

University Hospital Department of Neurology **Annual Report 2021**



A Review from the Department Director

Dear readers,

The pandemic made it clear for a second year that a sense of community and individual responsibility for our actions are required to maintain operations and calm the uncertainties of these troubled times.

Firstly, I would like to thank our colleagues, who continually prioritised the greater good above their personal needs last year. We faced new challenges and learned a lot from them. Without this commitment we would not have been able to look back at a successful year.


With innovative projects and the creation of new structures, the University Hospital Department of Neurology is always on the move. Work processes are being optimized and digitized and have a direct impact on our work.

Our research continues to develop; new, future-oriented research groups have been created. As with research, training, professional development and continuing education are important items that we have been able to develop further at all levels thanks to a strong team.

In this report you can read about the most important numbers and facts from the areas of Services, Research

and Training. Furthermore, we take a look back at the most important events at the University Hospital Department of Neurology for the year.

On behalf of the Department Management, I warmly thank all our staff for their excellent commitment and our patients for their trust in us.



Claudio L. Bassetti

Department Director and Dean



University Hospital

Department of Neurology

Department of Neurology offers a wide range of services for both in- and outpatients. The Department has various specialist centers:

- Acute Ward
- Outpatient Neurocenter (ANZ)
- Neuro-Intermediate Care (Neuro-IMC)
- Neuromuscular Center
- Neurorehabilitation
- NeuroTec
- Neurovascular Center
- Emergency and Consultancy Services
- Nursing
- Psychosomatic Medicine
- Sleeping-Waking Epilepsy Center (SWEZ)
- Stroke Center
- FANI Day Clinic (Fast-track Outpatient Neurological Infusion therapies)
- Center for Experimental Neurology (ZEN)
- Center for Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders
- Center for Vision and Perception Disorders

You can find more information at our website:



www.neurologie.insel.ch

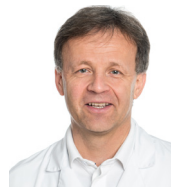
Department Management



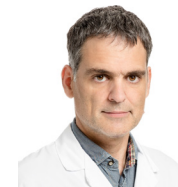
Prof. Dr. med.
Claudio L. Bassetti
Department Director
and Chief Physician



Prof. Dr. med.
Andrew Chan
Chief Physician, Deputy
Department Director, Medical
Director MB Neuro, Head of
Outpatient Neurocenter



Prof. Dr. med.
Marcel Arnold
Chief Physician, Head
Stroke Center and
Neurovascular Center



Prof. Dr. med.
Adrian Guggisberg
Chief Physician, Head of
University Neurorehabilitation
From August 1, 2021



Prof. Dr. med.
Paul Krack
Chief Physician, Head
Center for Parkinson's
Disease and Movement
Disorders



Claudia Kuster Lüthi
Head of Nursing, Neuro-
rehabilitation and Psycho-
somatics



Prof. Dr. med. Dr. sc. nat.
Kaspar Schindler
Deputy Chief Physician,
Head Sleeping-Waking
Epilepsy Center,
Head NeuroTec



Martina Siffert
Department Head of Nursing,
Acute Ward and Stroke Unit
From July 1, 2021



Prof. Dr. med.
Urs Fischer
Head Physician, Head
Acute Neurology and
Co-Head Stroke Center
Until July 31, 2021



Prof. Dr. med.
René Muri
Chief Physician,
Head of University
Neurorehabilitation
Until August 31, 2021



