Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

World Health Organization (WHO)
GHS Annual Report 2023

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Introduction

It is my pleasure to share with you some milestones and highlights from 2023 at the Graduate School for Health Sciences (GHS).

In February 2023, we enacted the new GHS regulations, and the first cohort of students enrolled under these updated guidelines in May 2023. The development of these regulations was a long process, bringing important innovations. First, the Faculty of Vetsuisse has joined the GHS. Second, we can now enroll students with a Master’s degree from Universities of Applied Sciences. Third, the procedures for thesis evaluation and defense exams have been updated to the most advanced standards for quality in PhD supervision. The GHS office successfully and smoothly implemented all new procedures, promptly communicating them to students, experts, and supervisors.

2023 also marked the beginning of the ‘Bridge Commission’ activities, which manage and maintain the new acceptance criteria for master’s students from Universities of Applied Sciences. You can find a more detailed description of these initiatives in the following sections of this report.

The year also brought changes to the composition of the GHS Steering Board. With the implementation of the new regulations, the GHS was enriched with the Vetsuisse Bern faculty as the third faculty in the GHS group. Consequently, the steering board was complemented with Prof. Salome Durz and Prof. Adrian Steiner as representatives of the Vetsuisse Faculty. The recruitment of new members for the expert committees from the Vetsuisse Faculty is still in process. On behalf of the Steering Board, we express our sincerest welcome. The Vetsuisse Faculty brings fresh insights and a broader perspective on health science topics.

The remarkable growth of PhD students we have observed since 2019 continued in 2023. We accepted 50 new PhD candidates, bringing our total to 184 enrolled PhD candidates. This represents more than a threefold increase from 2018 to 2023. Additionally, the number of graduations doubled compared to previous years, with 32 graduations in 2023. The scientific output of GHS PhD candidates resulted in 137 peer-reviewed publications registered in BORIS.

The GHS symposium, the annual highlight of our graduate school, was held at the Studienzentrum Gerzensee. Once again, we received enthusiastic feedback from students and GHS members. The symposium brings together students and supervisors and offers a unique frame for exchange, scientific networking, and practicing presentations at a very high level. The theme for the symposium in 2023 was related to the philosophy of science, with innovative and engaging presentations from two experts in the field: Prof. Saana Jukola and Prof. Jacob Stegenga. We already look forward to welcoming you to our next symposium, which will take place at the same beautiful location on October 31 - November 1, 2024.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the GHS office for their tireless work for the students and the GHS members, to the Executive Board of the GHS, the expert commissions, and the Faculties of Medicine, Human Sciences, and Vetsuisse for their continuous engagement and support. Last but not least, all the PhD Supervisors are indispensable in securing the quality and high standards of our work. All personal efforts and sustainable support are instrumental in running the GHS and ensuring the high standards of our program.

In conclusion, 2023 was another intense and successful year for GHS. To get an overview of our activities and accomplishments in 2023, I invite you to read this annual report.

Warm regards,

Prof. Dr. phil. Sissel Guttormsen
President GHS Steering Board Committee
Bern, July 2024

Highlights

Remarkable Growth and Enrollment
From the end of 2018 to 2023, the Graduate School of Health Sciences (GHS) witnessed an astounding 223% increase in enrollment, culminating in a total of 184 students in 2023. This exceptional growth can be attributed to several key factors described below.

Diversification and Innovation in Research
GHS has broadened its research areas by incorporating experts from diverse fields, such as dentistry and pharmacy particularly evident in Expert Committee I. This diversification has enhanced the breadth and depth of our research endeavors.

Unique Clinical Sciences Specialization
Thanks to the innovative 50:50 model promoted by the relatively young Expert Committee III, the Clinical Sciences specialization continues to attract significant interest. This model, unique in Switzerland, offers a dual career path in clinical research and practice, providing an unprecedented opportunity for our PhD candidates.

Support and Satisfaction
The quality of our PhD programs, coupled with solid administrative support and financial aid, has consistently met the expectations of our students, experts, and supervisors, as revealed from the self-assessment of the GHS.

New regulations: Expansion and Inclusivity
New regulations, enacted in February 2023, are in effect only for students who applied after that date, ensuring a smooth transition for those already enrolled.

One of the most significant innovations introduced with the new regulations is the inclusion of the Vetsuisse Faculty into the GHS, alongside the Faculties of Medicine and Human Sciences. This addition further expands and enriches our academic community.

Academic Achievements
The number of graduations reached a new record in 2023, with 32 graduates compared to 17 in the previous year. Additionally, 2023 was a prolific year for publications, with 137 articles published by GHS students, as recorded in BORIS.

Growth of Expert Committees
Along with the increase in student numbers, the number of experts in the three Expert Committees has also grown – from 26 in January 2019 to 47 in 2023 (an 80% increase). During the same period, the proportion of women in the Expert Committees rose from 23% to 47%.

