










# SSM Annual Report 2024

## INFO 72



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in



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## **President 2022-2024**



## **Prof. Hubert Hilbi**

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## **President Elect 2025-2027**



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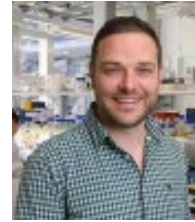
## **General Secretary**



**Prof. Dr. Martin Pilhofer**

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Section**



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**Virology Section**



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**Mycology Section**



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**Lay Communication  
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**Dr. Florian Tagini, MD-PhD**

Institut de microbiologie de l'Université de Lausanne  
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**Early Career**





Dear members,

As we (finally) emerge from this pandemic, with all its psychological, social, financial, and medical consequences, clinical microbiology continues to evolve rapidly.

Significant increases in cases are occurring - probably as a result of this period of containment - with infections by *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, *Chlamydia pneumoniae* and even *Neisseria meningitidis* in all countries, without detection of a specific clone.

Once again, we see how useful genome sequencing techniques can be in ruling out clonal emergence, and how useful it is to share and disseminate information to keep abreast of local and general epidemiology.

This is in line with our authorities' efforts to revise the law on epidemics (LEp), by also capitalizing on what we have experienced. Finally, the much-heralded digitization is gathering pace at all levels: in the laboratory, with image processing of agar plates for automated culture systems; in the medical practice, with computerized patient files; and finally, with the availability of platforms, whether at the FOPH or, very soon, on our SSM website, to keep you informed of the most recent changes (<https://swissmicrobiology.ch/en/sections/clinical-microbiology>).

See you soon during our joint SSI-SSM annual meeting

(<https://swissmicrobiology.ch/en/events/annual-meeting-and-assembly/2024> ).

Microbiologically yours!

Jacques SCHRENZEL

President SSM 2022 to 2024

## Invitation to the General Assembly

All SSM members are cordially invited to attend the General Assembly of the Swiss Society for Microbiology (SSM) that will take place in the Kursaal Bern

on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2024  
from 5:45 PM to 6:30 PM

### Agenda:

1. Review of the agenda
2. Approval of 2023 annual assembly minutes
3. Approval of 2023 accounts and report by auditors
4. Discussion of 2024 budget
5. Approval of 2025 budget
6. Approval of 2024 commission reports:
  - Molecular Microbiology
  - Clinical Microbiology
  - Virology
  - Mycology
  - Environmental Microbiology
  - Lay Communication
  - Early career
7. New members
8. Members benefits
9. SSM Annual Meeting 2025
10. Other / varia / news

**\* IMPORTANT:** Kindly send your inquiries by mail to the president via our general secretary ([secretary@swissmicrobiology.ch](mailto:secretary@swissmicrobiology.ch)) before the 6<sup>th</sup> of August 2024.



# 1. SSM Income statement 2023 vs. 2022

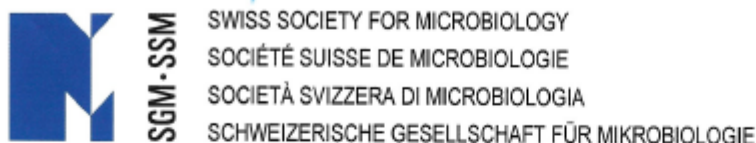
	2023	2022
<b>INCOME (I)</b>	<b>46 822,29</b>	<b>42 362,54</b>
Membership fees income	36 372,29	34 722,54
SCNAT Support	-	-
Sponsoring	-	-
Other Income	10 450,00	7 640,00
<b>EXPENSES (II)</b>	<b>53 694,71</b>	<b>73 542,61</b>
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	30 004,17	31 233,29
Net Salary	22 114,02	23 036,94
Social Charges	7 890,15	8 196,35
OTHERS EXPENSES	23 690,54	42 309,32
Course, Workshop, Symposium	-	-
Travel, Commissions expenses	5 773,31	7 655,11
Committee Members Expenses	1 363,95	2 997,80
SSM communication	-	2 000,00
SSM awards	2 500,00	15 147,50
SSM Deficit Guaranty	-	2 747,10
Travel grants	3 500,00	3 500,00
Subscription Fees to pay	7 009,85	6 257,13
Office Supplies, Computer and IT Equipement	1 809,70	608,15
Web Site Fees	428,65	359,60
Postal Charges	-	-
Postfinance and Bank Charges	136,48	203,93
Others Expenses	568,60	233,00
Financial Expenses	-	-
Fiduciary Fees	600,00	600,00
Audit Fees	-	-
<b>A - Operating result (I-II)</b>	<b>(6 872,42)</b>	<b>(31 180,07)</b>
B - Annual Meeting Benefit	40 802,83	-
B - Annual Meeting Deficit	-	(23 728,13)
<b>Annual Meeting Income</b>	<b>40 802,83</b>	<b>29 372,67</b>
<b>Annual Meeting Expenses</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>53 100,80</b>
<b>C - Exceptional result</b>	<b>(87,14)</b>	<b>9 299,90</b>
Exceptional income	-	9 300,00
Exceptional Charge	87,14	0,10
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>87 625,12</b>	<b>81 035,21</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>53 781,85</b>	<b>126 643,51</b>
<b>PROFIT</b>	<b>33 843,27</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>LOSS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(45 608,30)</b>



