

Annual Report 2024

Graduate School for Health Sciences

Faculty of Medicine
Faculty of Human Sciences
Vetsuisse Faculty



GHS Symposium 2024

Health is the soul that animates all the enjoyments of life, which fade and are tasteless without it.

Seneca

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Introduction

As we reflect on the year 2024, I am delighted to share with you the significant milestones and achievements of the Graduate School for Health Sciences (GHS). The year was marked by continuous growth in the number of students and graduations, alongside our daily efforts to integrate and apply the new GHS regulations, which are pivotal to our ongoing success.

We welcomed 38 new students in 2024, bringing our total enrolment to 186 doctoral candidates. This represents an impressive increase of 226% since the end of 2018. The growing number of students was matched by a new record for graduations with 34 candidates successfully defending their theses. Additionally, our students' scientific contributions were remarkable, resulting in 196 publications registered in BORIS.

The first cohorts of students under the new regulations reached important milestones in their PhD journeys, including the completion of their first-year exams and the submission of their first Progress Reports. A key feature of the new regulations is the mentor system, which assigns a GHS Expert Committee member as mentor to each doctoral candidate upon acceptance into the GHS. This system provides valuable support to our students and ensures high quality standards of supervision.

The GHS symposium, held at the Studienzentrum Gerzensee, once again received enthusiastic feedback from both students and GHS members. This event is a cornerstone of our Graduate School, offering a unique platform for exchange, scientific networking, and high-level presentations. We look forward to welcoming you to our next symposium, which will take place at the same beautiful location on November 26-27, 2025.

In 2024, we were pleased to welcome Dr. Bernhard Völkl and Prof. Claudia Spadavecchia as new members of the GHS Steering Board, representing the Vetsuisse Faculty. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Prof. Adrian Steiner and Prof. Marcel Zwahlen, who left the Steering Board in June and December 2024

respectively, for their dedicated service.

The end of the year brought another significant change to the GHS Steering Board, as Prof. Sissel Guttormsen stepped down as President after four years of eventful and challenging leadership, including the enactment and implementation of the new GHS regulations. On behalf of the GHS Steering Board and administration, I express my deepest gratitude to Prof. Guttormsen for her competent leadership and invaluable support.

I would also like to sincerely thank the GHS administration for their tireless work on behalf of our students and members. Additionally, I am grateful to the GHS Steering Board, the Expert Committees, and the Faculties of Medicine, Human Sciences, and Vetsuisse for their ongoing engagement and support. Last but not least, I thank all the PhD supervisors whose work is essential for maintaining the quality and high standards of our Graduate School.

To gain a comprehensive overview of our activities and accomplishments in 2024, I invite you to read this annual report.



Prof. Dr. Claudio Nigg
President GHS Steering Board
Bern, July 2025



GHS Symposium 2024

Highlights

Continued Growth

Between 2018 and 2024, the Graduate School of Health Sciences (GHS) experienced substantial growth, with student enrollment increasing by over 226%, reaching a total of 186 students in 2024.

Academic Achievements

This rapid growth is reflected in the rising number of graduations, with a record of 34 PhD candidates successfully defending their theses in 2024 — the core objective of the Graduate School. Additionally, 2024 saw remarkable research productivity, with GHS students publishing 196 articles in high-quality, peer-reviewed journals, as documented in BORIS.

Unique Clinical Sciences Specialization with the 50:50 Model

The Clinical Sciences specialization, fostered by Expert Committee III, continues to draw significant interest due to its innovative 50:50 model. This unique approach in Switzerland offers PhD candidates a dual career pathway, integrating clinical research and clinical practice, thereby providing exceptional professional development opportunities.

Flagship Event: GHS Symposium

The 16th GHS Symposium, held at Studienzentrum Gerzensee in October 2024, upheld its reputation for excellence with 76 student talks and poster presentations. The program also featured lectures and workshops addressing public health ethics and emerging ethical challenges in biomedicine and neurotechnology. The symposium remains an invaluable forum for networking and scholarly exchange among students, peers, and experts.

Valuable Mentor System

In 2024, all new GHS students were enrolled under updated regulations that introduced a formal mentor system. Each student is assigned a mentor at enrollment who supports them through their studies to the thesis defense. Acting as representatives of the GHS within the supervision team, mentors ensure high-quality supervision and foster interdisciplinarity by connecting students with experts across diverse research fields.

Growth of Expert Committees

Reflecting the school's expansion, the membership of the three Expert Committees increased from 26 members in January 2019 to 43 in 2024, a 65% rise. During this period, female representation in the committees improved significantly, rising from 23% to 44%.

Student Representation

Student representation was successfully established on the GHS Steering Board in 2024. The students under the three Expert Committees appointed one student representative each, who actively contributes with valuable insights in the Steering Board's discussions and strategic processes.

New GHS Committee members

In 2024 the GHS welcomed two new Steering Board members, three new Expert Committee (FK) members and one new member of the Bridge Commission:

Dr. Bernhard Völkl (Member of the Steering Board)
Department of Clinical Research and Veterinary Public Health (DCR-VPH)

Prof. Dr. med. vet. Claudia Spadavecchia (Member of the Steering Board)
Department of Clinical Veterinary Science

PD Dr. phil. Anja Gysin-Maillart (Expert Committee II / FKII)
University Hospital of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy

Prof. Dr. med. Bogdan Draganski (Expert Committee II / FKII)
University Hospital Inselspital, Department of Neurology

PD Dr. med. Thomas Raphael Meinel, PhD (Expert Committee III / FKIII)
University Hospital Inselspital, Department of Neurology

Prof. Dr. Heiner Baur (Bridge Commission)
Bern University of Applied Sciences, School of Health Professions



GHS Symposium 2024

Vision and Mission

Vision

Doctoral Candidates at the GHS have the best conditions and support to advance their knowledge and research competencies in a health science related topic.

with ethical principles applied to health sciences and to achieve an internationally recognized and competitive PhD title.

Mission

The PhD program promotes and offers scientifically oriented courses in combination with clinical, experimental, and translational research, ensuring integrity and stimulating students to work responsibly and independently in the pursuit of in-depth knowledge. From these statements, strategic goals and foci have been inferred, that guide the work of the GHS on all levels:

Support and Develop

Support doctoral students throughout their PhD program, ensuring the best supervision and structure and motivate them to become competent, qualified, and innovative professionals who will contribute to the improvement of health. PhD candidates are supported in building networks within and outside of their PhD group.

Promote Excellence, Quality, and Integrity in research

Guide and prepare doctoral students to deepen knowledge, become competent & successful researchers, ensuring integrity in training and research, in line

Foster a solid and advanced knowledge on global health issues

Provide a program that encourages doctoral students to expand their knowledge beyond their specific research training through interdisciplinary courses, content, and methods in the field of health sciences.



GHS Symposium 2024

Distinctive Features of the GHS

The Graduate School for Health Sciences (GHS) stands out in the field of health sciences education and research thanks to several distinctive features.

Interfaculty and Multidisciplinary Collaboration

GHS is a joint initiative by the Faculties of Human Sciences, Medicine, and Vetsuisse. This interdisciplinary framework cultivates a dynamic academic environment where diverse perspectives converge, supporting wide-ranging connections between researchers and promote multidisciplinary projects.

Comprehensive, Internationally Recognized Training

GHS bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and experimental practice. Our training programs are meticulously designed to equip students with the skills and expertise necessary to thrive in the global academic and research landscape, ensuring alignment with international standards.

Specialized Expertise

Each doctoral candidate is assigned to one of three Expert Committees upon application to the GHS. The experts offer feedback on the research project design and provide guidance on the candidates' individual training programs. This support helps candidates delve deeply into their chosen fields,

gaining specialized knowledge that promotes a comprehensive and impactful exploration of their specific research areas.

Unique 50-50 Model

One of the hallmark features of GHS is our 50-50 model, which effectively integrates clinical research with clinical practice. This model ensures that our students gain hands-on experience alongside their research activities, preparing them for successful careers in both academia and clinical practice.

Rigorous Curriculum

The GHS curriculum is structured to cultivate in-depth knowledge, critical thinking, and a strong foundation in ethical research. It encourages students to integrate ethical considerations into the methodologies of their research projects — an essential component in developing into leading experts in their respective fields.

GHS Symposium

The GHS Symposium is the leading event of our PhD program, celebrating academic excellence and innovation. This event brings together PhD candidates and professionals from various disciplines to exchange ideas, foster meaningful discussions, and build lasting collaborations.

Quality Measures at the GHS

The Graduate School for Health Sciences (GHS) is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards in PhD education and research. A structured framework of quality measures ensures that PhD candidates receive rigorous academic training, meet the program's research expectations, and develop into independent researchers.

The following measures define our commitment to excellence (see *Overall demands for the candidates* on page 22):

Rigorous Admission and Project Evaluation

Admission to the GHS is highly selective. Each proposed project is carefully reviewed by members of the Expert Committee to ensure feasibility, scientific soundness, and alignment with the research standards of the program. This thorough evaluation guarantees that accepted projects have the potential to generate original, peer-reviewed publications and meet the academic demands of the GHS.

Structured Training Program

Doctoral candidates are required to obtain 18.0 ECTS credit points during their PhD. These can be earned through participation in approved, project-related courses, workshops, seminars, and lectures. Each individual training plan is developed in consultation with the supervision team and is based on the candidate's prior academic background. It is tailored to the specific requirements of the research project, supporting both the advancement of the research and the concrete realization of the doctoral dissertation.

Mandatory Ethics Training

Ethical conduct is a core component of the program. All PhD candidates complete a two-day course on research ethics in the health sciences, delivered by experts who bring different perspectives on ethical issues. The course offers a comprehensive overview of key ethical principles and challenges relevant to research in the health sciences.

Annual Progress Reports

Doctoral candidates are required to submit detailed annual Progress Reports outlining their academic activities, including coursework, exams, conference participation, and publication progress. These reports enable the Thesis Committee to monitor each candidate's development, provide constructive feedback,

and ensure alignment with the program's milestones. As part of this process, the mentor evaluates the progress critically, assessing the quality and direction of the research and formally approving the report.

Structured Intermediate Evaluations

Two formal evaluations mark critical stages of the PhD journey:

• Year 1: Methodology Exam

Candidates complete a written exam focused on the methodological foundations of their project. This exam ensures a solid understanding of the research design and promotes critical reflection on the chosen approach, including its limitations and potential.

• Year 2: Oral Examination

In the second year, candidates deliver a 30–40 minute public scientific presentation of their ongoing research, followed by a discussion with the Thesis Committee. This exam evaluates the candidate's research competence, critical thinking, and ability to communicate and defend their work, while offering a forward-looking perspective on the final phase of the PhD.

These evaluations provide structured feedback and guidance, allowing candidates to refine their approach and maintain high academic standards.

Research Output and Scholarly Engagement

A strong emphasis is placed on original research and academic dissemination. PhD candidates must produce a minimum of three original publications submitted to peer-reviewed journals. This requirement ensures meaningful contributions to their field and fosters the development of independent research skills.

Conference Participation

Active engagement with the academic community is encouraged and expected. Candidates regularly participate in conferences and scientific meetings, where they present their work, receive feedback from experts, and stay informed about current research developments in their disciplines.



GHS Symposium 2024

GHS Organization

Multidisciplinarity

The Graduate School for Health Sciences (GHS) implements its vision and mission by offering an attractive study and supervision program. Our PhD program supports candidates in meeting all requirements, particularly those related to admissions, coursework, and publication expectations. Additionally, GHS promotes a lively exchange of ideas among our students. As an interfaculty and truly multidisciplinary graduate school, GHS leverages the strengths of diverse paradigms and methodologies in health to enhance research and clinical interventions.