Successful Symposium and Student Representation
The 2023 GHS Symposium, held at Studienzentrum Gerzensee in November, was a resounding success, attracting enthusiastic participation from students and GHS members. Additionally, three student representatives, one from each Expert Committee, were elected to the Steering Board during the Symposium. This initiative allows students to contribute directly to the GHS and ensures their perspectives are considered in strategic decisions, fostering a more inclusive and responsive academic environment.
New GHS Committee members

In 2023 the GHS welcomed nine new Expert Committee (FK) members and two new Steering Board members:

Prof. Dr. med. vet. Adrian Steiner (Member of the Steering Board)
Ruminant Clinic, Department of Clinical Veterinary Science

Prof. Dr. med. vet. Salome Durr (Member of the Steering Board)
Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious Diseases (MCID)

Prof. Dr. med. vet. Mireille Meylan (Expert Committee I / FKI)
Ruminant Clinic, Department of Clinical Veterinary Science

Prof. Dr. med. Sebastian Grunt (Expert Committee II / FKII)
University Children’s Hospital

PD Dr. med. Dr. phil. Markus Schmidt (Expert Committee II / FKII)
University Hospital Inselspital, Department of Neurology

Prof. Dr. Eva Segelov (Expert Committee II / FKII)
Department of Clinical Research (DCR)

PD Dr. med. Georgios Siontis (Expert Committee II / FKII)
University Hospital Inselspital, Department of Cardiology.

Prof. Dr. med. vet. Vinzenz Gerber (Expert Committee III / FKIII)
ISME Bern und Avenches, Department of Clinical Veterinary Science

Prof. Dr. med. vet. Torsten Neuberich (Expert Committee III / FKIII)
Clinical Neuroscience Bern, Division of Neurological Sciences / Division of Experimental Clinical Research

Prof. Dr. phil. Iris-Katharina Penner (Expert Committee III / FKIII)
University Hospital Inselspital, Department of Neurology

Prof. Dr. med. David Julian Seiffge (Expert Committee III / FKIII)
University Hospital Inselspital, Department of Neurology.

Vision and Mission

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

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

From these statements, strategic goals and foci have been inferred, that guide the work of the GHS on all levels:

Promote Excellence, Quality, and Integrity
Guide and prepare doctoral students to deepen knowledge, become competent & successful researchers, ensuring integrity in training and research, in line with ethical principles applied to health sciences and to achieve an internationally recognized and competitive PhD title.

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

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

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

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

Strategic Leadership
Strategic management of GHS is provided by a Steering Board with members from the participating faculties and expert committees. There are three expert committees, each covering a broad spectrum of research approaches and methods: Individual Factors, Public Health and Methodologies for Health Sciences Research (Expert Committee I), Neurosciences (Expert Committee II), and Clinical Sciences (Expert Committee III). These committees are also responsible for the admission, guidance, and evaluation of PhD candidates.

Academic Support
With access to an extensive body of academic experts and resources, GHS students develop into highly qualified professionals, researchers, and academics, ready to apply their knowledge and skills in complex subjects within their chosen areas. In 2023, 282 academic experts (thesis advisors and co-thesis advisors) support our PhD candidates in their research endeavors.

Operational Management
The GHS Office is directed by Coordinator Dr. Tullia Padovani, who oversees the operational organization. She is supported by the GHS steering board and office team, including Mette Borg Frees, Réka Molnár, and Fabian Nobrega Freitas.

Expert Committees
Three expert committees and their respective research time dedication.

Degree Awarded
The awarded PhD title is: PhD in Health Sciences (specialization).
GHS Organization Chart

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

**STEERING BOARD**
- Sissel Guttormsen (Med), President
- Salome Dür (Vetsuisse)
- Achim Elfering (Hum Sci)
- Tobias Nef (Med)
- Claudio Nigg (Hum Sci)
- Lorenz Räber (Med)
- Adrian Steiner (Vetsuisse)
- Marcel Zwahlen (Med)
- Tullia Padovani (Coordinator)

**GHS OFFICE**
- Tullia Padovani (Coordinator)
- Mette Borg Frees
- Réka Molnár
- Fabian Nobrega Freitas

**EXPERT COMMITTEES**

**Expert Committee I (FKI)**
**Research areas:** Individual Factors, Public Health and Methodologies for Health Sciences Research
- Marcel Zwahlen (Med), Chair
- Sissel Guttormsen (Med)
- Stéphanie Baggio (Med)
- Anna Lisa Bérzigotti (Med)
- Vivianne Chappuis (Med)
- Annika Frahsa (Med)
- Manuel Haschler (Med)
- Jennifer Inauen (Hum Sci)
- Carla Mayer-Massetti (Med)
- Stefanie Jula Schmidt (Hum Sci)
- Matthias Wilhelm (Med)
- Mireille Meylan (Vetsuisse)
- Tullia Padovani (Coordinator)