Rosmarie Wyss
Head Nursing Services
Until August 31, 2021

Careers – Congratulations

Promotions

- **Dr. med. Lara Diem**, Senior Physician II, from January 1, 2021
- **Dr. med. Leonidas Panos**, Deputy Senior Physician, from February 1, 2021
- **Dr. med. Rike Barth**, Deputy Senior Physician, from March 1, 2021
- **Dr. med. Alexander Maurer**, Deputy Senior Physician, from March 1, 2021
- **MD Markus Schmidt**, PhD, Senior Physician I, from March 1, 2021
- **Dr. med. univ. Ulfrid Amberger**, Senior Physician II, from April 1, 2021
- **Dr. Hassen Kerkeni**, Senior Physician II, from April 1, 2021
- **Dr. med. Julian Lippert**, Senior Physician II, from July 1, 2021
- **Anja Küng**, Group Leader, from September 1, 2021
- **Dr. med. Dr. sc. nat. Maxime Olivier Baud**, Senior Physician II, from October 1, 2021
- **Dr. med. Gerd Tinkhauser**, PhD, Senior Physician II, from October 1, 2021
- **Dr. med. Lara Chilver-Stainer**, Hospital Specialist I, from November 1, 2021
- **Dr. med. univ. Thomas Horvath**, Hospital Specialist I, from November 1, 2021
- **Prof. Dr. med. Werner Z'Graggen**, Chief Physician for Neurointensive Medicine, from November 1, 2021
- **Larissa Götschl**, Group Leader, from December 1, 2021
- **PD Dr. med. Anke Salmen**, Head Physician, from December 1, 2021
- **Prof. Dr. med. Christoph Schankin**, Head Physician, from December 1, 2021
- **PD Dr. med. Olivier Scheidegger**, Head Physician, from December 1, 2021
- **Karin Weber**, Head of Administration, Neurorehabilitation, from December 1, 2021

Habilitations

- **PD Dr. Carolina Gutierrez Herrera**, Habilitation
- **Prof. Dr. med Hakan Sarikaya**, Titular Professor

Neurology News

Departure of the Head of University Neurorehabilitation, Prof. René Müri

After 26 years in Neurology, including 18 years as Head of University Neurorehabilitation at the Bern and Riggisberg sites, Prof. René Müri retired in September 2021. As co-head, he helped found the interdisciplinary Memory Clinic at the Inselspital, developed the Perception and Oculomotor Laboratory and was also the clinical co-head of the Gerontechnology and Rehabilitation research group at the ARTORG research center of the University of Bern.

Prof. Adrian Guggisberg New Head of University Neurorehabilitation

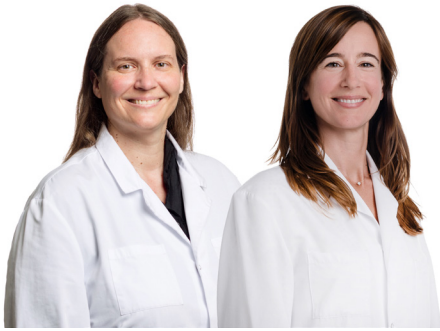
Prof. Adrian Guggisberg started as the Head of University Neurorehabilitation at the Inselspital on August 1, 2021, taking over from Prof. René Müri. In this function, he will manage the planned expansion of Riggisberg Hospital and the implementation of the model of graduated neurorehabilitation.

Prof. Guggisberg completed his doctorate at the University of Bern in 2001 and undertook his internship at the Inselspital, Tiefenau Hospital and the University Hospital of Geneva, receiving his specialist qualification in Neurology in 2009. Since then he has worked and studied at the University Hospital of Geneva, where he was appointed Associate Professor on October 1, 2018.

Reorganization of Nursing Management

Rosmarie Wyss led Nursing Services for 26 years before retiring in the fall of 2021. Nursing has been a part of the independent Nursing Organization with its own budget since January 1, 2021. The function of the Head of Nursing Services was taken over by the Head of Department, led by Head of Nursing of the Neuro department, Ms Barbara Zurschmiede-Dupras.

Martina Siffert has led the department of Nursing in Acute Neurology and the Stroke Unit since September 1, 2021. Claudia Kuster is the new Head of Department for Nursing in Neurorehabilitation and Psychosomatics. Both Nursing Department heads have been working for several years in Neurology and/or at the Inselspital; they now join the Department Management.



Medical Co-Directors of the Psychosomatic Medicine Area

Dr. Nina Bischoff and Prof. Dr. Selma Aybek have been leading the Psychosomatic Medicine area in a temporary capacity since September 2020. They were able to develop the area successfully in this time. The Department Management thus decided in June 2021 to confirm them as Co-Directors of this area.

Opening of the NeuroTec Research Platform

The University Hospital Department of Neurology, together with the University of Bern and sitem-insel, opened the NeuroTec research platform in the fall.