Collaborative Program

The program is jointly organized by the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Human Sciences, and the Vetsuisse Faculty. It provides comprehensive and internationally recognized training in both the theory and practice of experimental research, alongside in-depth specialist knowledge in individually selected research areas. This training addresses questions rooted in both basic research and applied fields.

Strategic Leadership

Strategic management of GHS is provided by a Steering Board with members from the participating

faculties and Expert Committees. There are three expert committees, each covering a broad spectrum of research approaches and methods: **Individual Factors, Public Health and Methodologies for Health Sciences Research** (Expert Committee I), **Neurosciences** (Expert Committee II), and **Clinical Sciences** (Expert Committee III). These committees are also responsible for the admission, guidance, and evaluation of PhD candidates.

Academic Support

With access to an extensive body of academic experts and resources, GHS students develop into highly qualified professionals, researchers, and academics, ready to apply their knowledge and skills in complex subjects within their chosen areas. In 2024, 181 academic experts (thesis advisors and co-thesis advisors) supported our PhD candidates in their research endeavors.

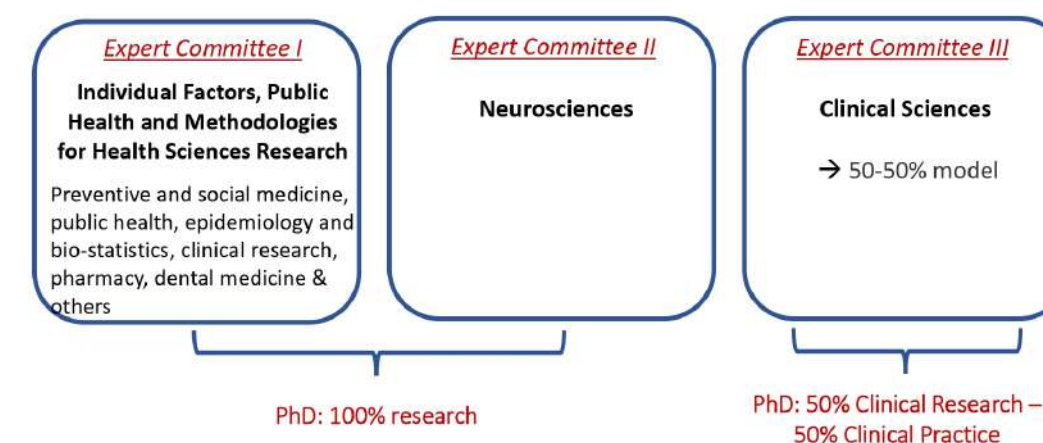
Operational Management

The GHS Office is directed by Coordinator Dr. Tullia Padovani, who oversees the operational organization. She is supported by the GHS Steering Board and office team, including Mette Borg Frees, Réka Molnár, Anastasiia Masliukovska and Fabian Nobrega Freitas.

Expert Committees

Three expert committees and their respective research time dedication.

3 Expert Committees



Degree Awarded

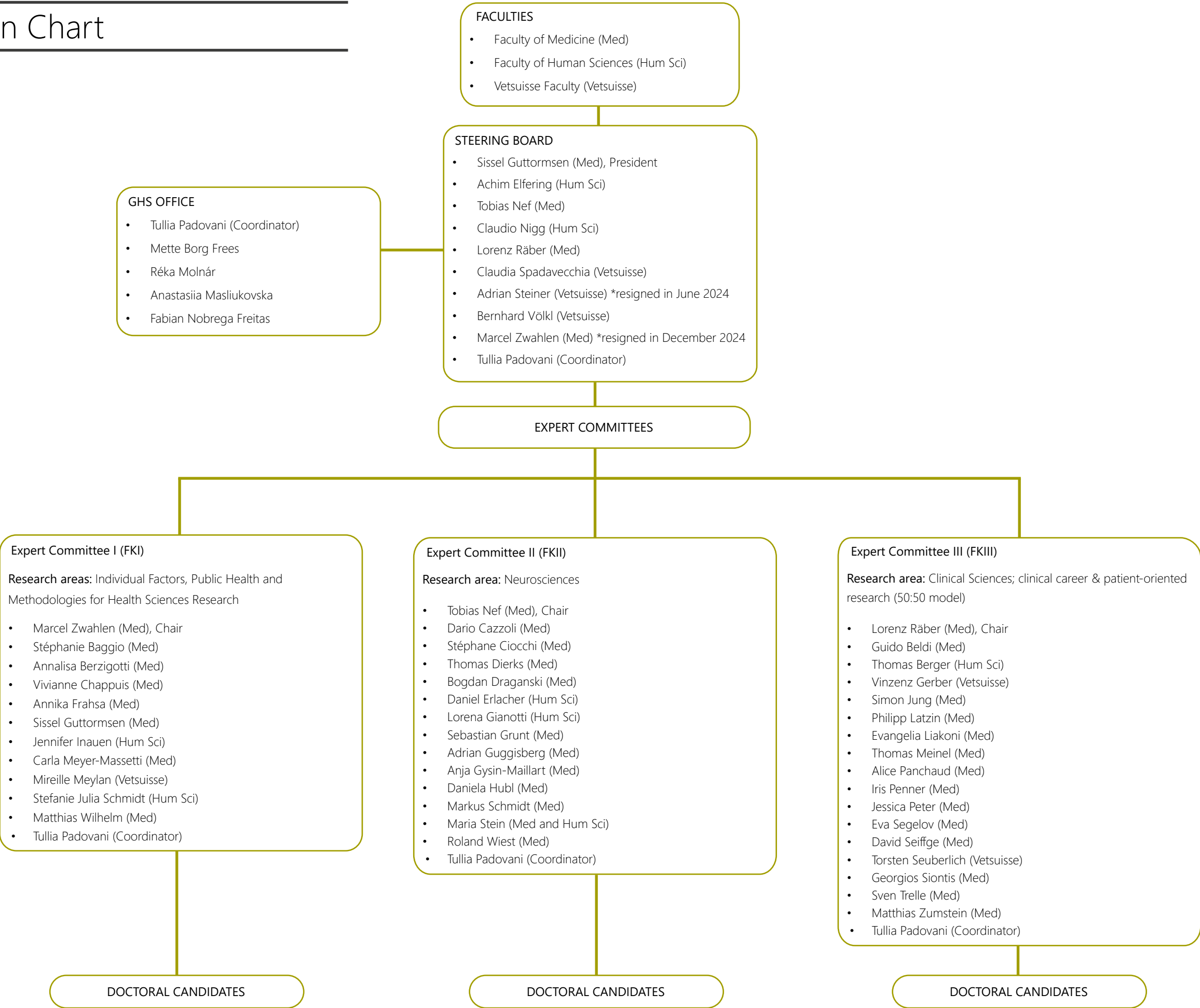
Awarded PhD title.

Title awarded from the GHS: **PhD in Health Sciences (specialization)**



*The translated into German title is awarded only to students under the new GHS regulations.

GHS Organization Chart



Steering Board

The Graduate School is strategically managed by a Steering Board. The Steering Board is composed of two representatives each from the Faculty of Human Sciences, the Faculty of Medicine and the Vetsuisse Faculty, together with the Program Coordinator. Those representing the faculties are professors. At least one representative per faculty must be a member of the respective Faculty Council (Fakultätskollegium). Additional persons can be elected to sit on the Steering Board if the faculties concerned are in agreement.

The members of the Steering Board must be renowned scientists and are elected by the University Board of Directors for a period of office of four years, upon application by the faculties involved. They can be reappointed. The representatives of the Faculties on the Steering Board preside over the Board in turn.



Prof. Dr. phil. Sissel **GUTTORMSEN**
 Director, Institute for Medical Education (IML)
 Founding President and Member since August 2008



Prof. Dr.
 Achim **ELFERING**
 Work and Organizational Psychology,
 Institute of Psychology.

Member since August 2008.



Prof. Dr. med. Dr. phil. nat.
 Lorenz **RÄBER**
 Chair of Expert Committee III
 University Hospital Bern, Department
 of Cardiology.

Member since August 2021.



PD Dr.
 Bernhard **VÖLKL**
 Veterinary Public Health Institute,
 Department of Clinical Research and
 Veterinary Public Health (DCR-VPH).

Member since May 2024.



Prof. Dr.
 Tobias **NEF**
 Chair of Expert Committee II
 ARTORG Center for Biomedical
 Engineering Research.

Member since August 2021.



Prof. Dr. med. vet.
 Claudia **SPADAVECCHIA**
 Institute of Veterinary Anaesthesiology
 and Pain Therapy, Department of
 Clinical Veterinary Science

Member since July 2024.



Prof. Dr.
 Marcel **ZWAHLEN**
 Chair of Expert Committee I
 Director, Institute of Social and
 Preventive Medicine (ISPM).

Member from August 2022 to
 December 2024.



Prof. Dr. phil.
 Claudio **NIGG**
 Department of Health Science,
 Institute of Sport Science.

Member since January 2020.



Prof. Dr. med. vet.
 Adrian **STEINER**
 Department of Clinical Veterinary
 Science, Ruminant Clinic.

Member from February 2023 to
 June 2024.



Dr. phil.
 Tullia **PADOVANI**
 GHS Coordinator and Lecturer.

Member since January 2019.

Expert Committees

PhD candidates (listed on the [GHS Website](#)) currently carrying out their research projects within the framework of the GHS are grouped by GHS Expert Committees (Fachkommissionen: FKI, FKII and FKIII):

- **Individual Factors, Public Health and Methodologies for Health Sciences Research (Expert Committee / FKI)**
- **Neurosciences (Expert Committee II / FKII)**
- **Clinical Sciences (Expert Committee III / FKIII)**

Each PhD candidate is assigned to one of the GHS Expert Committees. The committees are responsible for the admittance, guidance, and evaluation of the PhD candidates.