**Expert Committee II (FKII)**
**Research area:** Neurosciences
- Tobias Nef (Med), Chair
- Selma Aybek (Med)
- Danio Caizzi (Med)
- Stéphane Cocchi (Med)
- Thomas Dierks (Med)
- Daniel Erlacher (Hum Sci)
- Lorena Gianotti (Hum Sci)
- Sebastian Grunt (Med)
- Adrian Guggisberg (Med)
- Daniela Hubl (Med)
- Markus Schmidt (Med)
- Maria Stein (Med and Hum Sci)
- Roland Wiest (Med)
- Tullia Padovani (Coordinator)

**Expert Committee III (FKIII)**
**Research area:** Clinical Sciences; clinical career & patient-oriented research (50/50 model)
- Lorenz Räber (Med), Chair
- Guido Beldi (Med)
- Thomas Berger (Hum Sci)
- Vinzenz Gerber (Vetsuisse)
- Simon Jung (Med)
- Philipp Latzin (Med)
- Evangelia Liakoni (Med)
- Alice Panchaud (Med)
- Iris Penner (Med)
- Jessica Peter (Med)
- Anke Salmen (Med)
- Eva Segelov (Med)
- David Seiffge (Med)
- Torsten Seuberlich (Vetsuisse)
- Georgios Sioris (Med)
- Sven Treile (Med)
- Matthias Zumstein (Med)
- Tullia Padovani (Coordinator)

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

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

Prof. Dr. Achim ELFERING
Work and Organizational Psychology, Institute of Psychology.
Member since August 2008.

Prof. Dr. Tobias NEF
Chair of Expert Committee II ARTORG Center for Bio-medical Engineering Research.
Member since August 2021.

Prof. Dr. phil. Claudio NIGG
Department of Health Science, Institute of Sport Science.
Member since January 2020.

Prof. Dr. med. vet. Salome DÜRR
Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious Diseases (MCID).
Member between February and December 2023.

Prof. Dr. med. Dr. phil. nat. Lorenz RÄBER
Chair of Expert Committee III University Hospital Inselspital Department of Cardiology.
Member since August 2021.

Prof. Dr. Marcel ZWAHLEN
Chair of Expert Committee I Director i.a. Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM).
Member since August 2022.

Prof. Dr. med. vet. Adrian STEINER
Department of Clinical Veterinary Science, Ruminant Clinic.
Member since February 2023.

Dr. phil. Tullia PADOVANI
GHS Coordinator and Lecturer.
Member since January 2019.
Expert Committees

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

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

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

Expert Committee / Fachkommission I / FKI

Research Areas: Individual Factors, Public Health and Methodologies for Health Sciences Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Institute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marcel Zwahlen</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sissel Guttormsen</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>Institute for Medical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stéphanie Baggio</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>Institute of Primary Health Care (BHAM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annaïsa Berzigotti</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital Department of Visceral Surgery and Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivianne Chappuis</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>Institute of Dental Medicine (ZMK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annika Fohsa</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuel Haschle</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital Department of General Internal Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Inauen</td>
<td>Faculty of Human Sciences</td>
<td>Institute of Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carla Meyer-Massetti</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital Department of General Internal Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mireille Meylan</td>
<td>Vetsuisse Faculty</td>
<td>Department of Clinical Veterinary Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stefanie Schmidt</td>
<td>Faculty of Human Sciences</td>
<td>Institute of Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthias Wilhelm</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital, Department of Cardiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tullia Padovani</td>
<td>GHS Coordinator</td>
<td>Graduate School for Health Sciences</td>
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Expert Committee II / Fachkommission II / FKII

Research Areas: Neurosciences

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<tr>
<td>Tobias Nef</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>ARTORG Center for Biomedical Engineering Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selma Aybek</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital Department of Neurology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dario Cazzoli</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>ARTORG Center for Biomedical Engineering Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stéphane Ciochetti</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>Department of Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Dierks</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>Universitäts Psychiatrische Dienste (UPD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Eifacher</td>
<td>Faculty of Human Sciences</td>
<td>Institute of Sport Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorena Gianiotti</td>
<td>Faculty of Human Sciences</td>
<td>Institute of Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian Grunt</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital, Children's Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrian Guggisberg</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital Department of Neurology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniela Hübli</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markus Schmidt</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>Department for Biomedical Research (DBMR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Stein</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine &amp; Faculty of Human Sciences</td>
<td>Institute of Psychology / Universitäre Psychiatrische Dienste (UPD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roland West</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital Department of Neurology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tullia Padovani</td>
<td>GHS Coordinator</td>
<td>Graduate School for Health Sciences</td>
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Expert Committee III / Fachkommission III

Research Areas: Clinical Sciences, clinical career and patient-oriented research (50:50 model)

