-SGM)

I am writing to declare my candidacy for the role of coordinator of the Molecular Microbiology section. The SSM has played a pivotal role throughout my scientific journey – from my early days as an MSc student to my transition into academic independence – by serving as a vibrant platform for exchange among microbiologists across Switzerland. If elected, my primary goal would be to uphold and strengthen this role of the society and its Molecular Microbiology section.

As coordinator of the Molecular Microbiology section, I would support and initiate activities that further enhance the appeal of the society and its annual meetings especially for early-career scientists. I am also committed to fostering greater integration of molecular microbiologists within the diverse spectrum of microbiology research – from applied and clinical fields to fundamental science, and from small institutions and startup companies to major global players. The research of my group in molecular microbiology is connecting fundamental research and dialogue with the society about microbes to applications in clinics and in food science with partners across institutions in Switzerland, making me ideally positioned for this role.

It would be both an honor and a pleasure to act as coordinator of the Molecular Microbiology section in SSM. Kind regards,

Prof. Dr. Alexander Harms

Alexander Harms Application

Curriculum Vitae – Prof. Dr. Alexander Harms

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: Alexander Joscha Heinrich Harms
Date of birth: 25.06.1987 /// Nationality: German
ORCID [0000-0003-2106-1286](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2106-1286) /// Twitter (“X”) [@AHarms485](https://twitter.com/AHarms485)
Group website: <https://www.molecularphagebiology.ethz.ch/>



EDUCATION

2022 Habilitation and *venia docendi* in Microbiology (University of Basel)
2011 - 2015 PhD in Microbiology *summa cum laude* (group of Prof. Christoph Dehio; University of Basel)
2006 - 2011 Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Molecular Biology (University of Basel)

CURRENT POSITION

2023 - now Assistant Professor / Lab of Molecular Phage Biology (IFNH / D-HEST of ETH Zürich)

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

2018 - 2022 Junior Group Leader / SNSF Ambizione Fellow (Biozentrum, University of Basel)
2016 - 2018 Postdoctoral Researcher (group of Prof. Kenn Gerdes, University of Copenhagen)
2015 - 2016 Postdoctoral Researcher (group of Prof. Christoph Dehio, Biozentrum of Uni Basel)

APPROVED RESEARCH PROJECTS

For the work of my research group (since 2018) I have so far acquired more than 4'000'000 CHF of funding through consortia and competitive grant applications.

SUPERVISION OF JUNIOR RESEARCHERS

2018 - now supervised >25 junior scientists from high school to PostDoc level; my group is currently composed of three PostDocs, four PhD students, and several BSc + MSc students

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

I have published >40 research articles that have been cited >4'600 times (h-index of 21; [link to google scholar](#)). As an independent group leader I have delivered >45 scientific talks and invited guest lectures at universities and conferences worldwide.

TEACHING AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES (selection)

2023 - now contributing to several lecture series and practical courses in microbiology (ETH Zürich)
2022 director of a public science art exhibition about phages (Biozentrum, University of Basel)
2021 - now annual scientist guest at Pestalozzi Schulkamps introducing ca. 40 children to phage biology
2019 - now annual lecture series “Academic Writing + Publishing in the Life Sciences” for PhD students
2019 + 2022 director of “Basel Summer Science Academy” (two-week practical course on phages and life sciences for ca. 25 high schoolers at the University of Basel)

COMMITTEES AND EXPERT OPINION

regularly quoted expertise and interviews in the media (e.g., *tagesschau.de*, *Die Zeit*, *SRF online*, *Tagesanzeiger*, *Frankfurter Rundschau*, *Bayerischer Rundfunk*, *ProSieben*, etc.)
2018 - now external member of >10 doctoral or PhD thesis committees at leading institutions (University of Bern, University of Lausanne, EPF Lausanne, ETH Zürich, Inselspital Bern, University of Zürich, Humboldt University Berlin, Institut Pasteur, University of Tübingen)

REVIEWING ACTIVITIES

2018 - now regular reviewer for leading scientific journals including *Nature*, *Science*, *Nature Microbiology*, *PNAS*, *eLife*, *PLoS Pathogens*, *PLoS Biology*, *mBio*, etc. and research grants including ERC Starting and Advanced Grants (EU), Wellcome Trust (UK), etc.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS (selection)

2023 “Encouragement Award” of the Swiss Society for Microbiology (for our achievements in research, teaching, and outreach; most prestigious award for a microbiologist in Switzerland)
2018 - 2022 SNSF Ambizione Fellowship (supporting my group at the University of Basel)
2018 PIs of Tomorrow “Jury Award” (LS² Meeting in Lausanne)
2016 - 2018 EMBO Long-Term Fellowship (supporting my postdoctoral work in Prof. Gerdes’ group)
2015 J.C.W. Shepherd PhD Student Prize (for scientific excellence; University of Basel)

MEMBERSHIPS IN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

Swiss Society for Food Hygiene (SGLH), International Society for Viruses of Microorganisms (ISVM), Swiss Society for Microbiology (SSM), and American Society for Microbiology (ASM)

Silke Stertz Application

Curriculum Vitae Silke Stertz March 2025

Name Stertz, Silke
Address Institute of Medical Virology
University of Zurich
Winterthurerstrasse 190, 8057 Zurich
Switzerland
E-mail stertz.silke@virology.uzh.ch
ORCID 0000-0001-9491-2892
URL for website <https://www.virology.uzh.ch/en/research/Group-Stertz.html>



EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2019- Associate Professor (Medical Virology), University of Zurich, Switzerland
2011 - 2019 Assistant Professor (Medical Virology), University of Zurich, Switzerland
2007 - 2011 Postdoctoral Fellow (laboratory of Prof. Dr. Peter Palese)
Department of Microbiology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital,
New York, United States of America
2003 - 2007 PhD (laboratory of Prof. Dr. Otto Haller)
Department of Medical Microbiology, Albert-Ludwigs-University of Freiburg, Germany
2003 Diploma in Biology (equivalent to Master's degree in Biology)
Albert-Ludwigs-University of Freiburg, Germany

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

2025 - Member of the of the Steering Committee of the PhD Program in Microbiology and
Immunology, Life Science Zurich Graduate School, Switzerland
2025 - President of the "Stiftungsrat Hartmann Müller Foundation", Switzerland
2020 - Member of the Scientific Committee of the Medical Faculty, UZH, Switzerland
2019 - 2024 Member of the Scientific Committee of the Hartmann Müller Foundation, Switzerland
2018 - Biosafety Officer, Institute of Medical Virology, University of Zurich, Switzerland
2017 - Member of the Teaching Committee in Biology, University of Zurich, Switzerland
2017 - 2024 Member of the Admission Committee of the PhD Program in Microbiology and
Immunology, Life Science Zurich Graduate School, Switzerland
2011 - Faculty member, University of Zurich, Switzerland

RECENT RESEARCH PROJECTS (THIRD-PARTY FUNDING)

2025 - 2026: Foundation for Research in Science and the Humanities at the University of Zurich
grant: "MHC class II entry competence of avian H2 influenza A viruses as a novel
hallmark of zoonotic risk" (PI)
2024 - 2027: SNF Project grant: "AirTRAC: The effect of air composition on the respiratory virus
transmission chain" (PI)
2022 - 2024: Innosuisse grant: "The Pathogenic Aerosol Containment Trap (PAConTrap); A
platform for measuring inactivation factors of airborne pathogens" (Co-PI)
2021 - 2025: SNF Project grant: "Novel receptors for host cell entry of influenza A viruses" (PI)
2020 - 2024: SNSF Sinergia grant: "Infectivity of influenza viruses in expiratory aerosols under
ambient temperatures and humidities" (Co-PI)
2020 - 2023: Stiftung für Wissenschaftliche Forschung der Universität Zürich "Discovering Strain-
Specific Susceptibility Determinants for Influenza A virus Infection" (PI)
2019 - 2022: Novartis Research Foundation: "Identification and visualization of the bat influenza
virus cell entry route" (PI)
2017 - 2021: SNSF project grant: "Host proteins required for influenza A virus entry as novel
antiviral targets" (PI)

Silke Stertz Application

MEMBERSHIPS OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES AND SOCIETIES