## 2. Balance sheet at 31.12.2023

Assets	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	Δ
<b>Currents Assets</b>	<b>256 039,08</b>	<b>224 881,55</b>	<b>31 157,53</b>
- Cash	-	-	-
- Postal Current Account	126 171,98	94 954,45	31 217,53
- Postal Secondary Current Account	129 867,10	129 927,10	(60,00)
- Postal Account Saving	-	-	-
<b>Prepaid Expenses</b>	<b>778,50</b>	<b>1 518,10</b>	<b>(739,60)</b>
- Prepayments / Prepaid expenses	-	-	-
- Accrued Income	778,50	1 518,10	(739,60)
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>256 817,58</b>	<b>226 399,65</b>	<b>30 417,93</b>
<b>Liabilities and Stockholder's equity</b>			
<b>Debts</b>	<b>12 109,20</b>	<b>12 109,20</b>	<b>-</b>
- Payable	-	-	-
- Dieter Haas Provision	12 109,20	12 109,20	-
<b>Accrued Expenses</b>	<b>4 190,96</b>	<b>7 616,30</b>	<b>(3 425,34)</b>
- Accrued Expenses	3 555,96	7 096,30	(3 540,34)
- Deferred revenue / Prepaid income	635,00	520,00	115,00
<b>Capital</b>	<b>240 517,42</b>	<b>206 674,15</b>	<b>33 843,27</b>
- Capital	206 674,15	252 282,45	(45 608,30)
- Period Profit/ Loss	33 843,27	(45 608,30)	79 451,57
<b>Total Liabilities and Stockholder's equity</b>	<b>256 817,58</b>	<b>226 399,65</b>	<b>30 417,93</b>

## 3. Report of the auditors



### Report of the auditors on the annual accounts of the Swiss Society for Microbiology (SSM) to the General Meeting of the SSM

Dear SSM Members,

As account reviewer, we have audited the accounting records and the financial statements, which comprise the balance sheet and the profit and loss account, of the SSM for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The accounts are the responsibility of the Board, whereas our role is to audit and evaluate the accounts.

Based on our audit, we confirm that

- the balance sheet accounts are appropriate,
- the supporting documents are consistent with the accounts
- the accounts have been kept carefully and accurately.

The audit report drawn up by Fidurev S.A. in Assens, dated 22 April 2024, attached hereto, concludes that the financial statements comply with the provisions of Swiss law and the Articles of Association.

SSM annual accounts **2023** close with a **benefit of CHF 33'843.27**. This increases the company's assets from CHF **206'674.15** (2022) to CHF **240'517.42** (2023).

We therefore recommend that SSM members accept the accounts as presented and grant discharge to the Board.

