

Annual Report 2025

Graduate School for Health Sciences

Faculty of Medicine
Faculty of Human Sciences
Vetsuisse Faculty



GHS Symposium 2025

Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought.

Albert Szent-Györgyi

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Introduction

As I look back on 2025, I am proud to share with you the achievements and milestones that have marked another successful year for the Graduate School for Health Sciences (GHS).

Our student body now stands at 199 PhD students, an increase of approximately 250% since the end of 2018. Reaching almost 200 students represents a new critical mass for the GHS, both in terms of cohort size and the overall reach of the doctoral program. It reflects the growing recognition of the GHS as a leading institution for doctoral training in health sciences, and it has demanded a parallel evolution of the organizational structures that support our candidates.

This evolution is clearly visible in our Expert Committees and Steering Board. Compared to 26 experts in 2019, our community has now grown to 47 members, an increase of 81%. Yet the most significant change is not in the total numbers, but in their composition. While in 2019, only 4 of our 26 experts were women, today 27 of our 47 experts are – a 575% increase. This mirrors a broader reality within the GHS, where women represent the majority of our PhD student body (65%). The growth of women in leadership and expertise within the GHS is not simply a welcome trend. It is a structural shift that reflects who we are and the direction in which we are growing.

2025 also marks a decisive milestone in the life of the GHS: the first cohort enrolled under the new regulations has now reached graduation, and they have done so without delays. This demonstrates that the new regulatory framework is both sound in its conception and fully operational in practice. The seamless progression of this cohort from enrollment to defense is the result of the solid work of our Coordinator and the entire GHS office team, whose dedication and professionalism have been essential to making this transition a success.

Our annual Symposium once again proved to be a highlight of the GHS calendar, bringing together candidates, experts, and faculty members for scientific exchange and networking. This year, the Symposium

also included the presentation of our course program pillars: the Public Health Sciences (PHS) program, the BENEFRI tri-university network, and the Department of Clinical Research (DCR).

This edition of the Annual Report also features the results of three internal analyses of the GHS program that I warmly encourage you to read, as they offer a fuller picture of what the GHS has become. The first concerns interfaculty engagement across PhD projects and supervision teams at the GHS, an increasingly important dimension of our work that reflects the cross-disciplinary nature of health sciences research at the University of Bern. The second is a survey on protected research time within the clinical sciences track. The third comprises the results of our alumni survey, which provided positive surprises and offer a compelling testimony to the lasting impact of GHS doctoral education.

Finally, I thank the GHS Steering Board, the Expert Committees, the Faculties of Medicine, Human Sciences, and Vetsuisse, and all PhD supervisors for their continued engagement. Their collective dedication is what makes the GHS the thriving institution it has become.

I invite you to read this Annual Report for a full account of our activities and accomplishments in 2025.

Warm regards,



Prof. Dr. phil. Claudio Nigg
President GHS Steering Board
Bern, July 2026



GHS Symposium 2025

Highlights

Continued Growth

The GHS has experienced sustained and remarkable growth over the past seven years. Between 2018 and 2025, doctoral enrollment increased by 249%, reaching a total of 199 PhD candidates in 2025. This continued expansion reflects the growing attractiveness of the GHS as a leading environment for doctoral training and research in health sciences.

Academic Achievements

The rapid growth of the GHS is accompanied by outstanding academic achievements. In 2025, a record 38 PhD candidates successfully defended their dissertations. Research productivity also reached a new peak, with candidates contributing 210 publications in high-quality, peer-reviewed journals, as documented in BORIS. These accomplishments highlight the strong research culture and academic excellence fostered within the Graduate School.

Growth of GHS Committees and Female Representation

Reflecting the expansion of the GHS, membership across the three Expert Committees and the Steering Board increased from 26 members in 2019 to 47 members in 2025, representing an 81% increase. During the same period, female representation grew from 15% to 57%, demonstrating significant progress toward more inclusive and balanced leadership within the governance structures of the Graduate School.

Structured Interdisciplinarity

Interdisciplinary collaboration is a defining feature of the GHS and embedded in its structure. An analysis of supervision teams and PhD projects in 2025 showed that more than one third of doctoral candidates conduct research that spans across faculties, while near-

ly one quarter benefit from interfaculty supervision. This high level of interdisciplinarity fosters innovation, broadens scientific perspectives, and equips candidates with the necessary skills to address complex health challenges through collaborative approaches.

Strong Alumni Commitment

A survey of GHS alumni who graduated between 2019 and 2023 provided valuable insights into career development following the PhD. The results showed that the majority of graduates remain active in academia and research, many of whom maintain a strong publication record after graduation. Alumni identified transferable skills as one of the most valuable long-term outcomes of their doctoral training, which reflects the GHS's commitment to preparing candidates for a wide range of professional pathways. The high response rate and alumni's willingness to contribute to future GHS activities further shows an engaged and committed alumni community.

Flagship Event: GHS Symposium

The 17th GHS Symposium, held at Studienzentrum Gerzensee in November 2025, was a highly successful and well-attended event that brought together the GHS community for lively scientific exchange. A total of 87 doctoral candidates presented their research projects, showcasing the breadth and quality of work conducted across the Graduate School. The program also featured lectures and workshops exploring sex and gender implications from medical and phenomenological perspectives. As the flagship event of the GHS, the Symposium continues to play a central role in fostering interdisciplinary dialogue, strengthening professional networks, and enhancing the PhD experience.

New GHS Committee Members

In 2025, the GHS welcomed eleven new Expert Committee (FK) members and a new chair of the Bridge Commission:

PD Dr. med. Dr. phil. Patricia Chocano-Bedoya (Expert Committee I/FKI)
Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM)

Prof. Dr. med. Angèle Gayet-Ageron (Expert Committee I/FKI)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)

PD Dr. med. et. phil. Berna Özdemir (Expert Committee I/FKI)
Department of Medical Oncology, Inselspital

PD Dr. med. Anda Radan (Expert Committee I/FKI)
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Inselspital

PD Dr. med. Christiane Sokollik (Expert Committee I/FKI)
Department of Pediatrics, Inselspital

PD Dr. med. Guido Stirnimann (Expert Committee I/FKI)
Department of Visceral Surgery and Medicine, Inselspital

PD Dr. med. Tatiana Brémovà-Ertl (Expert Committee II/FKII)
Department of Neurology, Inselspital

Prof. Dr. Marialuisa Cavelti (Expert Committee II/FKII)
University Hospital of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University Psychiatric Services (UPD)

Prof. Dr. phil. Regula Everts Brekenfeld (Expert Committee II/FKII)
Department of Diabetes, Endocrinology, Nutritional Medicine and Metabolism, Inselspital

Prof. Dr. Leila Tarokh, PhD (Expert Committee II/FKII)
University Hospital of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University Psychiatric Services (UPD)

Prof. Dr. Dr. med. et MME Sören Huwendiek (Expert Committee III/FKIII)
Institute for Medical Education (IML)

Prof. Dr. Achim Elfering (new chair Bridge Commission)
Institute of Psychology



GHS Symposium 2025

Vision and Mission

Vision

At the GHS, doctoral candidates have the best conditions and support to advance their knowledge and research competencies in a topic related to health sciences.

Mission

The PhD program offers and promotes highly relevant courses in the field of health sciences in combination with clinical, experimental, and translational research. This provides the necessary foundation for research integrity and encourages candidates to work responsibly and independently in the pursuit of in-depth knowledge.

The vision and mission of the GHS lay the groundwork for its strategic goals and foci, which guide the work of the GHS on all levels:

Promote Excellence, Quality, and Integrity in Research

Guide and prepare doctoral candidates to deepen their knowledge and become competent and successful researchers, ensure integrity in training and

research in line with ethical principles applied to health sciences, and help candidates achieve an internationally recognized and competitive PhD title.

Support and Develop

Support doctoral candidates throughout their PhD program with 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.

Foster Solid and Advanced Knowledge on Global Health Issues

Provide a program that encourages doctoral candidates to expand their knowledge beyond their specific research training through supporting interdisciplinary PhD topics and supervision and offering interdisciplinary courses in the field of health sciences.



GHS Symposium 2025

Distinctive Features of the GHS

The GHS stands out in the field of health sciences education and research thanks to several distinctive features.

Interfaculty and Multidisciplinary Collaboration

The GHS is a joint initiative by the Faculties of Medicine, Human Sciences, and Vetsuisse. This interdisciplinary framework cultivates a dynamic academic environment where diverse perspectives converge. This is also visible in the large number of interdisciplinary PhD projects, as well as a sizeable number of interdisciplinary supervision teams among GHS doctoral candidates.

Comprehensive, Internationally Recognized Training

The GHS bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and experimental practice. Our training programs are meticulously designed to equip candidates with the skills and expertise necessary to thrive in the global academic and research landscape, with a particular focus on 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 and gain specialized knowledge that can be directly applied to their specific research areas.

Unique 50-50 model

One of the hallmark features of the GHS is our 50-50 model, which effectively combines clinical research with clinical practice. This model ensures that our candidates gain hands-on experience alongside their research activities, which prepares 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 candidates 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 and celebrates 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 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 (for an overview, see the overall demands for the candidates on p. 22):

Rigorous Admission and Project Evaluation

Admission to the GHS is a result of a selective process. The Expert Committees evaluate the projects and give constructive feedback to ensure its success. Every 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 ECTS 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 based on the candidate's prior academic background. It is tailored to the specific requirements of the research project to support the successful realization of the doctoral dissertation.

Mandatory Ethics Training

Ethical conduct is a core component of the GHS PhD program. All PhD candidates complete a two-day course on research ethics in health sciences, delivered by experts who offer a comprehensive overview of key ethical principles and challenges relevant to research in health sciences. This expands the candidates' focus beyond their specific research topic and allows for critical reflection, encouraging candidates to integrate ethical considerations into their PhD projects.

Annual Progress Reports

Doctoral candidates are required to submit detailed annual Progress Reports outlining their academic activities, including coursework, publications, and

research progress. These reports allow candidates to show their research development, receive constructive feedback from their supervision team, and ensure alignment with the program's milestones. As part of this process, the mentor critically evaluates the progress, assesses the quality and direction of the research and formally approves 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 potential and limitations.

• Year 2: Oral Exam

Candidates hold a 30- to 40-minute public scientific presentation of their PhD project, 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 also 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 its 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 2025

GHS Organization

Multidisciplinarity

The GHS implements its vision and mission by offering an attractive study and supervision program. Our PhD program supports candidates in meeting all PhD requirements, particularly those related to admission, coursework, and publication expectations. Additionally, the GHS promotes a lively exchange of ideas among its candidates. As an interfaculty and truly multidisciplinary graduate school, the 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 Medical, Human Sciences and 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 the 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), **Clinical Neurosciences** (Expert Committee II), and **Clinical Sciences** (Expert Committee III). These committees are also responsible for the admission, guidance, and evaluation of candidates.

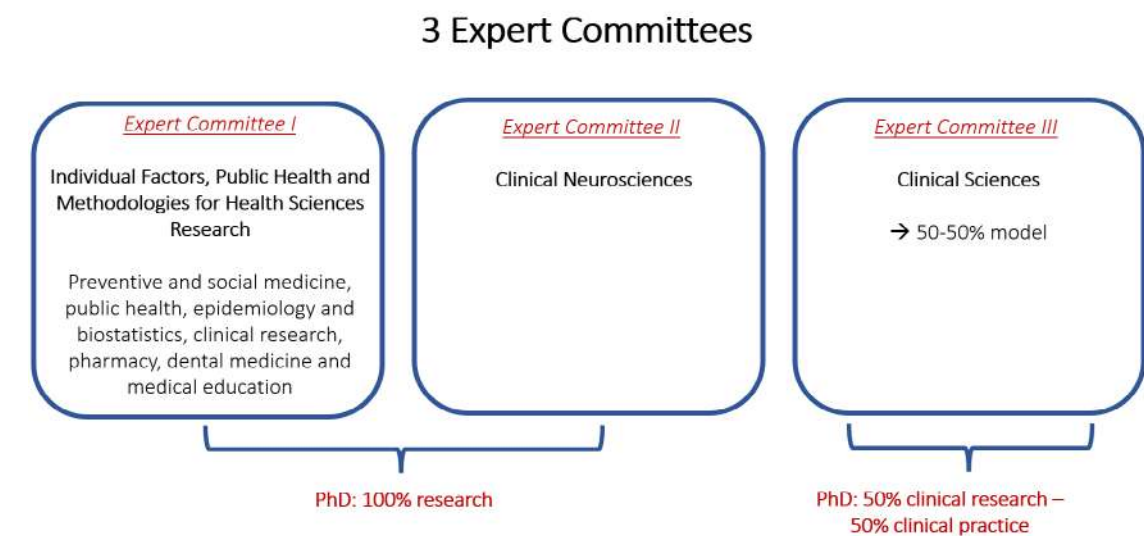
Academic Support

With access to an extensive body of academic experts and resources, GHS candidates develop into highly qualified professionals, researchers, and academics, ready to apply their knowledge and skills in complex subjects within their chosen areas. In 2025, 206 academic experts (thesis and co-thesis advisors) supported our 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 the office team, comprising Mette Borg Frees, Madeline Kroecker and Fabian Nobrega Freitas.

