

Patient oriented research in Switzerland

Strengths

- Existing clinical research networks (SCTO (CTUs), SAKK, Swiss-PedNet, ECRIN)
- Strong basic science structures (EPFL, ETH, Universities)
- Strong existing projects in translational research and systems medicine
- Strong expertise in epidemiology
- SNF funded cohorts, NCCRs, biobank coordination, hospital cohorts

Opportunities

- Willingness to harmonise basic science and clinical research structures
- Coordination results in larger dataset
- Common SOPs and quality criteria result in better datasets
- Also university hospitals need patient registries for quality assurance and HSM (no national funding)

Weaknesses

- No harmonised patient database system at hospitals, no healthy control groups
- Limited experience with new HFG (federal act on research involving humans)
- Limited awareness of basic scientists how much success depends on clinical data quality and phenotyping
- Limited awareness of clinicians of quality requirements in basic science
- Limited awareness of patients needs

Threats

- Success depends on coordination of structures and projects
- Local interests, specialist groups
- Political situation Switzerland-EU
- Financial pressure on hospitals
- Limited interest of young clinicians in research