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

March / April 2022

Content

Just Asking...
Congratulations
Calls for Grants and Prizes
Important Dates
Support
Gender Equality and Diversity
Recent Publications
Contact
Just Asking…

Prof. Dr. phil. Dipl.-Psych. Iris-Katharina Penner

What are your main research interest?

As a cognitive neuroscientist and neuropsychologist, I am driven by a distinct enthusiasm to understand brain function in the healthy and the injured brain, to study and enhance neuroplasticity and to implement these topics in the context of neurorehabilitation. In my work, I pay particular attention to the creative development of new methodological procedures for diagnosing and treating neurodegenerative and inflammatory diseases of the central nervous system and implementing these procedures in standard clinical care. National, international and global organizations acknowledge my expertise in the field of human cognition and fatigue and I am passionate about supporting these organizations as a specialized consultant, speaker and KOL.

What is your motivation to do research?

That is quite easy to answer: I am fascinated by the brain!

When we talk about the ability of thinking you will quickly realize that thinking represents a very complex capability of the human brain. If the brain is functioning properly, the topic of brain health is not addressed much. However, when mental abilities change in the course of increasing age or in the context of neurological-neuropsychiatric diseases, e.g. becoming unfocused or forgetful, our awareness of the value of a well-functioning brain starts growing tremendously.

We live in a society that is getting older and in which diseases can be diagnosed at an increasingly early stage, including diseases that can influence brain function. Maintaining mental abilities is therefore of particular personal, psychosocial and health-economic importance. In my view, a solid education of the (still) healthy people about functional brain anatomy and factors that negatively impact brain health would increase the understanding and awareness that each of us has to care for his / her own brain. In patients, education about symptoms and pathophysiology helps to increase their self-efficacy and coping, and hence represents a method of increasing interest in research and clinical day-to-day work. Thus, empowering patients and society by educational programs for brain health represents one of my leading research interests. And what I find most charming about the aforementioned
research topics is that they can be best realized in interdisciplinary settings as found here at the University Hospital in Bern. Therefore, a large part of my motivation to do research is based on translational medicine, which for me represents the most exciting environment to work in.

Iris-Katharina Penner is Head of the Neuropsychology Department of Neurology and Neurehabilitation, Department of Neurology, Inselspital Bern, University Hospital, University of Bern, Switzerland. Contact: iris-katharina.penner@insel.ch
Congratulations

1) Funding for Scholars from Ukraine (in chronological order)

(Find more information on measures and funding possibilities for scholars from Ukraine in section Support, below)

Prof. Dr. med. Claudio L.A. Bassetti  
Main Applicant

Dr. med. Kseniia Zub  
Regional Clinic Charkiw (Ukraine)

Funding Institution: Swiss National Science Foundation – Additional Funding for Running Project Funding (Link)

Title: Swiss Primary Hypersomnolence and Narcolepsy Cohort Study

Awarded Grant: CHF 45'598.00
Funding Institution: SNSF/ Scholars at Risk Scholarships (SNF/SAR)
Title: Intracranial atherosclerotic stenoses in stroke patients with symptomatic disease in different vascular beds
Awarded Grant: CHF 110’000
Duration: 12 months at the Stroke Center (with possible prolongation)

Funding Institution: SNSF/ Scholars at Risk Scholarships (SNF/SAR) Organized by Mirjam Heldner
Title: Surveillance of primary liver cancer in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease
Awarded Grant: CHF 110’000
Duration: 12 months at the Bauchzentrum (with possible prolongation)
2) Awarded Grants (in chronological order)

Prof. Dr. med. Adrian Guggisberg

Funding Institution: SNSF Project Funding (Link)

Title: Improving visual perception and visuo-motor learning with neurofeedback of brain network interaction

Awarded Grant: CHF 824'121 (4 years)

Samantha Weber, PhD Candidate Psychosomatic Medicine

Funding Institution: Medical Faculty UniBE (Link)

Funding Instrument: «Finanzierung zur Anstellungsverlängerung von Nachwuchsforschenden aufgrund COVID-19»

Awarded Grant: Funding for 3 additional months for the completion of PhD thesis

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. med. Selma Aybek

Jana Remlinger, PhD Candidate Neuroimmunology

Funding Institution: Medical Faculty UniBE (Link)

Funding Instrument: «Finanzierung zur Anstellungsverlängerung von Nachwuchsforschenden aufgrund COVID-19»

Awarded Grant: Funding for 3 additional months for the completion of PhD thesis

Supervisor: PD Dr. med. Anke Salmen
Maud Bagnoud, PhD

Funding Institution: Burgergemeinde Bern (Link)

Title: Validation of a predictive model of glucocorticoid resistance in relapsing multiple sclerosis patients

Awarded Grant: CHF 5’000

3) Awarded Prizes (in chronological order)

PD Dr. med. Mirjam Heldner  Prof. Dr. med. Marcel Arnold

Shared first Authorship  Co-Author

Have received the European Journal of Neurology Award (EJoN) 2022 awarded by the European Academy of Neurology for their publication:

Prof. Dr. med. Claudio L. A. Bassetti has received the «Premio Speciale al Merito 2021» of the city of Bellinzona.