2024 -	Member of Working group H5 initiated by Swiss Federal Office of Public Health FOPH
2024 -	Member, Scientific Advisory Committee St Jude Center of Excellence for Influenza Research and Response, United States
2023 -	Member, Advisory Board European Society of Virology
2022 -	Member, Gene Therapy-Working Group, Swiss Federal Committee for biological safety
2022 -	Member, International Society for Influenza and other Respiratory Virus Diseases
2020 -	Member, Swiss Society of Infectious Diseases, Switzerland
2014 -	Member, American Society of Microbiology, United States
2011 -	Member, Swiss Society of Microbiology, Switzerland
2004 -	Member, German Society of Virology, Germany

ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

2025	Member of the Scientific Committee of the Swiss Society for Microbiology annual congress 2025 in Interlaken
2025	Member of the Scientific Committee of the European Congress of Virology 2025 in Cavtat/Dubrovnik, Croatia
2024	Initiator and organizer of 1 st SwissFlu meeting (75 participants), Zurich
2022	Scientific Committee "OPTIONS for the Control of Influenza XI" meeting, Belfast, UK
2017 -	Member of the Scientific Committee of the annual "Challenges in Virology" meeting (~200 participants), Switzerland
2016	Organizer of the symposium "Interferon: The epicenter of virus control and immune response regulation" (~80 participants), Zurich

RESEARCH INTERESTS

For the past 20 years, I have studied the interplay between influenza viruses and their host cell. Already as a PhD student at the University of Freiburg, Germany, my research focused on the interactions between influenza A and other RNA viruses and the innate immune response. For my training as postdoctoral fellow, I joined the lab of Prof. Peter Palese at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York with an independent fellowship from the German Research Foundation. I established a genome-wide RNAi screen to identify novel host factors required for different stages of influenza virus replication. To complement my training as a molecular virologist, I also trained to study virus pathogenicity and antigenicity and applied this knowledge to characterize the 2009 pandemic H1N1 influenza virus. In 2011, I moved to the University of Zurich where I set up my own independent research group as Assistant Professor. In 2019, I was promoted to Associate Professor. Research in my lab focuses on the entry of influenza viruses into their host cells, and the virus-host interactions required during this process. We have employed RNAi screening as well as proteomic approaches to identify host factors required for influenza virus entry and characterized selected factors for their proviral role. In our most recent work, we focus on identifying novel entry receptors for IAV. These efforts have led us to identify MHC class II complexes as novel receptor for certain influenza A viruses and we are now aiming to elucidate the impact of this alternative entry pathway on tropism, infection levels and zoonotic potential of influenza A viruses. In the last few years we have also started a collaborative project with physicists and chemists to study the fate of respiratory viruses in aerosols. Here, we are particularly interested in mechanisms that govern influenza virus inactivation under different environmental conditions. In summary, my research aims at elucidating the influenza virus-host cell interplay at a molecular level to aid the development of novel treatment and prevention strategies and to understand zoonotic transmission of influenza viruses.

VISION FOR SSM

Excellent virology research is being done in Switzerland that covers a wide spectrum of viruses, as well as fundamental and clinical aspects and research questions. However, I think we have the potential to further strengthen interactions within the virology research community but also with our colleagues from the other disciplines of Swiss microbiology. It is my goal to help strengthen current interactions and provide opportunities to build new ones. I believe that a highly collaborative and collegiate network will then provide the best setting for our junior researchers to flourish.

Marion Aruanno Application

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To the Selection Committee
Swiss Society for Microbiology

Lausanne, June 22, 2025

Subject: Application for the position of Early Career Section Coordinator

Dear Members,

I am writing to express my interest in the position of Coordinator for the Early Career Section of the Swiss Society for Microbiology. As a microbiologist currently completing FAMH training at the CHUV, I would be pleased to contribute more actively to the society by supporting and connecting early-career scientists across Switzerland.

During my PhD and postdoctoral work at the Institute of Microbiology in Lausanne, I focused on antifungal resistance mechanisms while working closely with multidisciplinary teams. In parallel with research, I was actively involved in teaching and mentoring. Beyond the lab, I served as president of ADAS, the PhD and teaching assistant association at UNIL, where I helped organize events and represent early-career researchers. One experience I particularly valued was coordinating a local Café Scientifique, which gave me the chance to share science with a broader audience and encourage open dialogue between researchers and the public.

These experiences have shown me how important it is, especially early in a scientific career, to feel part of a supportive and inclusive community. If given the opportunity, I would do my best to encourage that spirit by promoting accessible initiatives, facilitating informal connections, and illustrating the diversity of career paths within microbiology.

I am organized, open-minded, and motivated by collaboration. While I may not have all the answers, I am eager to listen, learn, and contribute wherever I can. I would be glad to take part in building a section that is both relevant and welcoming to all early-career members.

Thank you for considering my application. I remain at your disposal for any further information and would be honored to support the continued development of the Early Career Section.

Best regards,

Marion Aruanno

Marion Aruanno Application

Marion ARUANNO, PhD

Life Sciences - Microbiology

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1004 Lausanne

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+33 (0)6 74 80 39 39

French
19.09.1991

Swiss C permit
Category B driving license



Academic Qualifications

- 2022 - Present CHUV, Lausanne
FAMH training in Microbiology
- 2017 - 2020 University of Lausanne, Switzerland
PhD in Life Sciences
- 2014 - 2016 Aix-Marseille University, France
Master's Degree in Microbiology, Plant
Biology and Biotechnology
- 2013 - 2014 Aix-Marseille University, France
Bachelor's Degree in Biochemistry and
Biopharmaceutical Chemistry
- 2011 - 2013 Lycée Alexis de Tocqueville, France
Higher Technical Diploma (BTS) in
Bioanalysis and Quality Control



Scientific experience

2022 - Present - FAMH Assistant in Microbiology
Institute of Microbiology (CHUV), Lausanne, Switzerland

2020 - 2022 – Postdoctoral Researcher
Institute of Microbiology (CHUV), Lausanne, Switzerland
Project: Study of antifungal resistance mechanisms in
Aspergillus fumigatus and Mucorales
• Mold handling, RNAseq, MIC testing, protein activity
assays
• Genetic and molecular biology techniques

2017 - 2020 - PhD Student
Institute of Microbiology (CHUV), Lausanne, Switzerland
Project: Study of antifungal resistance mechanisms in
Aspergillus fumigatus
• Mold handling, RNAseq, MIC testing, protein activity
assays
• Genetic and molecular biology techniques

Jan 2016 - Jun 2016 - Intern
Bacterial Chemistry Laboratory (LCB), CNRS Marseille,
France
Project: Characterisation of *R. cellulolyticum* enzymes
involved in hemicellulose degradation
• Structural modelling, *E. coli* cloning, enzyme production
and purification, activity assays on various substrates

Jun 2015 - Sep 2015 - Intern
Macromolecular Systems Engineering Laboratory (LISM),
CNRS Marseille, France
Project: Production of enzymes capable of degrading
chewing gum base
Role: Project manager and president of the iGEM Aix-
Marseille University association
• *E. coli* cloning, enzyme production and purification,
enzymatic activity assays on polymers

May-Jun and Oct-Nov 2012 - Intern
Immunoserology Department, Unilabs Laboratory, Coppet,
Switzerland
Project: Quality control analyses following the
implementation of a new testing method
• Antibody and antigen quantification (ELISA)
• Comparison of two serum protein separation methods
(Immunoelectrophoresis and Immunofixation)



Other experiences

Teaching

Jan 2018 - Present Practical course supervisor for
Bachelor's and Master's students, Faculty of Biology and
Medicine, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Jan 2018 - Present Teaching assistant for the AFCLP
(Certificate of Complementary Training for Laboratory
Practitioners), Lausanne, Switzerland

Sep 2018 Assistant during an ESCMID diagnostic workshop
(MALDI-TOF presentation), Lausanne, Switzerland

Community Involvement

Nov 2018 - Dec 2020
President of the ADAS PhD student association, Lausanne,
Switzerland
Coordinator of the "Café Scientifique", Lausanne,
Switzerland

Sep 2014 - Jun 2016
Student representative for the Biology Department, Aix-
Marseille University, France
Facilitator for the university's scientific cultural unit, Aix-
Marseille University, France

Awards and Scholarships

Mar 2019 Scholarship from the Swiss Society for
Microbiology, Lausanne, Switzerland



References

Prof. Frédéric Lamoth - Frederic.lamoth@chuv.ch - +41 79 556 37 59
Dr. Alix Coste - Alix.coste@chuv.ch - +41 79 556 87 37



