

Research @ Department of Neurology

Dear Reader,

With this newsletter, we have the pleasure to give you insights into ongoing research activities at our Department and to portrait the people behind it. In addition, we would like to inform you about upcoming events, recent publications and open calls for proposals.

We hope you will enjoy reading it!

The [Research Board](#) of the Department of Neurology

July / August 2021

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Just Asking...



Vincent Pernet, PhD

What are your main research interest?

For a long time, I have tried to understand how the visual system is affected by traumatic and ischemic injuries. My work contributed to show that the neutralization of specific molecules inhibiting neuronal plasticity (e.g. Nogo-A) can improve visual recovery in mouse models of ocular diseases. The same approach may be valid to increase the function of spinal cord neurons in multiple sclerosis (MS), as we have recently observed in a project to which I collaborated with Prof. Andrew Chan. In the last few years, I started working on complex pathologies involving inflammatory molecular processes such as those taking place in MS or Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorders (NMOSD). MS is a very prevalent and incurable disease of the CNS. Although less frequent than MS, NMOSD can be very aggressive and disabling. Current challenges are to find accurate and sensitive monitoring methods and efficient treatments for these diseases. To find new biomarkers of NMOSD activity, we have recently established a collaboration with Prof. Smita Saxena (Dept. Neurology, Uni. Bern) and CSL Behring (Bern) where clinical and research expertises are combined. With a similar objective, my team has explored the possibility of using visual function tests, including electroretinogram recordings, to follow in a non-invasive manner the manifestations of MS. Our recent data suggest that the use of ophthalmic techniques is relevant to detect MS activity. I think that these examples of project reflect well my interest in the development of methods that may ameliorate the follow-up and treatment of MS and other associated diseases.

What is your motivation to do research?

During my PhD and even more later when I became a postdoctoral researcher in the laboratory of Prof. Martin Schwab in Zurich, I felt a growing need to develop research projects whose results may contribute to improve the life of sick people. My increasing motivation to do translational research paralleled the emergence of new molecular tools allowing us to block pathological mechanisms in animal models of diseases. By saying this, I am thinking about therapeutic antibodies, engineered viral vectors, pharmacological modulators, etc. With the

recent development of imaging and gene editing techniques and others, I think that it has never been a better time to do translational research than now. Of course, the success in this type of research depends on the collaboration with clinicians. This is one of the reasons why I decided to join the laboratory of NeuroImmunology at the Neurology department in October 2020.

Vincent Pernet is research group leader and lab lead of the Neuroimmunology lab at the ZEN, as well as Adjunct Professor at the University Laval, Quebec City, Canada. Contact: vincent.pernet@insel.ch

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Congratulations

1) Awarded Grants (*in chronological order*)



Prof. Dr. med. Urs Fischer (Co-Applicant)

Funding Institution: SNF, Investigator Initiated Clinical Trials, IICT ([Link](#))

Title: Mechanical thrombectomy for Medium Vessel Occlusion stroke – a pragmatic, multicentre, randomized trial with blinded outcome assessment (DISTAL)

PI: Prof. Dr. med. Marios-Nikos Psychogios, Head of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology, University Hospital Basel

Awarded Grant: CHF 1'472'719.00



Prof. Dr. med. Andrew Chan



Prof. Dr.phil.nat. Smita Saxena



Dr.rer.nat. Vincent Pernet

Research Cooperation with CSL Behring AG ([Link](#))

Research Topic: Investigation of extracellular vesicle-derived biomarkers and surrogate markers for neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder

Awarded Budget: CHF 450'000.00



Dr. med. Lara Diem

Funding Institution: Nachwuchsförderungs-Grants (previously CTU Grants) ([Link](#))

Title: Immunoglobulin deficiency a treatable cause of fatigue in patients with Multiple Sclerosis (MS)? - A Prospective Observational Fatigue Trial

Awarded Grant: **PRT (20%/ 12 months) + Consumables Lab and Study Nurse**

Strategic Research Funding of the Faculty of Medicine



Prof. Dr. med. A.Chan



Prof. Dr. med. R. Wiest
(Neuroradiology)