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<th>Institute</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lorenz Räber</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital Department of Cardiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guido Belidini</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital Department of Visceral Surgery and Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Berger</td>
<td>Faculty of Human Sciences</td>
<td>Institute of Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinzenz Gerber</td>
<td>Vetsuisse Faculty</td>
<td>SME Bern and Avenches, Department of Clinical Veterinary Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon Jung</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital Department of Neurology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philipp Latzin</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital Department of Pediatrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evangelia Liaisconi</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital Department of General Internal Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alice Panchaud</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>Institute of Primary Health Care (BHAM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris-Katharina Penner</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital, Department of Neurology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Peter</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital of Old Age Psychiatry and Psychotherapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anke Salmen</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital Department of Neurology</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Sefliger</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital, Department of Neurology</td>
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<td>Eva Segelov</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>Department of Clinical Research (DCR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Torsten Seuberlich</td>
<td>Vetsuisse Faculty</td>
<td>Division of Neurological Sciences, Department of Neurology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgios Sioritis</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital, Department of Cardiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sven Trelle</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>Clinical Trials Unit (CTU Bern)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthias Zurnstein</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>University Hospital Inselspital, Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tullia Padovani</td>
<td>GHS Coordinator</td>
<td>Graduate School for Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Introduction
The 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 to acquire the additional number of ECTS (European Credit Transfer) as foreseen from the new regulations (PR. Art.8.3) and recommends how these additional requirements should be fulfilled. These proposals must be approved by the dean of the relevant faculty.

Members of the Bridge Commission
- Marcel Zwahlen (MZ, Chair)
- Eva Cignacco (EC)
- Daniel Erlacher (DE)
- Stephan Reichenbach (SR)
- Tullia Padovani (TP, Coordinator)

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

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

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

Step-by-Step Evaluation
1. Checklist to verify the application requirements.
2. Determine Additional ECTS: Assess the candidate’s profile to determine how many additional ECTS (30-60) are needed, in accordance with PR. Art.8.3.
3. Recognize Prior Academic and Practical Experience
   Establish criteria for recognizing previous experience:
   a. Publications:
      - First authorship of new studies: 5 ECTS
      - First authorship related to master’s thesis: 3 ECTS
      - Second place co-authorship: 2 ECTS
      - Third place co-authorship: 1 ECTS
      - Last authorship: same as first authorship
   b. Congress Participation:
      - ½ day attendance: 0.5 ECTS
      - One or more days of attendance: 1 ECTS
4. Request Additional Information: If necessary, ask candidates for more information about their past experience.
5. Final ECTS Assessment: Determine the final number of additional ECTS required.
6. Identify Educational Gaps: Evaluate if there are gaps in the candidate’s education that need to be filled with specific courses.
7. Course List Submission: Ask the candidate to provide a list of courses, agreed upon with their thesis advisor/supervision team, to fulfill the ECTS requirements. This list should be submitted before the next application deadline and included in the doctoral agreement.
8. GHS Interview: Invite the candidate to the GHS interview as per the standard application procedure.
9. Approval of the Course List: The Bridge Commission will approve the list of courses.
10. Dean’s Approval: Send the approved list to the dean of the involved faculties for final approval.

Future Directions
The BC plans to refine and expand its criteria and processes as it gains more experience and evaluates more candidates. This iterative approach ensures that the BC remains responsive to the evolving educational landscape and the diverse backgrounds of its applicants.
**PhD Program**

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

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

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

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

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/department as the thesis advisor. He/she meets with the candidate at least twice a year to discuss and assess progress of the thesis work, as well as advising and supporting the candidate. The co-referee is present at the exams and the thesis defense.

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

**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, conferences, seminars, and lectures.

There are two required exams: A written exam after the first year on methodological aspects of the research project, and an oral exam at the end of the second year, where 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.

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**PhD Program Structure**

**Overall demands for the candidates**
The PhD duration: 3 - 6 years

**PhD program/Curriculum**
- 18 ECTS are required divided in: 3 ECTS mandatory courses (ethic course & 2 x GHS Symposium)
- 15 ECTS through courses related to the PhD project
- Two intermediate evaluations (1st and 2nd year Exams)
- Yearly Progress Reports
- Defense: final exam

**Research**
Scientific project: generating a minimum of 3 articles
- PhD thesis

**Thesis Committee**

- **Thesis Advisor** (+ ev. Co-thesis advisor) & Co-Referee & Mentor
- Co-Referee
  - from different institution, expert in research area of PhD candidate
  - responsible for research project, and/or infrastructure, supervision, salary
- Mentor
  - GHS representative
PhD Curriculum: Courses and conferences

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

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

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

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

Curriculum

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

Mandatory Requirements

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

Partner Programs

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.

Courses offered by the Lemanic Neuroscience Doctoral School (LNDS)

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

Public Health Sciences Course Program (University of Bern)

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

Transferable Skills (University of Bern)

provide key qualifications for your academic and non-academic career through individual feedback from experts, intensive learning in small groups, and interdisciplinary networking. Transferable 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, and offers structured, experimental research training programs leading to a PhD, MD.PhD, or DVM.PhD degree.

