



# Exploring Epigenetics

## Interdisciplinary Insights beyond DNA Sequence

Epigenetics is a broadly used term for phenomena that alter gene expression without altering the DNA itself. It describes the regulation of our genes, how they can be influenced by our environment and how the regulation can be inherited between cells and generations. This intersection between information coded in DNA sequence, transmitted by factors associated with DNA, and provided by the environment is fascinating from a mechanistic point of view. It also provides insights into how our genes interact with external influences, potentially offering new ways to prevent or treat diseases, improve crop yields, and understand complex behaviors and brain functions.

The Rigi workshop 2024 on epigenetics invites its participants to dive into the intricate mechanisms and implications of epigenetic phenomena. By fostering cross-disciplinary dialogue, the event aims to bridge gaps between different disciplines of epigenetic research. Participants will explore how epigenetics impacts plant breeding, behavioral traits, brain development, evolution, synaptic plasticity, cognition, and neurological disorders. The workshop will offer interdisciplinary approaches to investigating and analyzing societal and technological impacts of epigenetics and will feature lectures delivered by leading experts, group discussions, and sharing of group and individual work in the form of poster and oral presentations.

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### Organisers

PROF. DR IRENE ADRIAN-KALCHHAUSER, SCNAT Platform Biology, University of Bern · PD DR PAOLO CINELLI, Swiss Laboratory Animal Society SGV, University Hospital Zurich · PROF. DR FLORIAN STEINER, SCNAT Platform Biology, University of Geneva · CAROLINE REYMOND, SCNAT Platform Biology



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### Where and when?

The 3-days course takes place in the hotel Rigi Kulm on top of the Rigi Mountain, one of the most scenic places in Switzerland, from 28 to 30 January 2024.

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### Who can apply?

The workshop is aimed at PhD students and Postdocs from Swiss institutions of higher education, and from all domains of biology and medical sciences. MSc students' applications might also be considered. Please contact your doctoral school for the accreditation of ECTS which we estimate at **2 ECTS**.

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### Programme and Registrations

The preliminary programme is available online at [biol.scnat.ch/rigiworkshop24](https://biol.scnat.ch/rigiworkshop24)

The registration fee is CHF 150.– and includes workshop, housing and meals. Please register online and submit your abstract of research and a short letter of motivation by 30 September 2023. The organising committee will select up to 30 outstanding applicants.

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### Lecturers

DR ETIENNE BUCHER, Agroscope · DR MED SEMIRA GONSETH NUSSLÉ, Unisanté and Genknowme SA · DR IVANA JARIC, University of Bern · DR LUIS LOPEZ-MOLINA, University of Geneva · PROF. DR ISABELLE MANSUY, University and ETH Zurich