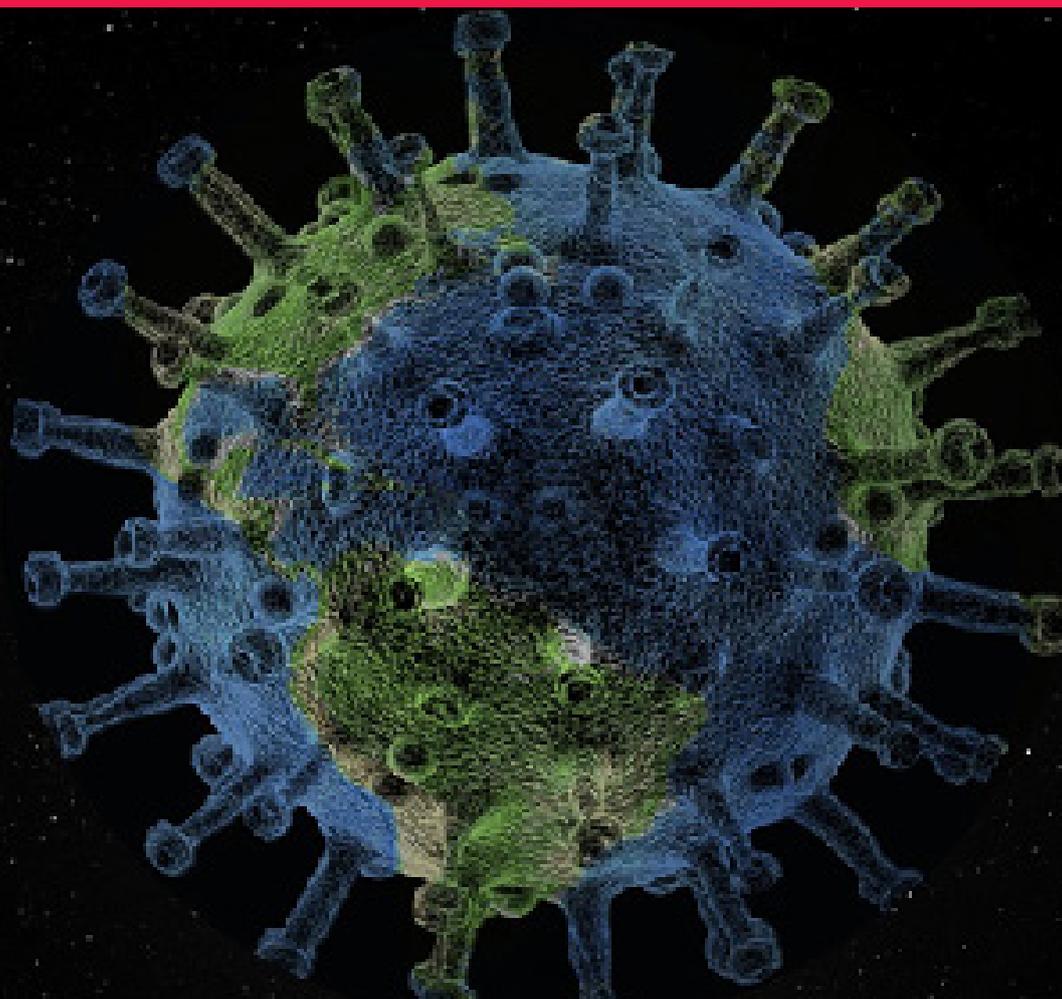


# Annual Report 2020

## Graduate School for Health Sciences

Faculty of Medicine  
Faculty of Human Sciences



*Health is not everything, but without health everything is nothing.*

Arthur Schopenhauer

## GHS Annual Report 2020

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# Introduction

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## Letter from the President

The past year was quite an exceptional year due to the Covid-19 pandemic that has impacted all of us in one way or another. The Graduate School for Health Science faced unforeseen as well as unprecedented challenges.

The introduction of the safety hygiene measures affected all the areas of our PhD program in many ways and with different intensities. These new restrictions had a number of consequences for our ongoing projects which in many cases had to be delayed. The impact on teaching and examining was also large: many courses were canceled, and some were switched to a fully virtual mode, preventing physical contact and altering social exchanges. Besides the negative consequences, facing these challenges has also changed several aspects of working and communicating, promoting alternatives and creative solutions.

Hopefully, we will be able to build on all these new experiences and lessons learned through this deep and global crisis.

Everyone was touched by these changes on a personal and professional level. Everyone did their best to cope with the pandemic trying to get the most out of this difficult situation, as did also the GHS. We succeeded in carrying on with most of our activities and ensuring continuous support and assistance for our students, preventing delays in the final steps of the PhD termination.

Many thanks to Tullia Padovani and her team, many thanks to all the committee members,

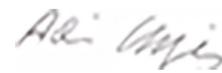
examiners, supervisors, and last but not least, many thanks to all our graduate students who suffered most from uncertainties and from the impact these might have on their young careers. I was impressed by the drive and enthusiasm with which the GHS team and PhD students managed to cope with this difficult year.

Despite the pandemic, 2020 was an exceptional year in which the GHS grew significantly.

At the end of last year, the GHS had a total of 114 doctoral students enrolled, 70% of which were women. Between the school's inception and the end of 2020, 80 doctoral students have earned their PhD in the GHS.

It's my pleasure to welcome Sissel Guttormsen who has taken over my role as president of the GHS Steering Board Committee and I wish her the best of luck!

Hoping that we will all be able meet again in person at the next GHS symposium at Schloss Münchenwiler, I wish you much pleasure in reading our Graduate School's annual report.



Prof. Dr. Achim Elfering

Former President GHS Steering Board Committee

Bern, August 2021



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## Highlights

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The GHS enjoyed a 30% increase in enrollment over 2019, ending 2020 with a total of 114 students. Thanks to the young Expert Committee III, Clinical science continues to enjoy significant interest as a result of the innovative 50:50 model.

Despite having to be held virtually the 2020 GHS Symposium enjoyed great success with large number of students and faculty members participating.