Expert Committee I / Fachkommission I / FKI		
Research Areas: Individual Factors, Public Health and Methodologies for Health Sciences Research		
Name	Affiliation	Institute
Marcel Zwahlen	Faculty of Medicine	Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Stéphanie Baggio	Faculty of Medicine	Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM)
Annalisa Berzigotti	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital Bern Department for Visceral Surgery and Medicine
Vivianne Chappuis	Faculty of Medicine	Institute of Dental Medicine (ZMK)
Annika Frahsa	Faculty of Medicine	Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Sissel Guttormsen	Faculty of Medicine	Institute for Medical Education
Jennifer Inauen	Faculty of Human Sciences	Institute of Psychology
Carla Meyer-Massetti	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital Bern, Department of General Internal Medicine
Mireille Meylan	Vetsuisse Faculty	Department of Clinical Veterinary Science
Stefanie Schmidt	Faculty of Human Sciences	Institute of Psychology
Matthias Wilhelm	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital Bern, Department of Cardiology
Tullia Padovani	GHS Coordinator	Graduate School for Health Sciences

Expert Committee II / Fachkommission II / FK II		
Research Areas: Neurosciences		
Name	Affiliation	Institute
Tobias Nef	Faculty of Medicine	ARTORG Center for Biomedical Engineering Research
Dario Cazzoli	Faculty of Medicine	ARTORG Center for Biomedical Engineering Research
Stéphane Ciochi	Faculty of Medicine	Department of Physiology
Thomas Dierks	Faculty of Medicine	Universitäre Psychiatrische Dienste (UPD)
Bogdan Draganski	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital Bern, Department of Neurology
Daniel Erlacher	Faculty of Human Sciences	Institute of Sport Science
Lorena Gianotti	Faculty of Human Sciences	Institute of Psychology
Anja Gysin-Maillart	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy University Hospital Bern, Department of Pediatrics
Sebastian Grunt	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital Bern, Department of Neurology
Adrian Guggisberg	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
Daniela Hubl	Faculty of Medicine	Department for BioMedical Research (DBMR)
Markus Schmidt	Faculty of Medicine	Institute of Psychology / Universitäre Psychiatrische Dienste (UPD)
Maria Stein	Faculty of Medicine & Faculty of Human Sciences	University Hospital Bern, Department of Diagnostics and Interventional Neuroradiology
Roland Wiest	Faculty of Medicine	Graduate School for Health Sciences
Tullia Padovani	GHS Coordinator	

Expert Committee III / Fachkommission III		
Research Areas: Clinical Sciences, clinical career and patient-oriented research (50:50 model)		
Name	Affiliation	Institute
Lorenz Räber	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital Bern Department of Cardiology
Guido Beldi	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital Bern, Department for Visceral Surgery and Medicine
Thomas Berger	Faculty of Human Sciences	Institute of Psychology
Vinzenz Gerber	Vetsuisse Faculty	Department of Clinical Veterinary Science
Simon Jung	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital Bern, Department of Neurology
Philipp Latzin	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital Bern, Department of Pediatrics
Evangelia Liakoni	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital Bern, Department of General Internal Medicine
Thomas Raphael Meinel	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital Bern, Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology
Alice Panchaud	Faculty of Medicine	Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM)
Iris-Katharina Penner	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital Bern, Department of Neurology
Jessica Peter	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital of Old Age Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
David Seiffge	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital Bern, Department of Neurology
Eva Segelov	Faculty of Medicine	Department of Clinical Research (DCR)
Torsten Seuberlich	Vetsuisse Faculty	Department of Clinical Research and Veterinary Public Health (DCR-VPH)
Georgios Siontis	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital Bern, Department of Cardiology
Sven Trelle	Faculty of Medicine	Clinical Trials Unit (CTU Bern)
Matthias Zumstein	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital Bern, Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology
Tullia Padovani	GHS Coordinator	Graduate School for Health Sciences

GHS Student Representatives

The GHS students are represented in the GHS Steering Board by three Student Representatives, one for each Expert Committee (FK).
The Steering Board decided in 2023 to give the GHS students a direct voice and vote in the Board (P-230426). Since the implementation in 2024, the Student Representatives have enriched the discussions and strategic decisions of the Steering Board with their perspectives and ideas. The representation, including the election of new Representatives, is organized directly by the students.

When the GHS introduced student representatives, I was pleased to serve as one of them. I had been actively involved in the institutional life at my previous universities, especially during my first PhD. Engaging in such activities, meeting professors from various fields, and collaborating on identifying issues and solutions can be very rewarding. On the GHS steering board, we brought forward a range of ideas to enhance access to information and simplify administrative procedures for both students and the GHS office. There was always an openness to discuss our proposals, which I greatly appreciated.

Marc Dupuis
Institute of Primary Health Care
(BIHAM)
Student Representative FK I



Korian Wicki
(from December 2024)
Department of Old Age Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
Student Representative FK II

I stepped into the role of PhD student representative shortly before the end of 2024, taking over from my colleague Melanie Nuoffer after she completed her doctorate. Although I hadn't initially planned to take on this responsibility, I accepted the role to ensure continuity and support her transition. Even within the short time I've held the position, it has given me a better understanding of how the GHS functions and highlighted the importance of student representation. I see this role as a meaningful opportunity to contribute to our community and help maintain open communication between PhD researchers and GHS.



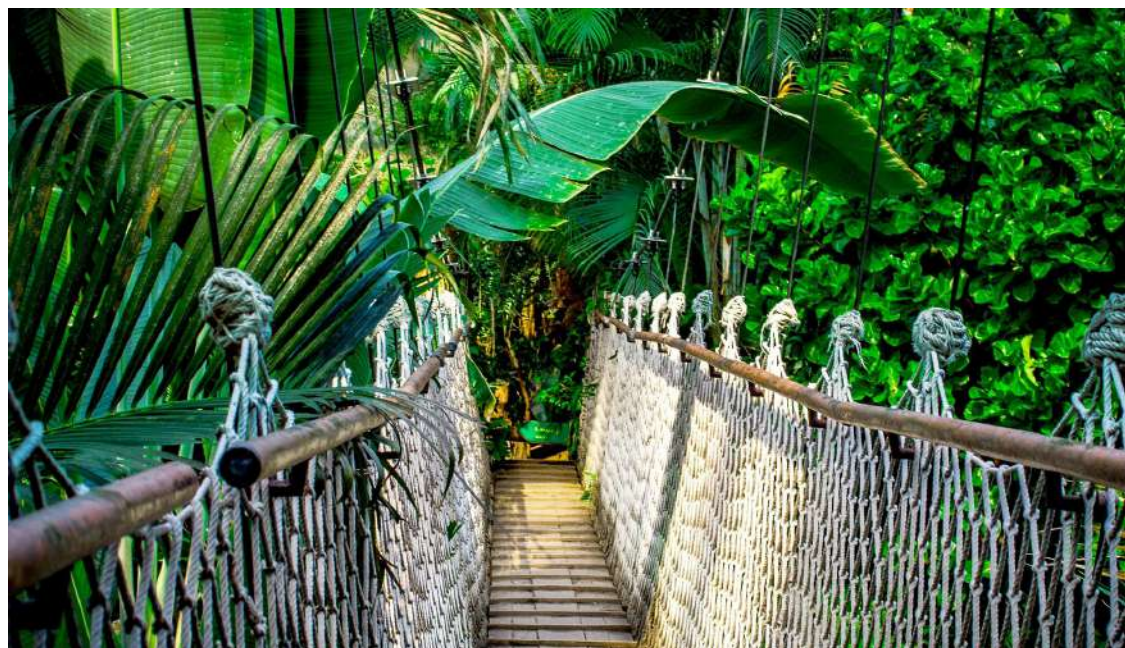
Melanie Nuoffer
(February-December 2024)
University Hospital of Psychiatry
Student Representative FK II

With the student representative role newly instituted, I was honored to serve as the first from my FK — motivated by the chance to lay the groundwork for lasting change, create something new for future students in the GHS, and show that student voices can help shape the future of the Graduate School.



Jennifer Amsler
Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, University Hospital Bern
Student Representative FK III

My motivation for becoming a student representative was mainly the wish to contribute to the improvement of the GHS and the student's experience. As a student representative, I want to ensure that our concerns are communicated effectively to faculty and administration. Participating at the steering board meetings also help me to gain insight into the organization and to mediate between students and leaders of the GHS. I'm passionate about fostering a supportive and responsive environment at the GHS in order to make the doctorate for each student a positive experience.



Bridge Commission

Introduction

The GHS Bridge Commission (BC) was established to evaluate applications from candidates holding a Master's degree from a University of Applied Sciences (FH) or a University of Teacher Education (PH).

The BC develops individualized proposals for the acquisition of additional required ECTS (European Credit Transfer) in accordance with the new regulations (PR. Art.8.3) and recommends how these additional requirements should be fulfilled. The proposals must be approved by the dean of the relevant faculty.

Members of the Bridge Commission

- Marcel Zwahlen (Chair)
- Heiner Baur (from June 2024)
- Eva Cignacco (until June 2024)
- Daniel Erlacher
- Stephan Reichenbach
- Tullia Padovani

Application Requirements

Applicants from FH or PH must meet the following requirements:

1. The project topic must be health-related.
2. Supervision by the University of Bern or joint supervision by the University of Bern and the FH or PH.
3. FH or PH Master's degree with a minimal grade of 5.
4. FH or PH Master's degree with a minimum of 90 ECTS.
5. Additional required ECTS must be fulfilled during the regular PhD period.
6. Approval of the dean of the involved faculty.

These criteria were established at the Steering Board Meeting P-230426.

Evaluation Process

The BC has outlined a detailed process for evaluating candidates, which includes assessing previous experience and determining additional ECTS requirements.

Step-by-Step Evaluation

1. Checklist to verify the application requirements.
2. Determine Additional ECTS:
Assess the candidate's profile to determine how many additional ECTS (30-60) are needed, in accordance with PR Art.8.3.
3. Recognize Prior Academic and Practical Experience and Establish Criteria for Recognizing previous Experience:
 - a. Publications:
 - First authorship of new studies: 5 ECTS
 - First authorship related to master's thesis: 3 ECTS
 - Second place co-authorship: 2 ECTS
 - Third place co-authorship: 1 ECTS
 - Last authorship: same as first authorship
 - b. Congress Participation:
 - ½ day attendance: 0.5 ECTS
 - One or more days of attendance: 1 ECTS

4. Request Additional Information:
If necessary, ask the candidates for more information about their past research experience.
5. Final ECTS Assessment:
Determine the final number of additional ECTS required.
6. Identify Educational Gaps:
Evaluate if there are gaps in the candidate's education that need to be filled with specific courses.

7. Course List Submission:

Ask the candidate to provide a list of courses, agreed upon with their thesis advisor/supervision team, to fulfill the ECTS requirements. This list should be submitted before the next application deadline and included in the doctoral agreement.

8. GHS Interview:

Invite the candidate to the GHS interview as per the standard application procedure.

9. Approval of the Course List:

The Bridge Commission will approve the list of courses.

10. Dean's Approval:

Send the approved list to the dean of the involved faculty for final approval.

Future Directions

The BC plans to refine and expand its criteria and processes as it gains more experience and evaluates more candidates. In 2024, four PhD candidates successfully enrolled in the GHS. The procedure established under the new regulations has proven to be both effective and efficient.

PhD Program

Doctoral Program

The Graduate School for Health Sciences (GHS) offers research-oriented curricula on psychological and physiological factors that determine the health of individuals and groups in their social contexts and physical environments. The GHS in general focuses on patient-oriented clinical research that is carried out directly with patients or healthy volunteers. The doctoral degrees are jointly issued by the faculties involved after submission of the written thesis and successful defense of the thesis. As a rule, the PhD thesis must be submitted no later than one year after completion of the experimental work. The University regulations require enrollment until the successful completion of studies.

The PhD typically lasts 3 - 4 years (Expert Committees I and II) or 4 - 6 years (Expert Committee III).

Requirements

The training program requires at least 18.0 ECTS, which can be obtained by participating in approved, project-related and interdisciplinary courses, workshops, conferences, seminars, and lectures.

There are two required exams, for more details see *Structured Intermediate Evaluations* (page 8).

Supervision

Each PhD candidate is supervised by a thesis committee consisting of the thesis advisor and a co-referee. In addition, the candidates of the Expert Committee III and all candidates under the new regulations have a mentor assigned, who also chairs the PhD defense. The candidates of the Expert Committees I and II choose a member of the Expert Committees as GHS Representative for chairing the PhD defense.

Thesis Committee

The *thesis advisor* is responsible for the research project, adequate supervision, the laboratory infrastructure, and the salary of the candidate.

The *Co-thesis advisor (optional)* can be appointed to support the thesis advisor. The co-thesis advisor is an expert within the field of the dissertation and is chosen by the thesis advisor.

The *Co-referee* should be an expert in the research area of the thesis project but must not be affiliated with the same institute/department as the thesis advisor. He/she meets with the candidate at least twice a year to discuss and assess progress of the thesis work, as well as advising and supporting the candidate. The co-referee is present at the exams and the thesis defense.