Hobbies

Watercolor painting
Outdoor activities
Board games

Marion Aruanno Application

Marion ARUANNO, PhD



Skills

Field of expertise	Skills	Context
Scientific expertise	Microbiological, molecular biology and biochemical techniques (PCR, ELISA, RNAseq, enzymatic activity measurement, CMI...)	Doctorate, postdoc and FAMH
Teaching	Organization of practical sessions, evaluation, supervision, theoretical explanation, feedback, workshop facilitation	UNIL practicals, AFCLP training
Scientific communication	Presentations, posters, outreach, public communication, scientific vulgarization, oral communication	PhD, public events, Café scientifique
Project management	Planning, coordination, collaboration with multiple actors, follow-up of objectives and deadlines	iGEM project and association management
Teamwork	Adaptability, benevolence, capacity for discussion, compromise, and cohesion	Research projects, associations, teaching
Organizational skills	Time management, document writing, structuring content, responsiveness	Research projects, associations, teaching

Marion Aruanno Application

Marion ARUANNO, PhD



Scientific publications

1. Predictors of Mortality of Streptococcal Bacteremia and the Role of Infectious Diseases Consultation: A Retrospective Cohort Study

Nicolas Fourre, Virgile Zimmermann, Laurence Senn, [Marion Aruanno](#), Benoit Guery, Matthaios Papadimitriou-Olivgeris

Type: Original article

Journal: Clinical Infectious Diseases

Publication: June 2024

PMID: 38525878

2. Duration of antimicrobial treatment for uncomplicated streptococcal bacteraemia: Another example of shorter is better

Nicolas Fourre, Virgile Zimmermann, Laurence Senn, [Marion Aruanno](#), Benoit Guery, Matthaios Papadimitriou-Olivgeris

Type: Original article

Journal: Journal of Infection

Publication: December 2024

PMID: 39406288

3. Aspergillus tubingensis Endocarditis: A Case Report and Review of the Literature

Tristan Born, [Marion Aruanno](#), Eleftheria Kampouri, Matteo Mombelli, Pierre Monney, Piergiorgio Tozzi, Frederic Lamoth

Type: Case report/ Review

Journal: Mycopathologia

Publication: June 2022

PMID: 35267153

4. Insights in the molecular mechanisms of an azole stress adapted laboratory-generated Aspergillus fumigatus strain

[Marion Aruanno](#), Samantha Gozel, Isabelle Mouyna, Josie E Parker, Daniel Bachmann, Patricia Flamant, Alix T Coste, Dominique Sanglard, Frederic Lamoth

Type: Original article

Journal: Medical mycology

Publication: July 2021

PMID: 33550403

5. Echinocandins for the Treatment of Invasive Aspergillosis: from Laboratory to Bedside

[Marion Aruanno](#), Emmanouil Glampedakis, Frédéric Lamoth

Type: Review

Journal: Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy

Publication: July 2019

PMID: 31138565

Marion Aruanno Application

Marion ARUANNO, PhD



Scientific publications

6. Link between Heat Shock Protein 90 and the Mitochondrial Respiratory Chain in the Caspofungin Stress Response of *Aspergillus fumigatus*

Marion Aruanno, Daniel Bachmann, Dominique Sanglard, Frédéric Lamoth

Type: Original article

Journal: Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy

Publication: June 2019

PMID: 31061164

7. The *xyl-doc* gene cluster of *Ruminiclostridium cellulolyticum* encodes GH43- and GH62- α -L-arabinofuranosidases with complementary modes of action

Mohamed Mroueh, Marion Aruanno, Romain Borne, Pascale de Philip, Henri-Pierre Fierobe, Chantal Tardif, Sandrine Pagès

Type: Original article

Journal: Biotechnology Biofuels

Publication: June 2019

PMID: 31198441

8. Efficacy of Antifungal Monotherapies and Combinations against *Aspergillus calidoustus*

Emmanouil Glampedakis, Alix T Coste, Marion Aruanno, Daniel Bachmann, Eric Delarze, Veronique Erard, Frédéric Lamoth

Type: Original article

Journal: Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy

Publication: November 2018

PMID: 30323034

Invitation to the General Assembly

All SSM members are cordially invited to attend the General Assembly of the Swiss Society for Microbiology (SSM) that will take place in the Congress Kursaal Interlaken,

on Wednesday 27th of August 2025
from 6:00 PM to 6:45 PM

Agenda:

1. Review of the agenda
2. Approval of 2024 annual assembly minutes
3. President's report
4. Presentation and approval of 2024 accounts and report by auditors
5. Discussion of 2025 budget
6. Presentation and approval of 2026 budget
7. Presentation and approval of 2025 commission reports:
 - 7.1. Molecular Microbiology
 - 7.2. Clinical Microbiology
 - 7.3. Virology
 - 7.4. Mycology
 - 7.5. Microbial Ecology
 - 7.6. Lay Communication
 - 7.7. Early career
8. Elections
 - 8.1. Committee members
 - 8.2. Auditors
9. Admission of new members
10. SSM Grants
11. Other / varia / news

*** IMPORTANT: Kindly send your inquiries by mail to the president via our general secretary (secretary@swissmicrobiology.ch) before the 15th of August 2025.**



	2024	2023
REVENUE		
Participating Non-Interest	17,207.22	16,262.79
Interest Income	17,488.84	16,274.85
Financial Services	16,098.88	16,274.85
Other Income	1.47	-
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Personnel	26,121.11	23,821.11
Personnel - Non-Interest	24,222.84	21,922.84
Personnel - Interest	1,898.27	1,898.27
Other	49,213.84	-
OPERATING INCOME	7,562.83	8,716.53
FINANCIAL EXPENSES		
Interest Expense	24,444.19	21,828.74
Other	8,025.84	17,819.44
Other	12,487.42	8,129.32
FINANCIAL INCOME	1,031.22	1,858.05
Interest Income	1,124.22	21.22
Other	67.00	4,836.83
Other	-	2,000.00
Other	1,888.00	11,870.75
Other	898.87	2,000.00
Other	89.40	1,234.40
Other	1,147.70	388.89
Other	112.30	1,186.20
Other	17.80	84.40
Other	262.00	280.00
Other	880.00	10.12
FINANCIAL EXPENSES	33,557.45	41,948.95
Interest Expense	24,444.19	21,828.74
Other	8,025.84	17,819.44
Other	12,487.42	8,129.32
FINANCIAL INCOME	1,031.22	1,858.05
Interest Income	1,124.22	21.22
Other	67.00	4,836.83
Other	-	2,000.00
Other	1,888.00	11,870.75
Other	898.87	2,000.00
Other	89.40	1,234.40
Other	1,147.70	388.89
Other	112.30	1,186.20
Other	17.80	84.40
Other	262.00	280.00
Other	880.00	10.12
NET INCOME	4,206.60	5,625.63
TOTAL EXPENSES	36,148.84	31,124.34
LOSS	14,188.24	25,508.71

FINANCIAL NEWS

1. SSM Income statement 2024 vs. 2023

	ACTUAL RESULTS	
	2024	2023
INCOME (I)	63 574,36	46 822,29
Membership fees income	47 192,16	36 372,29
SCNAT Support	5 182,20	-
Sponsoring	-	-
SSM Club of Microbiology Income	11 200,00	-
Other Income	-	10 450,00
EXPENSES (II)	61 942,52	53 694,71
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	30 573,57	30 004,17
Net Salary	22 158,92	22 114,02
Social Charges	8 414,65	7 890,15
OTHERS EXPENSES	31 368,95	23 690,54
Course, Workshop, Symposium	-	-
Travel, Commissions expenses	1 728,00	5 773,31
Committee Members Expenses	2 163,10	1 363,95
SSM awards	4 000,00	2 500,00
SSM Deficit Guaranty	-	-
SCNAT Deficit Guaranty	5 759,12	-
Travel grants	1 000,00	3 500,00
SSM Club of Microbiology Expenses	6 130,00	-
Subscription Fees to pay	6 925,88	7 009,85
Office Supplies, Computer and IT Equipement	175,70	1 809,70
Website	2 760,85	428,65
Postal Charges	-	-
Postfinance and Bank Charges	126,30	136,48
Others Expenses	-	568,60
Fiduciary Fees	600,00	600,00
Audit Fees	-	-
A - Operating result (I-II)	1 631,84	(6 872,42)
B - Annual Meeting Benefit	79 685,25	40 802,83
B - Annual Meeting Deficit	-	-
Annual Meeting Income	79 685,25	40 802,83
Annual Meeting Expenses	-	-
C - Exceptional result	(336,18)	(87,14)
Exceptional income	-	-
Exceptional Charge	336,18	87,14
TOTAL REVENUE	143 259,61	87 625,12
TOTAL EXPENSE	62 278,70	53 781,85
PROFIT	80 980,91	33 843,27
LOSS	-	-