Prof. Dr. T.Nef
(ARTORG)

Title: A digital reference network platform for clinical and experimental neuroscience – deep phenotyping and data integration

Lead: Prof. A.Chan, Prof. R.Wiest, Prof. T.Nef

Involved Research Groups: Stroke/ Neurovascular Group, Neuroimmunology/ MS Group, Sleep/ SWEZ Group

Awarded Grant: **CHF 800'000 for 2 years**



Dr. med. Tatiana Brémovà-Ertl

Funding Institution: Innosuisse ([Link](#))

Title: The NeurOphthalmoscope – Early diagnosis of brain diseases

Project Management: [machineMD](#) (start-up located at sitem)

Main Research Partner: [CSEM](#) – Centre suisse d'électronique et de microtechnique

Awarded Grant: CHF 1'256'968 (total sum)/ **CHF 277'172** (share T.Brémovà)

2) Outstanding Publications



PD Dr. med. Mirjam R. Heldner
(Co-first Author)



Prof. Dr. med. Marcel Arnold
(Co-last Author)

Sánchez van Kammen M*, **Heldner MR***, Brodard J, **Scutelnic A**, Silvis S, Schroeder V, Hovinga JA, Middeldorp S, Levi M, Hiltunen S, Lindgren E, Mansour M, Arauz A, Barboza MA, Zuurbier SM, Aguiar de Sousa D, Ferro JM, **Fischer U**, Field TS, Jood K, Tatlisuma T, Putaala J, **Arnold M†**, Coutinho JM†. Frequency of Thrombocytopenia and Platelet Factor 4/Heparin Antibodies in Patients With Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic. *JAMA*. 2021 Jul 27;326(4):332-338. [doi:10.1001/jama.2021.9889](https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2021.9889).

*shared first authorship

† shared last authorship

[Press Release Insel Gruppe](#)

3) Highlights in Teaching

< Weiterbildungsangebote

MAS in Stroke Medicine

Department of Neurology, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital

The Stroke Center at the University Hospital Bern developed the European Stroke Master programme in close collaboration with the European Stroke Organisation (ESO) to train the next generation of clinicians and researchers in stroke care throughout Europe.

The purpose of the programme is to cover the entire field of stroke medicine, ranging from basic knowledge in pathophysiology, acute management of ischaemic and haemorrhagic stroke, primary and secondary prevention to neurorehabilitation. In addition, a research focus is maintained throughout all lectures, workshop and seminars, covering all aspects of basic, translational and clinical stroke research.

An international faculty of world leading stroke experts will provide lectures, seminars and workshops in close collaboration with the local faculty at the University of Bern.



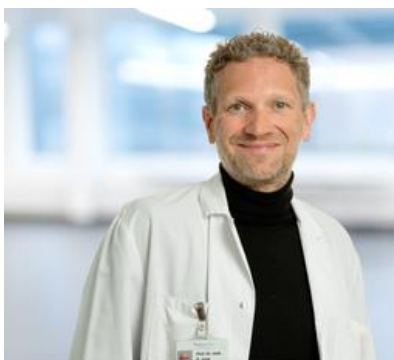
Summary

Degree	Master of Advanced Studies in Stroke Medicine Universität Bern (MAS Stroke Unibe)
Start	04/2022
Length	April 2022 - June 2024
Scope	60 ECTS
Flexible entry possible	No
Single module visitable	No
Place	Switzerland, EU, online. Due to the pandemic situation and the related official requirements, we would like to point out that individual course modules or parts of them can be replaced by distance learning or postponed.
Language	English
Admission	Eligible for the MAS in Stroke Medicine are professionals who are already working in a corresponding area of medicine. Prerequisites for admission are a university degree at the level of a master's degree in a related field.
Registration until	2022/01/31
Cost	CHF 20'000
Special Offer	Scholarships are offered by the ESO.
Organising institutions	Department of Neurology, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital
Partner	European Stroke Organisation (ESO)



The MAS in Stroke Medicine has been approved by the Faculty of Medicine and the Senate of the University of Bern. The registration is open; a first cohort will start in spring semester 2022.