Furthermore, the GHS welcomed four new expert committee members:

- Prof. Dr. Annalisa Berzigotti (FKI), Head Physician Hepatology at the University clinic for Visceral Surgery and Medicine, University of Bern
- Prof. Dr. Stéphane Ciochi (FKII), Assistant Professor & Group Leader Systems Neuroscience Group, University of Bern
- Dr. phil. Cinzia del Giovane (FKI), Head of Statistics and Methodology at the Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM) of the University of Bern
- Prof. Dr. Stefanie Schmidt (FKI), Assistant Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychology at the Institute of Psychology, University of Bern
- Prof. Dr. Roland Wiest (FKII), Institute of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology, University of Bern



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## Vision and Mission

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### Vision

The Graduate School for Health Sciences (GHS) seek to develop academics and researchers whose work is dedicated to improving health and quality of life throughout people's lives.

### Mission

The PhD program endeavors to promote and offer scientifically oriented courses in combination with clinical, experimental and translational research, ensuring integrity and stimulating students to work responsibly and independently in the pursuit of in-depth knowledge.

### Promote Excellence

Guide and prepare doctoral students to become competent

& successful researchers, with an internationally recognized and competitive PhD title.

### Foster a deep and global knowledge all around health

Provide programs that encourage doctoral students to expand their knowledge beyond their specific research training through interdisciplinary courses, content, and methods in the field of health sciences. The graduate school program offers a wide choice of courses and special workshops tailored to the individual interests and needs of PhD candidates.

### Support and Develop

Support doctoral students throughout their PhD program, ensuring the best supervision

and structure and encourage them to become well-trained, qualified and innovative professionals who will contribute to the improvement of health.

### Quality and Integrity

Develop and manage high quality doctoral programs to deepen knowledge, foster innovation and drive creativity, ensuring integrity in training and research, in line with ethical principles applied to health sciences.

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## GHS Organization

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The GHS implements the vision and the missions in an innovative way, realizing a very attractive study and supervision program. The PhD program supports the candidates in accomplishing the high demands, particularly with regards to admission requirements, courses and publication output expectations. Additionally the GHS expects and promotes a lively exchange of ideas from our students.

The GHS is an inter-faculty and truly multidisciplinary graduate school. The strength of this multidisciplinary approach to health, using different paradigms and methodologies, is to render the research and clinical interventions more effective.

The program is jointly organized by the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Human Sciences and offers a comprehensive and internationally acclaimed training in the theory and practice of experimental research, as well as in-depth specialist knowledge of the individually selected research area, addressing questions rooted in both basic research and applied fields.

The GHS is strategically run by the executive board with members from the two faculties and the expert committees.

The GHS has three expert committees covering a wide spectrum of research approaches and methods: in preventive and social medicine, public health, medical education, psychology, rehabilitation & clinical research. (Expert Committee I), neuroscience (Expert Committee II) or clinical sciences (Expert Committee III).

These committees are also responsible for the admittance, guidance, and evaluation of the PhD candidates.

The extensive body of academic experts and resources available enable the GHS students to develop into highly qualified professionals as researchers and academics, in private or not-for-profit industries, ready to use their knowledge and skills in complex subjects in their chosen area. Today 86 academic experts support the PhD Candidates in their endeavors.

The GHS Office is directed by Dr. Tullia Padovani, the GHS Coordinator. Dr. Padovani is responsible for the operative organization. She is supported by the GHS office team consisting of Cinzia Marti, Brigitte Schutte, Te Moana Tschabold and Kateri Chambers.

Awarded PhD title is:

PhD in Health Sciences (specialist area).



# GHS Organization Chart

- FACULTIES**
- Faculty of Medicine (Med)
  - Faculty of Human Sciences (Hum Sci)

- STEERING BOARD**
- Achim Elfering (Hum Sci), President
  - Thomas Abel (Med)
  - Urs Fischer (Med)
  - Sissel Guttormsen (Med)
  - René Müri (Med)
  - Claudio Nigg (Hum Sci)
  - Tullia Padovani (Coordinator)

- ADMINISTRATION**
- Tullia Padovani, Coordinator
  - Kateri Chambers, Secretary
  - Cinzia Marti, Secretary
  - Brigitte Schutte, Secretary
  - Te Moana Tschabold, Secretary

**EXPERT COMMITTEES**

- Expert Committee I (FKI)**
- Research areas: Preventive and social medicine, public health, medical education, psychology, rehabilitation & clinical research
- Sissel Guttormsen (Med), Chair
  - Thomas Abel (Med)
  - Annalisa Berzigotti (Med)
  - Cinzia del Giovane (Med)
  - Jennifer Inauen (Hum Sci)
  - Stefanie Julia Schmidt (Hum Sci)
  - Matthias Wilhelm (Med)
  - Marcel Zwahlen (Med)
  - Tullia Padovani (Coordinator)

- Expert Committee II (FKII)**
- Research area: Neurosciences and Clinical Neurosciences
- René Müri (Med), Chair
  - Dario Cazzoli (Med)
  - Stéphane Ciochi (Med)
  - Thomas Dierks (Med)
  - Daniel Erlacher (Hum Sci)
  - Daniela Hubl (Med)
  - Tobias Nef (Med)
  - Jürg Streit (Med)
  - Roland Wiest (Med)
  - Tullia Padovani (Coordinator)

- Expert Committee III (FKIII)**
- Research area: Clinical Sciences; clinical career & patient-oriented research (50:50 model)
- Urs Fischer (Med), Chair
  - Guido Beldi (Med)
  - Thomas Berger (Hum Sci)
  - Lorena Gianotti (Hum Sci)
  - Stefan Klöppel (Med)
  - Philipp Latzin (Med)
  - Lorenz Räber (Med)
  - Christoph Stettler (Med)
  - Sven Trelle (Med)
  - Maria Wertli (Med)
  - Matthias Zumstein (Med)
  - Tullia Padovani (Coordinator)

PHD STUDENTS

PHD STUDENTS

PHD STUDENTS

# PhD Steering Committee

## Steering Committee

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

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



Prof. Dr. Achim **ELFERING**  
Extraordinarius, Work and Organizational Psychology, Institute of Psychology. He has been a member of the GHS Steering Committee since 2009, serving as President since January 2019



Prof. Dr. phil.  
Thomas **ABEL**

Head of Research Group Senior Management Group, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine. Member since August 2008.