The three Expert Committees and their respective research time

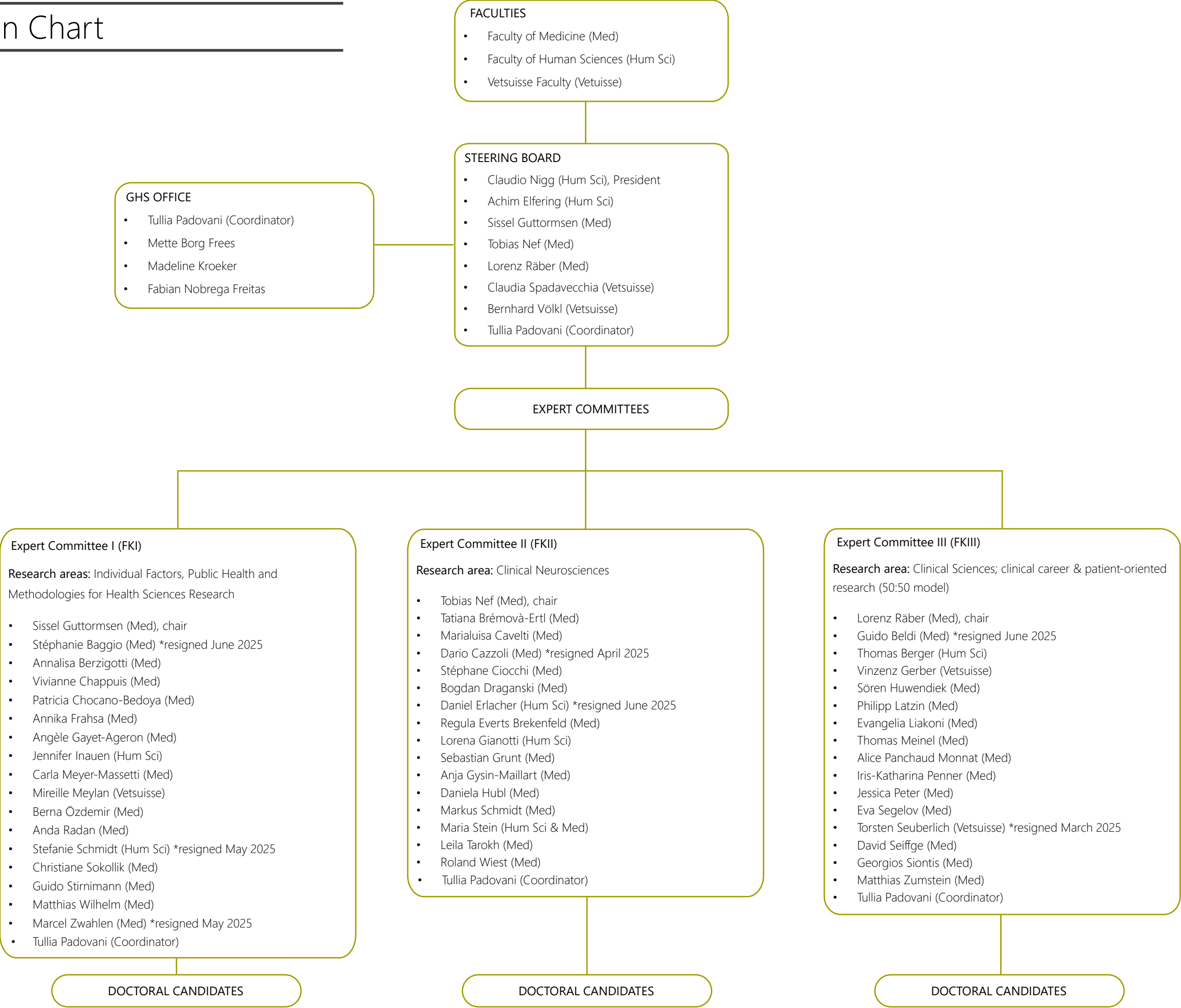


Degree awarded

Degree title jointly awarded by the Faculties of Medicine, Human Sciences and Vetsuisse:
PhD in Health Sciences (specialization)

Possible specializations		*German translation of the original title in English:
• Medicine, • Dentistry, • Pharmacy, • Applied Health Sciences, • Epidemiology and Biostatistics, • Public Health Sciences, • Medical Education,	• Psychology, • Sport and Exercise Science, • Neurosciences, • Clinical Sciences, • Patient-oriented Research, • Veterinary Medicine, • Biomedical Engineering.	
		Dr. sc. med. → Medical Faculty Dr. sc. med. vet. → Vetsuisse Faculty Dr. phil. → Human Sciences Faculty *The translated title is only awarded to candidates under the new GHS regulations.

GHS Organization Chart



Steering Board

The GHS is strategically managed by a Steering Board. The Steering Board is composed of the GHS Coordinator and two representatives each from the Faculties of Medicine, Human Sciences and Vetsuisse, all of whom are professors. Further, at least one representative per faculty must be a member of the respective Faculty Council (Fakultätskollegium). Additional people can be elected to sit on the Steering Board if the faculties involved are in agreement.

The members of the Steering Board must be renowned scientists and, upon proposal from the faculties involved, are elected by the University Board of Directors for a period of office of four years. They can be reappointed. Presidency of the Steering Board rotates between the faculty representatives.



Prof. Dr. phil. Claudio **NIGG**
Department of Health Science, Institute of Sport Science (ISPW)
President since 2025 and member since 2020



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

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



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

Member since May 2024



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

Member since January 2019



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

Member since August 2008



Prof. Dr. phil.
Sissel **GUTTORMSEN**
Chair of Expert Committee I
Institute for Medical Education (IML)

Member since August 2008



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

Member since August 2021

Expert Committees

PhD candidates currently carrying out their research projects at the GHS are grouped by GHS Expert Committee (Fachkommissionen: FKI, FKII and FKIII):

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

The committees are responsible for the admittance, guidance, and evaluation of the PhD candidates. The current members of each Expert Committee are listed below.

Expert Committee I/Fachkommission I/FKI		
Research Areas: Individual Factors, Public Health and Methodologies for Health Sciences Research		
Name	Affiliation	Institute
Sissel Guttormsen	Faculty of Medicine	Institute for Medical Education
Annalisa Berzigotti	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, Department for Visceral Surgery and Medicine
Vivianne Chappuis	Faculty of Medicine	Institute of Dental Medicine (ZMK)
Patricia Chocano-Bedoya	Faculty of Medicine	Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM)
Annika Frahsa	Faculty of Medicine	Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Angèle Gayet-Ageron	Faculty of Medicine	Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Jennifer Inauen	Faculty of Human Sciences	Institute of Psychology
Carla Meyer-Massetti	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, Department of General Internal Medicine
Mireille Meylan	Vetsuisse Faculty	Department of Clinical Veterinary Science
Berna Özdemir	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, Department of Medical Oncology
Anda Radan	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Christiane Sokollik	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, Department of Pediatrics
Guido Stirnimann	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, Department for Visceral Surgery and Medicine
Matthias Wilhelm	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, Department of Cardiology
Tullia Padovani	GHS Coordinator	Graduate School for Health Sciences

Expert Committee II/Fachkommission II/FK II		
Research Areas: Clinical Neurosciences		
Name	Affiliation	Institute
Tobias Nef	Faculty of Medicine	ARTORG Center for Biomedical Engineering Research
Tatiana Brémovà-Ertl	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, Department of Neurology
Marialuisa Cavelti	Faculty of Medicine	University Psychiatric Services (UPD), University Hospital of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
Stéphane Ciochi	Faculty of Medicine	Department of Physiology
Bogdan Draganski	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, Department of Neurology
Regula Everts Brekenfeld	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, Department of Diabetes, Endocrinology, Nutritional Medicine and Metabolism
Lorena Gianotti	Faculty of Human Sciences	Institute of Psychology
Sebastian Grunt	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, Department of Pediatrics
Anja Gysin-Maillart	Faculty of Medicine	University Psychiatric Services (UPD), University Hospital of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
Daniela Hubl	Faculty of Medicine	University Psychiatric Services (UPD), University Hospital of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology
Markus Schmidt	Faculty of Medicine	Department for BioMedical Research (DBMR)
Maria Stein	Faculty of Medicine & Faculty of Human Sciences	Institute of Psychology / University Psychiatric Services (UPD)
Leila Tarokh	Faculty of Medicine	University Psychiatric Services (UPD), University Hospital of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
Roland Wiest	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, University Institute of Diagnostics and Interventional Neuroradiology
Tullia Padovani	GHS Coordinator	Graduate School for Health Sciences

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	Inselspital, Department of Cardiology
Thomas Berger	Faculty of Human Sciences	Institute of Psychology
Vinzenz Gerber	Vetsuisse Faculty	Department of Clinical Veterinary Science
Sören Huwendiek	Faculty of Medicine	Institute for Medical Education
Philipp Latzin	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, Department of Pediatrics
Evangelia Liakoni	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, Department of General Internal Medicine
Thomas Meinel	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, Department of Neurology
Alice Panchaud Monnat	Faculty of Medicine	Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM)
Iris-Katharina Penner	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, Department of Neurology
Jessica Peter	Faculty of Medicine	University Psychiatric Services (UPD), University Hospital of Old Age Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
Eva Segelov	Faculty of Medicine	Department of Clinical Research (DCR)
David Seiffge	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, Department of Neurology
Georgios Siontis	Faculty of Medicine	Inselspital, Department of Cardiology
Matthias Zumstein	Faculty of Medicine	Orthopädie Sonnenhof
Tullia Padovani	GHS Coordinator	Graduate School for Health Sciences

GHS Student Representatives

The GHS candidates 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 GHS candidates 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 candidates.



Beatriz Guerra Buezo
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Student representative FK I

My motivation for becoming a student representative comes from my wish to contribute to a positive and supportive environment at the GHS. I believe it is important that students' perspectives and concerns are communicated effectively to the faculty and administration. I am particularly motivated to support an inclusive and understanding academic environment where all students feel heard and supported throughout their PhD journey, including those balancing research with family responsibilities. My goal is to help make the PhD experience as positive, rewarding, and manageable as possible for everyone.



Korian Wicki
University Psychiatric Services (UPD)
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.



Jennifer Amsler
Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Inselspital
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 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

- Achim Elfering (Chair)
- Heiner Baur
- Daniel Erlacher *resigned June 2025
- 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 at the University of Bern or joint supervision at the University of Bern and the FH/PH.
3. FH or PH master's degree of at least 90 ECTS with a minimal grade of 5.
4. Fulfillment of additional required ECTS during the regular PhD period.
5. Approval of the dean of the faculty involved.

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

Evaluation Process

The BC has outlined a detailed process for evaluating candidates:

1. Preliminarily exam the candidate's CV.
2. Verify that the application requirements are met.
3. Determine additional ECTS:
Assess the candidate's profile to determine how many additional ECTS (30-60) are needed in accordance with the PR Art.8.3.
4. Identify educational gaps:
Evaluate if there are gaps in the candidate's education that need to be filled with specific courses.
5. Recognize prior academic and practical experience:
 - a. Peer-reviewed publications:
 - First authorship of new articles: 5 ECTS
 - First authorship related to master's thesis: 3 ECTS
 - Second authorship: 2 ECTS
 - Third authorship: 1 ECTS
 - Last authorship: same as first authorship
 - b. Conference participation:
 - Half a day of attendance: 0.5 ECTS
 - One or more days of attendance: 1 ECTS
 - c. Previous research experience:
 - Per 30 hours of previous clinical and/or research work: 1 ECTS
 - Max. 15 ECTS for previous clinical work
6. Final ECTS assessment:
Determine the final number of additional ECTS required.
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. Interview the candidate as per the standard application procedure. This might happen in parallel with the assessment of the candidate's previous research experience.

9. Dean's approval:
Send the approved list to the Dean of the faculty involved for final approval.

10. Approve the candidate's course list.

Future Directions

The BC plans to refine and expand its criteria and processes as it gains more experience and evaluates more candidates. The GHS welcomed two candidates from an FH/PH in 2023, another two in 2024, and one in 2025. The procedure established under the new regulations for these FH/PH candidates has proven to be both effective and efficient.

PhD Program

Doctoral Program

The GHS offers research-oriented research 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 conducted with patients or healthy volunteers. The doctoral degrees are jointly issued by the faculties involved after submission of the written thesis and successful thesis defense. As a rule, the thesis must be submitted no later than one year after completion of the experimental work.

The PhD typically lasts 3-4 years (Expert Committees I and II) or 4-6 years (Expert Committee III). The University regulations require enrollment until the successful thesis defense.

Requirements

To attain the PhD degree, various requirements need to be met. Throughout the PhD, candidates must acquire 18 ECTS, 3 of which come from the mandatory Basics of Ethics course and the two GHS Symposia. Additionally, successful completion of the written 1st year exam, focusing on the methodology, and oral 2nd year exam, which presents the current state of the research project, is mandatory.

Candidates are also required to produce academic output in the form of three peer-reviewed journal articles, at least one of which is accepted for publication with first authorship. Finally, these milestones culminate in the successful evaluation of the PhD thesis and defense.