[Link](#)



Prof. Dr. med. Simon Jung

Has been appointed **Associated Editor to the e-Learning Editorial Board** of the European Academy of Neurology, **EAN**.

[Link](#)

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Call for Grants and Prizes



Nachwuchsförderungs-Grants für Patientenorientierte Forschung der Insel-Gruppe (previously CTU Grants)

<i>Focus of the grant:</i>	<i>Clinical research; Protected Research Time</i>
<i>Eligible for:</i>	<i>Young researchers (MD; no habilitation; younger than 40)</i>

- Eligible for the Nachwuchsförderungs-Grants are young clinicians (MD; no habilitation), employed at least one year at Insel Gruppe.
- The Nachwuchsförderungs-Grants can only be used for clinical research within Insel Gruppe.
- Max. duration is of 24 months; max. amount of CHF 80'000 (salary of the applicant and max. of CHF 8'000 for consumables)
- **Submission Deadline: 31 October 2021; internal deadline research board: 15 October 2021** (short summary of the project to C.Kottler; chantal.kottler@insel.ch). [Link](#)

SNF Ambizione



<i>Focus of the grant:</i>	<i>All disciplines; salary and project cost</i>
<i>Eligible for:</i>	<i>Advanced researchers (PhD or MD/ Staatsexamen).</i>

- Ambizione grants are aimed at young researchers who wish to conduct, manage and lead an independent project at a Swiss higher education institution.
- An Ambizione grant covers the grantee's salary and the funds needed to carry out the project. An Ambizione project grant, however, comprises only project funds. The grants are awarded for a maximum of four years.
- Applicants must hold a Doctorate (PhD) or have completed their medical studies (Staatsexamen or equivalent exam).
- **Submission Deadline: 1 November 2021** [Link](#)

SNF PRIMA



<i>Focus of the grant:</i>	<i>All disciplines; professorship, incl. salary and project cost</i>
<i>Eligible for:</i>	<i>Female Senior researchers (PhD/ MD-PhD + 2 years of research experience; MD/ Staatsexamen + 3 years of clinical work and 2 years of research after the MD).</i>

- PRIMA grants are aimed at excellent women researchers who show a high potential for obtaining a professorship.
- PRIMA grants cover the grantee's salary and project costs for a five-year period.
- With this competitive grant, PRIMA grantees can carve out a name for themselves and take the next step up the academic career ladder: a professorship.
- **Submission Deadline: 1 November 2021** [Link](#)



Other Open Calls for Proposals

- *UniBE BCPM Project Call for Young Investigators*
Deadline: 27 August 2021 [Link](#)
- *UniBE ID Grants*
Deadline: 29 August 2021 [Link](#)
- *EAN Research Fellowship*
Deadline: 31 August 2021 [Link](#)
- *UniBE Doc.Mobility*
Deadline: 1 September 2021 [Link](#)
- *sitem-insel Support Funds (SISF)*
Deadline: 15 September 2021 [Link](#)
- *CAIM Research Fund*
Deadline: 15 September 2021 [Link](#)

- *Forschungspreis der Schweizerischen Hirnliga*
Deadline: 30 September 2021 [Link](#)
- *SNF Project Funding*
Deadline: 1 October 2021 [Link](#)
- *Nachwuchsförderungs-Grants*
Deadline: 31 October 2021; internal deadline (*Research Board 15 October 2021*) [Link](#)
- *SNF Agora*
Deadline: 15 October 2021 [Link](#)
- *UniBE Projektpool*
Deadline: 21 October 2021 [Link](#)
- *Johanna Dürmüller-Bol DBMR Research Award 2021*
Deadline: 25 October 2021 [Guidelines](#) and [Application Form](#)
- *SNF Ambizione*
Deadline: 1 November 2021 [Link](#)
- *SNF PRIMA*
Deadline: 1 November 2021 [Link](#)
- *SNF SPIRIT*
Deadline: 2 November 2021 [Link](#)
- *ERC Synergy Grant*
Deadline: 10 November 2021 [Link](#)
- *SNF Sinergia*
Deadline: 1 December 2021 [Link](#)

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Important Dates

- **7th European Stroke Conference**, 1 - 3 September 2021, virtual conference, [Link](#)
- **Symposium Neurorehabilitation und Abschiedssymposium Prof. René Muri**, 23 September 2021, 13:30 - 17:30; Hörsaal Langhans, Inselspital, [Link](#)
- **SNG Annual Meeting**, 18 – 19 November 2021, Congress Center Kursaal Interlaken, [Link](#)

For further events of the Department, please check our [website](#).