Prof. Dr. med. Urs  
**FISCHER**  
**Chair**  
**Expert Committee III**

MD MSc Extraordinarius for Acute Neurology and Stroke, Co-Chairman Stroke Centre Bern, Deputy Director Clinical Trial Unit Bern. Member since October 2017.



Prof. Dr. phil.  
Sissel **GUTTORMSEN**  
**Chair**  
**Expert Committee I**

Director, Institute for Medical Education (IML). Founding President and Member since August 2008.



Prof. Dr. med.  
René **MÜRI**  
**Chair**  
**Expert Committee II**

Chief Physician, Head of University Neurorehabilitation, University Hospital for Neurology. Member since January 2010.



Prof. Dr. phil.  
Claudio **NIGG**

Head of Department Health Science, Institute of Sport Science. Member since January 2020.



Dr. phil.  
Tullia **PADOVANI**

GHS Coordinator and Lecturer. Member since January 2019.

## Expert Committees

PhD candidates currently carrying out their research projects within the framework of the GHS are grouped by GHS Expert Committees and listed on the [GHS Website](#).

Three Expert Committees with competences in:

1. Preventive and Social Medicine, Public Health, Medical Education, Psychology, Rehabilitation & Clinical Research (FKI)
2. Neuroscience (FKII)
3. Clinical Sciences (FKIII)

The committees are responsible for the admittance, guidance, and evaluation of the PhD candidates. Each PhD candidate is assigned to one of the GHS Expert Committees, which together with the candidate decides upon the individual training program.

Expert Committee I / Fachkommission I		
<b>Research Areas:</b> Preventive and social medicine, public health, medical education, psychology, rehabilitation and clinical research		
Name	Affiliation	Institute
<b>Sissel Guttormsen</b>	Faculty of Medicine	<b>Institute for Medical Education</b>
Thomas Abel	Faculty of Medicine	Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine
Annalisa Berzigotti	Faculty of Medicine	University Department of Visceral Surgery and Medicine
Cinzia del Giovane	Faculty of Medicine	Institute of Primary Health Care
Jennifer Inauen	Faculty of Human Sciences	Institute of Psychology
Stefanie Schmidt	Faculty of Human Sciences	Institute of Psychology
Matthias Wilhelm	Faculty of Medicine	Institute of Sport Science
Marcel Zwahlen	Faculty of Medicine	Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine
Tullia Padovani	GHS Coordinator	Graduate School for Health Sciences

Expert Committee II / Fachkommission II		
<b>Research Areas:</b> Neurosciences and Clinical Neurosciences		
Name	Affiliation	Institute
<b>René Müri</b>	<b>Faculty of Medicine</b>	<b>University Hospital for Neurology</b>
Dario Cazzoli	Faculty of Medicine	ARTORG Center for Biomedical Engineering Research
Stéphane Ciochi	Faculty of Medicine	Systems Neuroscience Group
Thomas Dierks	Faculty of Medicine	University Psychiatric Services
Daniel Erlacher	Faculty of Human Sciences	Institute for Sports Science
Daniela Hubl	Faculty of Medicine	University Psychiatric Services
Tobias Nef	Faculty of Medicine	Center for Biomedical Engineering Research
Jürg Streit	Faculty of Medicine	Department of Physiology
Roland Wiest	Faculty of Medicine	Center for Translational Medicine and Biomedical Entrepreneurship
Tullia Padovani	GHS Coordinator	Graduate School for Health Sciences

Expert Committee III / Fachkommission III		
<b>Research Areas:</b> Clinical Sciences, clinical career and patient-oriented research (50:50 model)		
Name	Affiliation	Institute
<b>Urs Fischer</b>	<b>Faculty of Medicine</b>	<b>Department of Neurology</b>
Guido Beldi	Faculty of Medicine	Department of Visceral Surgery and Medicine
Thomas Berger	Faculty of Human Sciences	Institute of Psychology
Lorena Gianotti	Faculty of Human Sciences	Institute of Psychology
Stefan Klöppel	Faculty of Medicine	University Hospital of Old Age Psychiatry
Philipp Latzin	Faculty of Medicine	Department of Pediatrics
Lorenz Räber	Faculty of Medicine	Department of Cardiology
Christoph Stettler	Faculty of Medicine	Department of Diabetes, Endocrinology, Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism
Sven Trelle	Faculty of Medicine	Clinical Trials Unit Bern
Maria Wertli	Faculty of Medicine	Department of General Internal Medicine
Matthias Zumstein	Faculty of Medicine	Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology
Tullia Padovani	GHS Coordinator	Graduate School for Health Sciences

# PhD Program

## Doctoral Program

The Graduate School for Health Sciences (GHS) offers research-oriented curricula on psychological and physiological factors that determine the health of individuals and groups in their social contexts and physical environments.

The GHS in general focuses on patient-oriented clinical research that is carried out directly with patients or healthy volunteers.

The doctoral degrees are issued jointly by the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Human Sciences, after submission of the written thesis and successful defense of the thesis. As a rule, the PhD thesis must be submitted no later than one year after completion of the experimental work. The University regulations require enrollment until the successful completion of studies.

## Supervision

Each PhD candidate is supervised by a thesis committee consisting of the advisor, a co-referee, a member of the appropriate GHS Expert Committee, and mentor (FKIII only).

## Thesis Committee

### Thesis advisor

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

### Co-thesis advisor (optional)

can be appointed to support the thesis advisor. The Co-Thesis Advisor is an expert within the field of the dissertation and is chosen by the Thesis advisor.

### Co-referee

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

### Mentor (only FKIII)

helps to set the tailor-made training program called doctoral agreement, together with the candidate and the supervisor and evaluates the progress report. The candidate's previous education and the relevance to the planned research

work is taken into account. The mentor is also a mediator in case of conflict within the thesis committee.

