
Assembly of Delegates elects Marcel Tanner president of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

Bern, 8 May 2020

The Assembly of Delegates has elected Marcel Tanner president of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences. He is taking over the presidency in the important phase of implementation of the ERI (education, research, innovation) message 2021-24. Placing science at the service of politics and the population - this is what he wants to work for in the association of academies. Currently, the former director of the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute is doing just this as a member of the Federal Government's Covid19 Task Force.

Marcel Tanner sees the role and strength of the academies in the dialogue between science, politics and society. "The academies have a large network in science, but are also deeply-rooted in private and non-profit organizations." The president wants to harness this potential in the association of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences. Making transparent what science can achieve and which issues have yet to be clarified - in his view this applies to health just as it does to digitization and sustainable-development issues. The three priorities of the 2021-24 multi-year plan show very clearly how important cooperation is within the scientific community, because one discipline on its own cannot produce new developments such as "Hospital at Home" or the formation of overarching consortia in the area of climate.

Responsibility, respect and an interdisciplinary approach

As president a.i. and president of the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences, Marcel Tanner knows the concerns and needs of the scientific community that is united under the umbrella of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, just as he knows transdisciplinary cooperation. For him, responsibility and respect have always been central to his activities in research and implementation partnerships in the public and private sectors in Europe, Africa and Asia. As a scientist in infection biology, epidemiology and public health, he has published more than 650 papers - the insights of which he contributes as a consultant to WHO, public-private partnerships or currently for the Federal Government. In the Covid19 Task Force, he heads the Public Health group of experts and helps to relate the insights from areas such as care, testing, prevention and immunization to one another and to combine them into strategies for action.

Marcel Tanner: interview and biography

→ in [German](#) or in [French](#)

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The **Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences** are an association of the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences (SCNAT), the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAHS), the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS), the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW) and the Swiss Young Academy (SYA). They further comprise the two centres of excellence TA-SWISS (Foundation for Technology Assessment) and Science et Cité, as well as other scientific networks. The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences network the sciences regionally, nationally and internationally. They represent scientific communities on a disciplinary and interdisciplinary basis and independently of institutions and subjects. Their network is geared to the long term and committed to scientific excellence. They advise politics and society on knowledge-based and socially-relevant issues.

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