2. Balance sheet at 31.12.2024

	CHF	CHF	CHF
Assets	31.12.2024	31.12.2023	Δ
Currents Assets	257 222,38	256 039,08	1 183,30
- Postal Current Account	127 415,28	126 171,98	1 243,30
- Postal Secondary Current Account	129 807,10	129 867,10	(60,00)
Regularization of assets	80 753,50	778,50	79 975,00
- Prepayments / Prepaid expenses	-	-	-
- Accrued Income	80 753,50	778,50	79 975,00
Total Assets	337 975,88	256 817,58	81 158,30
Liabilities			
Provision	12 109,20	12 109,20	-
- Dieter Haas Provision	12 109,20	12 109,20	-
Regularization of liabilities	4 368,35	4 190,96	177,39
- Accrued Expenses	3 823,35	3 555,96	267,39
- Deferred revenue / Prepaid income	545,00	635,00	(90,00)
Capital	321 498,33	240 517,42	80 980,91
- Capital	240 517,42	206 674,15	33 843,27
- Period Profit/ Loss	80 980,91	33 843,27	47 137,64
Total Liabilities	337 975,88	256 817,58	81 158,30

3. Report of the auditors



SGM · SSM

SWISS SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY
SOCIÉTÉ SUISSE DE MICROBIOLOGIE
SOCIETÀ SVIZZERA DI MICROBIOLOGIA
SCHWEIZERISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR MIKROBIOLOGIE

Report of the auditors on the annual accounts of the Swiss Society for Microbiology (SSM) to the General Meeting of the SSM

Dear SSM Members,

As account reviewer, we have audited the accounting records and the financial statements, which comprise the balance sheet and the profit and loss account, of the SSM for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The accounts are the responsibility of the Board, whereas our role is to audit and evaluate the accounts.

Based on our audit, we confirm that

- the balance sheet accounts are appropriate,
- the supporting documents are consistent with the accounts
- the accounts have been kept carefully and accurately.

The audit report drawn up by Fidurev S.A. in Assens, dated 17 April 2025, attached hereto, concludes that the financial statements comply with the provisions of Swiss law and the Articles of Association.

SSM annual accounts 2024 close with a **benefit of CHF 80'980.91**. This increases the company's assets from CHF 240'517.42 (2023) to CHF 321'458.33 (2024).

We therefore recommend that SSM members accept the accounts as presented and grant discharge to the Board.

Dr. Hanna Marti, SSM Member

Dr. Nicolas Jacquier, SSM Member

Berne, 16 May 2025

Attached documents :

- *Fidurev Audit Report*
- *Balance Sheet (2024 vs. 2023)*
- *Income Statement (2024 vs. 2023)*

4. Report of the fiduciary



Société Suisse de Microbiologie
Chemin de Champ-Pamont 12
1033 Cheseaux-sur-Lausanne

Assens, le 17 avril 2025

Rapport de contrôle de la gestion des comptes de la Société Suisse de Microbiologie

Mesdames, Messieurs,

En notre qualité de vérificateurs des comptes de votre association et conformément au mandat que vous nous avez confié, ainsi qu'aux dispositions légales, nous avons vérifié les comptes annuels arrêtés au 31 décembre 2024.

Suite à nos contrôles, nous avons constaté les faits suivants :

1. Le bilan et le compte de profits et pertes établis concordent avec la comptabilité.
2. Les comptes pour l'année 2024 sont tenus de manière exacte.
3. L'état de la fortune sociale et des résultats répond aux règles établies par la loi et les statuts pour les évaluations en matière de bilan.
4. Les liquidités sont placées avec toute la prudence que la situation économique actuelle exige.

Selon notre appréciation, nous vous proposons d'approuver les comptes qui vous sont soumis.

Ceux-ci font ressortir un bénéfice de **CHF 80'980.91**, que nous vous proposons de virer au compte de profits et pertes.

Dès lors, nous vous recommandons également d'approuver cette proposition et de donner décharge au Trésorier pour la comptabilité 2024.


Fidurev S.A.


Jean-Luc Dondénaz
Agent Fiduciaire Breveté


Nicolas Despont
Expert-comptable diplômé

Annexe : bilan et compte de profits et pertes 2024

Fidurev SA - Route St-Germain 17 - 1042 Assens - 021 886 31 20 - info@fidurev.ch - www.fidurev.ch - CHE-112.453.745 TVA

 Membre d'EXPERTSuisse

5. SSM Budget 2025

	BUDGET 2025
INCOME (I)	53 500,00
Membership fees income	46 500,00
SCNAT Support	-
Sponsoring	-
SSM Club of Microbiology Income	7 000,00
Other Income	-
EXPENSES (II)	64 400,00
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	31 000,00
Net Salary	23 000,00
Social Charges	8 000,00
OTHERS EXPENSES	33 400,00
Course, Workshop, Symposium	-
Travel, Commissions expenses	2 500,00
Committee Members Expenses	2 000,00
SSM communication	-
SSM awards	3 000,00
SSM Meeting Grants	6 000,00
SCNAT Deficit Guaranty	-
Travel grants	4 000,00
SSM Club of Microbiology Expenses	4 800,00
Subscription Fees to pay	6 500,00
Office Supplies, Computer and IT Equipment	600,00
Website	2 500,00
Postal Charges	-
Postfinance and Bank Charges	150,00
Others Expenses	500,00
Fiduciary Fees	600,00
Audit Fees	250,00
A - Operating result (I-II)	(10 900,00)
B - Annual Meeting Benefit	5 000,00
B - Annual Meeting Deficit	-
Annual Meeting Income	345 000,00
Annual Meeting Expenses	340 000,00
C - Exceptional result (V-VI)	-
Exceptional income (V)	
Exceptional Charge (VI)	
TOTAL REVENUE	398 500,00
TOTAL EXPENSE	404 400,00
PROFIT	-
LOSS	(5 900,00)

5. SSM Budget 2026

	BUDGET 2026
INCOME (I)	56 500,00
Membership fees income	46 500,00
SCNAT Support	-
Sponsoring	-
SSM Club of Microbiology Income	10 000,00
Other Income	
EXPENSES (II)	73 600,00
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	31 000,00
Net Salary	23 000,00
Social Charges	8 000,00
OTHERS EXPENSES	42 600,00
Course, Workshop, Symposium	
Travel, Commissions expenses	2 500,00
Committee Members Expenses	2 000,00
SSM communication	-
SSM awards	3 000,00
SSM Meeting Grants	10 000,00
SCNAT Deficit Guaranty	-
Travel grants	8 000,00
SSM Club of Microbiology Expenses	6 000,00
Subscription Fees to pay	7 000,00
Office Supplies, Computer and IT Equipment	300,00
Website	2 500,00
Postal Charges	-
Postfinance and Bank Charges	150,00
Others Expenses	300,00
Fiduciary Fees	650,00
Audit Fees	200,00
A - Operating result (I-II)	(17 100,00)
B - Annual Meeting Benefit	10 000,00
B - Annual Meeting Deficit	-
Annual Meeting Income	300 000,00
Annual Meeting Expenses	290 000,00
C - Exceptional result (V-VI)	
Exceptional income (V)	
Exceptional Charge (VI)	
TOTAL REVENUE	356 500,00
TOTAL EXPENSE	363 600,00
PROFIT	-
LOSS	(7 100,00)



SECTIONS REPORTS

Molecular Microbiology Section Report

By Prof. Hubert Hilbi and Martin Pilhofer



Commission members:



Hubert Hilbi (*Zurich*)
Simona Huwiler (*Zurich*)
Jörg Jores (*Bern*)
Martin Pilhofer (*Zurich*)
Patrick Viollier (*Geneva*)
Jan-Willem Veening (*Lausanne*)

The main activity of the section Molecular Microbiology over the last year was to contribute to an exciting scientific program for the three-days Annual Meeting at the Kursaal in Bern, which took place from August 28-30, 2024, and was jointly organized by the SSM, the Swiss Society of Infectious Diseases and the Swiss Society for Hospital Hygiene. The section Molecular Microbiology organized seven scientific sessions covering the topics “Macromolecular machines”, “Bacteriophages and horizontal gene transfer”, “Microbial cell biology”, “Cell biology of infection”, “Archaea - The good, the bad, and the weird”, “Microbial physiology - Inglorious basterds”, and “Bacterial signal transduction - Lost in translation”. Several national and international speakers were invited to open these sessions, including Eilika Weber-Ban (Zürich, CH), Tanita Wein (Rehovot, IL), Martin Thanbichler (Marburg, DE), Maximiliano Gutierrez (London, UK), Sonja Verena Albers (Freiburg, DE), Simona Huwyler (Zürich, CH), and Ariane Briegel (Leiden, NL). The sessions also comprised a total of 22 short talks selected from the submitted abstracts. All sessions were very well attended, and the participants were truly excited about the swim in the cool Aare.