## Requirements

The training program requires at least 18.0 ECTS of learning credits, which can be obtained by participating in approved, project-related and interdisciplinary courses, workshops, seminars, and lectures. There are two required exams: one written after the first year, and the second is an oral presentation of the student's work which takes place at the end of the second year. Candidates present their work in a scientific seminar in the presence of the thesis committee, to document in-depth knowledge of the research field.

## Financial Support

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

# PhD Program Structure

GHS structured PhD Studies Timeline after official acceptance



15 June 2020

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## Clinical Sciences - FKIII

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PhD in Clinical Sciences:

Clinical career and patient-oriented research (50:50 model)

### Objectives

- Obtain a PhD title while simultaneously pursuing a clinical career
- Benefit from the combination of clinical work and patient-oriented research while maintaining an individual schedule

### Program

- PhD in Clinical Sciences is a program of the Graduate School for Health Sciences (GHS)
- Clinically involved candidates (medical doctors, psychologists, physiotherapists, etc) can pursue their clinical work in a 50% position and dedicate the remaining time to a research project



## GHS Clinical Sciences PhD Program

### Requirements

- State exam or master diploma in medicine, psychology or in a related clinically oriented field
- Both a clinical position and a research position

### Duration of Program

- 4-6 years

### Training

- Emphasis is put on comprehensive training in research methods, such as statistics, study design, epidemiology and scientific writing

### Awarded Title

- PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Specialty)

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## MD-PhD Scholarships

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GHS doctoral students with a Master in Medicine may apply annually for the MD-PhD scholarships.

The National MD-PhD Program, which is supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS/SAMW), and several other foundations, awards 9 to 12 scholarships every year to outstanding graduates in human medicine, veterinary medicine and dentistry with residency in Switzerland.

Students in FKIII are not eligible for the MD-PhD Scholarship since the minimum research time is 75%.

Further information can be found on the [SNSF](#) and [SAMS](#) websites.

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# Year in Review

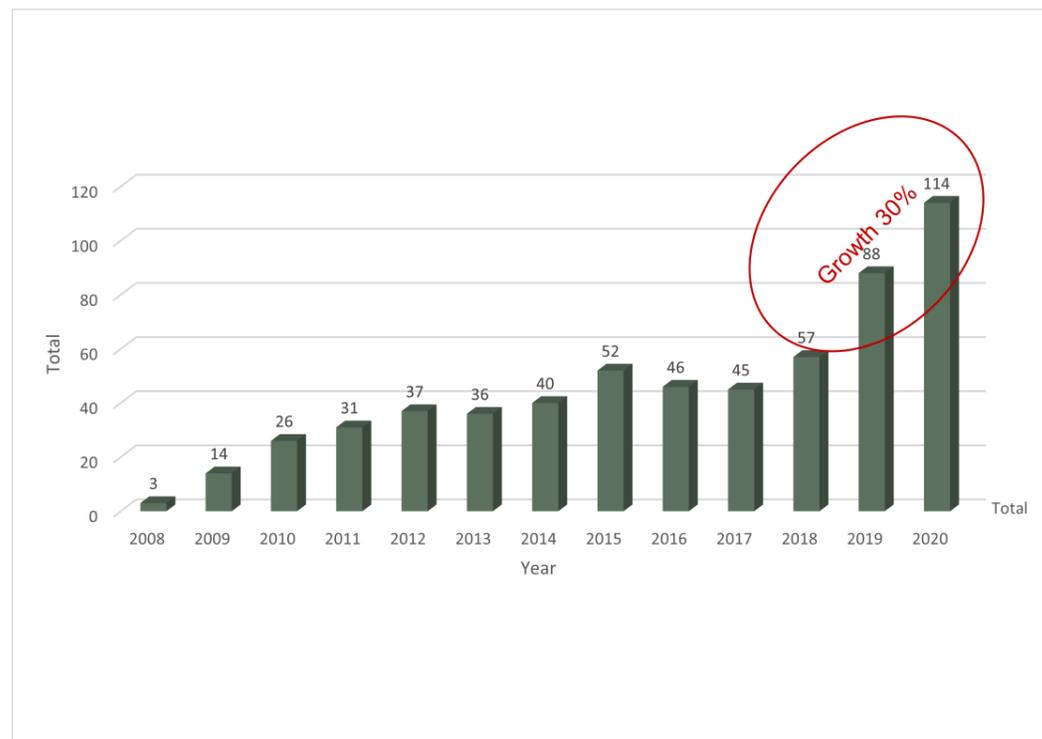
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## Students

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**Chart 1.** Chart GHS Matriculations  
Growth in Matriculations 2008 - 2020

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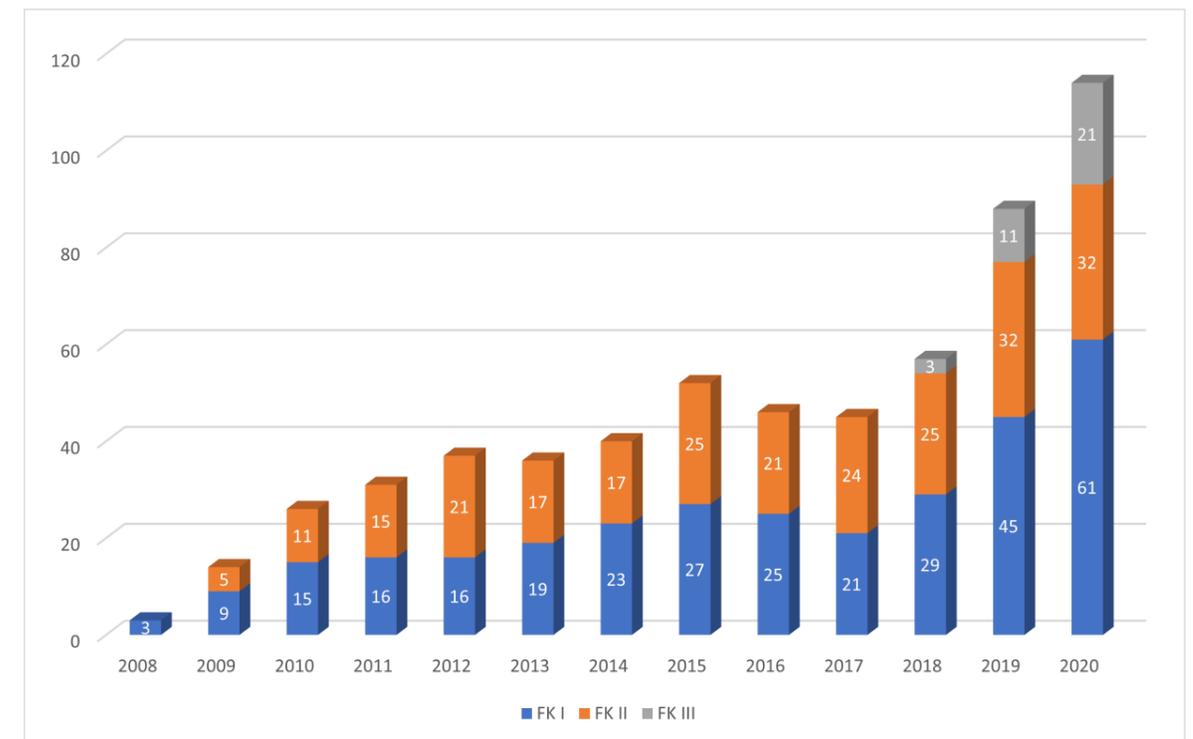