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Support

1) Topic of the Month: New Research Manager in Psychosomatics Medicine

Ms. Manuela Steinauer is the new research manager of the Psychosomatics Medicine. She joined the team in August 2021.

Manuela Steinauer joined the Department of Neurology on August 1st and supports Prof. Aybek and Dr. Bischoff as a research manager at the psychosomatics medicine. She is responsible for the project management of clinical studies and research projects in the psychosomatics medicine, compliance with GCP guidelines and ensuring PSMK quality standards.

Manuela studied business administration with a specialization in general management in Zurich and Boston, completed a CAS in research management at the University of Bern and is currently doing her master's degree in health economics. Before she joined our department, she worked as a research coordinator in an interdisciplinary network in sleep and chronobiology research and medicine at the Department of Neurology, University Hospital in Zurich, as assistant at the Department of Psychology and as deputy HR manager at the Department of Economics at the University of Zurich.



Welcome to the Department, Manuela!

Contact: manuela.steinauer@insel.ch

2) Other News

Non-association of Switzerland to Horizon Europe: transitional measures envisaged (4.8.2021)

The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) is currently drafting a mandate for the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) to implement a suitable transition solution for the 2021 calls for ERC Advanced Grants (AdGs) and MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships. These funding schemes will be aligned as closely as possible with the ERC AdG and MSCA calls, but with independent



submission deadlines. The measure developed will be submitted to the Federal Council and Parliament as part of the credit and budget process. SERI will provide further information in due course.

[Link to SERI](#)

[Link to SNF](#)

[Link to Euresearch](#)

[Link to UniBE Grants Office](#)

SNF Agora – Where Research meets the Public



- The Agora scheme aims to **foster dialogue between scientists and society**. It encourages researchers to communicate their current research to an audience of lay people. Agora projects have to initiate a dialogue between researchers and the public in which they interact and listen to each other.
- Projects with a **budget of up to CHF 200,000** (Agora projects) need to be submitted by the Agora submission **deadline on 15 October** (see also section “Call for Grants and Prizes”, above).
- Projects with a **budget of up to CHF 50,000** (Agora rolling call projects) can be **submitted all year round**. Funding decisions will be communicated within four months. [Link](#)

3) Trainings and Workshops

Courses and Workshops of the UniBE University Library

Have a look at the extensive course offerings of the University Library of the University of Bern. Find courses on academic researching, academic writing, or reference management software. In general, all courses are free of charge for UniBE and Insel staff. [Link](#)

CTU Trainings:

Clinical Investigators I: Basic GCP & clinical research training

This is a course split in two parts. The first part consists of self-learning and home-based exercises. For the second part, participants will attend the lectures and workshops. The course is designed to introduce basic concepts of patient-oriented clinical research to health care professionals involved in the recruitment of study participants.

- **Tuesday, 12 October 2021**

1 full day: 8:15-17:30

Date for voluntary exam: 19 October 2021, 14:00 - 15:30 (to get 1.0 ECTS)

[Link and Registration](#)

Course dates 2022

- **Tuesday, 15 February 2022;** This course will be held online on zoom; 1 full day: 8:15-17:30; Date for voluntary exam (to get 1.0 ECTS): date to be decided
- **Tuesday, 19 + 26 April 2022;** This course will be held on site at Mittelstrasse 43, 3012 Bern; 2 half days: 8:15-12:25 (on 19 April) and 13:25-17:30 (on 26 April); Date for voluntary exam (to get 1.0 ECTS): date to be decided
- **Tuesday, 09 + 16 August 2022;** This course will be held online on zoom; 2 half days: 8:15-12:25 (on 9 August) and 13:25-17:30 (on 16 August); Date for voluntary exam (to get 1.0 ECTS): date to be decided
- **Tuesday, 11 October 2022;** This course will be held on site at Mittelstrasse 43, 3012 Bern; 1 full day: 8:15-17:30; Date for voluntary exam (to get 1.0 ECTS): date to be decided

The registration page is being set up. *Registrations open on September 1st 2021.*

Registration is possible until one week before course start.