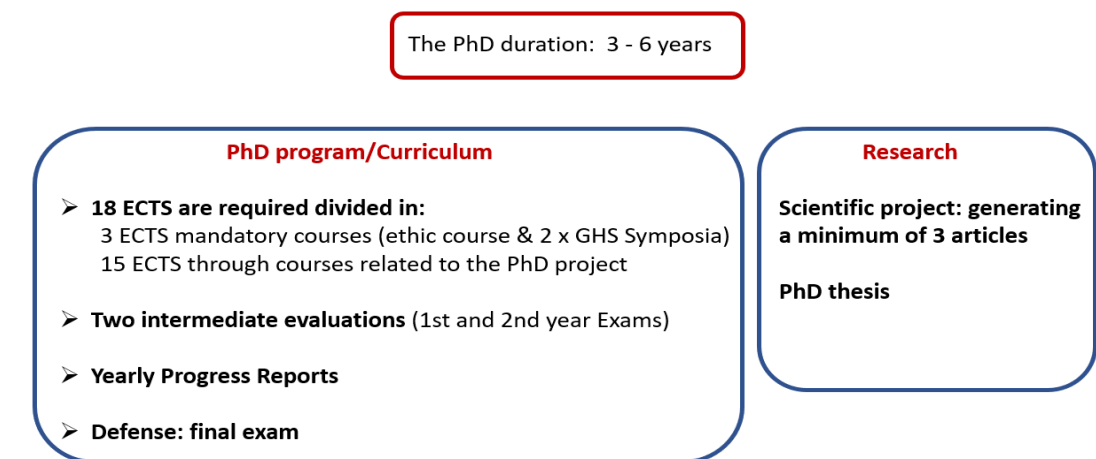
The *Mentor* guides the candidate on the tailor-made training program reported in the doctoral agreement and together with the thesis advisor, evaluates the progress report and chairs the defense exam. The mentor is also a mediator in case of conflicts within the thesis committee.

Financial Support

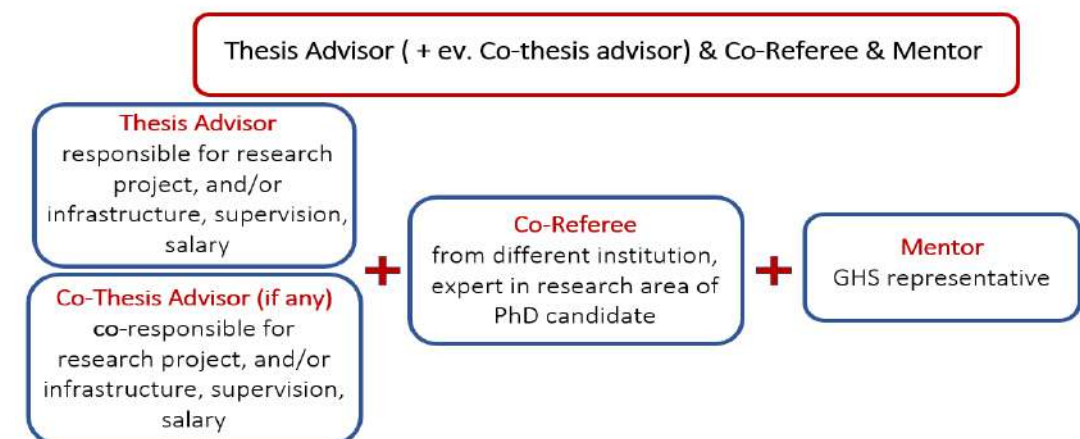
By granting a financial contribution, the GHS actively supports the participation of candidates in national and international conferences and in special training courses offered by recognized institutions in Switzerland and abroad.

PhD Program Structure

Overall demands for the candidates



Thesis Committee



PhD Curriculum: Courses and conferences

Seminars and courses are selected for each candidate individually from courses supported by GHS, from the teaching units of the faculties, and from courses offered by other Swiss or foreign universities. Some candidates also take part in internationally organized Summer Schools, which provide high quality training in specific fields. Active participation at meetings or conferences can be recognized as part of the PhD curriculum as well.

18 ECTS credit points are necessary for the GHS PhD program. These ECTS include:

- ☐ Mandatory Requirements (3 ECTS)
- ☐ Core Courses (2 to 4 ECTS)
- ☐ Method Skills (4 to 6 ECTS)
- ☐ Special Knowledge (including meetings and conferences) (min. 6 ECTS)

The [Course Catalog](#) lists suggestions for the different course categories. The Mandatory, Core, Methods and Special Knowledge Courses offered by the GHS are listed on the website. GHS recognizes external courses and meetings/conferences when they meet the requirements and can provide financial support in many cases.

Curriculum

- ☐ Each PhD candidate compiles an individual curriculum based on qualifications and relevance to the research interests.
- ☐ Also courses and meetings/conferences not listed in the GHS Course Catalog can be selected upon agreement with the GHS Coordinator; they must involve active participation and be of minimum of 0.5 ECTS and on a 0.5 ECTS scale.
- ☐ The selection of courses and meetings/conferences should be documented in the Doctoral Agreement (DA).

Mandatory Requirements

Basics of Ethics in Health Sciences Research
GHS Symposium: Poster presentation
GHS Symposium: Oral presentation

Partner Programs

[Public Health Sciences Course Program \(University of Bern\)](#)

The Course Program is recommended to doctoral candidates working on public health-related topics who want to get ready for a post-doc position in academia or an organization close to science. The Course Program is highly interdisciplinary, with scholars from several faculties contributing.

[The BENEFRi Neuroscience Program](#)

is a convention between the Universities of Bern and Fribourg and is available to GHS students. Its purpose is the organization of joint postgraduate courses and lectures for doctoral candidates in Neuroscience at the two Universities. At the moment it includes the Faculty of Medicine in Bern and the Faculty of Science and Medicine in Fribourg.

[Courses offered by Lemanic Neuroscience Doctoral School \(LNDS\)](#)

The Lemanic Neuroscience Doctoral School (LNDS) organizes student training both in theoretical and experimental aspects of neuroscience.

[Clinical Neuroscience Bern](#)

is an Interdisciplinary collaboration pivotal to success in clinical neuroscience research and methodology. The research focus of Clinical Neurosciences Bern aims to improve information exchanges and promote cooperation with internal and external partners.

[Department of Clinical Research \(DCR\) Course Program](#)

The DCR offers practical and methodological courses aimed at clinical researchers, as well as extracurricular online lectures and talks.

[Transferable Skills](#) (University of Bern)

provide key qualifications for your academic and non-academic career through individual feedback from experts, intensive learning in small groups, and multidisciplinary networking. Transferable skills are competencies acquired in one context that can be applied to other contexts, jobs, positions, functions or fields of work.

[The Graduate School for Cellular and Biomedical Sciences \(GCB\) \(University of Bern\)](#)

is jointly administered by the Faculties of Medicine, Science and Vetsuisse, and offers structured, experimental research training programs leading to a PhD, MD.PhD, or DVM.PhD degree.

MD-PhD Scholarships

GHS doctoral students with a Master in Medicine may apply annually for the MD-PhD scholarships. The National MD-PhD Program, which is supported by the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS/SAMW), and several foundations, awards scholarships every year to outstanding graduates in human medicine, veterinary medicine and dentistry with residency in Switzerland.

Further information can be found on the [SAMS](#) website.



Basics of Ethics Course Mittelstrasse 43

Basics of Ethics in Health Sciences Research

Course Overview

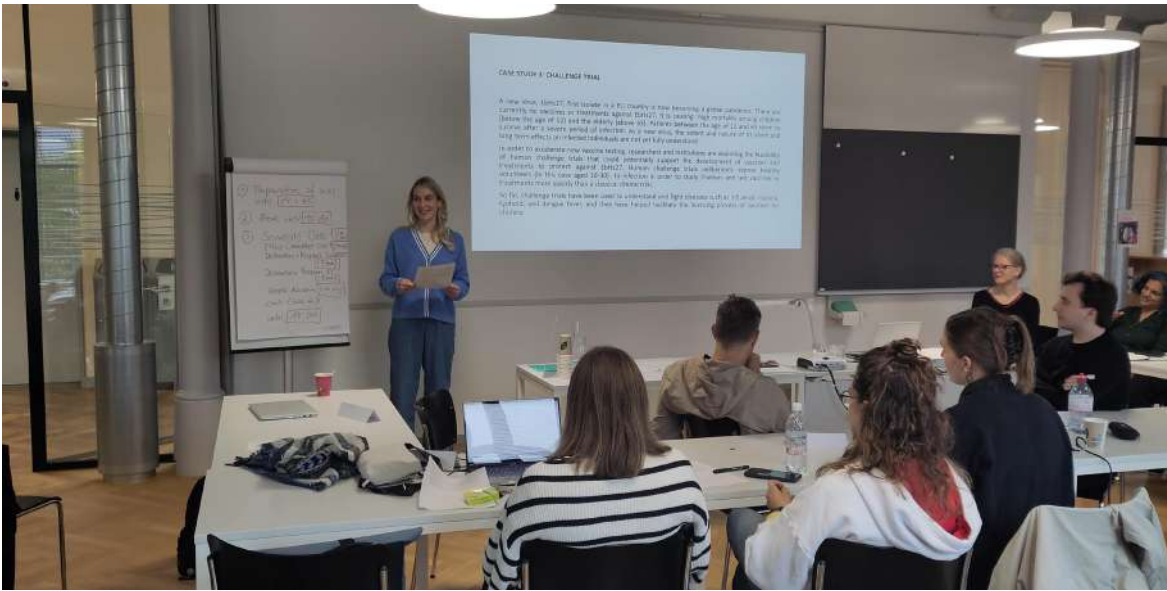
The *Basics of Ethics in Health Sciences Research* course is designed to provide fundamental insights into ethical practices and the core principles of scientific integrity in health sciences research. This mandatory two-day course, awarding 1 ECTS to GHS students, has been a cornerstone of the GHS program for many years. Each year brings new enhancements, and 2024 is no exception. This year's program was refined and updated based on valuable feedback from previous course evaluations. Student feedback—covering both individual lecturers and course content—continues to serve as an essential resource for the ongoing improvement of the course.



Basics of Ethics Course Mittelstrasse 43

Collaboration

The 2024 course was a collaborative effort involving multiple internal and external partners. Since the Basics of Ethics is also an integral part of the interdisciplinary Public Health Sciences Course Program, the internal partners, such as the administrative teams of the PHS, helped in the organization of the course, while external experts contributed to its design and content by bringing their specialized knowledge. The course took place on May 16-17, 2024 and was facilitated by renowned experts in the field such as Dr. Priya Sattalkar from the University of Basel and Ghent University, Dr. Agomoni Ganguli Mitra from the University of Edinburgh and PD Dr. Sven Trelle from the University of Bern.



Basics of Ethics Course Mittelstrasse 43

Schedule Highlights

The module covered a wide range of topics, including the history and principles of ethics in clinical and public health research, scientific integrity, issues such as conflict of interest, authorship, research misconduct, and the Swiss human research law. The course also emphasized the fair utilization of research resources and the importance of open science.

Day 1: participants focused on the introduction to ethics and research ethics, with interactive sessions on health-related research regulation and practical case studies.

Day 2: delved into scientific integrity, fair authorship practices, and the push towards open science, complemented by a podcast on the Human Research Act.