## Expert Committees

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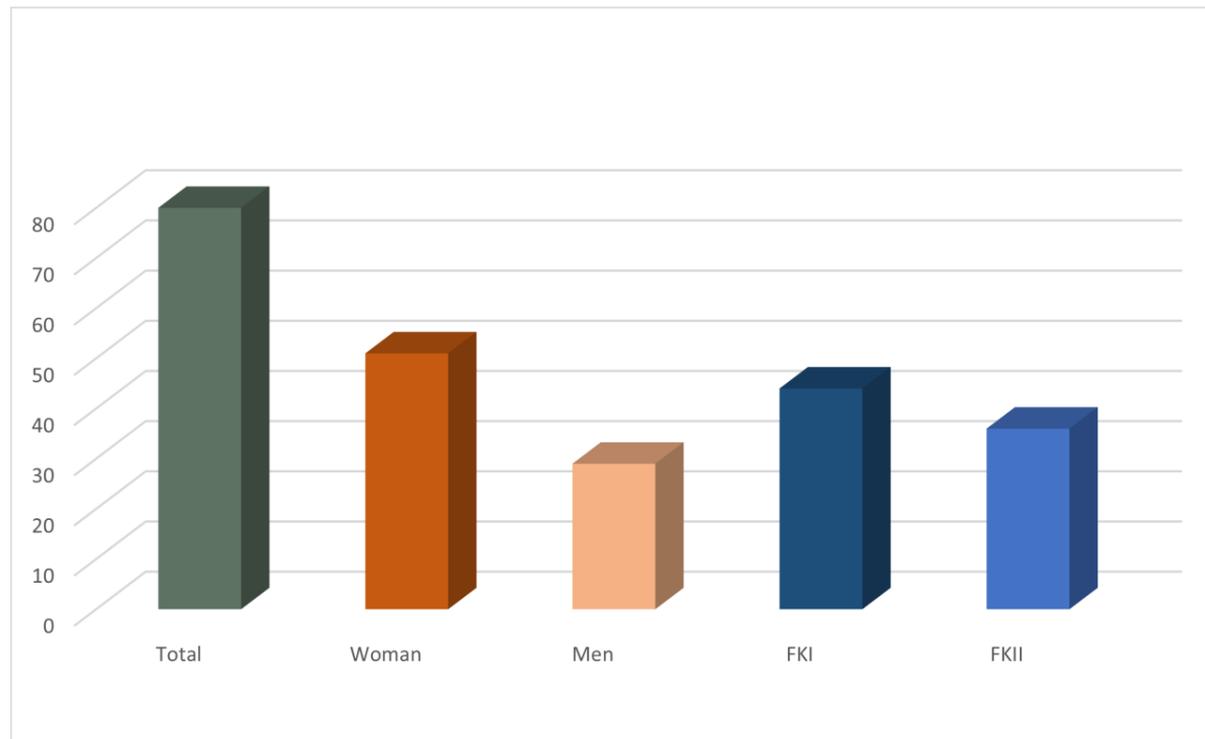
**Chart 2.** Student Distribution across Expert Committees  
Distribution across Expert Committees 2008 - 2020

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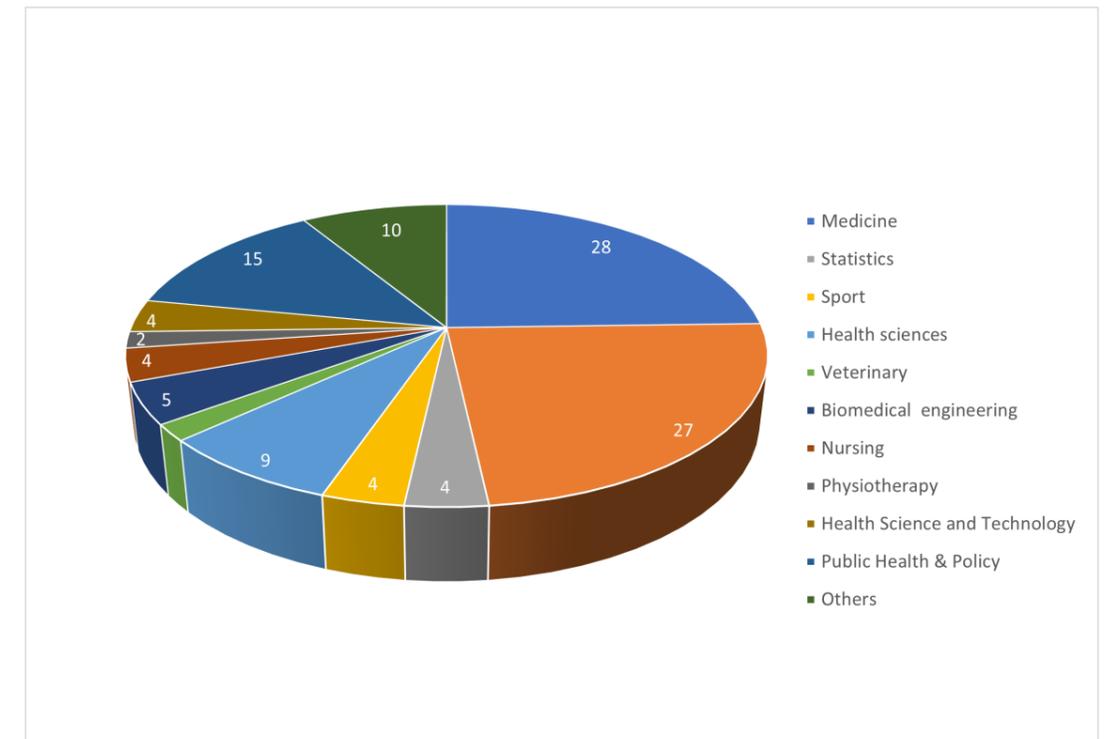
## Gender