The inaugural EMBO/FEBS Lecture Course on “Cell Biology of Host-Pathogen Interactions” – organized by Lena Pernas and Hubert Hilbi – took place from May 26–30, 2025, in Blois, France (<https://meetings.embo.org/event/24-host-pathogen-bio>). Generously hosted by the physics conference series Rencontres de Blois, the event was held at the stunning Château Royal de Blois, located in the heart of the Loire Valley, southwest of Paris. Alongside outstanding scientific sessions and exquisite cuisine, participants also enjoyed a guided tour of the Château, a historic landmark built between the 13th and 17th centuries. The program featured 25 internationally renowned speakers, 13 selected short talks, and nearly 60 posters, covering topics such as “Organelle-microbe conflicts,” “Host-pathogen communication,” “Compartmentalization during infection,” and “Metabolic control of and manipulation by pathogens.” In addition, a dedicated session on “Technologies to illuminate host-pathogen interactions” showcased cutting-edge tools and approaches advancing the field. A wide array of pathogens was discussed, with contributions from researchers working on pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and parasites targeting mammals, plants, and protozoa. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with participants leaving the course inspired and cheerful. Due to the strong interest and success of this event, the conference will now be held on a biennial basis.

Finally, pending approval by the society's members, Alexander Harms will replace Martin Pilhofer as the coordinator for the Molecular Microbiology section. Alexander is a broadly interested, highly active and accomplished scientist, who is committed to a strong and sustained engagement for the SSM. His CV and letter of motivation are included in this annual report.

Hubert Hilbi, June 2025

Clinical Microbiology Section Report

By Prof. Adrian Egli



Commission members:

Maria Teresa Barbani (IFIK, University of Bern)

Livia Berlinger (Cantonal Hospital Lucerne)

Alexis Dumoulin (Hospital Sion)

Adrian Egli (IMM; University of Zurich)

Hans Fankhauser (Kantonsspital, Aarau)

Gilbert Greub (CHUV, Lausanne)

Nadia Liassine (Dianalabs, Genève)

Reto Lienhard (ADMED, La-Chaux-de-Fonds)

Linda Müller (EOC, Bellinzona)

Beatrice Nickel (Swiss TPH, Basel)

Martin Risch (Dr Risch Laboratories, Bern)

Jacques Schrenzel (HUG, Genève)

Andrea Zbinden (Unilabs, Zurich)

No changes in commission members during 2024.

Overview of key activities

During 2024, the CCCM pursued several strategic initiatives, with regular meetings held every six to eight weeks. The commission maintained a strong focus on harmonizing and advancing microbiological diagnostics and education across Switzerland.

Key achievements and developments include:

1. Quality management and regulatory activities

- **ISO/IVDR alignment:** Active engagement in providing guidance for IVDR compliance, particularly addressing challenges for smaller and medium-sized diagnostic labs. Delegates from our committee were in contact and exchange with Swissmedic. A document on IVDR-related recommendations, coordinated by FAMH, in diagnostics was started.

Our commission monitors the market and documents tests which are removed from the Swiss market due to IVDR. If you have information on any test being removed, please send us the information to ivdr@swissmicrobiology.ch.

- **External Quality Assessment:** The CCCM coordinated closely with CSCQ (Centre Suisse de Contrôle de Qualité) and MQ (Microbiological Quality Control Zurich) to ensure comprehensive and harmonized external quality assessments.

2. Swiss Antibigram Committee (SAC)

- **Reactivation and leadership:** Reactivation of SAC under the leadership of PD Dr. Stefano Mancini (CHUV), ensuring ongoing stewardship and alignment with international EUCAST guidelines. Regular meetings are happening.
- **Antibiogram recommendations:** Active updating and dissemination of guidelines through direct CCCM communication channels and the SSM website (<https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/who-we-are/sciences/clinical-microbiology/swiss-antibiogram-committee-sac>).

3. Diagnostic Developments and Surveillance Activities

- **Monkeypox Diagnostics:** Supported the integration of molecular diagnostic protocols and standardized laboratory reporting frameworks for monkeypox.
- **Group A Streptococcus Surveillance:** CCCM initiated coordinated surveillance activities due to rising invasive Group A Streptococcus infections, emphasizing diagnostic and epidemiological consistency nationwide.
- **Multidrug-resistant Gram-negative Surveillance:** Enhanced collaboration with Swiss Pathogen Surveillance Platform (SPSP), focusing on detecting and reporting of carbapenem-resistant Gram-negative pathogens through structured genomic surveillance.
- Within the commission we exchange on increasing cases and make notes about unusual epidemiological observation. E.g., a Parvovirus B19 increase was published on the website.

4. Education and Communication

- **Club de Microbiologie:** The annual meeting was successfully hosted, providing a platform for discussion of challenging diagnostic cases and new microbiological technologies.
- In addition, the CCCM has organized under the leadership of Reto Lienhard, Gilbert Greub, and Jacques Schrenzel a webinar series.
- **Newsletter Updates:** Regular updates and communication via newsletters ensuring that members are continuously informed about relevant national and international microbiological developments.

5. National Microbiology Diagnostic Guidelines

- **Analysenliste Updates:** Ongoing revision and inclusion of new microbiological tests, both commercial and in-house developed, within the official federal "Analysenliste", thus facilitating reimbursement pathways and improving clinical accessibility. This process requires a coordination within Switzerland – if you would like to add specific analytical tests on that list, please reach out to us, so a coordinated effort can be started.

Outlook for 2025

For 2025, the CCCM aims to further solidify its leadership role in promoting quality and consistency across microbiological diagnostics, continue support for laboratories navigating regulatory challenges, and enhance national epidemiological surveillance. Collaboration with stakeholders and continued member engagement will be prioritized to advance clinical microbiology practice across Switzerland.

For ESCMID, we suggested a session, which was approved. Oliver Nolte presented about artificial intelligence and laboratory automation in a session in Vienna. Also an ESCMID based workshop is planned for June 2025 focusing on artificial intelligence and microbiological diagnostics. This workshop will be supported by the SSM.

We thank all commission members and associated organizations for their invaluable contributions and look forward to furthering our collective objectives in the coming year. towards Swissmedic.

Adrian Egli, Zurich, June 2025

Virology Section Report

By Prof. Volker Thiel



Commission members:

Angela Ciuffi (*Lausanne*)

Cornel Fraefel (*Zurich*)

Jerome Gouttenoire (*Lausanne*)

Urs Greber (*Zurich*)

Thomas Klimkait (*Basel*)

Grégory Mathez (*Lausanne*)

Karin Metzner (*Zurich*)

Matthias Schweizer (*Bern*)

Caroline Tapparel Vu (*Geneva*)

Volker Thiel (*Bern*)

The Swiss virology community celebrated the 10th SwissVirology meeting in 2025. The meeting took place in Bern at the Hotel Ambassador from January 28th-29th. The goal of the - by now - traditional SwissVirology meetings is to bring together in Switzerland a maximum number of research groups working in fundamental virology to promote interaction, exchange of ideas, and collaborations in an informal and collegial atmosphere. The SwissVirology Organizing and Scientific Committee with Angela Ciuffi (University of Lausanne), Cornel Fraefel (University of Zurich), Jérôme Gouttenoire (University of Lausanne), Ben Hale (University of Zurich), Grégory Mathez (University of Lausanne), Karin Metzner (University Hospital of Zurich), Philippe Plattet (University of Bern), Mirco Schmolke (University of Geneva), Matthias Schweizer (University of Bern), Caroline Tapparel Vu (University of Geneva), and Volker Thiel (University of Bern), has put together a very interesting program with exciting speakers. The opening Keynote lectures was given by Timothy Tellinghuisen (Roche, Basel), and Gisa Gerold (University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Germany), and invited speakers were Charaf Benarafa (IVI and University of Bern), Daniel Kaufmann (Lausanne University Hospital), Selma Dahmane (University of Basel), Vibhu Prasad (University of Geneva), Aleksandar Antanasijevic (EPFL), Katharine Röltgen (Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute). An exciting closing lecture was given by Urs Greber (University of Zürich). The 10th SwissVirology Meeting was a full success with the highest number of participants, and we look forward to the next meeting in 2027.