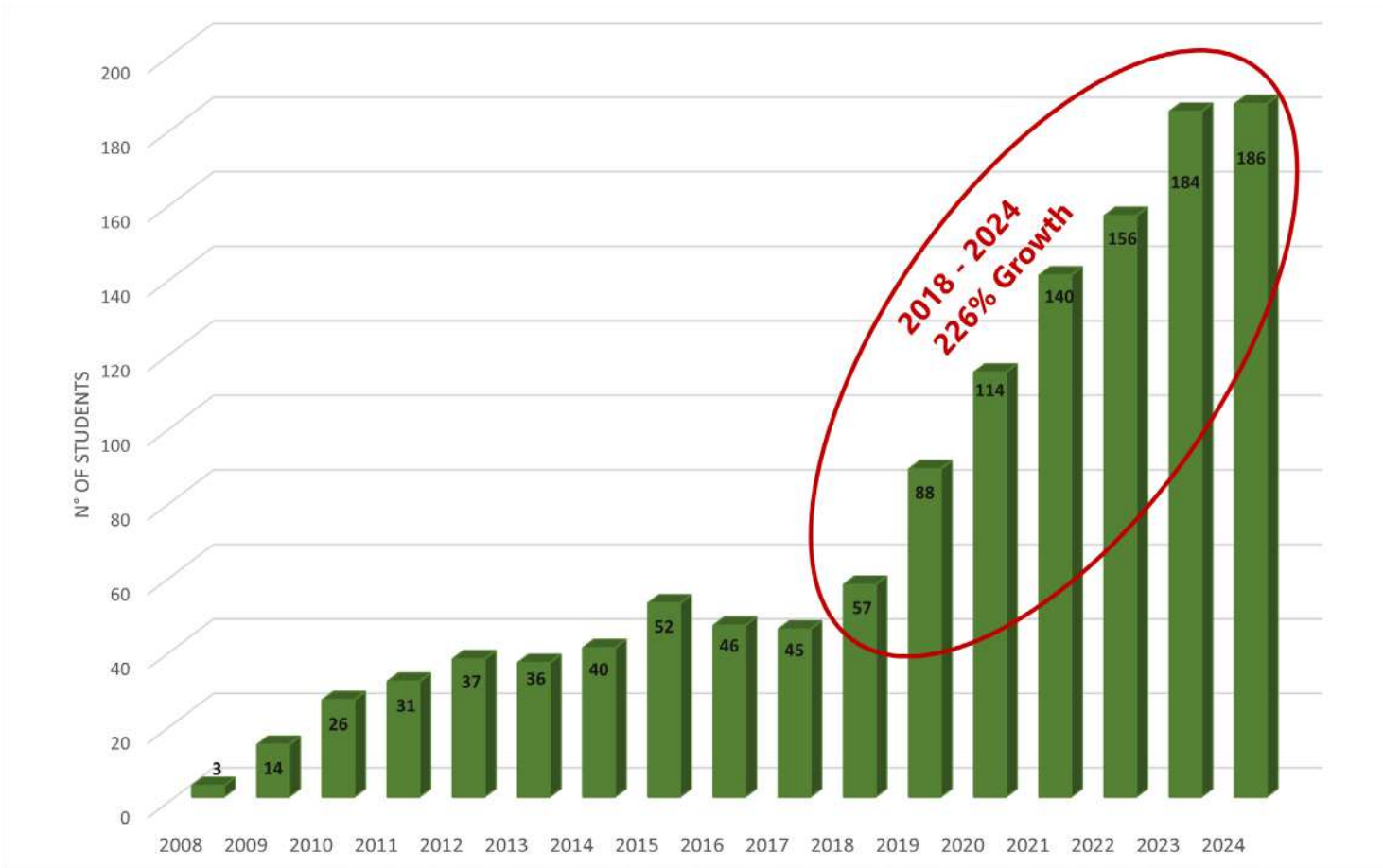
Course Feedback

Feedback from 29 participants confirmed the course's success in achieving its learning objectives. Notably, 93% of the participants agreed that the course fulfilled its goals, and more than 86% felt that their thematic interests and questions were adequately addressed. Furthermore, 86.9% of participants stated that the course's structure and content effectively supported their learning. Students particularly valued the interactive format, opportunities for active participation, and the well-balanced mix of lectures and practical discussions.