4) Appointments

Dr. med. Lara Diem
Inselspital Bern

Dr. med. Mayssam Nehme
HUG

Have been appointed co-chairs of the medizinische Arbeitsgruppe Long-COVID-19 BAG/FMH.
5) Media Highlights

**Prof. Dr. Antoine Adamantidis, PhD**

In the “36.9” program of RTS (Radio Télévision Suisse) on March 16, 2022, Prof. Antione Adamantidis and the ZEN-team discuss “les troubles du sommeil paradoxal”.

Watch the program [here](#).

---

**Prof. Dr.med. Claudio Claudio L. A. Bassetti**  
**Prof. Dr.sc. Tobias Nef**

In the “SRF Puls” program on March 28, 2022 on healthy sleep, Prof. Claudio Bassetti and Prof. Tobias Nef from the research platform NeuroTec research discuss the possibilities and limits of modern sleep measurement.

Watch the program [here](#).
Call for Grants and Prizes

SNSF: Investigator Initiated Clinical Trials (IICT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus of the grant:</th>
<th>IICT; Clinical research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eligible for:</td>
<td>Advanced Researchers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The IICT program is targeted at researchers who wish to conduct an investigator initiated clinical trial.
- Support will be given to trials that are of value to the patients and address important unmet medical and societal needs but are not in industry focus.
- Project partners are researchers who contribute to a research project through cooperation without being responsible for the project.
- **Submission Deadline Letter of Intent: 20 May 2022** [Link]

SNG Stipendium 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus of the grant:</th>
<th>Research Stay Abroad; Clinical research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eligible for:</td>
<td>Young Researchers (without FMH)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Fellowship for young clinicians without FMH title.
- Funding for research project or research stay abroad.
- Maximum funding of CHF 10’000.
- **Submission Deadline: 31 May 2022** [Link]
Young Talents in Clinical Research 2022

Focus of the grant: Protected Research Time; Clinical research
Eligible for: Young Researchers (AA)

- By funding protected time for research and project grants, «Young Talents in Clinical Research» contributes to improving the quality of clinical research in Switzerland.
- Beginner grant to finance «protected research time»: max. CHF 75'000 per person, spread over 1 to 2 years.
- Project grant for a consecutive research project: max. CHF 40'000 per year for up to 2 years.
- Who can apply: Assistant doctors working in Switzerland having obtained their medical degree no more than five years.
- Submission Deadline: 30 June 2022 [Link]

SNSF: Consolidator Grants 2022

Focus of the grant: Project Funding; Basic and Clinical Research
Eligible for: Advanced researchers (postdoc level; 7 – max. 12 years after PhD)

- Due to Switzerland's current status of non-associated third-country in Horizon Europe, the SNSF has launched the new transitional measure ‘SNSF Consolidator Grants 2022’ on behalf of the Swiss government.
- It is aimed at researchers (based in Switzerland or abroad) who planned to apply for an ERC Consolidator Grant in 2022.
• Successful applicants will be able to conduct research in Switzerland and consolidate their scientific independence.

• Submission Deadline: 1 June 2022 Link

Other Open Calls for Proposals

• SNF Research Equipment (R’Equip) Deadline: 2 May 2022 Link

• UniBern Forschungsstiftung Deadline: 2 May 2022 Link

• SNSF Sinergia Deadline: 16 May 2022 Link

• Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious Diseases: Early-Career Research Grant for Women Deadline: 20 May 2022 Link

• SNSF: Investigator Initiated Clinical Trials (IICT) Deadline: 20 May 2022 Link

• Insel Gruppe/DLF: Nachwuchsförderungs-Grant für Patientenorientierte Forschung Deadline: 31 May 2022 Link Internal Deadline Research Board: 15 May 2022

• Faculty of Medicine: Nachwuchsförderungs-Grant für Translationale Forschung Deadline: 31 May 2022 Link Internal Deadline Research Board: 15 May 2022

• SNG Scholarship 2022 Deadline: 31 May 2022 Link

• SNG Prize 2022 Deadline: 31 May 2022 Link

• Prof. Dr. Max Cloëtta Foundation: Clinical Medicine Plus Scholarships Deadline: 31 May 2022 Link

• Preis der Mogens und Wilhem Ellermann-Stiftung Deadline: 31 May 2022 Link

• Forschungs-Förderungspreis der Schweizerischen Epilepsie-Liga Deadline: 31 May 2022 Link

• SNSF Consolidator Grant 2022 Deadline: 1 June 2022 Link
• **Baasch-Medicus-Foundation**  
  Deadline: 30 June 2022 [Link](#)

• **Synapsis Foundation: Career Development Award**  
  Deadline: 26 June 2022 [Link](#)

• **Synapsis Foundation: Research Grants for Principal Investigators**  
  Deadline: 26 June 2022 [Link](#)