**Chart 3.** Student Gender Distribution  
Student Gender Distribution 2008 - 2020



## Field of Study

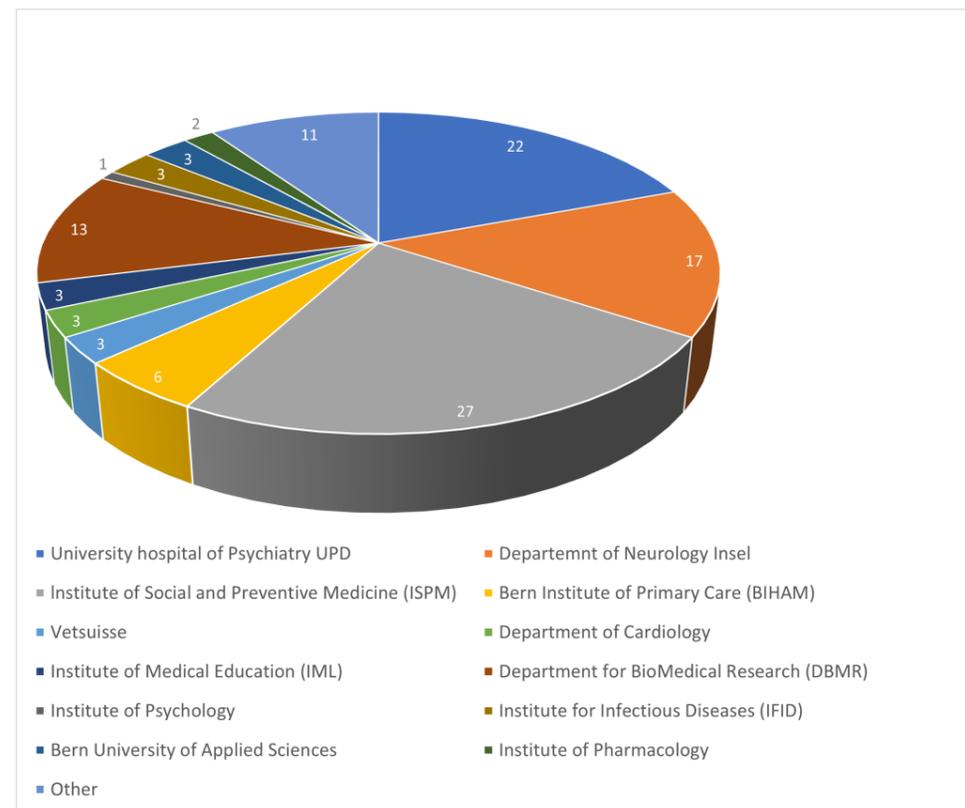
**Chart 4.** GHS Students - Master Degree Fields of Study  
Student Fields of Study 2020