Thesis Committee

Each PhD candidate is supervised by a thesis committee consisting of the thesis advisor, the co-thesis advisor (if any) and the co-referee. In addition, the candidates of Expert Committee III and all candidates under the new regulations have a mentor assigned, who also chairs the PhD defense. Candidates from

Expert Committees I and II under the old regulations choose a member of the Expert Committees as GHS representative for the PhD defense. The *thesis advisor* is responsible for the research project, adequate supervision, the laboratory infrastructure, and the salary of the candidate. The thesis advisor must be affiliated with the University of Bern.

The *co-thesis advisor* (if any) is an expert in the field of the dissertation and can be appointed by the thesis advisor to support the candidate's supervision. In some cases, the co-thesis advisor may provide funding.

The *co-referee* is an expert in the research area of the PhD project but must not be affiliated with the same institute/department as the thesis advisor. The co-referee advises and supports the candidate and meets with them at least twice a year to discuss and assess progress of the PhD project. The co-referee is present at the exams and the thesis defense.

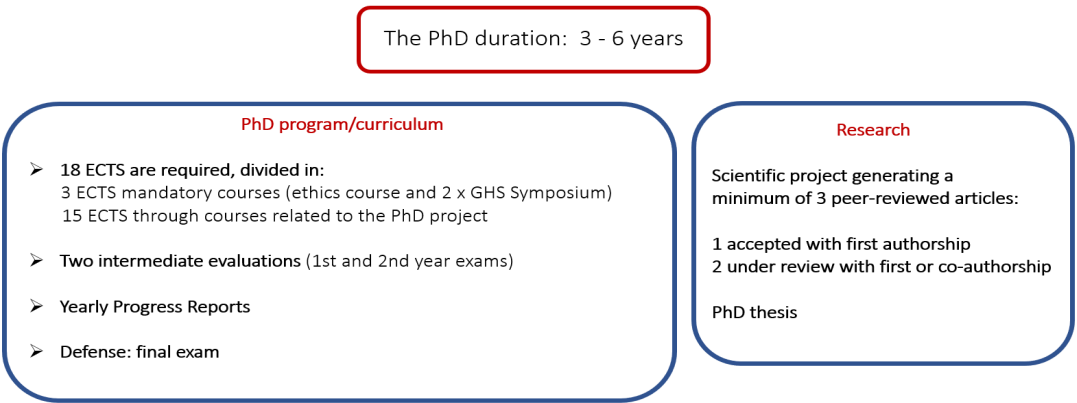
The *mentor* guides the candidate on the tailor-made training program reported in the Doctoral Agreement. The mentor evaluates the progress report and chairs the defense exam. The mentor is also a mediator in case of conflicts between the thesis committee and the candidate.

Financial Support

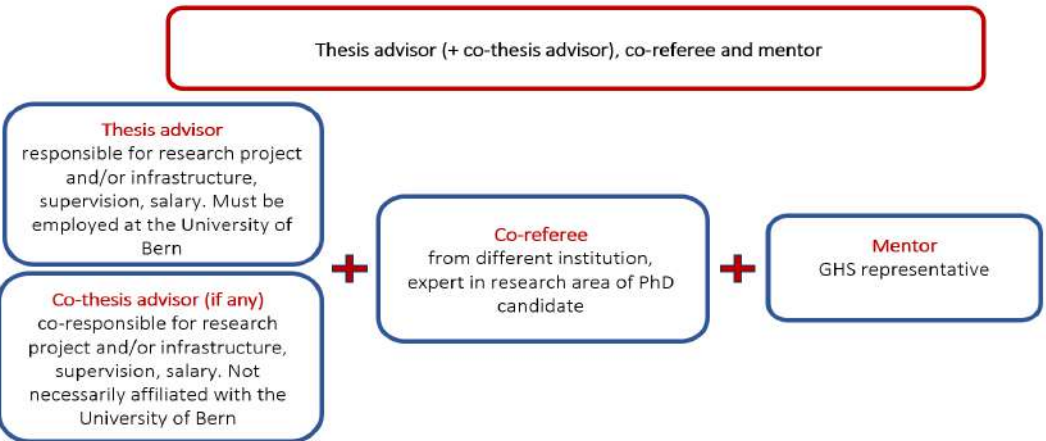
By granting financial aid, the GHS actively supports the candidates' participation in national and international conferences and in special training courses offered by recognized institutions in Switzerland and abroad.

PhD Program Structure

Overall demands for the candidates



Thesis Committee



PhD Curriculum: Courses and Conferences

Seminars and courses are individually selected by each candidate from courses supported by the GHS, courses from participating faculties at the University of Bern, and 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 relevant to the PhD topic. Active participation at conferences can be recognized as part of the PhD curriculum as well.

The 18 ECTS required by the GHS PhD program include:

- Mandatory requirements (3 ECTS)
- Core courses (2-4 ECTS)
- Method skills (4-6 ECTS)
- Special knowledge (including conferences) (min. 6 ECTS)

The mandatory, core, method skills and special knowledge courses offered by the GHS are listed in the [course catalog](#). When they meet the requirements, the GHS recognizes external courses/conferences 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.
- Courses and conferences not listed in the GHS course catalog can be selected upon agreement with the GHS Coordinator. They must involve active participation, be at least 0.5 ECTS and on a 0.5 ECTS scale.
- The selection of courses and conferences should be documented in the Doctoral Agreement.

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 PHS Course Program is recommended to doctoral candidates working on public health-related topics who want to get ready for a postdoc 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](#)

The BENEFRI Neuroscience Program is a convention between the Universities of Bern and Fribourg and is available to GHS candidates. 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](#)

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 exchange 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)

Transferable skills 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 \(GCB\) \(University of Bern\)](#)

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

Funding Opportunities and Scholarships

Candidates should discuss potential funding opportunities with their future thesis advisor. Funding for the PhD must be secured before the formal application to the GHS.

GHS candidates may apply annually for a range of scholarships and grant opportunities. A list of potential funding sources is available on the [GHS website](#).

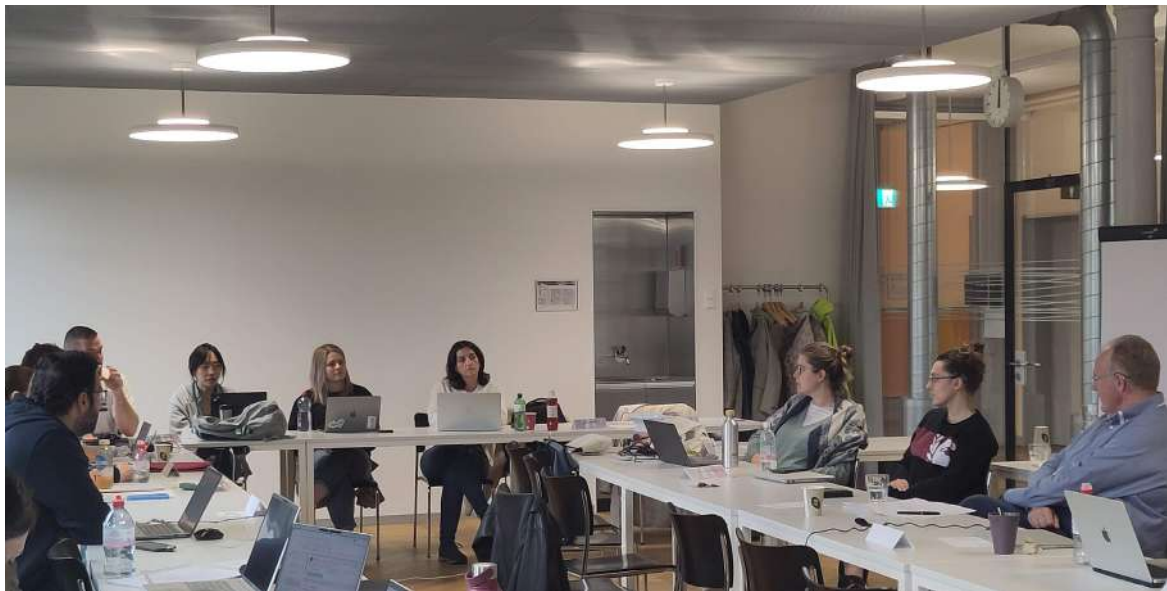


Basics of Ethics Course Mittelstrasse 43

Basics of Ethics in Health Sciences Research

Course Overview

The *Basics of Ethics in Health Sciences Research* course provides key insights into ethical practices and the core principles of scientific integrity in health sciences research. This mandatory two-day course worth 1 ECTS, which equips candidates with the necessary skills to fully integrate ethical considerations into their research projects, has been a cornerstone of the GHS program for many years.



Basics of Ethics Course Mittelstrasse 43

Schedule Highlights

This year's course, held on May 22-23, 2025, drew on the expertise of several internal and external lecturers. Dr. Agomoni Ganguli Mitra (University of Edinburgh) and Prof. Verina Wild (University of Augsburg) introduced the history and principles of ethics in clinical and public research, including regulatory frameworks such as the Swiss human research act. The topics of scientific integrity and research misconduct were covered by Prof. Kris Dierickx from KU (Katholieke Universiteit) Leuven, who also delved into the important topics of conflicts of interest and fair authorship. Finally, modules on open access publishing and research data management by the Open Science team of the University Library of Bern explored options and pitfalls in publishing as well as outlined the essential knowledge, resources and skills needed to manage research data ethically and efficiently. Through group presentations and discussions of case studies, the course provided a stimulating learning environment that fostered critical reflection, facilitated knowledge exchange, and encouraged the exploration of practical applications within participants' own research contexts.



Basics of Ethics Course Mittelstrasse 43

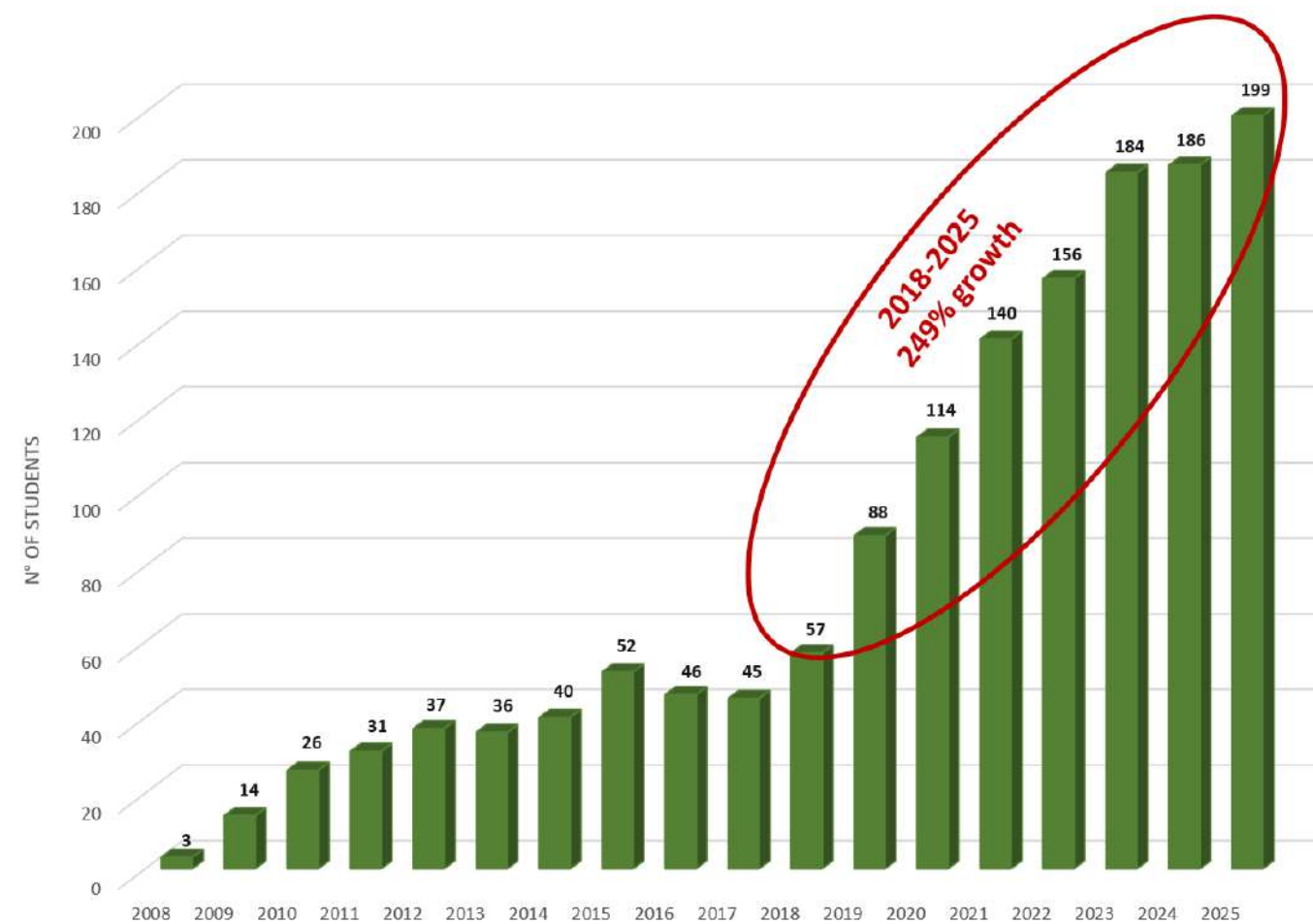
Course Feedback

The participants' feedback confirmed the course's success, reflecting the GHS's commitment to providing its candidates with high-quality, academically relevant knowledge that can be directly applied to their own research projects. 94% of participants agreed that the course fulfilled its objectives and that its structure effectively supported their learning, underscoring the GHS's success in responding to candidates' interests and needs for acquiring new skills and knowledge. Furthermore, 82% reported that their thematic interests and questions were adequately addressed, a particularly noteworthy result given the wide range of research topics represented among GHS candidates. The course received exceptionally positive overall evaluations: 100% of participants indicated that they would recommend the course to other doctoral candidates, with 84% stating that they would do so without any reservation. Participants especially appreciated the interactive format, the opportunities for active engagement, and the well-balanced combination of expert input, practical discussions, and exchanges with peers.