The SSM Virology Commission will undergo some personal changes. Two Virology Commission members have stepped down. Thomas Klimkait, University of Basel, has retired recently and we wish an enjoyable retirement and thank him very much for all the time and effort he has invested for the Commission and the SSM. Karin Metzner has also stepped down from the Commission. She moved to the Paul-Ehrlich Institute (PEI), Langen, Germany, as Head of the NAT Section at the European Reference Laboratory for In-Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices. We wish her much success for this exciting step in her career and thank her very much for all she did for the SSM Virology Commission to promote virology in Switzerland.

A further change in the Virology Commission concerns me. I will step down as head of the SSM Virology Commission but will remain a member of the Commission. I'm very happy that Silke Stertz, Professor at the Institute for Medical Virology of the University of Zürich expressed her

interest to take over the lead of the SSM Virology Commission. Silke is a nationally and internationally highly renowned virologist and a world-expert in influenza virus biology. The commission and me strongly support her candidacy for the election as new head of the SSM Virology Commission! Her expertise in, and her enthusiasm for virology will be a great addition to the SSM.

Volker Thiel, Bern, June 2025

Mycology Section Report

By Dr Alix Coste



Commission members:

Saskia Bindschedler (*Neuchâtel*)
Philipp Bosshard (*Zurich*)
Alix Coste (*Lausanne*)
Jurg Enkerli (*Zurich*)
Markus Künzler (*Zurich*)
Frederic Lamoth (*Lausanne*)

Salome Leibundgut-Landmann (*Zurich*)
Fabio Palmieri (*Neuchâtel*)
Arnaud Riat (*Geneva*)
Dominique Sanglard (*Lausanne*)
Aleksandar Vještica (*Lausanne*)

On August 28th, 2024, the second Swiss Mycology Symposium was held at the Kursaal Bern as a satellite meeting of the SSM Annual Congress. The event featured nine oral presentations by PhD students and postdoctoral researchers, as well as two keynote lectures delivered by Carolina Cornejo (WSL Birmensdorf) and Lucas Grob (ETH Zürich and CEO of Swiss Food Research). The symposium concluded with a farewell lecture by Professor Bruce McDonald (ETH Zürich), in which we honored his outstanding career and invaluable contributions to the fields of fungal population genetics and evolutionary biology. We also extend our heartfelt thanks for his long-standing involvement in the Swiss mycology community. The next Swiss Mycology Symposium will take place on June 27th, 2025, in Birmensdorf.

Current efforts, led by Aleksandar Vještica from the University of Lausanne, aim to strengthen the networking between the Swiss mycology community and researchers working on the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, who are primarily represented within the newly formed subsection Molecular and Cellular Mycology. Through these efforts, we hope to strengthen the community of mycologists in Switzerland and enhance the visibility of the diverse expertise in fungal research across the country.

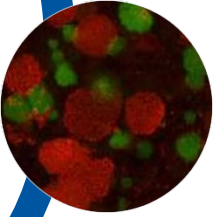
Alix Coste, Lausanne, May 2025

Microbial Ecology Section Report

By Dr. David Johnson



Commission members:



Helmut Bürgmann (*Kastanienbaum*)
Wenyu Gu (*Lausanne*)
David R. Johnson (*Dübendorf*)
Pilar Junier (*Neuchâtel*)
Cara Magnabosco (*Zürich*)
Sara Mitri (*Lausanne*)

Marie Schoelmerich (*Zurich*)
Shinichi Sunagawa (*Zurich*)
Jan Roelof van der Meer (*Lausanne*)
Julia Vorholt (*Zurich*)
David Weissbrodt (*Trondheim*)
Jakob Zopfi (*Basel*)

The Microbial Ecology section brings together experts interested in how microorganisms interact with other organisms and with their environment. Our scope is broad and includes all types of microorganisms and their habitats, ranging from those residing in waters and soils, on and within hosts, and in engineered systems. Our scope also includes both fundamental and applied aspects, such as how to manipulate and control microbial systems to achieve desired outcomes.

One of our main activities last year was to plan and participate in the 2025 Swiss Microbial Ecology (SME) meeting, which is a biannual event that seeks to promote interactions among Swiss researchers in the broader field of Microbial Ecology. The meeting took place in Einsiedeln from the 15th to 17th of January and was primarily organized by Prof. Jakob Pernthaler (University of Zürich) with assistance from Dave Johnson (Eawag/UniBe). Overall, the meeting was a great success! We had approximately 90 attendees, 8 invited speakers, 25 contributed talks, and 33 poster presentations. We are excited to announce that the next meeting will occur in 2027 in Sion and will be hosted by Prof. Wenyu Gu (EPFL). We will keep you updated as the program develops.

An important activity for the upcoming year will be to emphasize the importance of including microbiologists when making decisions regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation in Switzerland. As is obvious to us, microorganisms have critical roles in controlling the production and consumption of all major climate-altering gasses. Moreover, climate change is expected to alter the environmental distribution and transmission of infectious diseases. Yet, it is our opinion that microbiologists are not sufficiently represented at policy discussions. We look forward to discussing with you how we can become more involved in such discussions.

On behalf of the commission of Microbial Ecology and the SSM, I would like to thank all members of the SSM community and the many individuals that contributed to our work.

Dave Johnson, Dübendorf, May 2025

Lay Communication Section Report

By Prof. Pilar Junier



Commission members:

Marion Aruanno (*Lausanne*)
Christèle Aubry (*Lausanne*)
Gilbert Greub (*Lausanne*)
David R. Johnson (*Dübendorf*)
Pilar Junier (*Neuchâtel*)

Carole Kebbi-Beghdadi (*Lausanne*)
Shawna McCallin (*Lausanne*)
Arpita Sahoo (*Zurich*)
Florian Tagini (*Lausanne*)

With Pilar Junier having officially taken over from Gilbert Greub as head of the Lay Communication Section on January 1, 2024, this year marked a moment of transition and renewal for our mission of bringing microbiology closer to the public. The section continues to focus on core goals to increase public awareness and promote a broader understanding of microbes and their relevance to everyday life, disseminate the work of our members, and strengthen collaboration with science communication initiatives nationally and internationally.

Highlights and Achievements in 2024

Several new and continuing initiatives helped us advance these goals:

- **Updating of the Commission Members:** The composition of the Lay Communication Commission has been updated. This renewal brings fresh energy and perspectives to our activities.
- **Survey and Website Update:** In early 2024, we conducted a national survey to map lay communication activities undertaken by our members. The results highlighted the breadth and creativity of public engagement work being done across Switzerland. A dedicated section on the SSM website now features these activities, showcasing inspiring examples and encouraging wider participation.
- **Preparation for “My Thesis in 180 Seconds”:** We have launched the 2024 edition of this successful contest, to be held during the upcoming SSM annual meeting in Interlaken. The initiative remains a key tool for portraying the research of early-career members and to engage them with lay communication activities.
- **Commission Strategy Discussions:** The Lay Communication Commission held multiple meetings throughout the year to identify strategic directions and explore new ideas and future actions for the commission.
- **Creative Storytelling Workshop:** A standout event of the year was a workshop organized by **Gilbert Greub**, **Christèle Aubry** and **Yohann Thenaisie**, in which participants explored storytelling techniques and resulted in the production of three original microbiology-

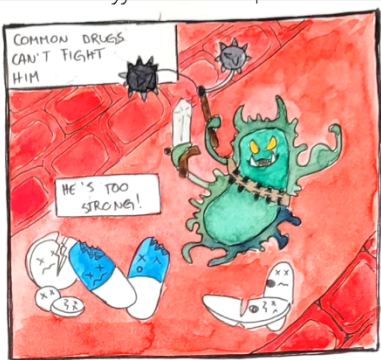
themed cartoons. These were illustrated by a professional artist. This activity brilliantly merged creativity, science, and outreach.