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## Institutes

**Graph 5.** GHS Students - Institutes where research is performed  
Research Institutes - 2020

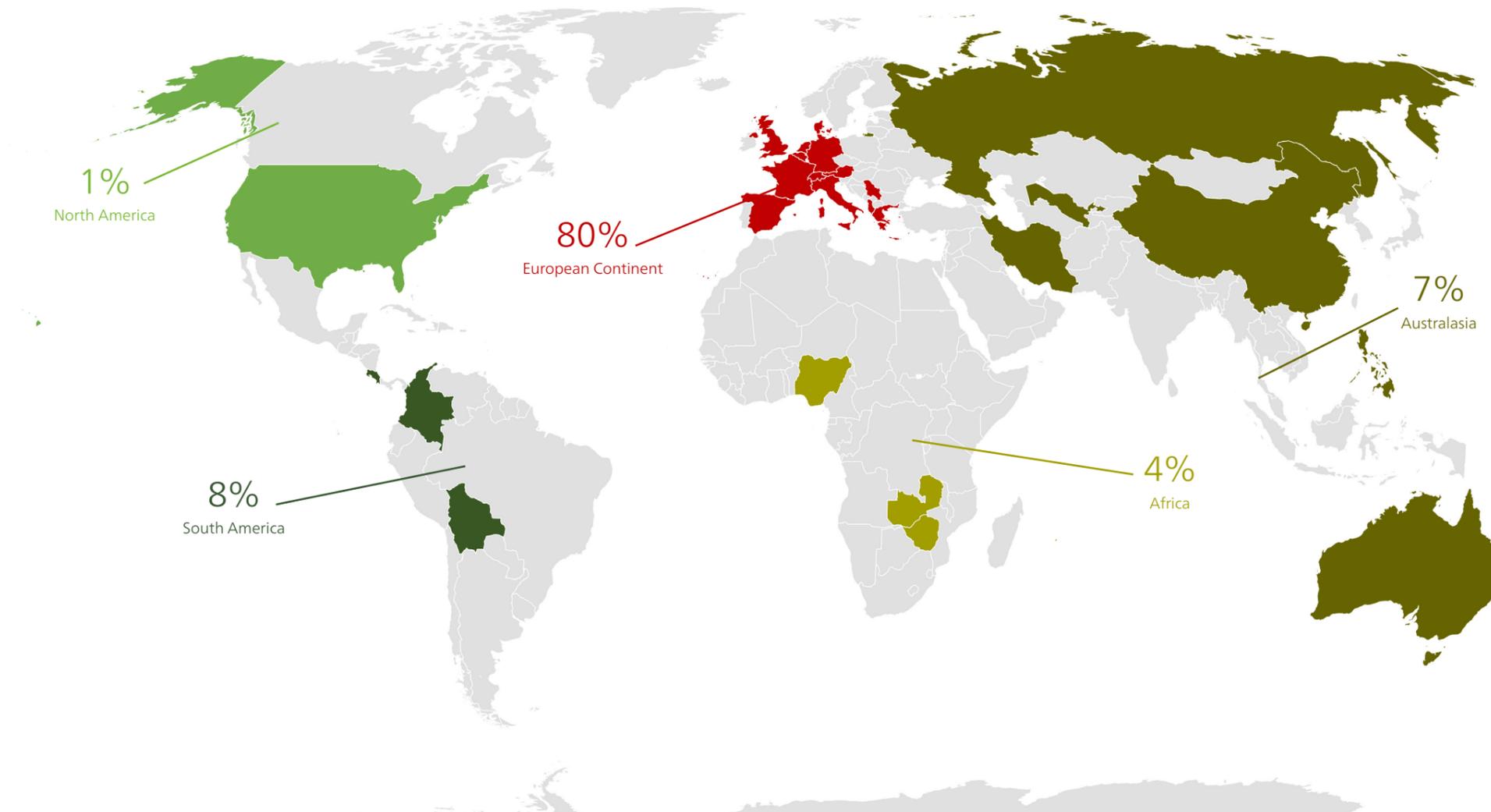


## Country of Masters Degree

### Graph 6. Country of Masters Degree

The 2020 cohort of doctoral students in the GHS was made up of 114 students who obtained their masters degrees from 28 different countries.

<b>European Continent</b>	<b>North America</b>	<b>Africa</b>
Albania - 1	United States - 1	Mauritius - 1
Austria - 3		Nigeria - 1
Belgium - 1	<b>South America</b>	Zambia - 1
Denmark - 1	Bolivia - 1	Zimbabwe - 1
France - 4	Columbia - 7	
Germany - 21	Costa Rica - 1	
Greece - 1	<b>Australasia</b>	
Italy - 3	Australia - 1	
Netherlands - 4	China - 1	
Serbia - 1	Iran - 1	
Spain - 1	Palestine - 1	
Switzerland - 49	Philippines - 2	
United Kingdom - 1	Russian Federation - 1	
	Uzbekistan	



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## Courses and Seminars

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Seminars and courses are selected for each candidate individually from courses supported by GHS, from the teaching units of the faculties, and also from courses offered by other Swiss universities. Students may choose the courses best for their PhD studies, within University of Bern, as well as other national and international academic institutions. Some candidates also take part in internationally organized Summer Schools, which provide high quality training in specific fields.

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

- Mandatory Requirements (min. 3 ECTS)
- Core Courses (2 to 4 ECTS)
- Method Skills (4 to 6 ECTS)
- Special Knowledge (min. 6 ECTS)
- Meetings / Conferences (subject to prior approval)

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

### The Mandatory Curriculum Requirements

- Each PhD candidate compiles an individual curriculum based on qualifications and relevance to the research interests.
- Courses not listed in the GHS Course Catalog can be selected upon agreement with the GHS the courses have to last at least one day and must involve active participation.
- The selection of courses should be documented in the Doctoral Agreement (DA).
- In addition, the GHS supports efforts to acquire basic knowledge in cases where the PhD candidates are new in the field.

### Mandatory Requirements

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Basics of Ethics in Health Sciences Research

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GHS Symposium: Poster presentation

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GHS Symposium: Oral presentation

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## Partner Programs

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### [The BENEFRi Neuroscience Program](#)

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

### [The Swiss School of Public Health PhD program \(SSPH+\)](#)

assembles the inter-university faculty of public health sciences affiliated with the twelve Swiss universities of the SSPH+ Foundation: Basel, Bern, Fribourg, Geneva, Lausanne, Lucerne, Neuchâtel, Svizzera italiana, Zurich, BFH, SUPSI and ZHAW. SSPH+ is the national coordinating body for the promotion of postgraduate university education and research in the fields of public health.

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

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

### [Clinical Neuroscience Bern](#)

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

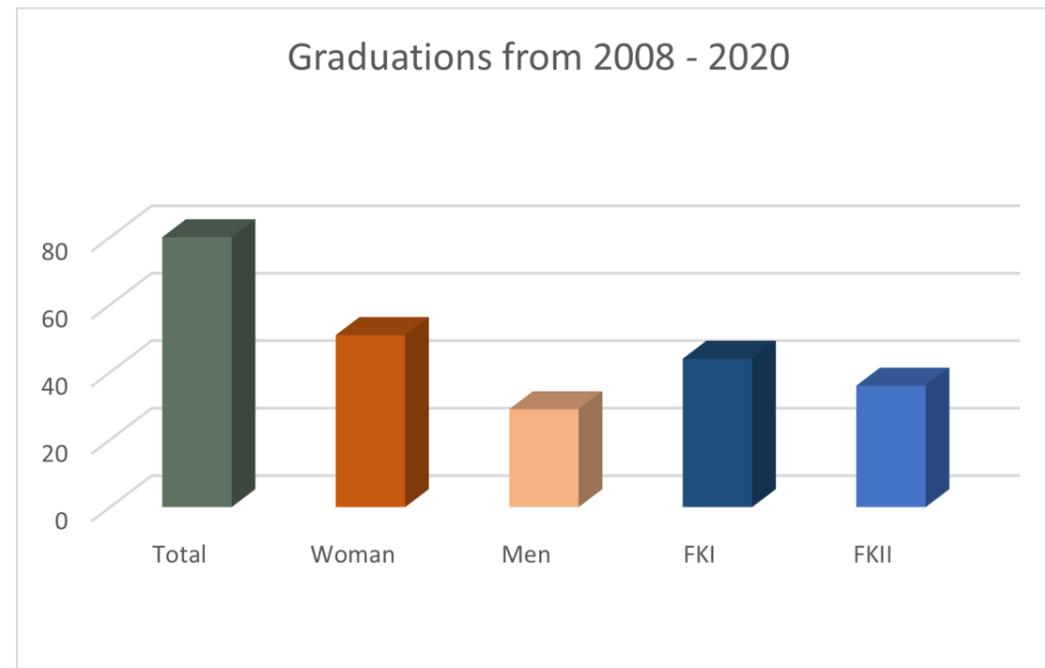
### [The Graduate School for Cellular and Biomedical Sciences \(GCB\)](#) (University of Bern)