Review: 2024 in numbers

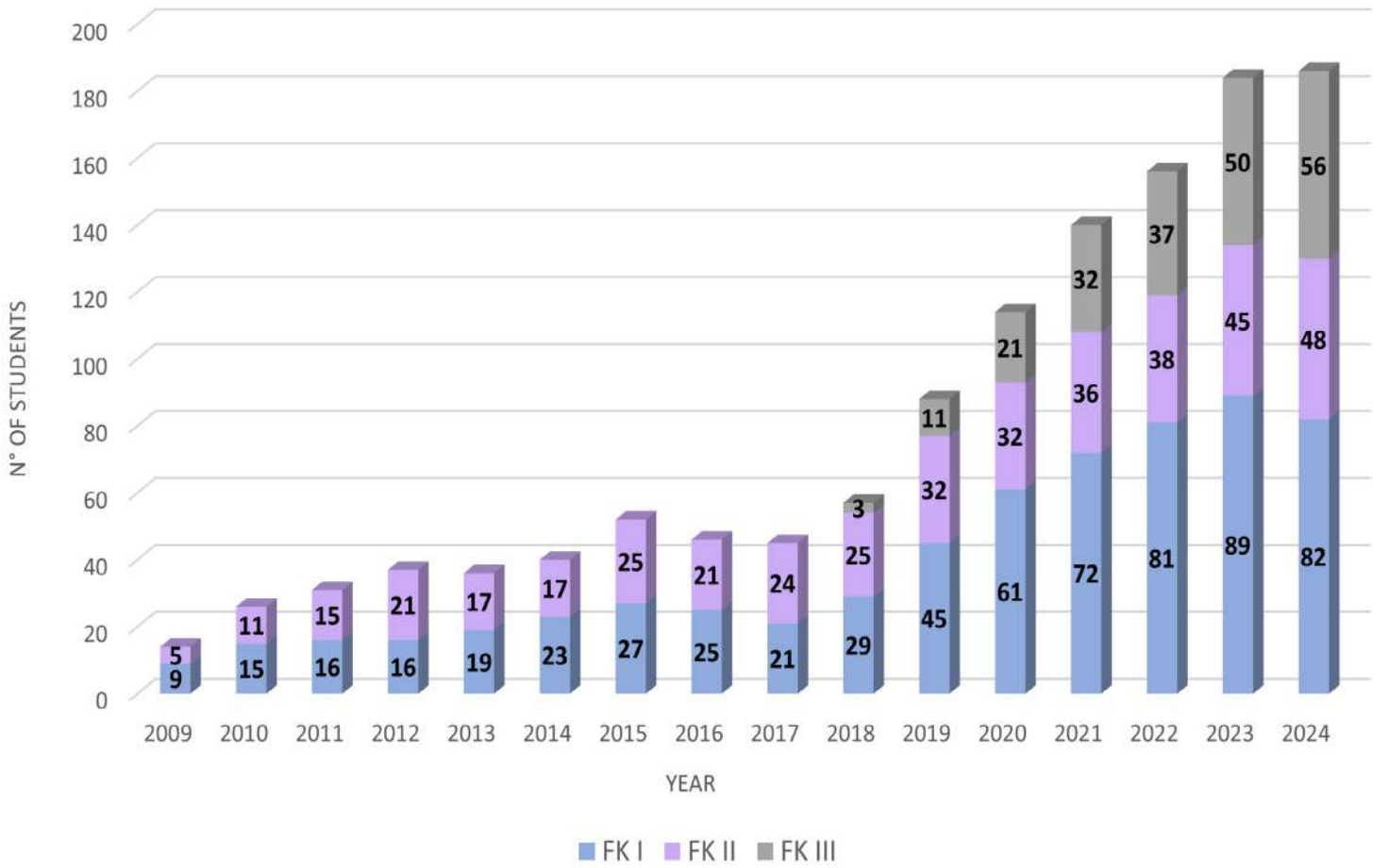
Students

Growth in GHS Matriculations 2008 - 2024



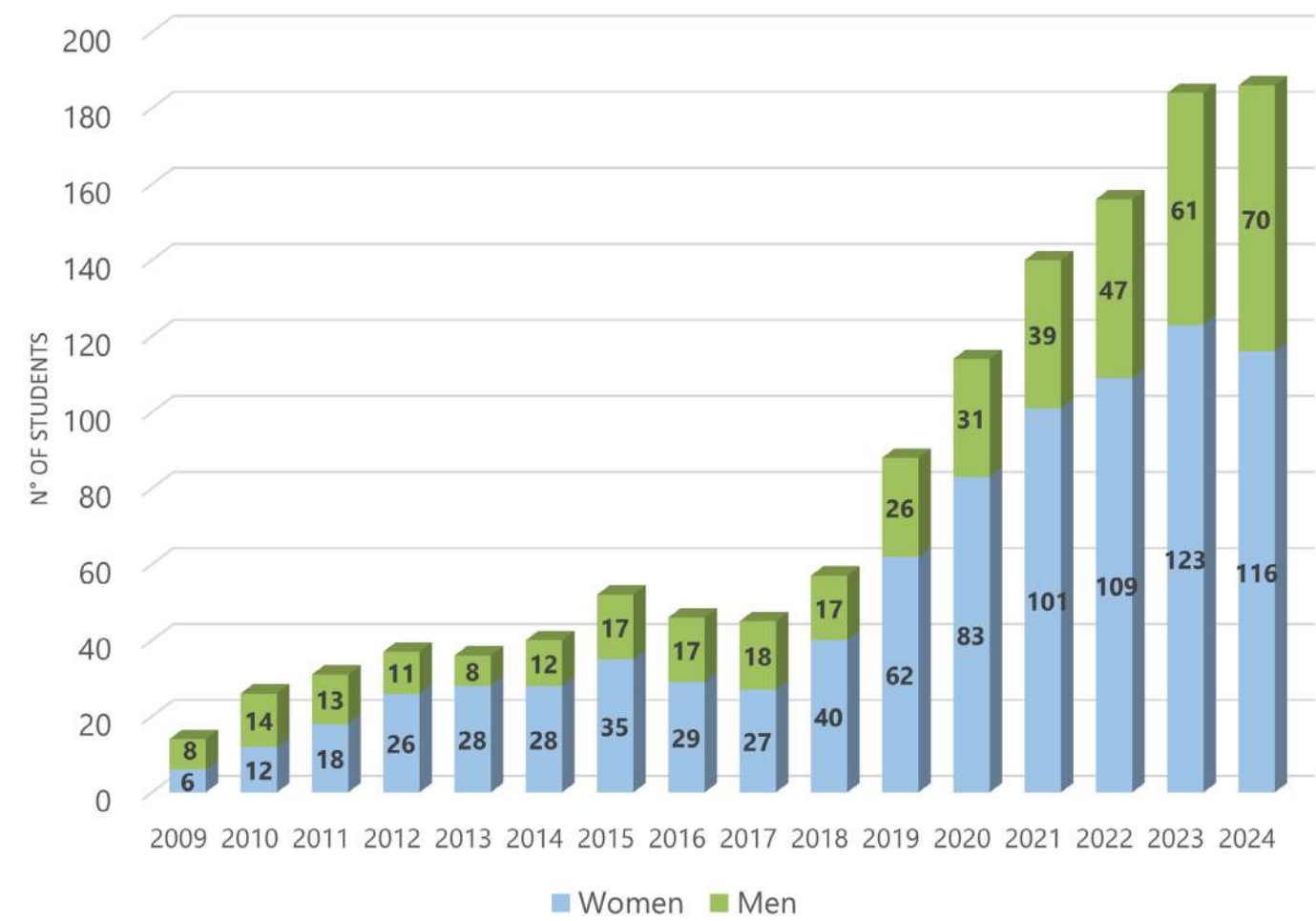
Expert Committees

Student Distribution across Expert Committees 2008-2024



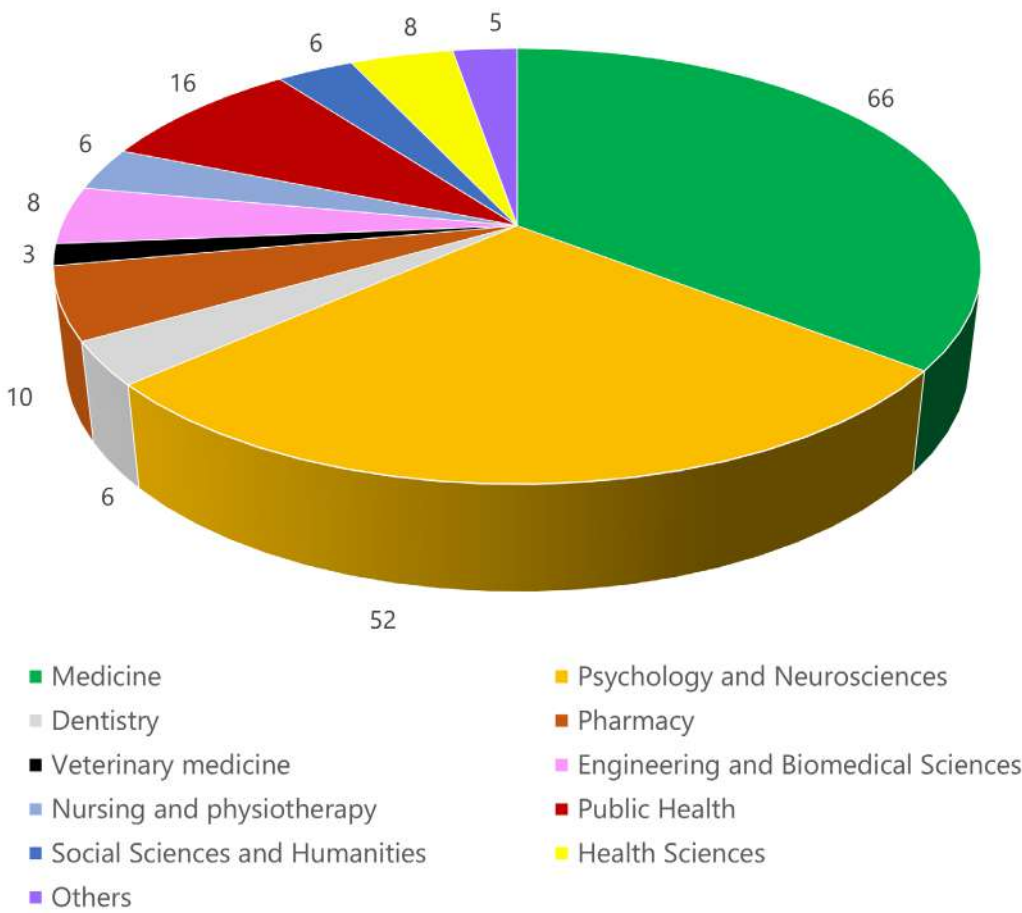
Gender

Student Gender Distribution 2008 - 2024



Field of Study

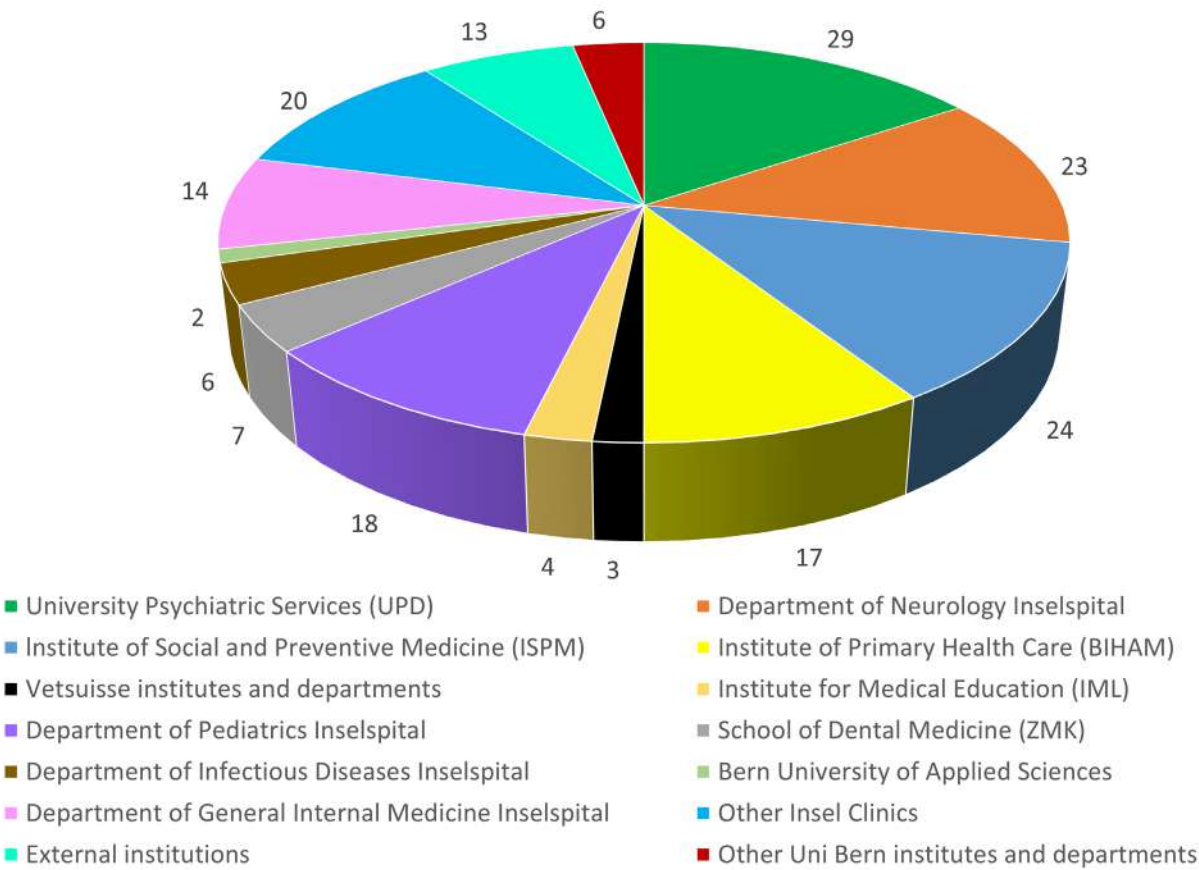
GHS Students – Master’s Degree Fields of Study



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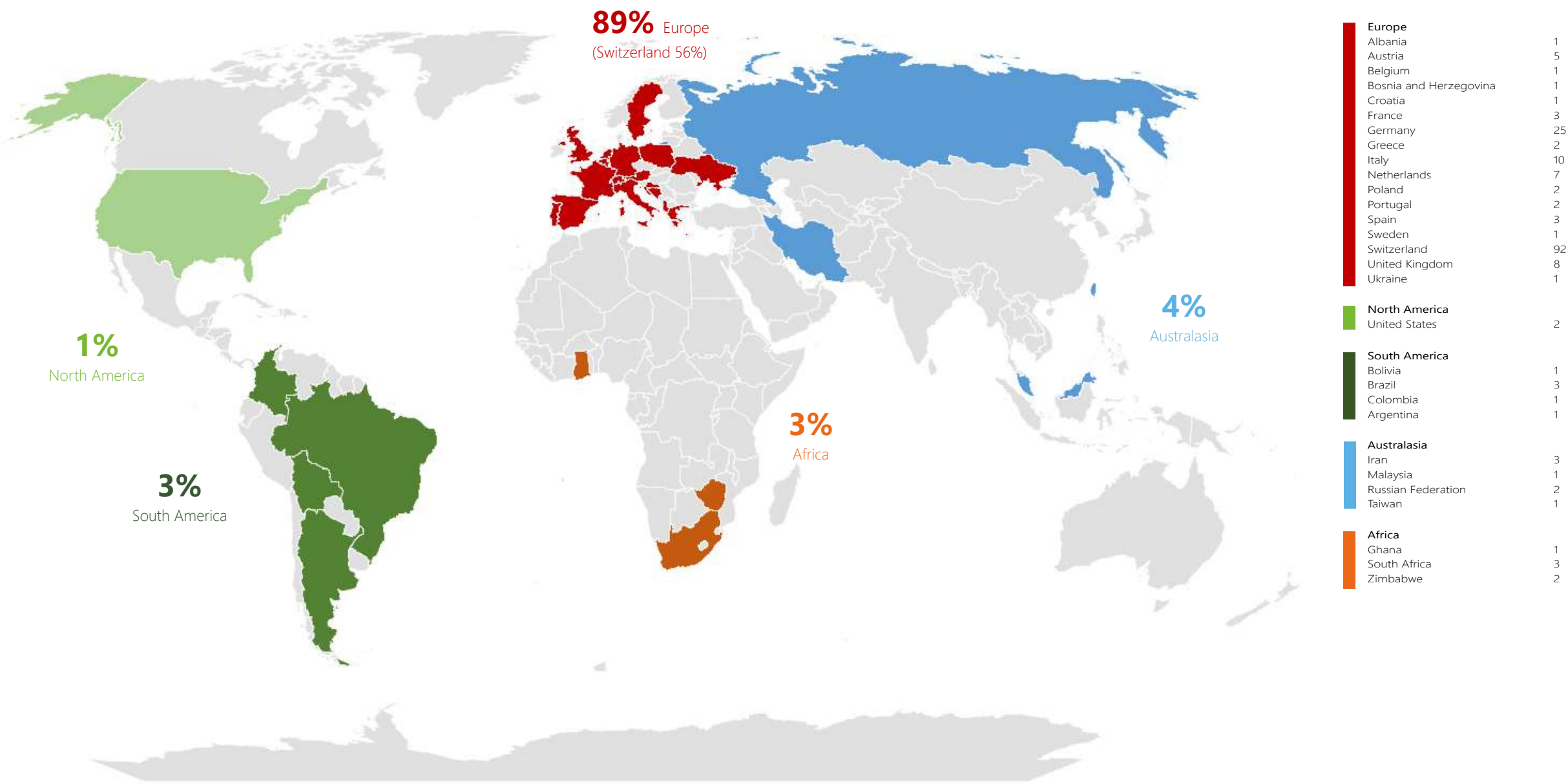
Institutes and departments

GHS Students – Institutes and departments where research is performed



Country of Master's Degree

The 2024 cohort of doctoral students in the GHS was made up of 186 students who obtained their master's degree from 29 different countries





GHS Symposium 2024

GHS Symposium

Collaboration Driving Innovation in Health Sciences:

From October 31 to November 1, 2024, the scenic Studienzentrum Gerzensee became a hub of intellectual exchange as it hosted the 16th GHS Symposium. In this vibrant and collaborative atmosphere, students, faculty, and researchers came together to share ideas, inspire one another, and celebrate the creativity, dedication, and scholarly excellence that define the GHS community.