MD-PhD Scholarships

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

Students under the Expert Committee III (Clinical Sciences) 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.
Course Overview
Basics of Ethics in Health Sciences Research Course is designed to offer foundational insights into ethical practices and the key tenets of scientific integrity in health sciences research. This 2-day mandatory course offering 1 ECTS for the GHS students has been one of the pillars of the GHS program for many years. Each year, however, brings new developments into the course and 2023 is not an exception. The program of this year’s course was improved and adjusted according to the valuable feedback gathered from the 2022 course evaluation. Student feedback covering both the evaluation of the individual lecturers and the course content is a source for continuous improvement of the course.

Collaboration
The 2023 course was a collaborative effort involving multiple internal and external partners. Since the Basics of Ethics is also an integral part of the interdisciplinary Public Health Sciences Course Program, the internal partners, such as the administrative teams of the PHS, helped in the organization of the course, while external experts contributed to its design and content by bringing their specialized knowledge.

The course took place on May 11-12, 2023 and was facilitated by renowned experts in the field such as Dr. Priya Satalkar from the University of Basel and Ghent University, Prof. Verina Wild from the University of Augsburg, Dr. Agomoni Ganguli Mitra from the University of Edinburgh, PD Dr. Sven Treile, from the University of Bern, Dr. Benjamin Speich, University Hospital Basel and Dr. Stefan Schandelmaier, University Hospital Basel.

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

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

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

Course Feedback
Feedback from 23 participants highlighted the course’s success in achieving its learning outcomes. Notably, 86.9% agreed that the course met its objectives and 78.2% agreed that the thematic interests and questions of the participants were addressed by the course. Moreover, 86.9% of the students expressed the opinion that the structure and the content of the course were supportive for their learning. The interactive nature of the course, active participation opportunities, and the balance between lectures and practical discussions were particularly appreciated by the students.
New GHS regulations & Executive regulations (Ausführungsbestimmungen)

Approval date: November 2022

Enactment date: February, 2023

Which regulations count for you?
Students who have applied to the GHS by May 1st, 2023 are enrolled in the GHS according to the new regulations.
All students enrolled before this date, including those who applied by the January 10th deadline, will conduct their PhD under the old regulations (Link to the regulations: https://www.ghs.unibe.ch/phd_program/regulations/index_engl.html).

Structure and hierarchy of the regulations
We have three levels of regulations Promotionsreglement (PR), Studienplan (SP) and Organisationsreglement (OR). In addition, there is an internal regulation approved by the GHS Steering Board called Ausführungsbestimmungen (AB).

Old regulations and who is involved in the approval steps

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Regulations</th>
<th>Bildung und Kulturreferat (BKO)</th>
<th>Faculties</th>
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Executive regulations (Ausführungsbestimmungen)

In a significant development, the GHS Steering Board has established a comprehensive set of new rules aimed at specifying certain regulations and procedures. The original document is available in German, with an English translation also provided on our website.

This marks the first time the GHS has adopted executive regulations since its inception. These rules will be regularly updated as needed, and all students and members of the GHS will be promptly informed of any changes.

Here are the five most salient aspects extracted from the “Executive Regulations for the Degree Program and Study Plan of the Graduate School for Health Sciences at the University of Bern”:

1. Duration of the Doctoral Degree (Art. 4):
   - The start date of the doctoral degree corresponds to the application date. This date is the reference point for all steps of the doctoral program.
   - Financial security for the PhD work period must be confirmed, with a minimum of 3 years for Expert Committees I and II, and at least 4 years for Expert Committee III.

2. Admission Procedure (Art. 7):
   - Self-funded doctoral students are allowed to apply, provided that their self-funding is declared and transparent.
   - The GHS evaluates such applications individually to ensure that no one is forced to self-finance.

3. Bridge Commission (Art. 8):
   - Evaluates applications from candidates with a Master’s degree from Universities of Applied Sciences or Teacher Education.
   - Develops proposals for ECTS compensation and additional requirements to be approved by the dean.
   - Applicants must meet six specific requirements, including health-related project topics and supervision by the University of Bern.

4. Publication Rules (Study Plan Art. 12):
   - The Thesis Advisor, together with the doctoral student, is responsible for selecting journals.
   - Publications with first shared authorship count as half a publication with first authorship.
   - Reviews (systematic and narrative) with a systematic approach and explicit description of methods are accepted.
   - Non-systematic reviews, letters, and study protocols are not accepted.
   - These publication rules apply to doctoral students of both the new and old regulations.

5. PhD Students Residing Abroad:
   - The GHS may accept applicants who conduct most of their research abroad, with specific on-site attendance requirements in Bern.
   - Requirements include attendance at the Symposium twice, participation in the ethics course, thesis defense, and first- and second-year examinations.
Review: 2023 in numbers

Students

Growth in GHS Matriculations 2008 - 2023

Expert Committees

Student Distribution across Expert Committees 2008-2023
Gender

Student Gender Distribution 2008 - 2023

Field of Study

GHS Students – Master’s Degree Fields of Study
Institutes and departments

GHS Students – Institutes and departments where research is performed
Country of Master’s Degree

The 2023 cohort of doctoral students in the GHS was made up of 184 students who obtained their master’s degree from 29 different countries.
Inspiration and innovation thrive in collaborative environments:
The 15th GHS Symposium, held on November 22-23, 2023, at the picturesque Studienzentrum Gerzensee, embodied this spirit perfectly. The event was a success especially because of the energy and ideas from everyone involved, showcasing the commitment and scholarly excellence of the GHS community. The symposium stands out for its broad array of topics explored by the research projects within the health sciences. It featured lively discussions through 39 student talks and 36 poster presentations, emphasizing participants’ dedication and key contributions to science.