In the context of its translational research activity, NeuroTec investigates the use of modern medical technology for improved treatment of neurological disorders, with the goal of increasing the shift of diagnosis and therapy from the hospital to the home. www.neuro-tec.ch

Equal Opportunity Board

In its meeting on September 6, 2021, the Department Management voted to found a new board to promote and support equal opportunities of men and women in the clinical and academic Neurology setting. Prof. Selma Aybek, Assoc. Lect. Anke Salmen and Prof. Athina Tzovara will share the chairing of the board. The University Hospital Department of Neurology has set itself the goal of strengthening and embedding equal opportunities in all areas of the Department and Research.

Reorganization of the Outpatient Neurocenter (ANZ) Administration

A project to reorganize the administration of the outpatient department began in summer 2021 under the leadership of Beatrix Grigioni, Head of Administration of the ANZ. Organizing the staff into specialist areas allows redundancies to be avoided in the future and collaboration to be improved. The digitalization strategy at the Insel can also be pushed ahead at the same time.



Redesign of the Website

The Department website with the new corporate design of the Insel Group has been online since last summer. New structures simplify web searches for both patients and referrers.

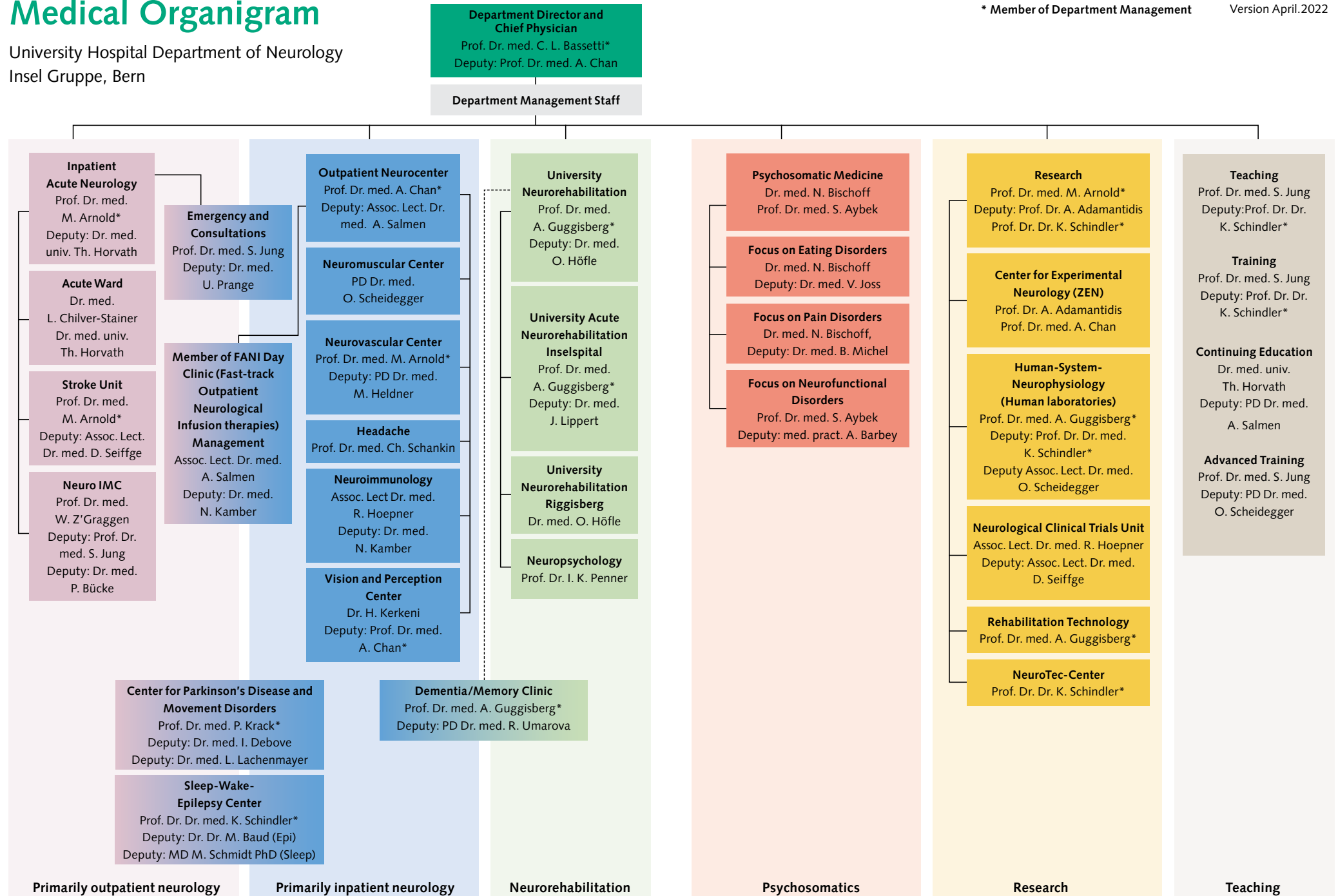
One main focus has been the expansion of the Research website, whereby each research group now has their own page.