Review: 2025 in numbers

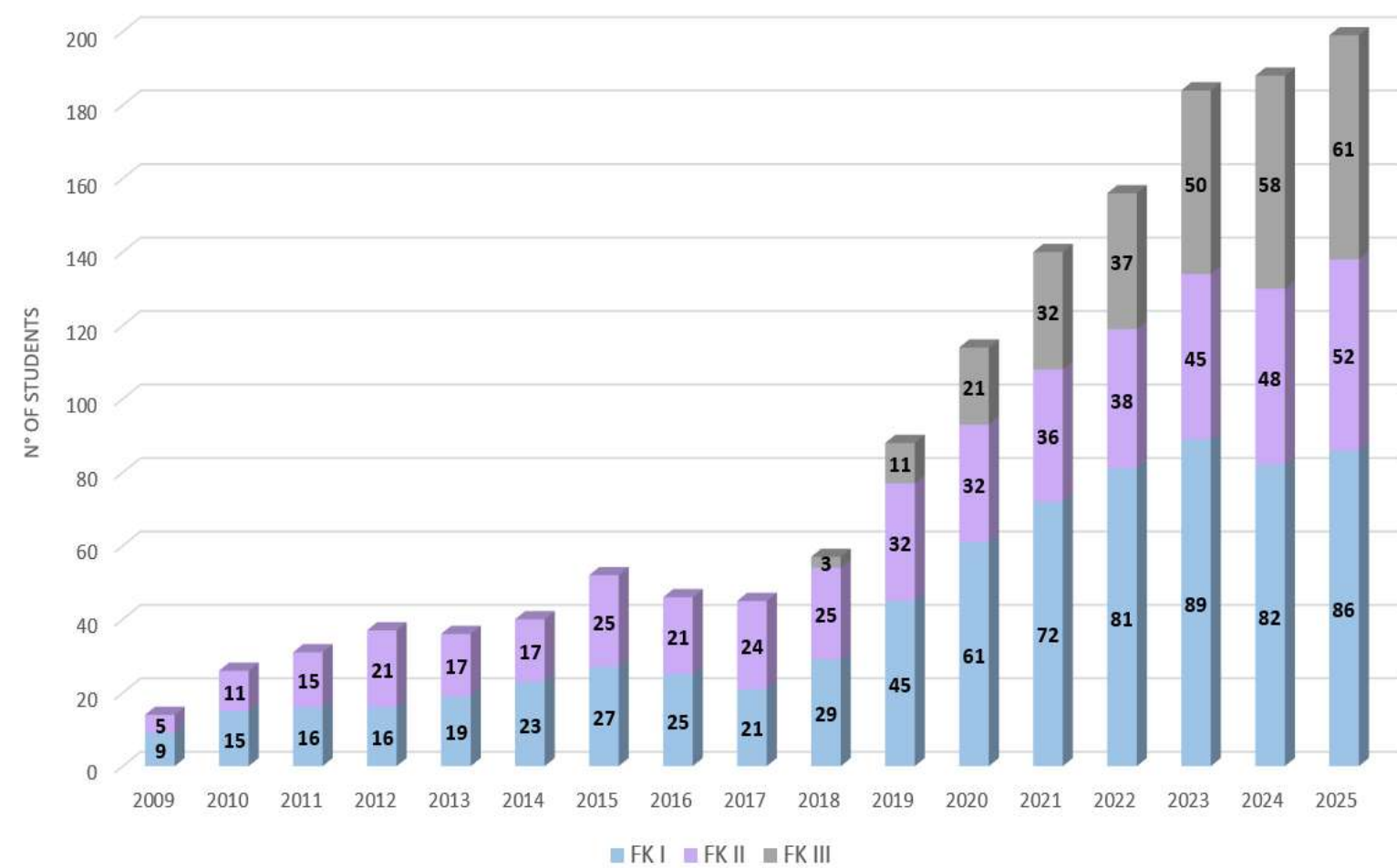
Matriculations

Growth in GHS matriculations 2008-2025



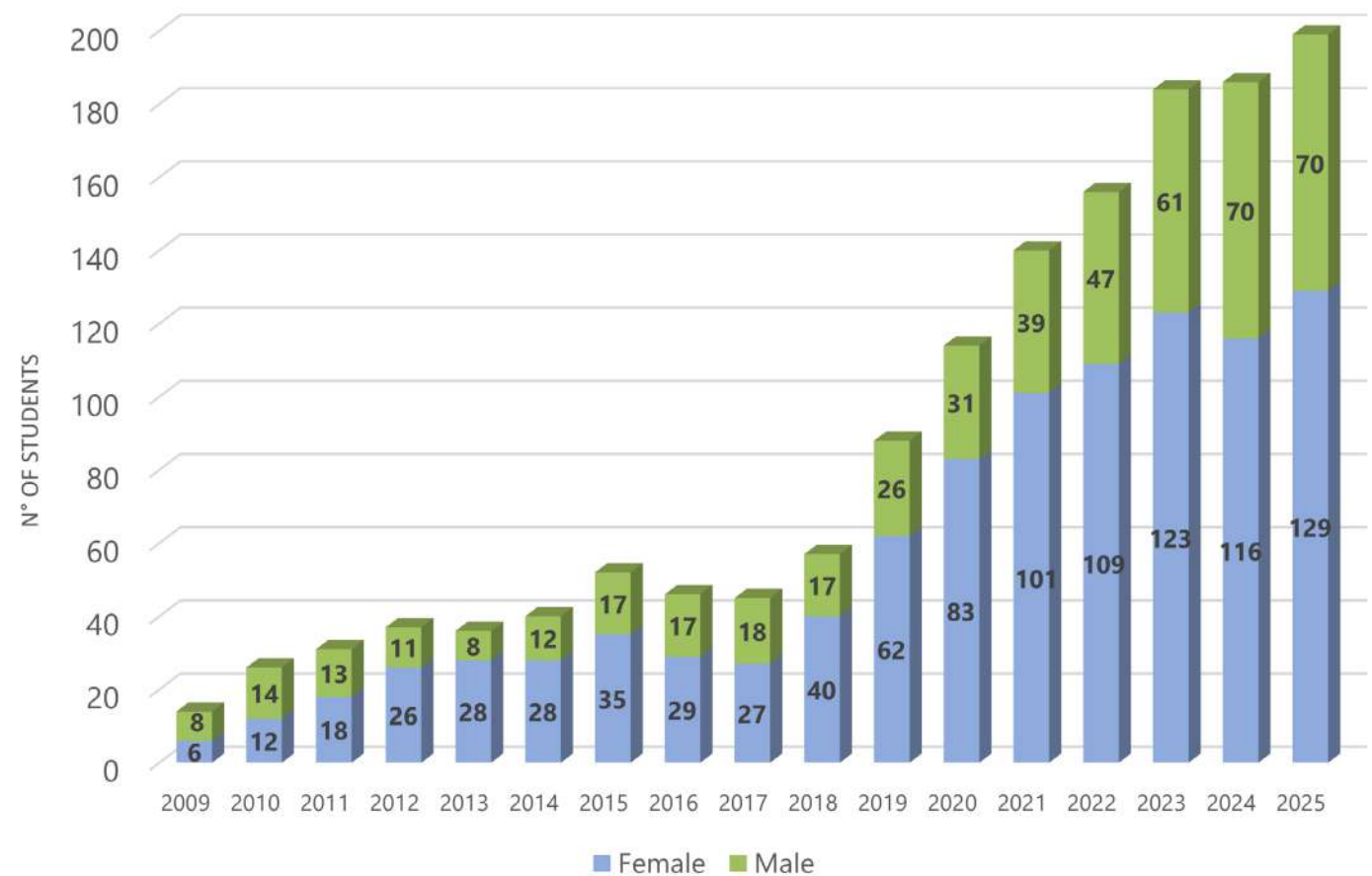
Expert Committees

Candidate distribution across Expert Committees 2008-2025



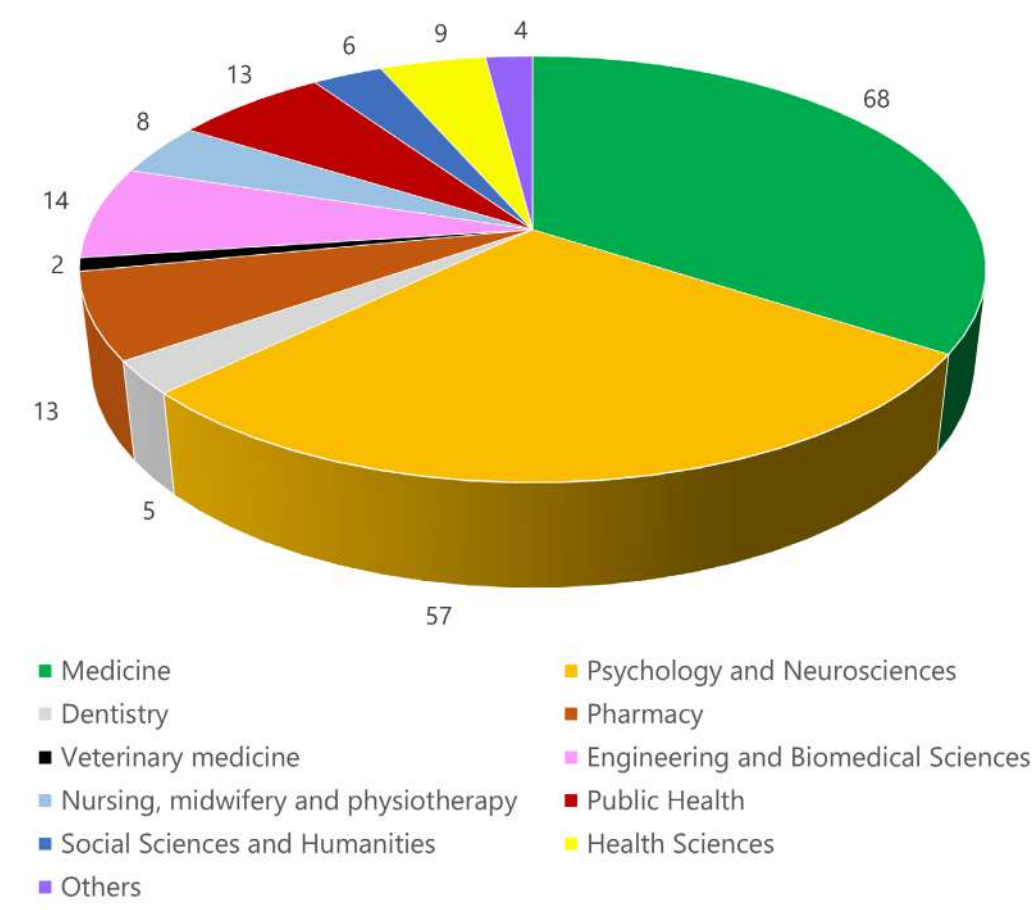
Biological Sex

GHS candidates by biological sex 2008-2025



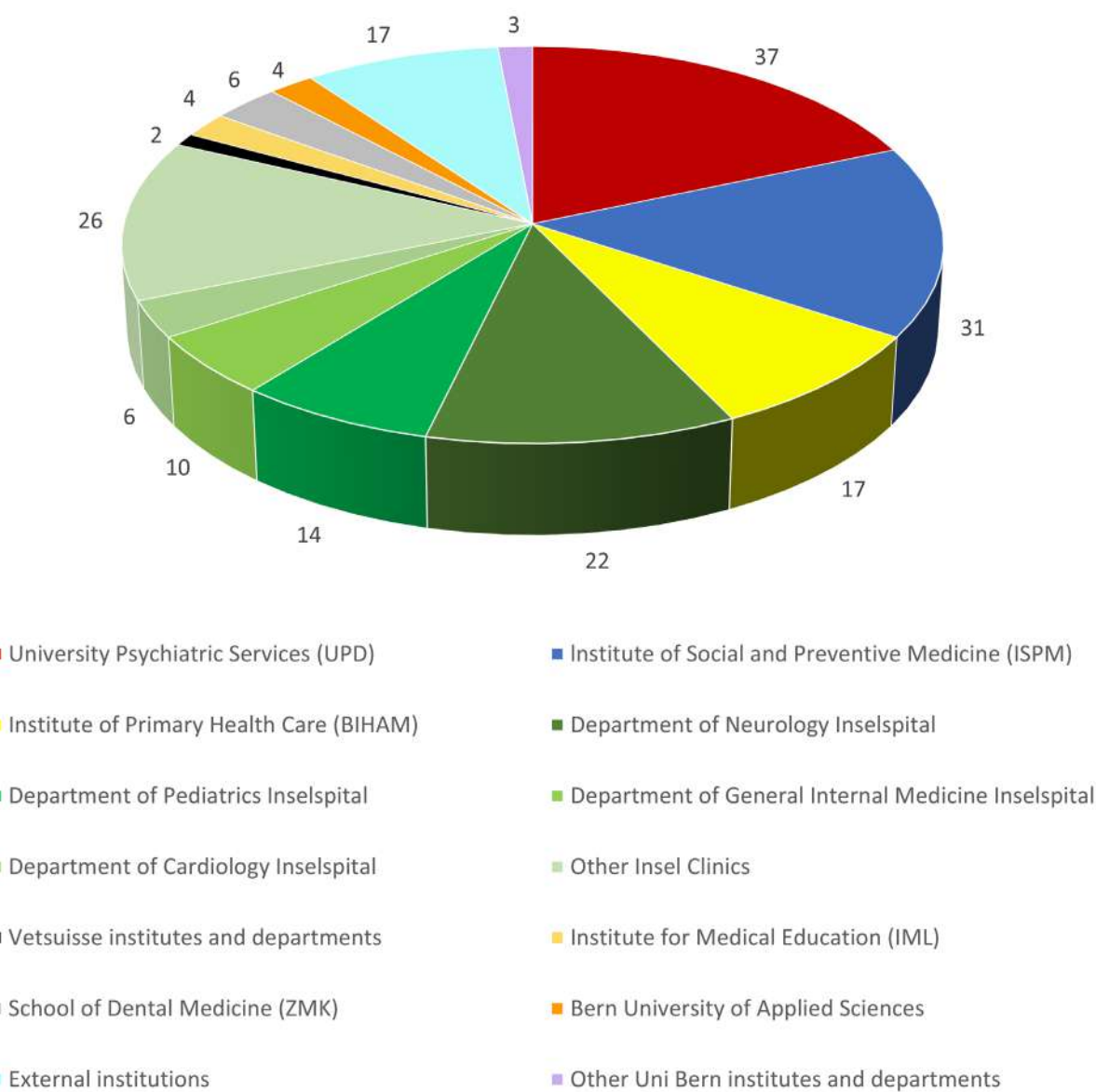
Degree Area

GHS candidates – master's degree area



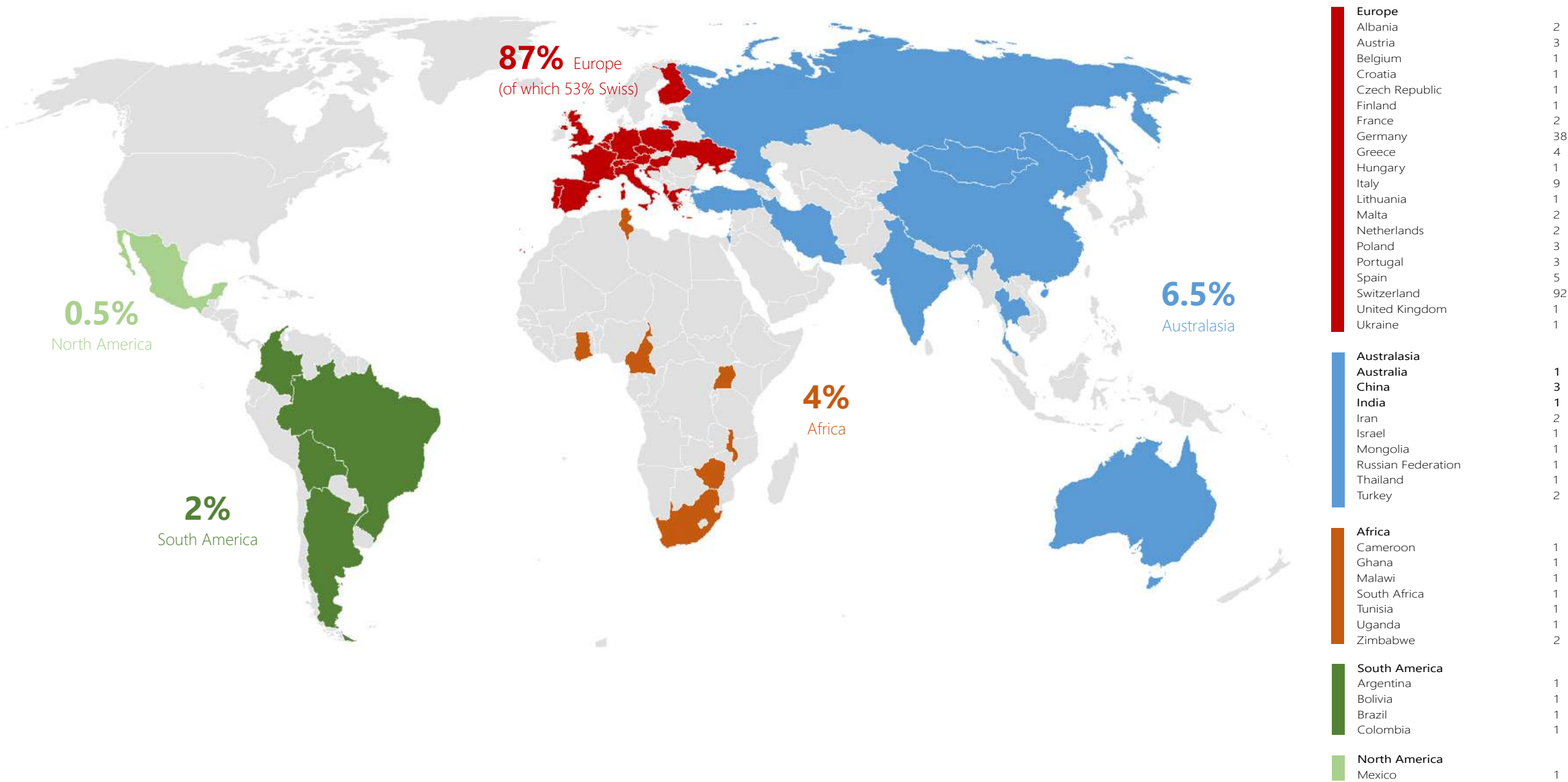
Institutes and Departments

GHS candidates – institutes and departments where research is performed

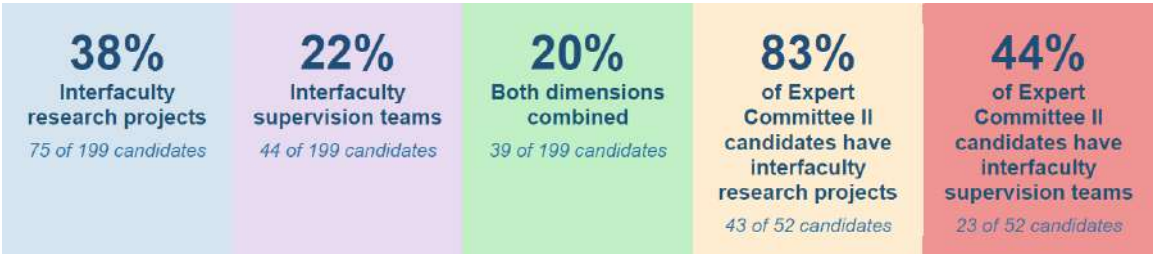


Nationality of GHS Candidates

In 2025, 41 different nationalities were represented in the 199 doctoral candidates enrolled at the GHS.



Interfaculty Exchange within the GHS



1. Summary

This report presents the findings of an internal analysis to assess the extent and quality of interfaculty exchange within the GHS. The analysis examines two distinct but complementary dimensions: the interdisciplinary character of PhD research projects and the cross-faculty composition of supervision teams. The data confirm that interdisciplinarity is not incidental to the GHS, but rather structurally embedded. More than one third of all PhD candidates enrolled pursue research that crosses faculty boundaries, and nearly one quarter of candidates have supervisors from multiple faculties. When both the conceptual and supervisory dimensions are combined, 20% of candidates demonstrate full interdisciplinary integration.

Strategic Significance

The analyses provide robust quantitative evidence that the GHS is effectively fulfilling its interdisciplinary mandate. Interfaculty collaboration is systematically integrated in the program’s core operations and consistently applied in practice. These findings are directly relevant to institutional reporting and strategic engagement across the three partner faculties. Taken together, they establish the GHS as a distinctive interdisciplinary unit within the University of Bern, offering a strong foundation for its continued institutional recognition and sustained resource allocation.

2. Methodology

The analysis is based on individual-level data from the complete cohort of 199 PhD candidates enrolled at the GHS in 2025. Each project was assessed independently across two analytical dimensions:

Research project classification:

Projects were classified as interfaculty on the basis of four criteria: the candidate’s master’s degree background, the aims and hypotheses of the research project, the methodological approaches employed, and the project title.

Supervision team classification:

The faculty affiliation of all thesis advisors, co-thesis advisors, and co-referees was extracted from the GHS institutional database. A supervision team was classified as interfaculty when at least one member, excluding the mentor, was affiliated with a different faculty or a University of Applied Sciences.

Note: In several cases, thesis advisors hold doctoral degrees from the Faculty of Human Sciences but are institutionally employed within the Medical Faculty, for example at the UPD or Inselspital. Such individuals were categorized

according to their formal faculty of employment, which may result in a slight underestimation of effective cross-faculty collaboration in supervision.

3. Findings

1. Interfaculty Research Projects

Of the 199 PhD candidates enrolled in 2025, 75 (38%) have interfaculty research projects, indicating that their research topics draw on concepts, approaches, designs, and methods from multiple disciplines that extend across more than one faculty. The majority of these candidates conduct their research within the Medical Faculty while holding a master’s degree from the Faculty of Human Sciences or from a University of Applied Sciences. The fact that more than one third of all projects cross disciplinary boundaries is a substantive indicator of embedded interdisciplinarity.

2. Interfaculty Supervision Teams

At the supervisory level, 44 candidates (22%) benefit from teams in which at least one supervisor is affiliated with a faculty other than the candidate’s primary faculty, or with a University of Applied Sciences. This finding reflects a structural commitment to cross-faculty supervision, exposes PhD candidates to a broader range of scientific approaches and methodological traditions, and fosters exchange and collaboration between the different faculties.