Day One:
Participants arrived in the morning, registering and enjoying welcome coffee. The symposium commenced with greetings from the GHS President Sissel Guttormsen, followed by the GHS Coordinator Tullia Padovani, who presented key facts and data about the Graduate School and the novelties of the upcoming event. The day then transitioned into a series of student talks held in parallel sessions across rooms named Zürich and Genf, allowing sufficient time for each presenter. Each talk included a 10-minute presentation followed by a 5-minute discussion and feedback session. The talks covered a diverse range of topics such as clinical neurocognitive profiles, medical VR simulations, oral health conditions, and predictors of long-term outcomes in stroke patients, showing the breadth and depth of health research within the PhD program.

A highlight of the day was the “poster flash session,” where students delivered one-minute summaries of their posters, sparking curiosity and encouraging further discussion during the subsequent “poster viewing session.” Before this session, participants enjoyed a refreshing walk to the beautiful Gerzensee lake during a coffee break, adding a healthy touch from the GHS.

The next event was a poster viewing session in the Panorama Saal, accompanied by a pleasant aperitif. The evening included a productive self-organized student meeting, allowing for further networking and exchange of ideas. This meeting was particularly notable as it resulted in the election of three student representatives for the GHS steering board, one for each expert committee. The election of these representatives ensures that students’ voices are heard in the governance of the GHS, and they will play a role in shaping the future direction of the program. The day concluded with a delicious dinner, fostering a sense of community and companionship among participants.
Day Two:

After breakfast, participants had the chance to join a workshop on the topic of “Philosophy and History of Science.” Esteemed speakers Prof. Saana Jukola from the University of Twente and Prof. Jacob Stegenga from the University of Cambridge led the sessions. Their lectures delved into the philosophical underpinnings of health sciences, exploring themes such as measurement, values, and data communication, and served as introductions to the interactive workshop sessions.

After lunch break, participants reconvened for more student presentations, offering a platform for sharing diverse research findings. Each presentation session included a survey evaluation, allowing for continuous improvement. The day also featured two more interactive workshops, further enriching the participants’ experience.

The final part of the symposium was an award ceremony, during which the GHS President and the Coordinator honored participants for their exceptional contributions. Tamara Scharf received the Best Talk Award for her insightful presentation on the “Effect of electronic nicotine delivery systems for smoking cessation on sleep quality: Secondary analysis of a randomized controlled trial.” Aziz Mert Ipekçi was assigned with the Best Poster Award for his research on “Exploring factors associated with participation in a long-term household-based cohort study on pandemic preparedness.”

Conclusion of the Symposium Session:
The 15th GHS Symposium not only showcased the high quality and variety of the PhD program but also highlighted the enthusiasm of the PhD students, reflecting a shared passion that drives academic excellence and innovation.
Graduations

February 03

Luzia Sonja Renggli PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)
Institute for Infectious Diseases
Project title: From Hospital-Level to Patient-Level Antibiotic Consumption Data: How Can We Improve Surveillance of Antibiotic Use in the Frame of Antibiotic Stewardship Programmes?
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Andreas Oskar Kronenberg and Dr. med. Beat Sonderegger

February 15

Oche Adam Itodo PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: Cardiovascular risk in individuals with spinal cord injury
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Oscar Horacio Franco Duran and Prof. Dr. Jivko Stoyanov

February 21

Viktoria Marianne Gastens PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM)
Project title: Personalized preventive care and life expectancy among older multimorbid adults
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. Nicolas Rodondi and Prof. Dr. Pedro Marques-Vidal

February 28

Niluja Nadesalingam PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Translational Research Center, University-Hospital of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
Project title: Overcoming psychomotor slowing in psychosis - An interventional repetitive TMS-trial
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. Sebastian Walther and Prof. Dr. Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg

March 10

Tasnim A. A. Hamza PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: Flexible generic framework for evidence synthesis in health technology assessment
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Georgia Salanti and Prof. Dr. Cynthia Iglesias

March 13

Corinne Brunner PhD in Health Sciences (Public Health Sciences)
University Children’s Hospital Zurich
Project title: Educational interventions for parents of children with atopic dermatitis (The Eduderm Study)
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. em. Dr. Hansjörg Znoj and Dr. phil. Brigitte Seirner
March 17