We sincerely thank all contributors and members for their involvement in this shared mission. Your passion for science and commitment to outreach continue to make Swiss microbiology visible, accessible, and inspiring to the wider public.

Pilar Junier, Neuchâtel, June 2025

Draw your science comic strip challenge SHOWCASE

Author
Amanda Eggenmann @menny_shamandale



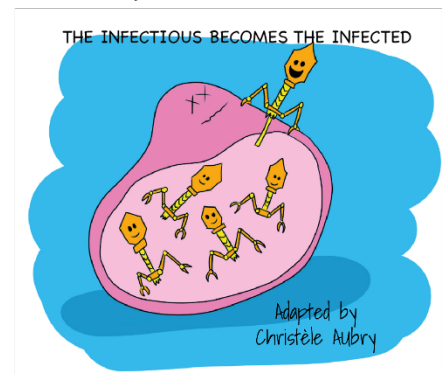
Core message
R bacteria, antibiotic resistance
Identify the bug in time, give
the good antibiotic and save the
patient's life

Original story
Florian Mauffrey



Core message
DNA sequencing can be
used to stop pathogen
outbreaks

Original story
Hughes de Villiers de la Noue



Core message
Phage therapy could present an
alternative to antibiotics for difficult to
treat infections

“Early Career” Report

By Dr Florian Tagini



Commission members:

Marion Aruanno (*Lausanne*)
Hanna Marti (*Zurich*)
Gregory Mathez (*Lausanne*)
Francis Muchaamba (*Zurich*)

Fabio Palmieri (*Neuchâtel*)
Florian Tagini (*Lausanne*)
Alessandra Vitale (*Zurich*)

This year, the Early Career section demonstrated great dynamism by organizing regular commission meetings to exchange insights and drive various initiatives forward. A key highlight was the most recent SSM meeting, where the section successfully hosted two well-attended sessions focused on career development. These included **Lunch Table sessions** designed to foster meaningful dialogue between early-career members and esteemed senior microbiologists, providing a valuable platform for career advice and networking. We are pleased that these sessions were met with such a positive reception.

Looking ahead to the 2025 SSM meeting, **Lunch Table sessions** will once again be organized. In addition, we are excited to announce two engaging sessions scheduled for the **afternoon of August 26th, from 14:00 to 17:30**. These sessions will cover timely and relevant topics: **artificial intelligence and imposter syndrome**. The afternoon will conclude with a networking event, offering further opportunities for connection and collaboration.

To boost participation among Early Career microbiologists in the Society, it's our pleasure to outline the perks available to them. We encourage you to spread the word among your younger peers. Early Career members have the opportunity to apply for an **SSM travel grant** to participate in international conferences, thereby enriching their resumes. For more details, please visit the SSM grants page ([Financial support \(swissmicrobiology.ch\)](https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/Financial-support)).

Being part of the SSM also means enjoying the advantages offered by the **Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS)**, which includes a variety of training opportunities and discounts. More information can be found on the FEMS website ([FEMS Events \(fems-microbiology.org\)](https://www.fems-microbiology.org/)).

For those with an interest in clinical microbiology, engaging in the activities of the **Trainee Association of the European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID)** comes highly recommended. As SSM members, you will also receive the latest updates in this area, aimed at honing both general and specific skills ([ESCMID: Trainee Association of ESCMID](https://www.escmid.org/)).

Early Career members are eligible for awards such as the **PhD award** and the **SSM Encouragement Award**, with more information available on the SSM awards page ([Awards \(swissmicrobiology.ch\)](https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/Awards)). Throughout the annual meeting, various competitions are organized by the society, **including awards for the best oral presentation, the best poster, and contests in lay**

communication. Additionally, as outlined previously, there are dedicated sessions specifically for Early Career members.

Membership as a student in the SSM is required to take advantage of these benefits, and it is open to those studying in microbiology-related fields (at the bachelor, master, or PhD levels) or those undergoing training in clinical microbiology (FAMH). This membership comes with a reduced annual fee of **35 CHF** (instead of 110 CHF !) and discounts for attending the annual meeting.

Early Career members benefit from the same rights as regular members, including the receipt of professional news via electronic means, networking within the microbiology community, voting rights at the general assembly, and opportunities to apply for positions such as the Early Career representative or other roles within the SSM board.

Looking forward to the upcoming SSM annual meeting, we encourage the sharing of your ideas, thoughts, or projects for the society. Young members eager to participate in organizing activities are especially encouraged to reach out.

Florian Tagini, Lausanne, June 2025



SSM BENEFITS

The SSM offers a wide range of benefits to its members:



Scientific Information and Networking

- Annual meeting
- Newsletter, Social media
- Advantages of affiliated societies (see list page 36)



Financial Support

- Travel Grants

The SSM provides travel grants for young member scientists.

- Meeting Grants

The SSM supports the organisation of scientific meetings.

To know more about the rules, please go to <https://swissmicrobiology.ch/promoting/grants/rules>



Awards:

- **SSM Encouragement Award** is given to young investigators in the field of microbiology for achievements that are outstanding in terms of their originality and of particular scientific value. Achievements in the field of teaching as well as research and development are taken into consideration as well. The Award is given for a work that has been carried out in Switzerland or that is closely connected with our country.

More details: <https://swissmicrobiology.ch/promoting/awards/encouragement-awards>

- **SSM PhD Award** distinguishes outstanding PhDs obtained in the field of microbiology and carried out in Switzerland or in close collaboration with Switzerland.

More details: <https://swissmicrobiology.ch/promoting/awards/phd-awards>

- **Best Oral Presentation:** 5 Awards (one per section) in the context of the annual meeting presentations.

- **Poster Award:** 3 Awards selected during the annual meeting



TRAVEL GRANTS REPORTS 2024

The Swiss Society for Microbiology SGM-SSM can provide funding for activities related to the dissemination of scientific results by its members. To know more about the rules, please go to <https://swissmicrobiology.ch/promoting/grants/rules>

In 2024, the SSM provided two travel grants:

- **Ellen-Aleksandra Svorjova**
Viruses of Microbes 2024,
Cairns, Australia 15 -19 July 2024
- **Enrique Rayo**
20th International Conference on Infectious Diseases,
Cape Town, South Africa, 3- 6 December 2024

The grant reports are available on our website

<https://swissmicrobiology.ch/promoting/grants/travel-grants>



MEMBERS & AFFILIATIONS

Current List of Honorary Members

By alphabetical order



With gratitude for their outstanding dedication to the society, we proudly present our Honorary Members:

- Prof. Dr. Michel ARAGNO
- Prof. Dr. Werner ARBER
- Prof. Dr. Méd. Raymond AUCKENTHALER
- Prof. Dr. Reinhard BACHOFEN
- Prof. Dr. Méd. Jacques BILLE
- Prof. Dr. Méd. Gabriela PFYFFER VON ALTISHOFEN
- Prof. Dr. Jean-Claude PIFFARETTI
- Prof. Dr. Linda THOENY-MEYER
- Prof. Dr. Méd. Alexander VON GRAEVENITZ
- Prof. Dr. Méd. Reinhard ZBINDEN

Collective members

As a Collective Member of the Swiss Society for Microbiology (SSM), you can Boost Your Industry's Visibility and Connections

For an annual fee of just 300 CHF, private companies can become part of Switzerland's vibrant microbiology community through collective membership in the SSM. This membership offers valuable benefits that promote visibility and provide opportunities to stay at the forefront of advancements in microbiology.