This year's symposium offered a rich and dynamic program, featuring 36 doctoral talks and 40 poster presentations that showcased the breadth and depth of research in the health sciences.

The presented research covered a wide range of topics, including smoking behavior among people with migration experience, the impact of a sugar-sweetened beverage tax on reducing dental caries in Italy, trends in Burkitt lymphoma among people with HIV in South Africa (2005–2021), deep-learning approaches to predict brain eloquence with perfusion imaging, the association between external control bias and suicidal behavior through a novel implicit association test, and noninvasive MRI-based assessment of chronic liver disease.

The diversity of presentations highlighted not only the interdisciplinary strength of the GHS doctoral program but also the determined commitment of its participants to advancing scientific knowledge.

Day One:

The symposium began with registration and a welcome coffee, setting the stage for opening remarks by GHS President Prof. Sissel Guttormsen and GHS Coordinator Dr. Tullia Padovani, who shared key insights and recent developments within the Graduate School.

The academic program unfolded with parallel sessions in rooms Zürich and Genf, where doctoral candidates presented their research in 10-minute talks followed by 5-minute Q&A discussions. These sessions sparked lively exchanges, providing presenters with constructive feedback and the audience with fresh perspectives on cutting-edge research.

The energy continued with an animated "poster flash session," where doctoral candidates introduced their posters in one-minute pitches designed to captivate interest. This dynamic format seamlessly transitioned into the poster viewing session in the Panorama Saal, accompanied by an aperitif. Beforehand, participants enjoyed a coffee-break walk to the picturesque Lake Gerzensee—an invigorating pause that mirrored the symposium's balance of knowledge, sharing interaction and health.

In the evening, doctoral students gathered for a self-organized meeting, providing an informal setting for open discussion and peer exchange, encouraging interaction and shared decision-making within the GHS student's community.

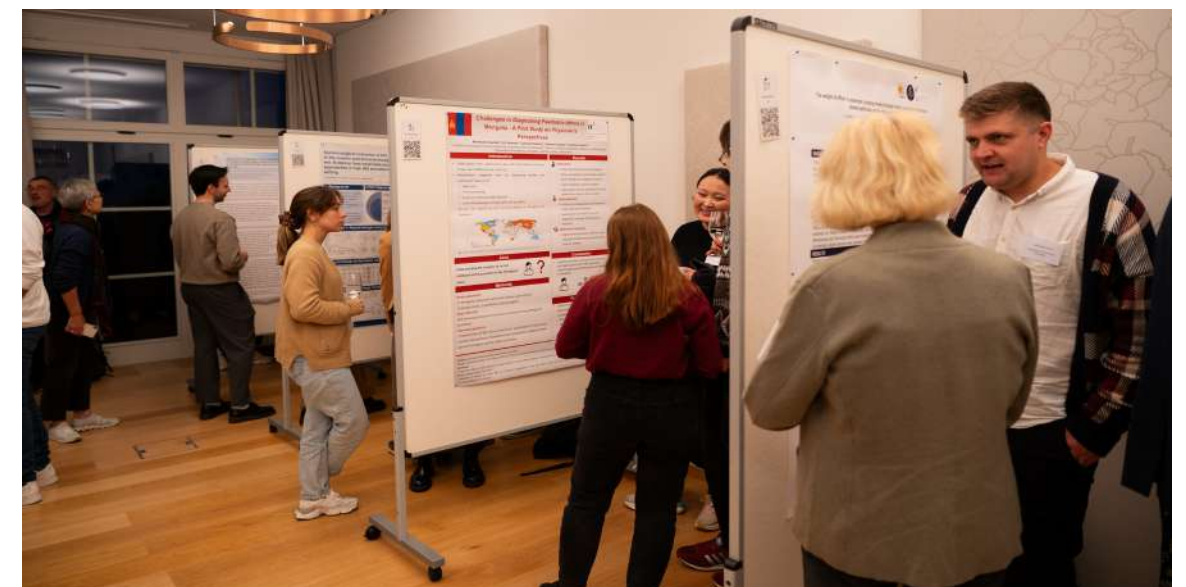
The day concluded with a delicious dinner, offering a relaxed setting for informal conversations and strengthening the bonds within the GHS network.



Day 1: Talks



Day 1: Poster flash



Day 1: Poster viewing

Day Two:

The second day opened with a thought-provoking workshop on “Ethics in Health Sciences,” led by Dr. Caroline Brall (Institute of Philosophy, University of Bern) and Prof. Dr. Marcello Ienca (EPFL Lausanne). Their lectures tackled pressing ethical issues in public health and biomedical research, exploring emerging technologies, neuroethics, and practical approaches to addressing ethical dilemmas. These stimulating talks provided a solid foundation for the interactive discussions that followed, encouraging participants to critically reflect on the ethical dimensions of their own research.

After lunch, the program went on with additional student presentations, offering a platform for sharing diverse research findings across the health sciences. Survey-based evaluations accompanied each session, reinforcing the symposium’s commitment to continuous improvement.



Day 2: Workshop with Dr. Caroline Brall, University of Bern



Day 2: Workshop with Prof. Dr. Marcello Ienca, EPFL Lausanne

The symposium closed with an award ceremony honoring exceptional contributions. Carole Metekoua Temdem-nou received the **Best Talk Award** for her insightful presentation “*Trends in Burkitt Lymphoma among People with HIV in South Africa, 2005–2021*,” while Giuseppina Baldizzi was awarded the **Best Poster Award** for her research on “*Identification of the Locus Coeruleus: Atlas Creation and Its Impact on Depression*.”



GHS Symposium 2024

Conclusion:

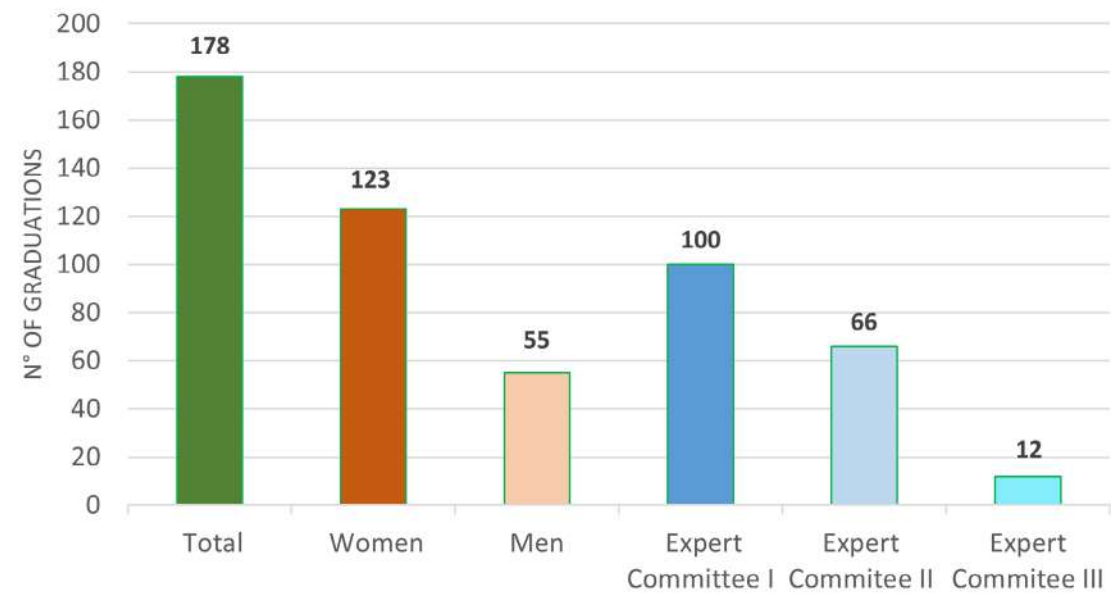
The 16th GHS Symposium highlighted the interdisciplinary scope of the PhD program and showcased the enthusiasm, curiosity, and dedication of its students. This shared spirit of collaboration continues to drive innovation and foster progress in health sciences research.



Diploma Ceremony Medical Faculty

Graduations

Graduations 2008-2024



January 11

Diana Carolina Buitrago Garcia PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: The science of prevalence: development of an evidence-based tool to assess the risk of bias in prevalence studies
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Nicola Low and Dr. Jonathan Sterne

January 18

Marvin Bundo PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: The impact of ambient temperature on mental health
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Ana Maria Vicedo Cabrera and Prof. Dr. med. Thomas Müller

January 30

Janine Bühler PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Department of Neurology, University Hospital Bern
Project title: Identification of Demographic Risk Factors and the Potential of Neuromodulation in Functional Neurological Disorder.
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Selma Aybek Rusca and Prof. Dr. med. Sebastian Walther

February 9

Andrea Roccuazzo PhD in Health Sciences (Dentistry)
Department of Restorative, Preventive and Pediatric Dentistry, University of Bern
Project title: Evaluation of the Oral Health conditions (i.e., dental caries, periodontal and peri-implant diseases) in adult subjects
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Guglielmo Giuseppe Campus and Prof. Dr. PhD David John Manton

March 4

Frauke Conring PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
University Hospital of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
Project title: Functional Correlates of Paranoia in Schizophrenia
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Katharina Deborah Lena Stegmayer and Prof. Dr. med. Andreas Reif

March 26

Nadine Schmidt PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
University Clinic of Old Age Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
Project title: Cognitive, motivational, and neural correlates of prospective memory in old age
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Jessica Peter and Prof. Matthias Kliegel

April 4

Lorin Aaron Bagné PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Sciences)
Department of Infectious Diseases, University Hospital Bern
Project title: Understanding treatment outcomes of HIV/HBV coinfection: A European prospective cohort study
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Andri Rauch and MPH, PhD Anders Boyd

April 4

Kirstin Schürch PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Division of Hematology/Oncology & Division of Neuropediatrics, University Hospital Bern
Project title: Understanding neuropsychological and cerebral late effects and exploring the benefits of training programs in pediatric cancer survivors
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Regula Anna-Isabel Everts Brekenfeld and PD Dr. Maria Stein

April 24

Kalongo Hamusonde PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Department of Infectious Diseases, University Hospital Bern
Project title: Heterogeneity of sexual behavior and its role in the transmission of sexually transmitted infections in persons with HIV
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Andri Rauch and Prof. Maria Prins

June 5

Céline Jacqueline Zeller PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
University Hospital of Old Age Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
Project title: Multi-night acoustic stimulation improves sleep and memory in older adults with cognitive impairment
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. Stefan Klöppel and Prof. Dr. Thomas König

June 21

Renata Vidonscky Lüthold PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM)
Project title: Exploring different aspects related to making and implementing deprescribing decisions in primary care settings
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Sven Streit and Dr. PhD Emily Reeve

June 24

Irina Filchenko PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Department of Neurology, University Hospital Bern
Project title: The role of sleep in the evolution of cognitive functioning after stroke
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Claudio L. A. Bassetti and Prof. Dr. Fred Mast

July 1

Maša Davidović PhD in Health Sciences (Public Health Sciences)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: Cancer prevention in women living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Julia Friederike Bohlius and Prof. Isabel dos Santos Silva

August 19

Adnan Mujanović PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Sciences)
University Institute of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology, University Hospital Bern
Project title: Incomplete reperfusion in the era of endovascular therapy
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Johannes Kaesmacher and Prof. Dr. med. Susanne Wegener

August 28

Lum Kastrati PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: Diagnosis and Prediction of Women's Health: Integrating Real-World Data and Meta-Research
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Lia Claudia Bally and Dr. Trudy Voortman