• **Prof. Dr. Max Cloëtta Foundation: Medical Research Positions**  
  Deadline: 30 June 2022 [Link](#)

• **Vize Rektorat Forschung UniBE: Investitionsfonds**  
  Deadline: 30 June 2022 [Reglement, Antragsformular 2022, Zeitplan](#)

• **Bangerter-Rhyner Stiftung: Young Talents in Clinical Research**  
  Deadline: 30 June 2022 [Link](#)

• **Nachwuchs-Forschungs-Preis Mogens und Wilhelm Ellermann-Stiftung 2022**  
  Deadline: 30 June 2022 [Link](#)

• **UniBern ID Grants**  
  Deadline: 28 August 2022 [Link](#)
Important Dates

- **ESOC 2022**, 4 – 6 May 2022, Lyon, France [Link]
- **EAN Annual Congress**, 25 - 28 June 2022, Vienna, Austria [Link]
- **SNS Academy 2022**, 30 June – 2 July 2022, Inselspital Bern [Link]
- **Day of Biomedical Research 2022**, 6 July 2022, Auditorium Ettore Rossi, Kinderklinik, Inselspital Bern [Link]
- **ICTALS 2022**, *the tipping point*, 4 – 8 July 2022, University of Bern, Registration closes on 30 April 2022 [Link]
- **5. SFCNS Congress**, 28 – 30 September 2022, Basel [Link]
- **ECTRIMS 2022**, 26 – 28 October 2022, Amsterdam [Link]
- **SHS Headache-Symposium**, 24 November 2022, CHUV Lausanne [Link]

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

1) Medical Faculty: Measures and Funding Opportunities for Students and Scholars from Ukraine

Current Measures
Along with the University of Bern, the Medical Faculty stands in solidarity with the Ukraine and its universities. The Medical Faculty offers a set of measures and recommendations to help those affected. [Link]

Fundraising Campaign
The Medical Faculty initiated a fundraising campaign through the Swiss Red Cross in aid of Ukraine. The donations contribute to humanitarian aid for those affected in Ukraine. [Link]

2) SNSF: PRIMA and Eccellenza become SNSF Professorial Fellowships

- The two schemes at the highest level of SNSF career funding are to be merged: PRIMA and Eccellenza become SNSF Professorial Fellowships
- Both schemes are aimed at outstanding researchers who are on their way to becoming professors. The existing PRIMA budget will continue to be reserved for women.
- Deadlines will be 1 November and 1 February [Link]

3) Open Access Publication Fund at the University of Bern: Agreement with Frontiers

- As part of the national Open Access Fund initiative of swissuniversities, a deal has been reached with Frontiers. This pilot project will last until the end of 2022 and concerns all publications in Frontiers journals, as long as they fulfil the OA Fund's criteria and as long as the Frontiers fund is not depleted.
- Such publications benefit from: 10% Discount on APCs and direct payment of the APCs without separate application procedure [Link]
4) Euresearch Event Series "Horizon Europe – it’s possible"

- The Grants Office of the University of Bern cordially invites you to the event series "Horizon Europe – it’s possible".
- This event series aim is to show that Swiss participation in Horizon Europe is still possible and worthwhile and to help you navigate the available career and project funding opportunities.

  - "Horizon Europe - funding opportunities for established researchers in Switzerland": 8 June 2022, 10.00-11.00, online, no registration is required. (for established researchers; collaborative projects)

  - "Horizon Europe - research funding for early career researchers": 10 June 2022, 10.00-11.00, online, no registration is required. (for early career researchers; funding opportunities for career development)

5) Trainings and Workshop

CTU Trainings:

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 2022: Link and Registration

Statistics using STATA

In this workshop we will learn how to do statistical inference with Stata. Basic statistical methods for the analysis of continuous, binary, count and time-to-event data will be covered, e.g. linear and logistic regression, or Cox proportional hazard models.

Next Training Dates 2022: Link and Registration

For other CTU Trainings and Courses, check the CTU website here.
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).

Gender-appropriate Language

The Insel Gruppe has issued guidelines for gender-appropriate language. Find here the most important information: [Link]

Read also the guidelines for gender-appropriate language of the University of Bern: [Link]

Awareness of Gender Bias

Unconscious gender bias is affecting us in our every-day work life. The Equal Opportunities Board of the Department of Neurology wants to raise awareness by referring to the information campaigns of the Insel Gruppe and the University of Bern.

[Information campaign Insel Gruppe]

Watch also the video of UniBE ([click on the picture])

[Information campaign of University of Bern]

Publication on the topic:


back
Recent Publications

**Neuroimmunology**


**Stroke**


Neuromuscular Center


Headache


**ZfPB**


**SWEZ**


**Psychosomatic Medicine**


Dizziness (Ganglabor)


Neuropsychology


Contact

For any comments on the newsletter as well as all research related questions, please contact:

Chantal Kottler
chantal.kottler@insel.ch
031 66 4 06 19