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

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# Graduations

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## Graduations 2020

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March 03

**Andjela Markovic** PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)

University Hospital of Psychiatry

Sleep, Development and Psychiatry: Insights gained from quantitative EEG analyses

Thesis Advisors: Prof. Dr. med. Michael Kaess and Prof. Dr. Peter Achermann

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March 26

**Eva Sophie Lunde Pedersen** PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)

Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine ISPM

Exercise-induced respiratory symptoms in childhood

Thesis Advisors: Prof. Dr. Claudia Kühni and PD Dr. Alexander Möller

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May 13

**Thimo Marcin** PhD in Health Sciences (Sports Medicine)

Department of Cardiology

Changes of cardiorespiratory, vascular and heart rate parameters with Cardiac Rehabilitation and associations of these changes with training modality and baseline parameters

Thesis Advisors: Prof. Dr. Matthias Wilhelm and Prof. Dr. Henner Hanssen

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June 11

**Vera Ruth Mitter** PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)

University Women's Hospital, Division of Gynecological Endocrinology and Reproductive Medicine, Inselspital

Obstetrics and perinatal outcomes of women treated for subfertility and children born after in vitro fertilisation

Thesis Advisors: Prof. Dr. med. Michael von Wolff and Prof. Dr. Marcel Zwahlen

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June 29

**Raphaela Martina Tschümperlin** PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)

Translational Research Center

The Neurophysiology of Implicit Alcohol Associations in Patients with Alcohol Use Disorders: Does Gender matter?

Thesis Advisors: Prof. Dr. Franz Moggi and Beate Ditzgen

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August 13

**Hallie Margareta Batschelet** PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)

Translational Research Center

Alcohol-Related Cognitive Biases and Inhibitory Control in Alcohol Use Disorder: Modification, Neurophysiological Correlates, and Association with Craving and Relapse

Thesis Advisors: Prof. Dr. Franz Moggi and Prof. Dr. Wim van den Brink

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## Publications 2020

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### September 24

**Brigitte Charlotte Kaufmann** PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)

Center for Neurology and Neurorehabilitation

Behavioural and neuroanatomical correlates of visual attention and response inhibition in neglect

Thesis Advisors: Prof. Dr. med. Thomas Nyffeler and Prof. Dr. René Martin Müri

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### November 25

**Thomas Benz** PhD in Health Sciences (Rehabilitation Sciences)

RehaClinic

Health and health-related quality of life in chronic pain patients: Evaluation of interdisciplinary rehabilitation in chronic pain

Thesis Advisors: Prof. Dr. Achim Elfering and Markus Melloh

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### December 03

**Stephan Niklaus Furger** PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)

University Hospital of Psychiatry

The Domain of Emotion: Neurofunctional Correlates of Affect-Related Personality during Social Face

Perception

Thesis Advisors: Prof. Dr. Werner Strik and Prof. Dr. Daniel Freeman

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### December 17

**Kaspar Küng** PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)

Bern University of Applied Sciences

Medication Errors in a Swiss University Hospital and the Effect of an Electronically Assisted Medication

Preparation and Medication Administration System on Medication Errors (Project e-RAMIS)

Thesis Advisors: Prof. Dr. Jürg Schmidli and Prof. Dr. David Schwappbach

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## GHS Symposium 2020

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The GHS symposium 2020 took place as a fully virtual event in a reduced one-day format from 09:00 – 17:00h. The day was split into four sessions (two for FK I and one each for FKII and FKIII).

The main idea of the symposium is to promote scientific exchange and networking between students, specialists and members of the three expert committees. An interdisciplinary event of this kind makes most sense if held in person giving participants the opportunity to meet and talk.

To avoid students having to delay their PhD defenses on account of unmet requirements (participating in and presenting at two symposiums is mandatory), we decided to go ahead with the symposium in a reduced format, giving the students the opportunity to receive feedback on their presented research.

The Symposium 2020 was opened with welcome speeches by GHS President Achim Elfering and GHS Coordinator Tullia Padovani. The main sessions held via Zoom comprised of talks, discussions and feedback. Between talks poster sessions were held on Gather Town. This enabled students to hold separate conversations in parallel, walk in and out of conversations and meet or bump into colleagues just as they would, had the symposium been able to be held in a real-life location.

The number of participants was high and as the survey showed, a big success. We believe this was due to the simple structure and effective time planning according to the program.

The symposium was held using two platforms:

Zoom was the digital basis.



Our poster sessions were hosted in Gather Town, a video-calling space that lets multiple people converse in parallel. It allowed us to recreate the atmosphere of the sessions held in person with figurines maneuvered by participants.

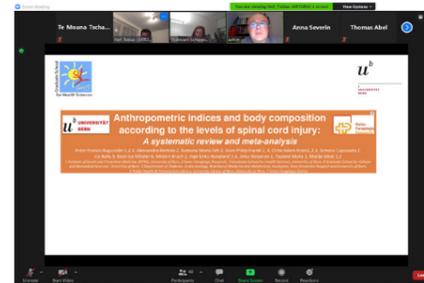
The invaluable technical support of Prof. Dr. Tobias Nef and his collaborator Dr. Stephan Gerber ensured the smooth running of our first virtual symposium.

We would like to thank all of you for your participation and for the very positive feedback we received through the Zoom survey.

The survey also enabled us to determine the winners of the best poster and the best talk awards:



Anna Severin for best talk



Peter Raguindin for best poster

Congratulations to them both!

For the Symposium 2021 Schloss Münchenwiler has been booked. We sincerely hope the event can be held as planned and look forward to a large turnout.

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As well as the essential support of all the experts and the invaluable contributions of the entire GHS organization, boards and committees.

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