Sarah Diezig PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
University Hospital of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Department of Psychiatric Neurophysiology
Project title: The Borderlands of Wakefulness: Tracking the Transition from Reflective Thought to Dream-like Experiences at the Onset of Sleep
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. sc. nat. Thomas König and Prof. Dr. Peter Achermann

March 20

Konstantina Chalkou PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: Real-world predictions of heterogeneous treatment effects using evidence synthesis for health technology assessment
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Georgia Salanti and Prof. Dr. Andrea Manca

March 22

Christine Adamus PhD in Health Sciences (Applied Health Sciences)
Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, University Hospital of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
Project title: Independent Supported Housing for non-homeless individuals with severe mental illness
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. Thomas Deck and Prof. Dr. med. Wolfram Kaufl

March 24

Belinda Varaidzo Chihota PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: Epidemiology of Noncommunicable Disease (NCD) risk factors among people living with and without HIV in Southern Africa
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. Gilles Wandeler and Prof. Dr. Samuel Bosompah

March 24

Cristina Mesa Vieira PhD in Health Sciences (Public Health Sciences)
Institute for Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: Psychosocial risk factors of mental disorders and cardiovascular disease
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Oscar Horacio Franco Duran and Prof. Dr. Dominique Sprumont

April 5

Caroline Schneider PhD in Health Sciences (Sports Medicine)
Preventive Cardiology and Sports Medicine, Inselspital Bern
Project title: Exercise training to combat cardiovascular toxicity in patients with cancer undergoing Anthracycline-based chemotherapy
Thesis advisor and co-referee: PD Dr. phil. Priska Christina Eser and Prof. Dr. Kristin Campbell

April 27

Raphaela Muri PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
University Clinic for Diabetology, Endocrinology, Nutritional Medicine & Metabolism (UDEM), University Hospital Bern
Project title: Brain structure and function in adults with phenylketonuria - associations with cognition and metabolic control
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. phil. Regula Everts and Prof. Dr. med. Roland Gerhard Rudi West

April 27

Yasmin Salem Mahmoud PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)
Department of Pediatrics, University Hospital Bern
Project title: Early-life exposures and lung development: The impact of perinatal risk factors on later lung function
Thesis advisor and co-referee: PD Dr. med. Sophie Yammime and Prof. Dr. med. Claudia Kühl

May 5

Magdalena Linda Olivia Camenzind PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Department of Neurology and Clinical Research, Inselspital
Project title: Creativity after focal brain lesions – About neural correlates of creativity
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. René Martin Muri and Prof. Dr. Jean-Marie Ammoni

May 8

Daria Olena Berger PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: Taking the Next Steps in Epidemiological Strategies to Predict Childhood Respiratory Disease
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. Claudia Kühl and Prof. Dr. med. Jürg Barben

May 15

Evan de Schrijver PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) / Oeschger Center for Climate Change
Project title: Climate Change and Health Impacts
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Ana Maria Vicedo Cabrera and Prof. Dr. Christoph Raible

May 24

Maria Christina Mallet PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: Epidemiology of childhood cough in Switzerland
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. Claudia Kühl and PD Dr. med. Carmen Casaulta
May 24
Belén Rodriguez Galdin PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Department of Neurosurgery, Inselspital Bern
Project title: Pathophysiology and treatment options in postural tachycardia syndrome and critical illness myopathy
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. Werner Josef Z’Graggen and Prof. Dr. med. René Martin Mori

June 19
Simone Denzer PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Institute of Psychology
Project title: EEG Microstates Associated with Reality Monitoring during Dream-Like Experiences: An Immersive Virtual Reality Approach
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Fred Mast and Prof. Dr. Peter Achermann

June 26
Sven Strebel PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Institute for Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: Hearing loss after childhood cancer treatment
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Claudia Kühni and Prof. Dr. Marc Ansari

July 10
Magda Rocío Gamba Rincón PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: Role of dietary phytochemical intake in cardiometabolic health
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Oscar Horacio Franco Durán and Prof. Dr. Lia Claudia Bally

July 10
Marilyne Menassa PhD in Health Sciences (Public Health)
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: Defining Healthy Aging: The Role of Ethnicity and Lifestyle Factors
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Oscar Horacio Franco Durán and Prof. Dr. Pedro Marques-Vidal

July 13
Dante Jr. Salvador PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Institute for Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
Project title: Diabetes mellitus: associations with atherosclerosis, myocardial fibrosis, and implications for heart failure
Thesis advisor and co-referee: PD Dr. Arjola Bano and Prof. Dr. med. Matthias Wilhelm

August 22
Heba Al-Alwan PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)
Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM)
Project title: Type 2 diabetes: association with thyroid disease and prevalence of diabetes overtreatment
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. Nicolas Rodondi and Prof. Dr. Robin P. Peeters

September 29
Victoria Joséphine Béréngère Marie Chapellier PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Psychiatric University Clinic UPO
Project title: What contributes to impaired communication in schizophrenia?
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. Sebastian Walther and Prof. Dr. med. Steffen Moritz