3. Combined Interfaculty Involvement

When both interfaculty research and supervision are assessed together, 39 candidates (20%) satisfy both criteria simultaneously. This cohort represents the most fully integrated expression of the GHS’s interdisciplinary model.

4. Distribution Across Expert Committees

The degree of interfaculty engagement varies considerably across the three Expert Committees, reflecting the specific disciplinary orientation of each domain:

Expert Committee	Focus Area	Interfaculty Projects	Interfaculty Supervision
Expert Committee I	Individual Factors, Public Health & Methodologies	31%	21%
Expert Committee II	Clinical Neurosciences	83%	44%
Expert Committee III	Clinical Sciences	8%	5%

Expert Committee II (Clinical Neurosciences) stands out as the most interdisciplinary of the three committees, with 83% of projects classified as interfaculty and 44% of candidates supervised by cross-faculty teams. This pattern likely reflects the integrative nature of neuroscientific research, which draws on clinical medicine, psychology, and related disciplines and methodological frameworks, making cross-faculty collaboration a structural feature rather than an exception. Expert Committee I (Individual Factors, Public Health & Methodologies) occupies a middle position, with 31% of projects and 21% of supervision teams classified as interfaculty. This level of engagement is consistent with the committee’s broad thematic scope, which spans public health, individual-level factors, and research methodologies, areas that naturally invite collaboration across faculty boundaries, though not as systematically as in Clinical Neurosciences.

Expert Committee III (Clinical Sciences), by contrast, is characterised by projects predominantly situated within the established disciplinary boundaries of the Medical Faculty, with only 8% of projects and 5% of supervision teams classified as interfaculty. This reflects the more specialised and clinically bounded nature of the research conducted within this domain.

4. Interpretation and Strategic Considerations

The GHS was founded on the premise that complex health challenges demand researchers trained across disciplinary boundaries. These findings demonstrate that this principle is actively being implemented in practice, rather than remaining purely aspirational.

The 38% interfaculty project rate is particularly significant. It indicates that the GHS goes beyond merely grouping single-faculty PhD candidates within a shared administrative unit. Instead, it actively attracts and supports candidates whose research crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries. In a similar way, the 22% rate of cross-faculty supervision suggests that the GHS's network of affiliated faculty members is substantively engaged in joint supervision, showing a strong commitment to collaborate beyond their faculty

5. Conclusion

The internal analysis confirms that interfaculty exchange within the GHS operates at two interconnected levels: the content of PhD research projects and the composition of supervision teams. Collectively, these findings attest to a clear and measurable degree of structural interdisciplinarity across the PhD program.

Within this overall picture, Expert Committee II (Clinical Neurosciences) stands out for its exceptionally high level of interfaculty cooperation, which reflects the GHS's particular strength in fostering intensive interdisciplinary integration in domains where disciplinary convergence is most pronounced.

Taken together, the evidence positions the GHS not merely as an administratively unified structure, but as a functionally integrated and strategically distinctive interdisciplinary PhD program within the University of Bern, with a demonstrated capacity to sustain and advance cross-faculty collaboration at a large scale.

Survey on Protected Research Time

1. At a Glance



2. Context and Purpose

At the GHS Steering Board meeting of June 25th, 2025, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine raised concerns about potentially uncompensated clinical work performed by GHS-FKIII Clinical Sciences doctoral candidates beyond their contractually protected research time.