Clinical Investigators II: Advanced GCP & clinical research training

This is a course which aims at providing especially sponsor-investigators and principal investigators with the knowledge to set-up their own project.

- Tuesday, 7 + 14 September 2021
This course will be held on site at Mittelstrasse 43, 3012 Bern
2 half days: 8:15-12:25 (on 7 September) and 13:25-17:30 (on 14 September)
Date for voluntary exam: 22 September 2021, 14:00 - 15:30 (to get 0.5 ECTS)
- Tuesday, 16 + 23 November 2021
This course will be held online on zoom.
2 half days: 8:15-12:25 (on 16 November) and 13:25-17:30 (on 23 November)
Date for voluntary exam: 30 November 2021, 14:00 - 15:30 (to get 0.5 ECTS)

[Link and Registration](#)

GCP Refresher for clinical research

This course is aimed at providing a refresher training to clinical investigators with the essential knowledge of Good Clinical Practice (GCP) and of other regulatory and ethical requirements, and the skills for contributing to clinical trials.

The GCP Refresher course is split in four parts, whereas each part of the course is held as a separate CTU Lecture.

Lecture 1: consists of the basic principles and study project required documentation.

Lecture 2: addresses study preparation and conduct.

Lecture 3: continues on study conduct and project closure.

Lecture 4: is kept flexible and will address additional learning contents such as upcoming regulatory changes or key topics in clinical research.

Evening Round:

- Lecture 1: Wednesday, 29th September 2021, 17.00-17.45, online via zoom
- Lecture 2: Wednesday, 27th October 2021, 17.00-17.45, online via zoom
- Lecture 3: Wednesday, 24th November 2021, 17.00-17.45, online via zoom
- Lecture 4: Wednesday, 8th December 2021, 17.00-17.45, online via zoom

[Link and Registration](#)

REDCap Database Implementation

The course will give an introduction to the Clinical Data Management System REDCap and is designed for persons who plan to set up their own study in REDCap. After the course researchers will be able to set up their own database in REDCap. Target audience: Clinical Researchers, Study Nurses and all persons who would like to set up their own study in REDCap.



Next Training Dates

- Thu, 09. SEPT 2021, 15.00-17.00, Online – Deutsch
- Thu, 07. OCT 2021, 15.00-17.00, online – English
- Thu, 04. NOV 2021, 15.00-17.00, online – German
- Thu, 02. DEC 2021, 15.00-17.00, online – English

Additional dates will follow. Until further notice, all REDCap courses will be offered online. The course participants will receive a personal e-mail with specific instructions on how to login to the digital class room before the course is held.

[Link and Registration](#)

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Gender Equality and Diversity

If you come across interesting news and/ or would like to read about a specific topic related to gender equality and diversity, please let us know (chantal.kottler@insel.ch).

Let's Talk! Dr. med. Tatiana Brémovà-Ertl



What would be your advice to young female and male researchers today with regard to their career?

Go for it! Do what you are passionate about! Try again, fail again- and then try harder! And do not mind any obstacles - because what does not kill you, makes you stronger

P.S. We all can manage it also with the family, if we want one...

1) Outstanding publication on the topic

Ass. Prof. Athina Tzovara of the Institute of Computer Science of the University of Bern and affiliated with our Department (SWEZ/ NeuroTEC), has been co-leading an article on gender bias and ways to increase the representation of women in academia, published in *Neuron*.