September 9

Stéphanie Fabienne Perrodin PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Sciences)
Department of Visceral Surgery and Medicine, University Hospital Bern
Project title: Core muscle physiotherapy after abdominal surgery: an integrated approach
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. Guido Jakob Friedrich Beldi and Prof. Dr. Konrad Markus Streitberger

September 23

Tobias Ueli Blatter PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Department of Clinical Chemistry, University Hospital Bern
Project title: Personalized Reference Limits from Clinical Cohort Data
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Alexander Benedikt Leichtle and Prof. Dr. Christos T. Nakas

October 17

Rafael Wespi PhD in Health Sciences (Psychology)
Notfallzentrum, University Hospital Bern
Project title: Breaking the boundaries of reality - Evaluating medical team performance in a virtual reality context
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Thomas Christian Sauter and Prof. Dr. Stefan Schaubert

October 18

Themis Areti Andreoti PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Sciences)
Department of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, University Hospital Bern
Project title: Vascular malformations in the era of precision medicine: phenotypic and genotypic characterization
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Jochen Karl Rössler and M.D, PhD Miiikka Vikkula

October 24

Esther Brill PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
University Psychiatric Services (UPD)
Project title: Can computerized cognitive training attenuate cognitive decline in older adults?
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. Stefan Klöppel and PD Dr. Nicolas Rothen

October 28

Gaëtan Romain Joliat PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Sciences)
Department of Visceral Surgery, Lausanne University Hospital CHUV
Project title: Short- and long-term outcomes after pancreas surgery: predictability and prognosis
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Markus Schäfer and Prof. Dr. med. Guido Jakob Friedrich Beldi

October 28

Sharon Mitchell PhD in Health Sciences (Medical Education)
Institute for Medical Education (IML)
Project title: Elevating the design of continuing professional development for the healthcare workforce: An evidence-based example using precision medicine
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Sissel Guttormsen and Dr. Janusz Janczukowicz

October 29

Charlotte Kern PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Sciences)
Department of General Internal Medicine, University Hospital Bern
Project title: The pharmacology of ivermectin in malaria vector control
Thesis advisor and co-referee: PD Dr. Felix Georg Michael Hammann and Prof. Dr. Marc Pfister

November 12

Elisabeth Christina Jehli PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Translational Research Center, University Psychiatric Services (UPD)
Project title: The Bed Nucleus of the Stria Terminalis (BNST) as a Key Player in Anxiety
Thesis advisor and co-referee: PD Dr. Matthias Grieder and Prof. Dr. Thomas Nevian

November 27

Deborah Amstutz PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Department of Neurology, University Hospital Bern
Project title: The impact of subthalamic nucleus deep brain stimulation on neuropsychiatric symptoms in Parkinson’s disease
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Paul Krack and PD Dr. phil. Dario Cazzoli

November 29

Seyedahmad Banihashem Rad PhD in Health Sciences (Dentistry)
Department of Restorative, Preventive and Pediatric Dentistry, University of Bern
Project title: Oral Health, Nudge Theory and Migrants
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Guglielmo Giuseppe Campus and Prof. Dr. Gail VA Douglas

December 2

Emma Marchionatti PhD in Health Sciences (Veterinary Medicine)
Department of Clinical Veterinary Science (DKV), Ruminant Clinic
Project title: Preoperative Asepsis and Antimicrobial Resistance in Bovine Surgery: from Surgical Site Infections to Bacterial Characteristics
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Adrian Steiner and Prof. Dr. Parham Sendi

December 6

Tinei Shamu PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: Emerging challenges in HIV management in the modern antiretroviral therapy era: A Zimbabwean Experience
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Matthias Egger and Prof. Justen Manasa

December 9

Baudouin Zongxin Jin PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Sciences)
Support Center for Advanced Neuroimaging
Project title: Predict and Monitor Epilepsy after a First Seizure
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Roland Gerhard Rudi Wiest and Prof. Dr. Kaspar Anton Schindler

December 12

Emeline Louise Jacqueline Maisonneuve PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Institute for Primary Health Care (BIHAM)
Project title: Trends in management, medication and vaccination against COVID-19 in pregnant and lactating women: real-world data analyses
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Alice Elke Martine Panchaud Monnat and Prof. Dr. med. Nicole Ochsenbein-Kölble

December 13

Noushinsadat Ahanchi PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: Iron status/biomarkers as a potential causative factor contributing to menopausal differences in cardiometabolic diseases.
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Pedro Manuel Marques-Vidal and Prof. Gérard Waeber

December 13

Melanie Gabriela Nuoffer PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Translational Research Center, University Hospital of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
Project title: Psychomotor Slowing in Psychosis – from Measurement to Treatment
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. Sebastian Walther and Prof. Dr. med. Alkomiet Hasan

December 20

Maria Chiara Piani PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
University Psychiatric Services (UPD)
Project title: Self-Disorders in the Schizophrenia Spectrum An EEG and fMRI Investigation of Pre-Reflective and Reflective Self-Experience
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Thomas König and Prof. Dr. Julie Nordgaard

December 20

Evgeniya Shalaeva PhD in Health Sciences (Medicine)
Tashkent Medical Academy
Project title: Cardiovascular risk and prognosis in patients with type 2 diabetes and peripheral artery disease with partial foot amputation
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Markus Laimer and Prof. em. Dr. Hugo Ernst Saner

GHS Student Research Prizes

Adnan Mujanovic

2024 CAIM Young Researcher Award for the paper “External Validation of a Model for Persistent Perfusion Deficit in Patients with Incomplete Reperfusion after Thrombectomy”.

Swiss Heart Foundation Research Grant 2024

Direktion Lehre und Forschung Inselspital - Nachwuchsförderungs-Grants 2024

Beatriz Guerra Buezo

2nd Prize for the Best Oral presentation on Paediatric Pneumology research at the 2024 joint Annual Meeting of the Swiss Societies of Pneumology and Thoracic Surgery in Baden

Bernhard Siepen

Best research project (“Maximal medical treatment of intracerebral haemorrhage pilot trial – MAX-ICH pilot trial”), 1st ICH Academy Meeting, European Stroke Organisation

Inselspital – Department of Teaching and Research, Young Investigator Grant for patient-oriented research (with protected research time)

Best scientific Abstract Award, 26th Annual Meeting, Swiss Stroke Society

Carlotta Schneider

Travel Fellowship for Student & Postdoc Members – Swiss Society for Sleep Research, Sleep Medicine and Chronobiology

Laura Gallucci

Best Clinical Project – Day of BioMedical Research 2024

Laura Gördes

Conference grant by CREATE, the young researchers’ network of the European Health Psychology Society (EHPS), to attend the PhD pre-conference workshop and the EHPS Annual Conference

Seed funding grant from the Habit Special Interest Group, a subdivision of the European Health Psychology Society (EHPS) for the project “Breaking the Habit: A Comparative Study of Habit Degradation Strategies to Reduce Social Media Use”

Lea Hess

Best Poster by a PhD Student – Day of Clinical Research

Leonie Schreck

1st Prize for the Best Oral presentation on Paediatric Pneumology research at the 2024 joint Annual Meeting of the Swiss Societies of Pneumology and Thoracic Surgery in Baden

Lisa Maria Bünthe

Research Grant - Stiftung KinderInsel Bern 2024, project «Verbesserung der Schlafqualität von Frühgeborenen unter nicht-invasiver Atemunterstützung»

Lum Kastrati

Top 10 Papers in Interventional Cardiology – European Heart Society

Madelyn Thomson

European Society for the Study of Personality Disorders (ESSPD) Excellence Prize

Mohammad Kassar

Research Grant – German Heart Foundation

Natascha Stoffel

Doc.mobility grant from the University of Bern for a 6month period at the University of Verona, Italy

Selected to present in the “Best of” oral poster presentation at the international, biannual conference of the Functional Neurological Disorder Society, in Verona, Italy in June 2024

Sonja Häckel

“Best Investigator Initiated Clinical Trial” – Day of Clinical Research, DCR University of Bern

Roman Rohner

Swiss Heart Foundation Research Grant 2024

Direktion Lehre und Forschung Inselspital - Nachwuchsförderungs-Grant 2024

Gottfried&Julia Bangerter-Rhyner Foundation Research Grant 2024



Madelyn Thomson



Adnan Mujanovic

Publications 2024

Aktan Suzgun, M., **Wenz, E. S.**, van der Meer, J., **Fregolente, L. G.**, Warncke Jan D., Miano, S., Acker, J., Strub, M., Olliges, E., Khatami, R., Schmidt, M. H., Bassetti, C. L. A., & von Manitus, S. (2024). *International Swiss Primary Hypersomnolence and Narcolepsy Cohort Study (iSPHYNCS): the impact of psychiatric comorbidities on daily life in central disorders of hypersomnolence-a vicious circle*. Wiley. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jsr.14367>

Al-Alwan, Heba, Valerie Liliana Aponte Ribero, Orestis Efthimiou, Cinzia Del Giovane, Nicolas Rodondi, and Leonidas Duntas. *"A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Investigating the Relationship between Metabolic Syndrome and the Incidence of Thyroid Diseases."* Springer, May 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12020-023-03503-7>.

Allam, A, N Camoni, S Cirio, **Claudia Salerno**, Guglielmo Giuseppe Campus, and M G Cagetti. *"Developmental Defects of Enamel in Childhood Cancer Survivors: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis."* Ariesdue, July 1, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.23804/ejpd.2024.2256>.

Almeida, R., Boyaci, C., Braun, M., Pezzuto, F., **Zens, P.**, Lobo, J., & Tiniakos, D. (2024). *Breaking barriers in pathology: bridging gaps in multidisciplinary collaboration*. Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00428-024-03991-6>

Alwan, H., Luan, J., Williamson, A., Carrasco-Zanini, J., Stewart, I. D., Wareham, N. J., Langenberg, C., & Pietzner, M. (2024). *Testing for a causal role of thyroid hormone measurements within the normal range on human metabolism and diseases: a systematic Mendelian randomization*. (Vol. 107). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ebiom.2024.105306>

Amstutz, D., Sousa, M., **Maradan-Gachet, M.**, Debove, I., Lhommée, E. & Krack, P. (2024). *Psychiatric and cognitive symptoms of Parkinson's disease: A life's tale*. Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neurol.2024.11.004>

Andreoti, T. A., Maiolo, M., **Tuleja, A.**, Döring, Y., Schaller, A., Vassella, E., Boon, L. M., Baumgartner, I., Bernhard, S. M., Zweier, C., Vikkula M. & Rössler, J. (2024). *Non-Hotspot PIK3CA Variants Have Higher Variant Allele Frequency and are More Common in Syndromic Vascular Malformations*. Wiley. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajmg.a.63883>

Aponte Ribero, V., Efthimiou, O., Abolhassani, N., Alwan, H., Bauer, D. C., Henrard, S., Christiaens, A., O'Mahony, D., Knol, W., Peters, M. J. L., Chiolero, A., Aujesky, D., Waeber, G., Rodondi, N., Del Giovane, C. & Gencer, B. (2024). *Diabetes and the risk of cardiovascular events and all-cause mortality among older adults: an individual participant data analysis of five prospective studies*. Wiley. <https://doi.org/10.1111/eci.14340>

Aregger, Fabian, Sebastian Kreuzer, **Sonja Häckel**, Sebastian Bigdon, Christian Tinner, Georg Friedrich Erbach, Moritz Caspar Deml, and Christoph E. Albers. *"Return to Sports/Activity Level after 360° Thoracolumbar Fusion after Burst Fractures in Young Patients."* Elsevier, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bas.2024.102762>

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