In response, the GHS Coordination Office designed and distributed an anonymous survey in August 2025 to all 58 doctoral candidates enrolled in the 50% research/50% clinical practice program (here referred to as the GHS-FKIII 50/50 model). The survey was sent to the 58 candidates three times to maximize participation and ensure a statistically representative sample.

40 candidates responded, yielding a response rate of 69% and thus a sufficiently high proportion to consider the results as representative of the cohort.

The objectives of the survey were threefold:

1. To assess day-to-day adherence to the 50/50 clinical practice-research model.
2. To evaluate the perceived acceptance of protected research time among work colleagues (peers) and senior physicians.
3. To identify any systematic discrepancies between the program's formal framework and its practical implementation.

3. Key Findings

1. Cohort Profile

The doctoral candidates are distributed heterogeneously across the duration of the FKIII program, with the majority in the 1- to 3-year range. Despite the differences in the stage of the PhD, adherence to protected research time remains broadly consistent across the candidates, indicating that the 50/50 model is operationally embedded from the early stages of the program.

2. Acceptance of the 50/50 Model

The 50% research commitment benefits from a strong institutional acceptance at all levels of the clinical hierarchy. The candidates reported an acceptance rate among peers of 80% (score ≥ 8), with 62.5% scoring ≥ 9. Among senior staff (Oberärzte and Leitende Ärzte), the candidates reported an acceptance of 75% (score ≥ 7), and nearly half (47.5%) assigned a score of 9 or 10; a particularly significant finding, as this is the level where tensions between clinical demands and research time are most likely to arise.

Indicator	Results
Peers accepting protected research time (score ≥ 8*)	80%
Senior staff accepting protected research time (score ≥7*)	75%

*Scale: 1=very poor / 10=excellent

3. Candidate Satisfaction

Candidate satisfaction with the implementation of protected research time is equally strong: 85% of respondents rated a score of 6 or above and more than half (55%) gave scores of 9 or 10. This highlights the effectiveness of both the existing structural measures and the supportive culture within the participating clinical units.

Indicator	Results
Doctoral candidates satisfied with protected time (score ≥ 6*)	85%
Doctoral candidates rating satisfaction 9-10	55%

*Scale: 1=very poor / 10=excellent

4. Continuity of Research Time

57.5% of candidates reported no interruptions or only a single interruption to their protected research time. A further 32.5% experienced occasional interruptions, which in our view falls within an acceptable range given the inherent demands of clinical settings. Only 10% reported frequent disruptions without compensation; a percentage that, while numerically small, warrants targeted follow-up to ensure that the protected research time is respected across the cohort.

Indicator	Results
Research time never or rarely interrupted	57.5%
Occasional interruptions	32.5%
Frequent interruptions	10%

4. Interpretation

The survey results confirm that the GHS-FKIII 50/50 model broadly functions as designed. The combination of high acceptance rates, strong candidate satisfaction and low frequency of interruptions represents a robust foundation for the program's continued integrity.

At the same time, the data reveal a small but distinct subgroup experiencing conditions that diverge from program norms. This calls for proportionate, targeted attention and concrete follow-up actions, without requiring a system-wide revision, to ensure that all doctoral candidates benefit from the same level of support and protection currently enjoyed by the majority of candidates in the 50/50 model.

The findings also confirm the value of the original and distinctive application framework: the 50/50 model is not merely a formal commitment, but is operationally respected across the participating clinics.

5. Recommendations

- 1. *Reinforce supervisors’ commitment.* The findings should be communicated directly to clinical supervisors as a reminder of the contractual 50/50 obligation set out in the original FKIII application documents.

- 2. *Presentation at a faculty meeting.* Subject to the Dean’s approval, the GHS Steering Board would welcome the opportunity to present these results at an upcoming faculty meeting. This would support transparent communication of the findings across the faculty and serve as a constructive endorsement of the program’s functioning. At the same time, it would allow for a brief but open critical appraisal of the few cases where deviations from the intended framework were identified.

- 3. *Monitoring.* To maintain oversight and identify emerging trends over time, the GHS proposes embedding this survey as a regular instrument, to be conducted every two years, and to track whether trends evolve in the desired direction following the implementation of the proposed measures.

6. Closing Remarks

The GHS Steering Board is grateful to the Dean for raising this matter at the June 2025 meeting. The survey process itself has been a valuable exercise in PhD program governance, and its results reflect the high quality and strong commitment of the clinical units involved in the FKIII program. We remain available to discuss the findings and next steps at the Dean’s convenience.

GHS Alumni Survey



1. Participation Overview

Out of 82 alumni contacted, 34 responded to the survey, corresponding to a response rate of 41%. Respondents span five graduation cohorts (2019-2023), with strongest representation from 2023 (10), 2020 (9), and 2021 (8). The distribution confirms the survey reached recent graduates at relevant early career stages. Half of the respondents consented to future contact, and alumni expressed broad willingness to contribute to career sharing, mentoring, and programmatic input, indicating sustained engagement with the GHS network beyond graduation.

2. Career Path Distribution

Sector	Respondents*	Percentage
Academia & research	22	65%
Public sector & policy	7	21%
Industry/private sector	6	18%
Non-profit & other	3	9%

* 4 respondents chose more than one answer. Percentage is calculated based on the number of respondents.

22 respondents are currently active in academia (in primary or secondary roles); only 9 have never worked in academia since completing their PhD. This suggests that the GHS program strongly channels graduates into academic and research careers, while also enabling diversification into policy and industry contexts.

3. Five Key Emerging Themes

#	Theme	Key Evidence & Implication
1	Strong academic involvement	Majority working in academia/research: of the 25 respondents currently or previously working in academia/research, 23 have published post-PhD, many with continuous output. The program effectively prepares candidates for sustained academic careers, with strong publication productivity after graduation.
2	Highly transferable PhD skills	Top skills: writing & communication (24), research (23), data analysis (20), project management (17). The PhD provides a robust, transferable skillset, applicable beyond academia and valuable in multiple professional contexts.
3	Flexible topic-career alignment	11 respondents report very close alignment between PhD topic and current role; 15 report slight or no alignment. Skills acquired during the PhD remain professionally relevant even when the topic differs – career paths are flexible and professional success is not dependent on strict topic continuity.

#	Theme	Key Evidence & Implication
4	Strong research, variable training	Publication activity is consistently high and sustained. Teaching involvement is more variable, with 8 respondents primarily involved in teaching. The responses might suggest a tendency for alumni careers to place greater emphasis on research than on teaching. Overall, this could reflect differences in institutional roles and career stages.
5	Alumni willingness to contribute back	Alumni show clear interest in staying connected, with 17 open to re-contact: 15 respondents willing to share career paths, 12 interested in programmatic input, 7 offering career advice. This suggests a desire to share experiences and reflections on the PhD program. Strong potential for an active alumni network, with the possibility to integrate alumni into training, mentoring, and events.

4. Additional Observations

- No unemployment reported among respondents suggests strong employability outcomes across all sectors.
- Limited representation in entrepreneurship and the non-profit sector, pointing to potential areas for program expansion and diversification.
- The conclusions of this report should be read considering a potential self-selection bias of the respondents.

5. Key Takeaways

1. The participants’ responses reflect strong alumni engagement.
2. The program produces graduates who predominantly remain in academia and research.
3. Transferable skills are the most valuable long-term outcome of the PhD.
4. Career paths are diverse and not strictly tied to PhD topics.
5. Alumni’s willingness to contribute back to the program provides the opportunity to share valuable alumni insights with doctoral candidates.

6. Strategic Implications

Based on the survey findings, the following directions could be considered:

- Emphasize transferable skills training as a strength of the GHS doctoral program, ensuring it remains highly visible, accessible and clearly structured within the PhD curriculum. The GHS and the University of Bern currently offer a wide variety of high-quality transferable skills courses.
- In addition, there is a need to further promote awareness of non-academic career pathways, for example through targeted events, dedicated courses, or career-oriented activities that highlights diverse professional trajectories.
- Finally, the results point to a strong opportunity to engage alumni more strategically. This could include involving them in career panels, integrating their feedback into curriculum development, and exploring more formalized alumni network activities.



GHS Symposium 2025

GHS Symposium

Driving Innovation in Health Sciences

The 17th GHS Symposium, hosted at the idyllic Studienzentrum Gerzensee from November 26th-27th, 2025, provided GHS candidates with a stimulating intellectual environment in which to present their research projects, receive valuable feedback from peers and academic experts, and foster meaningful exchange.

This Symposium was the biggest yet with 87 candidates participating, 49 of which presented their PhD project in the form of a poster and 38 of which in a talk. These presentations not only highlighted the high quality of the candidates' projects, but also demonstrated their dedication to making an impactful contribution to the field of health sciences.

The research presentations included the effects and mechanisms of sensory afferent electrical stimulation in children with hemiparesis, body mass index trajectories from early childhood to late adolescence, opportunities for machine learning in intraoperative neurophysiology, neuronal correlates of gestures in depression, communication dynamics in the operating room, psychopathic personality traits in politics, the application of artificial intelligence in retinal diseases and many more.

The breadth of research topics not only demonstrates the impressive diversity of PhD projects at the GHS, but also reinforces the GHS's goal to promote academic research on health sciences in a variety of fields.

Day One

Like every year, the Symposium kicked off with candidate registration and the first coffee of many. Once everyone had arrived, GHS President Prof. Dr. Claudio Nigg and GHS Coordinator Dr. Tullia Padovani provided the opening speech, updating the attendees on the important developments and milestones of the GHS in the last year.

After the opening speech, three rounds of presentations, two before lunch and one after, began. For the first time, the large number of participants required three parallel sessions instead of the usual two – a change that optimized time and ensured that all candidates could present and receive feedback without feeling rushed. In these parallel sessions, candidates presenting their research in the form of a talk each had 10 minutes to introduce their project, provide key results, and outline the remaining work. Following each talk, a 5-minute Q&A session enabled the audience to ask questions, share constructive feedback, and offer valuable new perspectives.

With an exciting and stimulating morning and afternoon behind them, the candidates took a coffee break and a walk to the nearby Gerzensee, a beautiful and tranquil lake where everyone could relax, get some exercise, and get to know each other and chat.

When the sun was beginning to set, the participants re-

convened in room Bern: it was time for candidates with a poster to pitch their research project and capture the audience's interest in just 60 seconds. This "poster flash session" ensured that the audience stayed on their toes, while also teaching the presenters how to showcase their research in an intriguing way. When all 38 posters had been presented and everyone's interest piqued, the attendees switched to the Panoramasaal for the

poster viewing session and accompanying apéro. The day concluded with a lovely dinner and lively conversation. This was a particularly enjoyable experience, as one of the GHS's goals is to create the opportunity for not just academic exchange, but true conviviality among its candidates. By the end of the evening, many candidates went to the leisure room to spend a relaxing and joyful time together.



Day 1: Poster flash session



Day 1: Poster viewing

Day Two

Day two of the GHS Symposium began with two insightful lectures on “Philosophy in Health Sciences,” the first by Dr. Antonella Santucci Chadha (Women’s Brain Foundation) on sex and gender implications in medicine and neuroscience, and the second by Dr. Francesca de Vecchi (University Vita-Salute San Raffaele) on gender, body and identity from a phenomenological perspective. These thought-provoking talks were then followed by interactive workshops, in which candidates intensely discussed the lecture content in more detail and reflected on the role gender plays in their research. After this, Dr. Santucci Chadha and Dr. de Vecchi each held another provocative lecture that built on the previous one, aiding candidates to deepen their knowledge and awareness of the intersections between sex, gender and health sciences.



Day 2: Workshop with Dr. Antonella Santucci Chadha, Women's Brain Foundation



Day 2: Workshop with Prof. Dr. Francesca De Vecchi, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University

This year’s Symposium dedicated a session to presenting the three pillar course programs available to all GHS candidates: the Public Health Sciences (PHS) Course Program, the BeNeFri Program, and the Department of Clinical Research (DCR) Program. Each program was introduced to help candidates navigate the full range of training pathways that the University of Bern has to offer. Whatever their Expert Committee, candidates are encouraged to explore these opportunities and build a course curriculum that strengthens both their research project and their long-term academic trajectory.

Public Health Sciences (PHS) Course Program

Presented by Prof. Angèle Gayet-Ageron, the PHS Course Program is a structured, interdisciplinary training program for doctoral candidates working on public health-related topics. Bringing together lecturers from multiple faculties, it combines rigorous methodological training, including biostatistics, epidemiology, qualitative research, and health systems, with direct engagement with current public health challenges and policy questions.



BeNeFri Neuroscience Program

Presented by Prof. Stéphane Ciochi, the BeNeFri Program is a joint postgraduate initiative bringing together doctoral candidates from the Faculty of Medicine in Bern and the Faculty of Science and Medicine in Fribourg. The program deepens both the theoretical knowledge and methodological expertise of its participants through shared courses and lectures, spanning molecular and cellular neurobiology to clinical and computational neuroscience.