Becoming an SSM Collective Member is more than just a membership; it's a commitment to advancing microbiological science and supporting research:

<https://swissmicrobiology.ch/registration>

Thank You to Our Collective Members – Partners in Advancing Microbiology



New ordinary members in 2024

By alphabetical order

In 2024, the SSM welcomed **46 new members:**

- **32 new ordinary members:**

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INSTITUT
ADAMS	Simone	CHUV-Institute of Microbiology
AEBY	Sebastien	CHUV-Institute of Microbiology
AUBRY	Christèle	CHUV-Institute of Microbiology
BARBANI	Maria Teresa	Universität Bern
BLAICH	Annette	University Hospital Basel
BOURGEON	Marilou	Institute of Veterinary Bacteriology
FASO	Carmen	Institute for Infectious Diseases
FREI	Andrea	Amt für Verbraucherschutz- ZUG
GEORGIEVA	Maria	CHUV-Institute of Microbiology
GOEMENS	Camille	EPFL
HAMMES	Frederik	Eawag
HILL	Virginia	Viollier AG
HILTY	Markus	University of Bern
HOBBIE	Sven	University Hospital Basel
HUBER	Sandra	Medizinische Laboratorien Dr. F. Käppeli
JAYOL	Aurélié	Etablissements Hospitaliers du Nord Vaudois (eHnv)
JECKELMANN	Claire	University of Bern Institute for Infectious Diseases
KARRER	Yannis	Invenimus Medizinische Laboratorien AG
KETTERER	Maren	University of Basel
KOCH	Michel	Federal Office of Public Health FOPH
MARTI	Elisabet	Agroscope
MAUFFREY	Florian	CHUV
MORANDI	Pierre-Alain	CSCQ
NOBS	Samuel	University of Zurich
REMY	Melissa	Medisyn
REYES	Carolina	Empa
TALKER	Stephanie	Institute of Virology and Immunology
THOMSEN	Jens	Medics
WEISS	Gregor	ETH ZÜRICH-Institute for Molecular Biology and Biophysics
YILMAZ	Bahtiyar	University of Bern
YU	Yaochun	Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology
ZHANG	Jing	Institute of Veterinary Bacteriology

- **14 new students:**

LAST NAME	FISRT NAME	INSTITUT
BERNAUER	Sebastian	University of Basel
BRAUNWEILER	Joanne	Biozentrum, University of Basel
BRECHT	Alexandra	Biozentrum, University of Basel
BÜHLMANN	Moritz	University of Basel
EVERTZ	Elena	ethz
GERMUSKOVA	Zoja	University of Zurich
HUBER	Alexandra	University of Basel
HUMOLLI	Dorentina	ETH Zürich
KOCYAN	Sophia	ETH Zurich
LANGLOIS	Luca	University of Zürich
PAS	Celia	Gent University Belgium
TONG	Chen	University of Zürich
VOLLENWEIDER	Vera	University of Zürich
ZIMMERMANN	Felix	Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL



Join a Thriving Community of Microbiology Professionals!

Become a member of the Swiss Society of Microbiology and connect with experts, access exclusive resources, and contribute to the advancement of microbiological science. Whether you're a professional or a student, our community offers the support, opportunities, and networks you need to grow and succeed. Register today and be part of the future of microbiology!

<https://swissmicrobiology.ch/connecting/members/become-a-member-2>

By becoming a member, you can benefit from:

- **Professional Networking:** Connect with leading experts and peers in the field of microbiology.
- **Reduced participation fees:** Enjoy special rates for SSM Annual Meeting
- **Awards and Recognition:** Apply for prestigious SSM awards
- **Travel Grants:** Young scientists can apply for travel grants to attend conferences and workshops.
- **Support for Scientific Meetings:** SSM supports the organization of scientific events.
- **Affiliated Societies:** Access news, resources, and support from our network of affiliated societies.
- **Engage in the society:** Contribute to shaping the future of microbiology by joining commissions and the board.

Current members: you can update your profile by logging in, select edit profile and update your info. You can also send a mail to secretary@swissmicrobiology.ch

SSM Affiliations

The SSM is currently affiliated to the following societies.
Explore SSM member benefits through Affiliated Societies.
Check Their Pages for Details!



Swiss Academy of Sciences
<https://naturalsciences.ch>



European Society of Clinical
Microbiology and Infectious
Diseases
<https://www.escmid.org>



Federation of European
Microbiological Societies
<https://fems-microbiology.org>



European Federation of
Biotechnology
<http://www.efbiotechnology.org>



European Union of Medical
Specialists
<https://www.uems.eu>



International Union of
Microbiological Societies
<https://iums.org/index.html>



European Society for Virology
<http://www.eusv.eu>



European Confederation of
Medical Mycology
<https://www.ecmm.info>



International Mycological
Association (IMA)
<http://www.ima-mycology.org/>



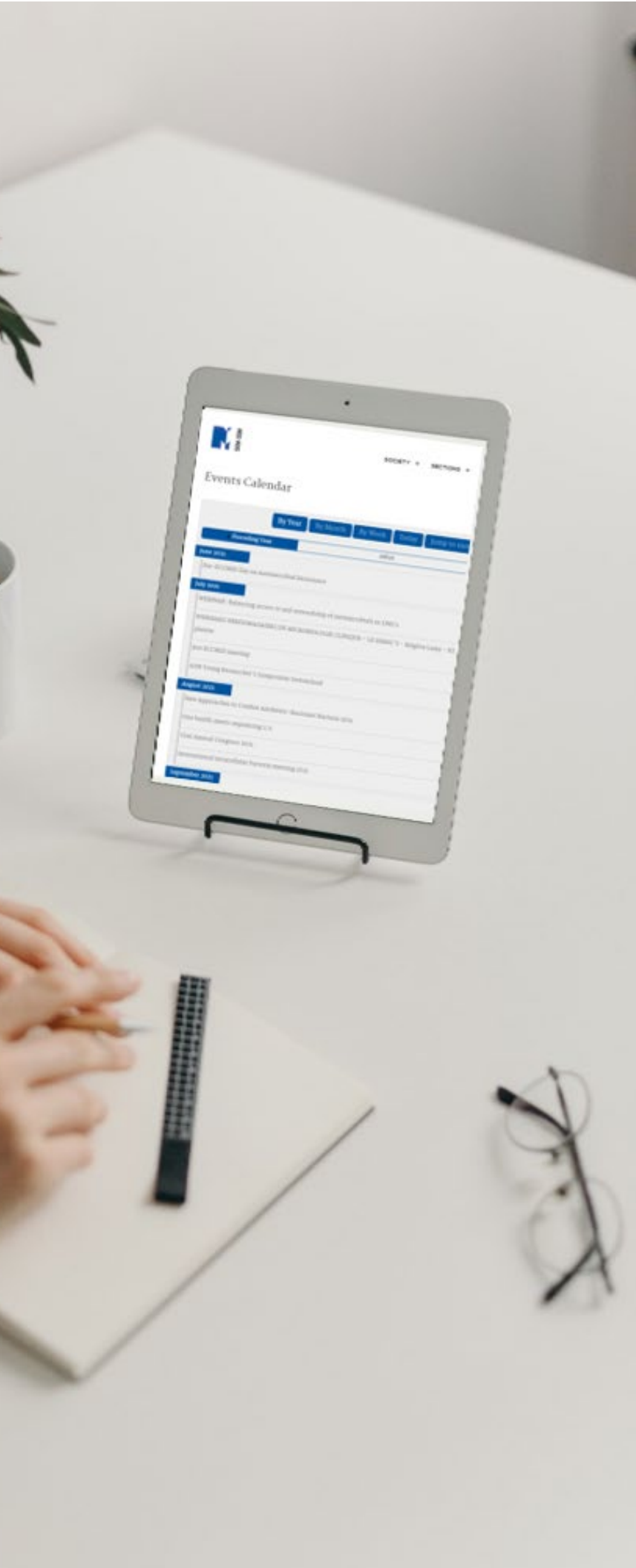
International Society for Human
and Animal Mycology
<https://www.isham.org>



Swiss Union of Laboratory
Medicine
<https://www.sulm.ch>



Swiss Coordination Committee
for Biotechnology
<https://www.sk-biotechnologie.ch/>



CALENDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

The below events can be subject to change, so please check regularly our website event page and the related event page to view the latest updates. <https://swissmicrobiology.ch/communicating/public-events/year.listevents/2025/06/17/->

PLANNED 2025 EVENTS	
JUN - JUL	
22 JUN - 27 JUN	Negative-Strand RNA Virus Meeting 2025
27 JUN	Swiss Mycology Symposium
7 JUL - 10 JUL	Du savoir au jeu : microbes et santé
AUG	
25 AUG - 29 AUG	Arolla2025 Workshop "BioMatter: From cytoskeleton to embryo"
27 AUG – 28 AUG	SSM Annual Meeting 2025 - INTERLAKEN
SEPT	
29 SEPT - 30 SEPT	Infection Prevention 2025
PLANNED 2026 EVENTS	
FEB	
11 FEB - 12 FEB	LS2 Annual Meeting 2026
26 AUG - 28 AUG	SSM Annual Meeting 2026 - MONTREUX



SGM-SSM

SWISS SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY
SOCIÉTÉ SUISSE DE MICROBIOLOGIE
SOCIETÀ SVIZZERA DI MICROBIOLOGIA
SCHWEIZERISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR MIKROBIOLOGIE

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The current SSM annual report « INFO 73» has been prepared by:

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