

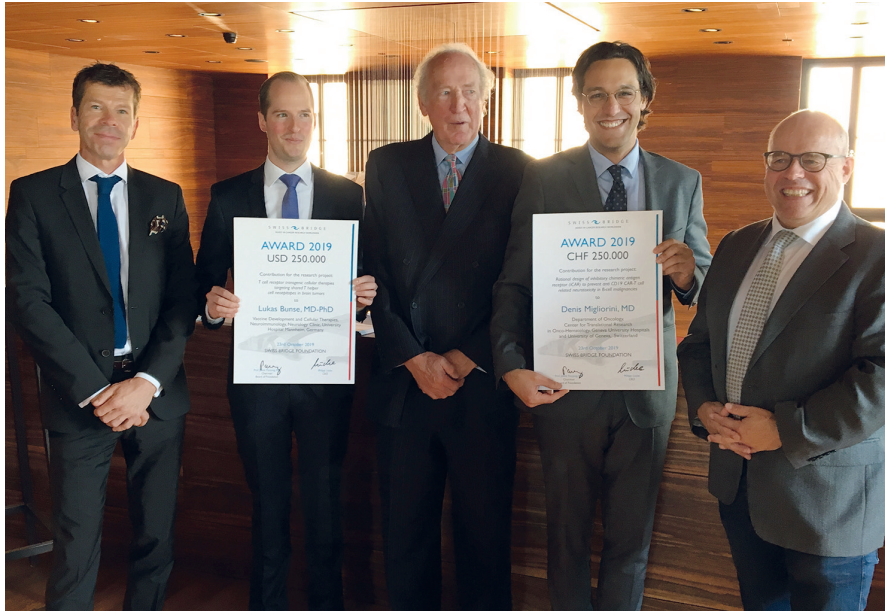


NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS  2019

SWISS BRIDGE Award 2019 – 500'000 CHF

Prize Awarded for the Further Development of Cellular Immunotherapies



October, 23rd, uniTurm, Zurich

Europe-wide Competition among Researchers

A research team from Germany and one from Switzerland share this year's SWISS BRIDGE Award. A total of 52 young researchers from all over Europe competed for the SWISS BRIDGE Award 2019. In a two-stage evaluation process, the jury of renowned experts in their final selection gave priority to two projects.

Philipp Lücke (CEO),
Dr. Lukas Bunse (German Cancer Research Center Heidelberg),
Prof. Gordon McVie (Chairman of Scientific Jury),
Dr. Denis Migliorini (University Hospital of Geneva),
Prof. Jakob Passweg (Chairman)

New cellular immunotherapies cannot be compared with classical drugs.

Drugs are clearly defined chemical substances, but the new treatments are alive; using cancer patients' immune systems from their own bodies to fight cancer at the cellular level. Patients' cells are genetically modified and multiplied in a laboratory – then transferred back into their bodies, where the cells can act with increased strength against degenerated tumour cells, thanks to genetic upgrading. In some patients, cellular immunotherapies lead to spectacular successes. However, at times, such treatments fail for other patients. Therefore, more research is needed to further develop this new and promising treatment so that more patients can benefit from it.

Alleviate Neurotoxic Side Effects

Dr. Denis Migliorini and his team want to reduce the considerable neurotoxic side effects of currently approved immunotherapies. Nerve damage occurs in 30 to 50 percent of patients. The spectrum ranges from temporary neurological deficits (such as disorders when walking or speaking) to severe seizures and comatose states, which can be fatal in some cases. Migliorini and his team recently discovered that the target molecule of the genetically modified immune cells is found not only on the surface of cancer cells, but also on the surface of pericytes. The pericytes form the blood vessel walls in the brain and play a central role in the blood-brain barrier. In their research project, Migliorini and his team hope to equip the patients' immune cells with an additional gene that enables the genetically modified cells to differentiate between the cancer cells and the pericytes; thus only killing the cancer cells.

Immunotherapies for Brain Tumours

Until now, cellular immunotherapies have been particularly successful in combating various types of blood cancer. Dr. Lukas Bunse and his team are trying to extend this treatment method to gliomas. These are tumours that infiltrate the brain – and due to their invasive growth, they cannot be cured, even by surgical removal. In previous studies, Bunse and his team have identified promising target molecules in glioma cells.

They are now planning to produce new genetically modified immune cells in their research project – and then test these cells – first with animal models and then with patients – in order to see whether these immune cells are able to prevent the growth of gliomas.

Donor's account: Credit Suisse, Zurich
IBAN: CH52 0483 5095 7385 110



www.swissbridge.ch



SWISS BRIDGE

INVEST IN CANCER RESEARCH WORLDWIDE

NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS  2019

20th SWISS BRIDGE Award 2020

Of course, we will also be sponsoring the SWISS BRIDGE Award in the coming year. This will be the 20th time we've offered the award. It is a source of great pride for the foundation that in the intervening years the award has become an important, if not the most important, prize for cancer-research in all of Europe.

SWISS BRIDGE's scientific jury has already selected the theme of next year's Award, and it has been approved by the foundation board:

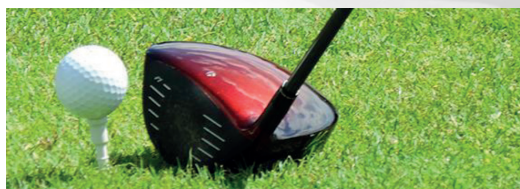
Basic and translational research in childhood cancer

Once again, we will endow the award at the level of at least CHF 500'000. We invite you to take part in this unique project.

After Work Golf Event for Supporters and Friends of the Foundation

Once again, we held our SWISS BRIDGE golf evening on June 5, at the glorious Unterengstringen Golf Club.

It was a wonderful day of golf and a delightfully convivial evening. Many thanks to everyone who turned up and to all the sponsors for the outstanding support for this event.



Save the date:

The tradition continues in 2020.

We are already looking forward to your participation:
17 June 2020, Golf Club Meggen.



SWISS BRIDGE
INVEST IN CANCER RESEARCH WORLDWIDE

Board of Foundation

Prof. Dr. Jakob Passweg (Chairman)
Eleonore E. Droux
Thomas Hoepfli
Dr. Thomas Peter
Yves Monnard

Honorary Chairman

Prof. Dr. Giorgio Nosedà

Scientific Jury

Prof. Dr. Gordon McVie
Chairman

Board of Patrons

Dr. med. Jacques Bernier, Genf
Prof. Dr. Paul Kleihues, Zürich
Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h.c. Urs Metzger, Zürich
Sir Paul Nurse, New York
Heinz Roth, Zürich
Prof. Dr. med. Thomas Szucs, Zollikon
Prof. Dr. Rolf M. Zinkernagel, Zürich

Management

Philipp Lücke
CEO

Administration

SWISS BRIDGE · Postfach 1556 · 8027 Zürich
Tel. +41 (0) 43 3171360 · info@swissbridge.ch

If you know anyone, who may want to become a donor or a supporter and friend of the foundation SWISS BRIDGE, please contact us.

