



Swiss Society of Experimental Pharmacology

Société Suisse de Pharmacologie Expérimentale
Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Experimentelle Pharmakologie

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SSEP ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Memberships: On December 2023 the SSEP had 58 members including one honorary member (Prof. Hanns Paul Möhler).

We mourn the loss of a valued colleague, Prof. Andrea Huwiler (1966-2023). As an active member of the SSPT, Andrea Huwiler represented our society in various committees and meetings. We will remember Andrea Huwiler as a good colleague and friend, an eminent pharmacologist, and a recognized scientist in the field of sphingolipid biology.

Board:

President: Prof. Dr. Stephan Kellenberger, University Lausanne

Past-President: Prof. Dr. Stephan von Gunten, University Bern

Secretary: PD. Dr. Georgia Konstantinidou, University of Bern

Treasurer: Prof. Dr. Leonardo Scapozza, University Geneva

Council member: PD Dr. Gabriele Weitz-Schmidt, AlloCyte Pharmaceuticals AG, Basel

Council member: Prof. Dr. Carole Bourquin, University Geneva

Council member: Prof. Dr. Csaba Szabo, University Fribourg

Council member: PD Dr. Dietmar Benke, University of Zürich

Changes in the SSEP council and administration

After 4 years of presidency, Stephan Kellenberger will step down as a president of the SSEP at the general assembly of April 2024. Georgia Konstantinidou, who has served for 4 years as general secretary, will become the new SSEP president. Prof. Dr. Patrycja Nowak-Sliwinska, University of Geneva, will be the new SSEP general secretary and new SSEP council member. Stephan von Gunten decided to resign from the SSEP council after many years of membership, during which he has exerted the functions of general secretary, president, and finally past-president. We thank Stephan cordially for his engagement in our society during all these years. We wish him all the best in his future activities.

The new SSEP administrative assistant, Vanda Sutovska of the University of Bern, started her activity at the beginning of 2023. With her arrival there have been some changes in the administrative organization of the society. In 2023 the membership invoices were sent out for the first time by e-mail and not by regular mail as before. The SSEP member list has also been thoroughly updated. This led to the observed lower membership number compared to the last year.



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Board meetings: Two SSEP board meetings took place in 2023, both by videoconference; one on February 16 and one on October 25. The general assembly of the SSEP was held in person during the SSPT Spring meeting on April 20.

SSEP Website and communication: The address of the SSEP website is <https://experimental-pharmacology.ch>.

The SSEP would like to update the **News and Highlights section** on the SSEP website with selected original publications from SSEP members. **SSEP members are encouraged to submit recent publications with a brief statement on impact and relevance to other society members (see information on website).**

Members regularly received society news via e-mail.

LinkedIn: As a second internet platform, the SSEP hosts an interest group on LinkedIn. Registered members can access information on scientific meetings relevant to experimental pharmacology.

Scientific and educational activities: In 2023, members of the SSEP were engaged in the organization of the following scientific events:

- SSPT Symposium "Advances in pharmacology: Pharmacotherapy in Rheumatology", 25 January in Bern. Organization: SSPT task force with Prof. Leonardo Scapozza and Prof. Stephan von Gunten.
- At the LS2 Annual Meeting 2023 that was carried out in Zurich on February 16-17, Andrea Huwiler and Stephan Kellenberger organized the SSEP symposium "New Avenues in Erythropoietin Research and Drug Development".
- The SSPT spring meeting with the topic "The curious case of...ageing" was held in person in Bern on April 20. Several members of the SSEP board participated in the organization of this meeting.
- 21st International Summer School on Translational Medicine, Drug Discovery and Inspiration in Bönigen, August 20-22, organized by Stephan von Gunten and Thomas Kaufmann

Prizes: The SSEP awarded a prize of CHF 500 at the LS2 meeting for the best poster related to pharmacology. The winner was Marjolaine Hugonnet of the University of Bern with the poster "Fractionated radiation therapy increases Siglec-7 and -9 ligands expression in cancer cells".

At the SSPT spring meeting in Bern, two prizes sponsored by the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research were awarded. The winner of the best oral presentation award was Marion Anliker-Ort, University Children's Hospital, Basel, with the presentation "Saliva sampling to facilitate pharmacokinetic studies in children: A case study with metamizole". The winner of the best poster award was Marc Bohnet, University of Lausanne, with the poster "Contribution of individual subunits to the function and regulation of the trimeric channel ASIC1a". The Bürgi Prize 2023 for the best publication in pharmacology was awarded to Redona Hafizi, University of Bern for the article "Sphk1 and Sphk2 Differentially



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Regulate Erythropoietin Synthesis in Mouse Renal Interstitial Fibroblast-like Cells", Int J Mol Sci 24, doi: 10.3390/ijms23115882.

International contacts: The SSEP keeps close contact to international societies and associations including IUPHAR and EPHAR. Prof. Hans-Uwe Simon, University Bern, is board member of the Immunopharmacology Section of IUPHAR. The SSEP is also connected via the SSPT to international organizations. Caroline Samer, SSPT member, is member of the IUPHAR executive committee. In 2022, Prof. Stephan von Gunten, SSEP council member, was elected as a EPHAR Executive Committee member for the period 2022-2026.

European Certified Pharmacologist (EuCP): The SSPT organizes the attribution of the EuCP title to pharmacologists working in Switzerland and appoints the members of the evaluation committee of the Swiss Certified Pharmacologist Register (SCPR). The SCPR evaluation committee, to which several SSEP council members belong, evaluates applications for the EuCP title. The program for registering for the EuCP title was launched in Switzerland in spring 2022. By the end of 2023, 9 pharmacologists had obtained the EuCP title.

Travel grants: In 2023, the SSPT financed two doctoral travel grants (Laura Schnider, Zürich and Darien Toledo Santamaria, Bern) and one postdoctoral grant (Maria Petrosina, Fribourg).

I would like to thank my colleagues of the SSEP board as well as the SSEP members for stimulating discussions and for the support throughout the reporting period.

Prof. Dr. Stephan Kellenberger
President SSEP

Lausanne, March 27, 2024