

# NEWSLETTER

Zurich, June 2023

## Dear Friends of the SWISS BRIDGE Foundation

We are pleased to present the latest issue of the SWISS BRIDGE newsletter.

Unfortunately, we were blindsided by the sad news of Thomas Hoepli's death earlier this year.

Thomas established the foundation in 1997 with the aim of supporting high-quality domestic and international research projects in the fight against cancer. His goal was to provide financial support to high-quality domestic and international research projects in the battle against cancer with the help of private donors and foundations. Since then, SWISS BRIDGE has funded research projects worldwide in excess of CHF 45 million.

This success story is built not only on the researchers' deep commitment and thirst for knowledge, but also, and above all, on the generosity and support of donors. It is only through their contributions that we are able to financially support selected research projects submitted to us. We are convinced that the knowledge gained in cancer research will continue to enable advances that improve the chances of patient survival and their quality of life in the future.

In 2023, we will again support numerous research projects, some of which we have listed in this issue. The [SWISS BRIDGE AWARD](#) is also currently in its critical phase, and we look forward to seeing which scientists the SWISS BRIDGE Scientific jury will select as winners.

We hope you enjoy reading this report and look forward to continuing our successful partnership.

Kind Regards



Prof. Dr.  
Jakob Passwag  
President

*Jakob Passwag*



Philipp Lücke  
CEO

*Philipp Lücke*

## EVENTS

### SWISS BRIDGE AWARD 2023

**AWARD  
2023**



## CANCER THERAPY RESISTANCE

Since 2000, the **SWISS BRIDGE AWARD** has been granted to support high-quality cancer research projects in Europe. This year, young investigators (under the age of 45 holding a PhD or MD) with projects focusing on cancer therapy resistance are eligible for application.

Topic: Cancer therapy resistance  
Prize money: CHF 500'000

The award ceremony for this year's winners of the **SWISS BRIDGE AWARD 2023** will take place on October 24th at noon at the magnificently situated Restaurant Heugümper in Zurich. If you would like to be present at the ceremony, please use the attached form or send us an email: [info@swissbridge.ch](mailto:info@swissbridge.ch)

## SAVE THE DATE!

After work Golf-Event  
Golf Club Sagogn  
Wednesday, 23rd August 2023



Interested?  
Please use  
the enclosed  
form!



## SUMMARY OF CURRENT PROJECTS 2023

**Title: Development of a new surgical technique to de-escalate axillary surgery for breast cancer**

Research lead: Prof. Dr. Walter P. Weber, Head of Division Breast Surgery, University Hospital Basel, Study Lead  
Budget: CHF 284'000

**Title: Autophagy: a potential new approach to the treatment of lymphoma**

Research lead: Prof. Dr. med. Urban Novak, Deputy Chief Physician, University Clinic for Medical Oncology Bern (Study Lead). Budget: CHF 226'600 p.a.

**Title: Potential for optimization of the patient pathway before and after removal of the urinary bladder**

Research lead: Dr. Richard Cathomas - Co-Head Physician Oncology/ Hematology - Cantonal Hospital Graubünden / Chur, PD Dr. med. Christian Daniel Fankhauser, MD Clinic for Urology, Cantonal Hospital Lucerne  
Budget: CHF 119'560 for 2 years

**Title: Childhood Cancer, Targeting the kinome in oncofusion-driven pediatric gliomas**

Research lead: Dr. MD PhD Ana S. Stücklein, Department of Oncology and Children's Research Center, University Children's Hospital Zurich. Budget: CHF 125'000 p.a.

**Title: Childhood Cancer: Identifying novel therapeutic targets for childhood brain tumors using CRISPR in vivo screens in orthotropic mouse models**

Research lead: Dr. PhD David T.W. Jones, Hopp Children's Cancer Center Heidelberg  
Budget: EUR 125'000 p.a.

**Title: Natural killer cells as immunotherapy in patients with leukemia**

Research lead: Dr. med. & Dr. phil. Matyas Ecsedi Clinic for Hematology, University Hospital Basel,  
Budget: CHF 165'000 p.a.

Curious about how to support a project? With help of our scientific jury, we would be pleased to find individual cancer research projects for you in Switzerland or abroad. Please get in touch!

### WHY SWISS BRIDGE?

What sets us apart from the rest in the field of cancer research is the extremely positive feedback we have received from all our partners:

-  Distinguished reputation of the SWISS BRIDGE AWARD  
Identification of specific projects in Switzerland and in other countries
-  Professional scientific jury
-  Designated donations are made available in full to screened and selected cancer researchers & projects
-  Low costs for advertising, PR, IT and fees, covered by supporters & friends of the foundation

This unique concept enables us to look to the future with optimism and take another important step in the fight against cancer!

Donations: Credit Suisse, 8070 Zurich, IBAN: CH52 0483 5095 7385 1100 0



Traurig und tief betroffen müssen wir Abschied nehmen von

## Thomas Hoepli

16. Dezember 1945 – 18. März 2023

Thomas Hoepli war der Gründer der SWISS BRIDGE Foundation. Über Jahrzehnte hat er sich mit unermüdlichem persönlichen Engagement für die Krebsforschung eingesetzt. Unzählige Projekte weltweit konnte er durch seinen immensen unternehmerischen Weitblick fördern. Der von ihm ins Leben gerufene SWISS BRIDGE Award hat sich als namhafter Preis in der europäischen Krebsforschung etabliert. 2017 wurde er für sein Lebenswerk von der Krebsliga Schweiz mit dem «Anerkennungspreis» ausgezeichnet.

SWISS BRIDGE ist ihm für sein Wirken und Führen der Stiftung äusserst dankbar. Wir trauern um einen liebenswerten Menschen, vor allem aber um einen engagierten Philanthropen. Wir werden Thomas sehr vermissen und ihn in ehrendem Andenken behalten.

Den Angehörigen sprechen wir unser tief empfundenes Beileid aus und wünschen ihnen in diesen schweren Stunden viel Trost und Kraft.

SWISS BRIDGE Foundation, P.O.Box 1556, 8027 Zürich, info@swissbridge.ch

*Prof. Dr. Jakob Passweg*      *Philipp Lücke*  
*Präsident*                              *CEO*

Die Abschiedsfeier findet am Freitag, 31. März 2023 um 14.30 Uhr im evangelischen Bergkirchlein Lenzerheide statt. Urnenbeisetzung im engsten Familienkreis.

Anstelle von Blumen war es der Wunsch von Thomas Hoepli, sein Lebenswerk mit einer entsprechenden Spende zu versehen: SWISS BRIDGE Foundation – Credit Suisse, 8070 Zurich, IBAN CH52 0483 5095 7385 1100 0, Vermerk Thomas Hoepli.

## ORGANIZATION

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### Administration

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