Medical Organigram

University Hospital Department of Neurology
Insel Gruppe, Bern

* Member of Department Management

Version April.2022



Teaching and Research

The University Hospital Department of Neurology has over 60 interns and is thus the largest neurology training facility in Switzerland. It is distinguished by very broad neurology training and the support of scientific assistants, also shown in the training curriculum for assistants.

For the 2020 reporting year, the Department of Neurology placed first in the Medical Faculty's research evaluation. Of the Inselspital and UPD's 38 departments and institutes, Neurology achieved the overall top performance in the areas of publications, citations and third-party funds.

Maxime Baud Receives the SNSF Eccellenza Professorial Fellowship

The Eccellenza research prize, designed to support young researchers in developing their own research field, was awarded by the Swiss National Science Foundation for the final time in 2021. One of the prize winners was Dr. med. et Dr. phil. nat. Maxime Baud, Senior Physician at the Sleeping-Waking Epilepsy Center (SWEZ). His research project «Dynamical Control of Seizures» allows reliable prediction of epileptic seizures.



www.neurologie.insel.ch/de/aktuelles/details/news/vorhersage-von-epileptischen-anfaellen

SNSF Ambizione Grant for Dr. med. Gerd Tinkhauser

Dr. med. Gerd Tinkhauser has received an Ambizione grant for his project «Adaptive neuromodulation in movement disorders – a precision medicine approach», which runs for 4 years. Apart from his own salary and funding for one postdoc and one PhD student, the grant also covers project materials.

Extension of the Interfaculty Sleep Research Collaboration

The interfaculty research collaboration (IFK) «Decoding Sleep», funded by the University of Bern, has spent the past 2 years reorienting sleep research at a local level including various disciplines and networking these internationally. The University Management has thus decided to extend the IFK under the leadership of Prof. Claudio Bassetti for a further 2 years with an annual budget of CHF 1.5 million.

Strategic Research Funding of the Medical Faculty

The Strategic Research Funding of the Medical Faculty is supporting the project «A digital reference network platform for clinical and experimental neuroscience – deep phenotyping and data integration» under the leadership of Prof. R. Wiest (Neuroradiology), Prof. A. Chan (Neurology) and Prof. T. Nef (ARTORG) with CHF 800 000 for a duration of 2 years.

Fellowships

The internal funding program for young researchers sought applications again in 2021. Grants for «protected research time» were awarded in the form of the «Excellence in Diversity Fellowships», the funding instrument for female researchers. The «Research Grants in Neurology» and «Bridge Scholarships in Translational Research in Neurology» were also again highly successful.

Third-party Funding and Grants

The third-party funding disbursed by the SNSF in 2021 totalled CHF 2.1 million and was thus slightly below that of the preceding year. The remaining competitive grants totalled CHF 3.28 million.

Publications

Publication type	Number
Original work in-house	70
Original work collaborations	123
Review in-house	29
Other publications	53
Not classified	28
Total	303

The most important publications from the University Hospital Department of Neurology included:

– Proix T, Truccolo W, Leguia MG, Tcheng TK, King-Stephens D, Rao VR, Baud MO. Forecasting seizure risk in adults with focal epilepsy: a development and validation study. *Lancet Neurol.* 2021 Feb;20(2):127–135. doi:10.1016/S1474-4422(20)30396-3.