Department of Clinical Research (DCR) Program

Presented by Prof. Eva Segelov, the DCR Program supports doctoral candidates involved in patient-oriented and clinical research at the University of Bern and Inselspital. It offers various courses tailored to conducting high-quality research in a clinical environment, such as clinical trial design, Good Clinical Practice, fundamental statistics, grant writing, database management, and patient and public involvement. Complemented by expert lectures and talks on current advances in clinical research, the program equips candidates with both the practical skills and the methodological rigor needed for their clinical careers.



Following the presentations on the partner courses, the participants switched to two more rounds of candidate presentations. After that, all that was left to do was to enjoy one final coffee break, the award ceremony and the final speech by GHS president Claudio Nigg and GHS Coordinator Tullia Padovani. Prior to the award ceremony, candidates and chairs evaluated the posters and presentations with a survey, allowing candidates to receive valuable constructive feedback. This year, the **best poster award** went to Sarah Godehardt (Expert Committee II) for her project entitled “Supporting Deep Encoding with Non-Invasive Brain Stimulation: A tDCS-fMRI Study in Younger and Older Adults.” The **best talk award** was given to Francesca Schmitt (Expert Committee II) for her exceptional presentation on “Adverse psychiatric effects of high-dose glucocorticoids on children and adolescents with malignant blood diseases.”



GHS Symposium 2025

Conclusion

The 17th GHS Symposium highlighted not just the multifaceted research projects fundamental to the GHS PhD program, but also the candidates’ invaluable enthusiasm, curiosity, and dedication to health sciences research. Their continuous effort to progress research in health sciences through their academic contributions is truly inspirational and exactly what the GHS tries its very best to foster.

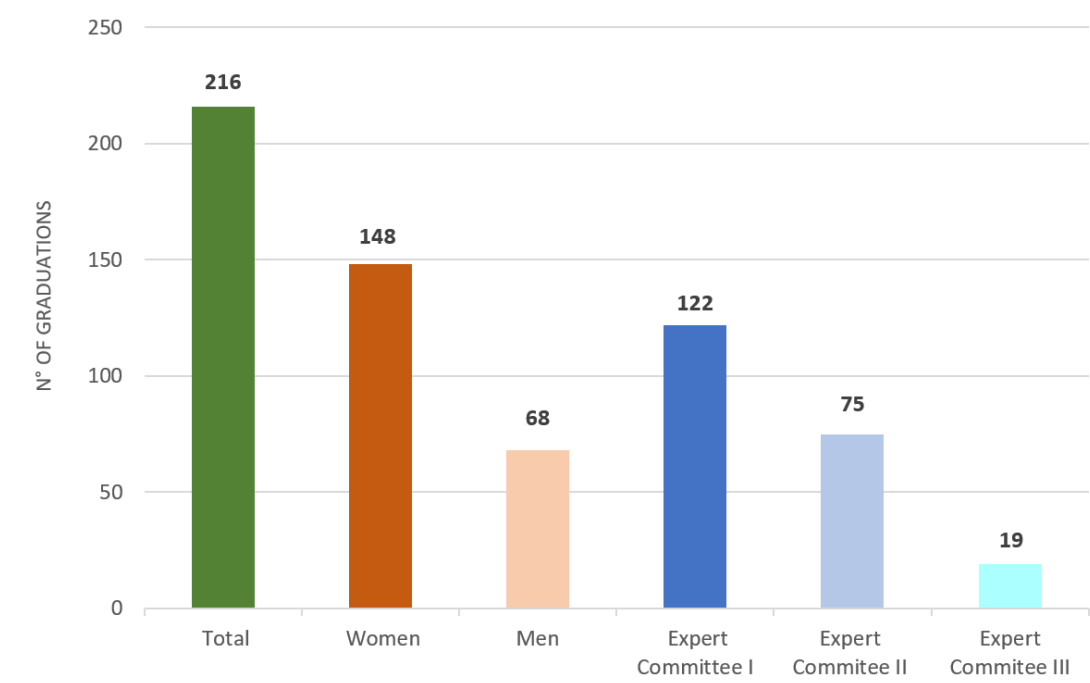




Graduation Ceremony Medical Faculty

Graduations

Graduations 2008-2025



February 24

Bernhard Matthias Siepen PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Department of Neurology, Inselspital
Project title: Deciphering outcomes in intracerebral haemorrhage associated with different types of oral anticoagulants
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. David Seiffge and Prof. Dr. Aristomenis Exadaktylos

February 26

Leonie Daria Schreck PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: Participatory research in primary ciliary dyskinesia: the Living with PCD study
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Claudia Kuehni and PD Dr. Loretta Müller

February 27

Nicole Schönenberger PhD in Health Sciences (Pharmacy)
Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology, Inselspital
Project title: Exploring Risk Factors, Prevalence and Mitigation Strategies for Preventable Medication-Related Readmissions in Older Adults with the Subsequent Development of a Screening Tool
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Carla Meyer-Masseti and Prof. Dr. Balthasar Hug

February 27

Natalia Ortega Herrero PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM)
Project title: Estimating the causal effect of dairy intake on cognitive function using observational data
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Nicolas Rodondi and Prof. Dr. Trudy Voortman

March 3

Morin Beyeler PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Sciences)
Department of Neurology, Inselspital
Project title: USE OF BIOMARKERS IN ISCHEMIC STROKES: THE PARTICULAR CASE OF CANCER-RELATED STROKES
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Simon Jung and Prof. Dr. Thomas Pabst

March 11

Farnaz Khatami PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: Iron biomarkers and status as potential mediating factors contributing to sex differences in car-diometabolic diseases
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Pedro Marques-Vidal and Prof. Dr. Lia Bally

March 20

Adrià Ramírez Mena PhD in Health Sciences (Public Health Sciences)
Department of Infectious Diseases, Inselspital
Project title: Understanding the Hepatitis B Continuum of Care to Inform Elimination Strategies in Sub-Saharan Africa
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Gilles Wandeler and Prof. Dr. Antoine Jaquet

April 4

Ursina Wernli PhD in Health Sciences (Pharmacy)
Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology, Inselspital
Project title: “Optimizing drug therapy in palliative care through pharmacists’ involvement with a focus on pre-
scribing practices and off-label use”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Carla Meyer-Massetti and Prof. Dr. Andrea Kobleder

April 8

Valerie Aponte Ribero PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM)
Project title: “Cardiovascular disease among older adults: association with diabetes, risk prediction, and statin
discontinuation”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Nicolas Rodondi and Séverine Henrard, PhD

April 25

Laura Gallucci PhD in Health Sciences (Psychology)
Department of Neurology, Inselspital
Project title: “Post-stroke cognitive impairment: risk factors and impact of cognitive reserve”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: PD Dr. Roza Umarova and Prof. Dr. phil. Andreas Monsch

May 2

Samuel Elias Christen PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Sciences)
Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology, Inselspital
Project title: “Factors influencing Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics in E-cigarettes as Smoking Cessation
Tool”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Evangelia Liakoni and Prof. Jean-François Elter

May 21

Marta Menéndez Granda PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
University Psychiatric Services (UPD)
Project title: “Prospective memory and healthy ageing: neural substrates and the influence of motivation as well
as task-related factors”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Jessica Peter and Dr. Sebastian Horn

May 22

Sreemanjari Kandhasamy PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM)
Project title: “Potential Pharmacy services for community pharmacies: A focus on substance use in pregnancy”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Alice Panchaud and PD Dr. Jérôme Berger

June 11

Anne-Christianne Kentgens PhD in Health Sciences (Medicine)
Department of Pediatric Respiratory Medicine, Inselspital
Project title: “Lung function testing in paediatric respiratory diseases”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Philipp Latzin and Dr. Peter Merkus

June 12

Roberta Borg-Bartolo PhD in Health Sciences (Public Health Sciences)
School of Dental Medicine (ZMK)
Project title: “Oral Health and its Related Factors in Different Age Groups”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Hendrik Meyer-Lückel and Prof. Dr. Michael Bornstein

June 25

Michel Bosshard PhD in Health Sciences (Psychology)
Institute for Medical Education (IML)
Project title: “Thriving Under Stress: Optimizing Psychophysiological Stress Responses and Communication Per-
formance in Breaking Bad News Training”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Christoph Berendonk and Prof. Dr. Achim Elfering

July 3

Rodrigo Soria Maldonado PhD in Health Sciences (Medicine)
Department of Cardiology, Inselspital
Project title: “Pulmonary hypertension and underlying mechanisms in chronic mountain sickness”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Stefano Rimoldi and Prof. em. Dr. med. Matthias Egger

August 11

Henning Jürgen Jean Nilius PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Sciences)
Department of Clinical Chemistry, Inselspital
Project title: “Improving the clinical value of laboratory tests using machine learning algorithms: Perioperative
hemostatic disorders as a case study”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Michael Nagler and Prof. Dr. Christos Nakas

September 1

Miriam Stüble PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
University Psychiatric Services (UPD)
Project title: “The Clinical High Risk for Psychosis State – Neurocognitive & Clinical Aspects”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Jochen Kindler and Prof. Dr. Roland Wiest

September 2

Natascha Schütz Hämmerli PhD in Health Sciences (Public Health Sciences)
Division of Midwifery, Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH)
Project title: “Transition to Home after Preterm Birth: Evaluation of an Advanced Practice Nurse - led Model of
Transitional Care”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Christoph Aebi and Prof. Dr. med. Tilman Humpl

September 2

Carlotta Louisa Schneider PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Department of Psychiatry, University of Geneva
Project title: “Sleep-wake perception: New insights and clinical relevance”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. em. Dr. med. Thomas Dierks and PD Dr. Elisabeth Hertenstein

September 12

Nadja Zimmermann PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
University Psychiatric Services (UPD)
Project title: “Neural Network Dynamics in the Clinical High Risk State for Psychosis and a Novel Approach to Modulate Plasticity through Brain Stimulation”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: PD Dr. Yosuke Morishima and Prof. Dr. Til Ole Bergmann

September 29

Natascha Stoffel PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Department of Neurology, University of Fribourg
Project title: “The Role of Oxytocin and Interoception in Functional Neurological Disorders”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Selma Aybek and Prof. Dr. Olaf Blanke

October 7

Eric Lenouvel PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Sciences)
University Psychiatric Services (UPD)
Project title: “Fear of Falling in Older Adults: Cognitive Behavioral Approaches”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Stefan Klöppel and Prof. Dr. Sven Streit

October 7

Claudia Salerno PhD in Health Sciences (Dentistry)
School of Dental Medicine (ZMK)
Project title: “Non-invasive treatment of Initial Caries Lesions”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Hendrik Meyer-Lückel and Prof. Dr. Sven Streit

October 13

Werner Krammer PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology, Inselspital
Project title: “Sensing form - finger gaiting as key to tactile object exploration”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Roland Wiest and Prof. Dr. Roger Kalla

October 20

Sophie Sidonie Meyer PhD in Health Sciences (Public Health Sciences)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: “Public Health Researchers’ Roles in Tension during Public Health Emergencies. A Qualitative, Actor-Centered Approach”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Annika Frahsa and PD Dr. Caroline Lea Schlauffer

October 24

Julian Jakob PhD in Health Sciences (Medicine)
Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM)
Project title: “Effects of vaping on respiratory health in adolescents”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Reto Auer and Prof. Dr. Manuel Haschke

November 5

Thomas Vetsch PhD in Health Sciences (Applied Health Sciences)
Department of Anesthesiology, Inselspital
Project title: “Prehabilitation: The Challenge of Patient Selection and Optimization Before Elective Major Surgery”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Matthias Wilhelm and Prof. Marc Licker

November 12

Philippa Jörger PhD in Health Sciences (Public Health Sciences)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: “Screening for hearing loss after childhood cancer”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Claudia Kühni and Prof. Dr. Marc Ansari

November 26

Carmen Wyss PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Division of Midwifery, Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH)
Project title: “Childbirth Care Decisions in the Context of Maternal Obesity: Understanding Pathways, Identifying Goals of Care, and Evaluating Childbirth Options”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Jennifer Inauen and Prof. Dr. Kai Uwe Schmitt

December 2

Marc Dupuis PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Insitute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM)
Project title: “Antidepressant use during pregnancy: Prevalence, trajectories of care and social determinants”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Alice Panchaud and Prof. Sonia Hernández Díaz

December 5

Aljoscha Noël Goetschi PhD in Health Sciences (Pharmacy)
Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology, Inselspital
Project title: “Advancing chronic non-cancer pain care in older adults: integrating clinical pharmacy and epidemiologic perspectives”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Carla Meyer-Massetti and Prof. Dr. Henk Verloo

December 9

Elena Sophie Wenz PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Department of Neurology, Inselspital
Project title: “New biomarkers in central disorders of hypersomnolence – Multimodal phenotyping and a potential surrogate marker for hypocretin-1”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Claudio Bassetti and Prof. Dr. Reto Auer

December 11

Nora Carmen Geiser PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Department of Neurorehabilitation, Lucerne Cantonal Hospital
Project title: “Cross-modal interaction after brain lesion – the influence of auditory stimulation on visual neglect”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Thomas Nyffeler and Prof. Dr. Tobias Nef

December 11

Anastasia Maklennan PhD in Health Sciences (Public Health Sciences)
School of Dental Medicine (ZMK)
Project title: “RESTORATIVE TREATMENT DECISIONS AND LONG-TERM SURVIVAL OF ENDODONTICALLY TREATED TEETH: CLINICAL EVIDENCE, CROSS-NATIONAL SURVEYS, AND GLOBAL INSIGHTS INTO ROOT CARIES PREVALENCE”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Henrik Meyer-Lückel and Prof. Dr. Falk Schwendike