Ass. Prof. Athina Tzovara

Contact: athina.tzovara@inf.unibe.ch

Llorens A, Tzovara A, et al. Gender bias in academia: A lifetime problem that needs solutions. *Neuron*. 2021 Jul 7;109(13):2047-2074. doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2021.06.002.

[Press Release UC Berkeley](#)

Neuron



Perspective

Gender bias in academia: A lifetime problem that needs solutions

Anais Llorens,^{1,29,*} Athina Tzovara,^{1,2,3,29,*} Ludovic Bellier,^{1,40} Ilina Bhaya-Grossman,^{4,40} Aurélie Bidet-Caulet,^{5,40} William K. Chang,^{1,40} Zachariah R. Cross,^{5,40} Rosa Dominguez-Faus,^{7,40} Adeen Flinker,^{8,40} Yvonne Fonken,^{1,5,40} Mark A. Gorenstein,^{1,10,40} Chris Holdgraf,^{1,11,40} Colin W. Hoy,^{1,40} Maria V. Ivanova,^{10,40} Richard T. Jimenez,^{1,40} Soyeon Jun,^{1,12,40} Julia W.Y. Kam,^{1,13,40} Celeste Kidd,^{10,40} Eritan Marcelle,^{1,40} Deborah Marciano,^{1,14,40} Stephanie Martin,^{1,15,40} Nicholas E. Myers,^{1,15,40} Karita Ojala,^{1,40} Anat Perry,^{15,40} Pedro Pinheiro-Chagas,^{15,40} Stephanie K. Riebs,^{20,40} Ignacio Saez,^{21,40} Ivan Skelin,^{22,40} Katarina Slama,^{1,40} Brooke Staveland,^{1,14,40} Danielle S. Bassett,^{23,24,41} Elizabeth A. Buffalo,^{25,41} Adrienne L. Fairhall,^{26,41} Nancy J. Kopell,^{27,41} Laura J. Kray,^{14,41} Jack J. Lin,^{28,39,41} Anna C. Nobre,^{16,41} Dylan Riley,^{30,41} Anne-Kristin Solbakk,^{31,32,33,34,41} Joni D. Wallis,^{1,10,41} Xiao-Jing Wang,^{35,41} Shlomit Yuval-Greenberg,^{36,41} Sabine Kastner,^{37,41,42} Robert T. Knight,^{1,10,41,42} and Nina F. Dronkers^{10,36,41,42}

¹Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, USA

²Institute for Computer Science, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

³Sleep Wake Epilepsy Center | NeuroTEC, Department of Neurology, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, University Bern, Bern, Switzerland

⁴Department of Bioengineering, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, USA

⁵Brain Dynamics and Cognition Team, Lyon Neuroscience Research Center, CNRS, INSERM U1028, CNRS UMR 5292, University of Lyon, Lyon, France

⁶Cognitive and Systems Neuroscience Research Hub, University of South Australia, Adelaide, SA, Australia

⁷STEPS Program, University of California, Davis, Sacramento, CA, USA

⁸NYU School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA

⁹Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

¹⁰Department of Psychology, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, USA

¹¹The Berkeley Institute for Data Science, Berkeley, CA, USA

¹²Department of Brain and Cognitive Science College of Natural Sciences, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea

¹³Department of Psychology, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada

¹⁴Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, USA

¹⁵Department of Cognitive Science, University of California, San Diego, San Diego, CA, USA

¹⁶Department of Experimental Psychology and Oxford Centre for Human Brain Activity, Department of Psychiatry, Wellcome Centre for Integrative Neuroimaging, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

¹⁷Institute of Systems Neuroscience, Center for Experimental Medicine, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany

¹⁸Department of Psychology, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel

¹⁹Laboratory of Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience, Stanford Human, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA

Other publications on the topic:

Grisold W, Moro E, Ferretti MT, Hege Aamodt A, Arabia G, Lebedeva ER, Carvalho V, Rakusa M, Vonck K, **Aybeck S**, Mansour AH, Goudier R, Giovannoni G, Jaarsma J, Molnar MJ, Matczack M, **Bassetti C**, de Visser M, EAN Gender, Diversity Issues Task Force. Gender issues during the times of COVID-19 pandemic. *Eur J Neurol*. 2021 Mar 9;10.1111/ene.14815. [doi:10.1111/ene.14815](https://doi.org/10.1111/ene.14815).