- Weiss D, Volkmann J, Fasano A, Kühn A, Krack P, † Deuschl G, †. Changing Gears – DBS For Dopaminergic Desensitization in Parkinson's Disease? Ann Neurol. 2021 Nov; 90(5): 699-710. doi:10.1002/ana.26164.
- Wipke BT,* Hoepner R,* Strassburger-Krogias K, Thomas AM, MS, Gianni D, Szak S, Brennan MS, Pistor M, Gold R, Chan A, † Scannevin RH,†. Different Fumaric Acid Esters Elicit Distinct Pharmacologic Responses. Neurol Neuroimmunol Neuroinflamm. 2021 Jan 19;8(2):e950. doi:10.1212/NXI.0000000000000950.
- Sánchez van Kammen M,* Heldner MR,* Brodard J, Scutelnic A, Silvis S, Schroeder V, Kremer 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, Tatlisumak 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; 326(4): 332–338. doi:10.1001/jama.2021.9889.
- Schindler KA, Nef T, Baud MO, Tzovara A, Yilmaz G, Tinkhauser G, Gerber SM, Gnarr O, Warncke JD, Schütz N, Knobel SEJ, Schmidt MH, Krack P, Fröhlich F, Sznitman R, Rothen S, Bassetti CLA. NeuroTec Sitem-Insel Bern: Closing the Last Mile in Neurology. Clin. Transl. Neurosci. 2021, 5(2), 13; doi:10.3390/ctn5020013

Advanced Training

The University Hospital Department of Neurology offers a high-quality advanced training program for established neurologists, general physicians and hospital physicians. Last year, the «Adult and pediatric neuromuscular diseases» symposium was held for the first time. The annual program can be viewed on the website.

www.neuronews.ch

Our Year in Figures

Department of Neurology

Discharges	3510
Number of employees as at December 31, 2021	560
Number of beds as at December 31, 2021	132
Outpatient consultations	47 700
Case mix index	1,7

These figures are compiled from the following departments:

Acute Neurology

Discharges	2591
Outpatient consultations	33 600

Neurorehabilitation

Discharges to early rehabilitation	57
Discharges to neurorehabilitation	551
Outpatient consultations	3 900

Psychosomatic Medicine

Discharges	311
Outpatient consultations	10 200

Employees	560
Academic personnel	70
Medical personnel	135
Med. techn. and therapeutic personnel	69
Administrative personnel	78
Nursing personnel	208

3510
Discharges



560
employees



132
beds



47 700
Outpatient consultations



22
Ongoing SNSF projects



303
Number of publications



Outlook

Start of the Continuing Education Program MAS Stroke Medicine

The MAS Stroke Medicine continuing education program started in spring 2022. The CME program was conceived by Prof. Urs Fischer in Bern and is oriented to medical practitioners, researchers and other healthcare professionals and covers the entire spectrum of stroke care and research over five semesters.

An attractive learning platform has been created under the leadership of Prof. Simon Jung, the Chair of the Program Committee, that allows students from around the world access to the study materials. The contents have been provided from the most renowned stroke experts from around the world.

Launch of the Dementia Symposium

In early 2022, the Department will hold its first symposium on the topic of dementia under the leadership of Prof. Claudio Bassetti. The Neurocenter offers a



comprehensive range of services for the diagnosis and care of patients; it has conducted the highest quality dementia research for several years. The University Hospital Department of Neurology will also be able to fill a Professorial Chair for Dementia in 2022.

Opening of the Swiss Sleep House Bern

The University Hospital Department of Neurology will open the Swiss Sleep House Bern at the Tiefenau Hospital site on November 29, 2022. This forms the first center of excellence for sleeping and sleep health in Switzerland, providing a point of contact and consultation service for people and companies with questions and problems regarding sleep.

Contact Us

General Enquiries

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kommunikation.neurologie@insel.ch

Other Addresses



Other addresses and an overview of referral forms can be found on our website.

www.neurologie.insel.ch/de/kontakt



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