December 18

Maša Žarković PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: “Pulmonary health after childhood cancer: function, symptoms, and modifiable risks”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Claudia Kühni and Prof. Dr. Philipp Latzin

December 19

Lara Marie Aschenbrenner PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
University Psychiatric Services (UPD)
Project title: “Differentiating Suicidal States through Implicit Cognition and the Intersection of Automatic, Affective, and Interpersonal Mechanisms”
Thesis advisor and co-referee: PD Dr. Anja Gysin-Maillart and Prof. Dr. Thomas Forkmann

GHS Candidates' Research Prizes

Anna Lange

Best poster in clinical studies, Day of Clinical Research 2025

Carole Metekoua Temdemnou

Best oral presentation in public health, Pathology Research and Development Congress 2025

Chiara Becchetti

University of Bern DigiK Perspective Projects research grant 2025

Elena Pavicic

European Menopause and Andropause Society junior research grant 2025
2nd prize science award, German Menopause Society 2025

Elias Auer

Young Stroke Physicians and Researchers Study Award, European Stroke Conference 2025

Korian Wicki

Multimedia talk award in basic human research, Clinical Neurosciences Bern Annual Meeting 2025

Laura Winiger

Best poster presentation in clinical research, Swiss Society for Endocrinology and Diabetology Annual Meeting 2025

Martin Scoglio

2nd prize award for best poster, Annual Meeting Swiss Society of Nephrology 2025
Swiss Kidney Foundation research grant 2025

Michail Giannakakis

Swiss Neurological Society research fellowship 2025

Nicole Lötscher

Best research poster, Schweizer Apothekerkongress 2025

Nicolly Oliveira Santos

Best IADMFR pitch in technological advances, Digital Dentistry Society Global Congress 2025

Natascha Stoffel

Multimedia talk award "best clinical research", Clinical Neurosciences Bern Annual Meeting 2025

Robin Münger

Best e-poster presentation, European Paediatric Neurology Society Congress 2025

Severin Fankhauser

Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences MD-PhD fellowship 2025

Sonja Häckel

Deutsche Wirbelsäulenstiftung research grant 2025
SNF SPARK grant 2025
University of Bern project grant 2025

Tiara Greber

Best oral presentation on clinical research, Kinderklinik Research Day 2025



Korian Wicki and Natascha Stoffel



Elena Pavicic



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Anna Lange



Nicolly Oliveira Santos

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Allam, A., Camoni, N., Cirio, S., **Salerno, C.**, Campus, G. G., & Cagetti, M. G. (2025). [Developmental defects of enamel in childhood cancer survivors: A systematic review and meta-analysis](https://doi.org/10.23804/ejpd.2024.2256). (Vol. 26). Ariesdue. <https://doi.org/10.23804/ejpd.2024.2256>

Almeida, R., Boyaci, C., Braun, M., Pezzuto, F., **Zens, P.**, Lobo, J., & Tiniakos, D. (2025). [Breaking barriers in pathology: bridging gaps in multidisciplinary collaboration](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00428-024-03991-6). (Vol. 487, Issue 4). Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00428-024-03991-6>

Althoff, J., Mehrkens, D., Rudolph, F., Gietzen, T., Kirchner, J., von Stein, J., von Stein, P., Finke, K., Dreger, H., Zamorano, J. L., Sánchez-Recalde, A., **Kassar, M.**, Mattig, I., Iliadis, C., Friedrichs, K. P., Rudolph, V., Baldus, S., Pfister, R., Gerçek, M., & Körber, M. I. (2025). [GLIDE Score is associated with procedural success in patients undergoing direct transcatheter tricuspid valve annuloplasty](https://doi.org/10.1093/ehjci/jeaf338). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ehjci/jeaf338>

Amstutz, D., Petermann, K., Sousa, M., Debove, I., **Maradan-Gachet, M. E.**, Bruhin, L. C., Magalhães, A. D., Tinkhauser, G., Diamantaras, A., Waskönig, J., Lachenmayer, L. M., Pollo, C., Cazzoli, D., Nef, T., Husain, M., & Krack, P. (2025). [Impulse Control Disorders and Effort-Based Decision-Making in Parkinson's Disease Patients with Subthalamic Nucleus Deep Brain Stimulation](https://doi.org/10.1002/mdc3.14318). (Vol. 12, Issue 4). Wiley. <https://doi.org/10.1002/mdc3.14318>

Amstutz, D., Sousa, M., **Maradan-Gachet, M.**, Debove, I., Lhommée, E., & Krack, P. (2025). [Psychiatric and cognitive symptoms of Parkinson's disease: A life's tale](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuro.2024.11.004). (Vol. 181, Issue 4). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuro.2024.11.004>

Andreotti, T.-A. 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. (2025b). [Non-Hotspot PIK3CA Variants Have Higher Variant Allele Frequency and are More Common in Syndromic Vascular Malformations](https://doi.org/10.1002/ajmg.a.63883). (Vol. 197, Issue 2). Wiley. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajmg.a.63883>

Angellotti, D., Mattig, I., Samim, D., Goebel, B., Jantsch, C., Rubinic, B., Ruf, T., Geisler, T., Kessler, M., Adam, M., Stolz, L., Dannenberg, V., **Kassar, M.**, Stathogiannis, K., Cesario, V., Dumonteil, N., Chrissoheris, M., Spargias, K., Baldus, S., ... Praz, F. (2025). [Early Outcomes of Real-World Transcatheter Tricuspid Valve Replacement](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcin.2025.06.002). (Vol. 18). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcin.2025.06.002>

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., Waeber, G., Aujesky, D., Chiolero, A., Rodondi, N., Del Giovane, C., & Gencer, B. (2025). [Diabetes and the risk of cardiovascular events and all-cause mortality among older adults: an individual participant data analysis of five prospective studies](https://doi.org/10.1111/eci.14340). (Vol. 55). Wiley. <https://doi.org/10.1111/eci.14340>

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Ardoino, M., Zbinden, L., Klaus, J. B., Peters, A. A., **Catucci, D.**, Brönnimann, M., Berzigotti, A., Ebner, L., Heverhagen, J. T., Christe, A., Huber, A., & Obmann, V. C. (2025). [Association of MRI-derived Segmental Nonfunctional Liver Volume and Chronic Liver Disease](https://doi.org/10.1055/a-2514-4596) (Vol. 197). Georg Thieme Verlag. <https://doi.org/10.1055/a-2514-4596>

Aschenbrenner, L. M., Brogna, S., Teismann, T., Frei, A., **Sedlinská, M.-A.**, Glaesmer, H., Forkmann, T., Walther, S., Ehnvall, A., & Gysin-Maillart, A. (2025). [Psychological Pain in Suicidal and Non-Suicidal Populations: Findings from the Translated German Mee-Bunney Psychological Pain Assessment Scale](https://doi.org/10.1080/13811118.2025.2573059). Taylor and Francis Group. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13811118.2025.2573059>

Aschenbrenner, L. M., **Frei, A.**, Forkmann, T., Schreiber, D., Glaesmer, H., Brüdern, J., Stein, M., **Sedlinská, M.-A.**, Adorjan, K., Walther, S., & Gysin-Maillart, A. (2025). [Exploring suicidal behaviour through implicit identity and control biases: Findings from the Death-Implicit Association Test and its novel control-adaptation](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.comppsy.2025.152621). (Vol. 142). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.comppsy.2025.152621>

Aschenbrenner, L. M., **Frei, A.**, Knapp, D., Forkmann, T., Schreiber, D., Glaesmer, H., Brüdern, J., Stein, M., Walther, S., & Gysin-Maillart, A. (2025). [Exploring Implicit Emotional Associations With Death in Patients With Current Suicidal Ideation: Results From Novel Attitude Implicit Association Tests for Suicide](https://doi.org/10.1111/sltb.70047). (Vol. 55, Issue 5). Wiley. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sltb.70047>

Baggio, S., Bruggmann, P., Schoeni, A., Abolhassani, N., Tal, K., Pohle, S., Frei, A., Humair, J.-P., Jacot-Sadowski, I., Vetsch, J., Lehner, L., Rihs, A., Gétaz, L., Berthet, A., Haller, M., Stuber, M., **Jakob, J.**, & Auer, R. (2025). [Efficacy of e-cigarettes for smoking cessation in populations with psychiatric and/or substance use problems: A secondary analysis of a randomized controlled trial](https://doi.org/10.18332/tpc/199473). (Vol. 11). European Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.18332/tpc/199473>

Balian, A., **Salerno, C.**, Manti, A., Lanteri, V., Cirio, S., & Cagetti, M. G. (2025). [Effectiveness of prefabricated myofunctional appliances on Vertical Dimension in Children: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis](https://doi.org/10.23804/ejpd.2025.2469). (Vol. 26, Issue 4). <https://doi.org/10.23804/ejpd.2025.2469>

Bargagli, M., **Scoglio, M.**, Howles, S. A., & Fuster, D. G. (2025). [Kidney stone disease: risk factors, pathophysiology and management](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41581-025-00990-x). (Vol. 21). Nature Research. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41581-025-00990-x>

Becchetti, C., Dajti, E., Su, G. L., Labenz, C., Colecchia, A., Siramolpiwat, S., Ishizu, Y., Ismond, K. P., Beer, L., Paterostro, R., Di Cola, S., Luo, J., Tandon, P., Tapper, E. B., Ba-Ssalamah, A., Reiberger, T., Merli, M., Jia, J., Berzigotti, A., ... G. Rodrigues, S. (2025). [The impact of sarcopenia and frailty on decompensation in compensated cirrhosis: A systematic review](https://doi.org/10.1097/HC9.0000000000000811). (Vol. 9, Issue 11). Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins. <https://doi.org/10.1097/HC9.0000000000000811>

Becchetti, C., Donato, M. F., & Lombardi, A. (2025). [Unveiling the role of HIV in HCC recurrence after liver transplantation: An Italian perspective](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dld.2025.05.010). (Vol. 57). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dld.2025.05.010>

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Bernasconi, E., **Amstutz, D.**, Aversa, A., Fischer, P., Sousa, M., Debove, I., Petermann, K., Alva, L., Magalhães, A. D., Lachenmayer, M. L., Nguyen, T.-A. K., Schuepbach, M., Nowacki, A., Pollo, C., Krack, P., & Tinkhauser, G. (2025). [Neurophysiological gradient in the Parkinsonian subthalamic nucleus as a marker for motor symptoms and apathy](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41531-024-00848-2). (Vol. 11, Issue 1). Nature Research. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41531-024-00848-2>

Beyeler, M., Bücke, P. J., Castiglio, P., Baumann, J., Ziegler, V., Navi, B. B., Jung, S., Arnold, M., & Liberman, A. L. (2025). [Uptake of Dual Antiplatelet Therapy After High-Risk Transient Ischemic Attack at a University Hospital](https://doi.org/10.1177/19418744241289625). (Vol. 15). Sage. <https://doi.org/10.1177/19418744241289625>

Beyeler, M., Rohner, R., Ijäs, P., Eker, O. F., Cognard, C., Bourcier, R., Sibon, I., Lefebvre, M., Richard, S., Consoli, A., Moulin, S., Ernst, M., Ribo, M., Barbier, C., Nikoubashman, O., Liebeskind, D. S., **Goeldlin, M. B.**, Piechowiak, E. I., Bütikofer, L., ... Kaesmacher, J. (2025). [Susceptibility Vessel Sign and Intravenous Alteplase in Stroke Patients Treated with Thrombectomy : A Secondary Analysis of the SWIFT DIRECT Trial](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00062-025-01501-y). (Vol. 35). Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00062-025-01501-y>

Bini, T., Ledwoch, S., Galea, R., **Gasys, A.**, Gamardella, M., Siontis, G. C. M., Räber, L., & Roten, L. (2025). [Feasibility and Impact of Left Atrial Appendage Closure in Patients with Cardiac Implantable Electronic Devices: Insights from a Prospective Registry](https://doi.org/10.3390/jcm14113857). (Vol. 14, Issue 11). MDPI. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jcm14113857>

Borg-Bartolo, R., Rocuzzo, A., Gambetta-Tessini, K., Schimmel, M., Molinero-Mourelle, P., Sabatini, G., Ferrillo, M., **Esteves-Oliveira, M.**, Giacaman, R. A., Tennert, C., & Campus, G. (2025). [Association between oral health-related quality of life and structural determinants of health among elderly populations. a systematic review and meta-analysis](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-025-02557-5). (Vol. 24, Issue 1). BioMed Central. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-025-02557-5>

Borg-Bartolo, R., Rocuzzo, A., Tennert, C., Prasinou, M., Jäggi, M., Molinero Mourelle, P., Bornstein, M. M., & Campus, G. (2025). [Oral health-related quality of life of community-dwellers in the canton of Bern, Switzerland](https://doi.org/10.2340/aos.v84.42707) (Vol. 84). Medical Journals Sweden. <https://doi.org/10.2340/aos.v84.42707>

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Universität Bern
Graduate School for Health Sciences (GHS)
Mittelstrasse 43
3012 Bern
Switzerland
Phone +41 31 684 59 62

info.ghs@unibe.ch
www.ghs.unibe.ch