October 20
Florian Wüthrich PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Translational Research Center, University Hospital of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
Project title: An Examination of Psychomotor Retardation in Depression and Schizophrenia
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. Sebastian Walther and Prof. Dr. med. Bogdan Draganski

November 20
Martina Béatrice Göldlin PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Department of Neurology, Inselspital Bern
Project title: Classifying intracerebral haemorrhage subtypes — MR-based phaeonotype of small vessel disease
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. David Julian Steflige and Prof. Dr. med. Jörg Christian Schefold

December 4
Sai Sreenidhi Ram PhD in Health Sciences (Medical Education)
Institute for Medical Education (IML)
Project title: The Changing Landscape of Medical Conferences: Investigating how future conferences can be designed to better cater to attendees’ needs
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Dr. med. et MME Sören Huwendiek and Prof. Dr. Kevin Wayne Eva

December 13
Jacqueline Helena de Jong Mazairac PhD in Health Sciences (Physiotherapy)
Department of Urology, Inselspital Bern
Project title: Diabetes mellitus: associations with atherosclerosis, myocardial fibrosis, and implications for heart failure
Thesis advisor and co-referee: PD Dr. Arjola Bano and Prof. Dr. med. Matthias Wilhelm

December 15
Carlotta Luise Elisabeth Riebensahm PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
Department of Infectious Diseases, Bern University Hospital
Project title: Determinants and progression of liver steatosis among people with HIV
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. Gilles Wandeler and Prof. Dr. med. Annalisa Berzigotti

December 21
Nicole Gangl PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)
Translational Research Center, University Hospital of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
Project title: Paranoia in Schizophrenia - A behavioral and neuroimaging study
Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. Katharina Deborah Lena Stegmann and Prof. Dr. med. Eva Meisen- zahl-Lechner
GHS Student Research Prizes

Adnan Mujanović  
Paul Dudley White International Scholar Award - American Heart Association  
Trainee Grant – Society of Vascular and Interventional Neurology

Andrea Nathaly Neher  
Poster prize 1st win InSim 2023, “INTEAM – A new Interprofessional team training In Virtual Reality (VR) for students”

Anna Julia Wyss  
Poster prize: Best multidisciplinary poster (Day of Clinical Research)

Bernhard Matthias Siepen  
25th Annual Meeting of the Swiss Stroke Society, 2023: Best abstract award (3rd prize) with the project “Intrace-  
rebral haemorrhage in patients taking different types of oral anticoagulants – a pooled individual patient data  
analysis from two national stroke registries”  
Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences and Bangerter-Rhyner foundation “Project Grant” of the Young Talents in  
Clinical Research (YTCR) program

Carl Alessandro Starvaggi  
Faculty Prize of the Medical Faculty of the University of Bern

Carlotta Louisa Schneider  
SSSC Award for the best poster presentation in clinical sleep research “Modulation of sleep perception through  
auditory closed-loop stimulation of brain oscillatory activity”, Annual Meeting 2023, Geneva 31st August- 1st  
September 2023

Clemens Alexis Haupt  
“Best Trial in Progress” at the Day of Clinical Research, Inselspital, 2023

Fabio Simon Ryser  
Faculty Prize 2023 of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bern for the work: Dupilumab-induced eosino-  
philia in patients with diffuse type 2 chronic rhinosinusitis

Kalongo Hamusonde  
SNF Doc Mobility grant, GGD Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Lorenz Manuel Leuenberger
Oral presentation prize at the Kinderklinik Research Day 2023

Mirjam Kolev
Prize for one of the three best abstracts in Hepatology at the Swiss annual meeting for Gastroenterology and Hepatology September 2023

Mohammad Kassar
Research grant from the Swiss Heart Foundation

Nadine Patt
Research prize of the Reha Rheinfelden 2023

Rafael Wespi
Poster prize (InSiM) – Reutlingen

Rukudzo Mwamuka
African Mental Health Research Initiative PhD fellowship grant

Seyed Ahmad Banihashem Rad
Awarded free student membership in the Faculty of Remote, Rural and Humanitarian Healthcare, top project presentation in “1st Summer School on Refugee and Migrant Health” held by Inselspital, Bern, Switzerland. Awarding institution: The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Sonja Häckel
Rob Johnston award at the Spine Society of Australia 34th Annual Scientific Meeting on ‘First longterm follow-up results on wear-induced osteolysis following cervical total disc replacement using the M6-C™ Artificial Cervical Disc’

Early Career Scholarship at the 34th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Spine Society of Australia

Junior Researcher Grant for patient-oriented research (with protected research time) Department Forschung und Lehre ‘Outcome of Surgical versus Primary Non-Surgical Treatment of Burst Fractures of the Thoracolumbar Spine in Patients without Neurological Symptoms: A Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial’; Insel Gruppe AG

Victoria Joséphine Chapellier
Early Career Award at the Schizophrenia International Research Society (SIRS) conference 2023, Toronto, Canada
Publications 2023


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