Minen MT, Law EF, Harriott A, Seng EK, Hranilovich J, Szperka CL, Wells RE. Challenges to successful research careers in neurology: How gender differences may play a role. *Neurology*. 2020 Aug 25;95(8):349-359. [doi:10.1212/WNL.00000000000010285](https://doi.org/10.1212/WNL.00000000000010285).

Schrouff J, Pischedda D, Genon S, Fryns G, Pinho AL, Vassena E, Liuzzi AG, Ferreira FS. Gender bias in (neuro)science: Facts, consequences, and solutions. *Eur J Neurosci*. 2019 Oct;50(7):3094-3100. [doi:10.1111/ejn.14397](https://doi.org/10.1111/ejn.14397).

2) Insel Gruppe to launch Initiative on Gender Equality

Equality between women and men is rightly and fortunately a mega social issue that will continue to shape the next few years. The Insel Gruppe has clear equality goals and has already taken numerous measures to achieve them - but it is



Gleichstellungsinitiative

Verwaltungsratspräsident
Bernhard Pulver im Interview

not yet where it wants to be when it comes to equality. The Insel Gruppe board of directors therefore decided at its meeting on June 25, 2021 to launch the Insel Gruppe gender equality initiative. [Read here about the initiative and its goals.](#)

3) UniBE Office for Gender Equality: Courses on Presentation Skills and Empowerment for Women

The Office for Gender Equality offers courses as an addition to the continuing education opportunities of the university and the canton. For 2021, the following [courses](#) are still open for registration.

- **Thursday, 21 October 2021**, “*Nie mehr Lampenfieber! Gesehen, gehört und verstanden werden*” (in German), course for female staff of UniBE and Insel; **registration deadline: 23 September 2021**; registration: Ms. Luna Greco, Office for Gender Equality, luna.greco@unibe.ch

- **Wednesday, 27 October 2021**, “The Messenger is the Message”, Presentation training for female docs and postdocs; **registration deadline: 29 September 2021**; registration: Ms. Luna Greco, Office for Gender Equality, luna.greco@unibe.ch

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Recent Publications

Research on COVID-19

- 1) Grisold W, Moro E, Ferretti MT, Hege Aamodt A, Arabia G, Lebedeva ER, Carvalho V, Rakusa M, Vonck K, **Aybeck S**, Mansour AH, Goudier R, Giovannoni G, Jaarsma J, Molnar MJ, Matczack M, **Bassetti C**, de Visser M, EAN Gender, Diversity Issues Task Force. Gender issues during the times of COVID-19 pandemic. *Eur J Neurol.* 2021 Mar 9;10.1111/ene.14815. [doi:10.1111/ene.14815](https://doi.org/10.1111/ene.14815).
- 2) Krzywicka K, **Heldner MR**, et al. Post-SARS-CoV-2-vaccination cerebral venous sinus thrombosis: an analysis of cases notified to the European Medicines Agency. *Eur J Neurol.* 2021 Jul 22. [doi:10.1111/ene.15029](https://doi.org/10.1111/ene.15029).
- 3) **Pistor M**, Hoepner AGF, Lin Y, **Jung S**, **Bassetti CL**, **Chan A**, **Salmen A**, **Hoepner R**. Immunotherapies and COVID-19 mortality: a multidisciplinary open data analysis based on FDA's Adverse Event Reporting System. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2021 Jul 20;annrheumdis-2021-220679. [doi:10.1136/annrheumdis-2021-220679](https://doi.org/10.1136/annrheumdis-2021-220679).

Stroke

- 1) Arnold M, (...) **Arnold M**, **Bicvic A**, **Fischer U**, et al. Lipoprotein(a) is associated with large artery atherosclerosis stroke aetiology and stroke recurrence among patients below the age of 60 years: results from the BIOSIGNAL study. *Eur Heart J.* 2021 Jun 7;42(22):2186-2196. [doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehab081](https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehab081).
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