Dr. Robin Tecon, SSM Member

Dr. Hanna Marti, SSM Member

Berne, 13 June 2024

*Attached documents :*

- *Fidurev Audit Report*
- *Balance Sheet (2023 vs. 2022)*
- *Income Statement (2023 vs. 2022)*

## 4. Report of the fiduciary



Société Suisse de Microbiologie  
Chemin de Champ-Pamont 12  
1033 Cheseaux-sur-Lausanne

Assens, le 22 avril 2024

### Rapport de contrôle de la gestion des comptes de la Société Suisse de Microbiologie

Mesdames, Messieurs,

En notre qualité de vérificateurs des comptes de votre association et conformément au mandat que vous nous avez confié, ainsi qu'aux dispositions légales, nous avons vérifié les comptes annuels arrêtés au 31 décembre 2023.

Suite à nos contrôles, nous avons constaté les faits suivants :

1. Le bilan et le compte de pertes et profits établis concordent avec la comptabilité.
2. Les comptes pour l'année 2023 sont tenus de manière exacte.
3. L'état de la fortune sociale et des résultats répond aux règles établies par la loi et les statuts pour les évaluations en matière de bilan.
4. Les liquidités sont placées avec toute la prudence que la situation économique actuelle exige.

Selon notre appréciation, nous vous proposons d'approuver les comptes qui vous sont soumis.

Ceux-ci font ressortir un bénéfice de **CHF 33'843.27**, que nous vous proposons de virer au compte de profits et pertes.

Dès lors, nous vous recommandons également d'approuver cette proposition et de donner décharge au Trésorier pour la comptabilité 2023.

Fidurev S.A.

  
Jean-Luc Dondénaz  
Agent Fiduciaire Breveté

  
Nicolas Despont  
Expert-comptable diplômé

Annexe : bilan et compte de profits et pertes 2023

## 5. SSM Budget 2024

	<b>BUDGET 2024</b>
<b>INCOME (I)</b>	<b>71 500,00</b>
Membership fees income	46 500,00
SCNAT Support	15 000,00
Sponsoring	3 000,00
Interest Incomes	
SSM Club of Microbiology Income	
Other Income	7 000,00
<b>EXPENSES (II)</b>	<b>68 000,00</b>
<b>PERSONNEL EXPENSES</b>	<b>30 000,00</b>
Net Salary	22 200,00
Social Charges	7 800,00
<b>OTHERS EXPENSES</b>	<b>38 000,00</b>
Course, Workshop, Symposium	
Travel, Commissions expenses	7 000,00
Committee Members Expenses	2 500,00
SSM communication	
SSM awards	9 300,00
SSM Deficit Guaranty	6 000,00
SCNAT Deficit Guaranty	-
Travel grants	4 000,00
SSM Club of Microbiology Expenses	
Subscription Fees to pay	6 500,00
Office Supplies, Computer and IT Equipment	700,00
Website	500,00
Postal Charges	50,00
Postfinance and Bank Charges	100,00
Others Expenses	500,00
Financial Expenses	
Fiduciary Fees	600,00
Audit Fees	250,00
A - Operating result (I-II)	3 500,00
<b>B - Annual Meeting Benefit</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>B - Annual Meeting Deficit</b>	<b>(10 000,00)</b>
<b>Annual Meeting Income</b>	<b>550 000,00</b>
<b>Annual Meeting Expenses</b>	<b>560 000,00</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>621 500,00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>628 000,00</b>
<b>PROFIT</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>LOSS</b>	<b>(6 500,00)</b>

## 5. SSM Budget 2025

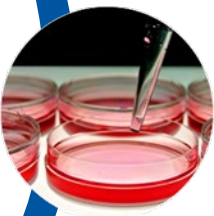
	BUDGET 2025
<b>INCOME (I)</b>	<b>53 500,00</b>
Membership fees income	46 500,00
SCNAT Support	-
Sponsoring	-
Interest Incomes	-
SSM Club of Microbiology Income	7 000,00
Other Income	-
<b>EXPENSES (II)</b>	<b>64 400,00</b>
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	31 000,00
Net Salary	23 000,00
Social Charges	8 000,00
OTHERS EXPENSES	33 400,00
Course, Workshop, Symposium	-
Travel, Commissions expenses	2 500,00
Committee Members Expenses	2 000,00
SSM communication	-
SSM awards	3 000,00
SSM Deficit Guaranty	6 000,00
SCNAT Deficit Guaranty	-
Travel grants	4 000,00
SSM Club of Microbiology Expenses	4 800,00
Subscription Fees to pay	6 500,00
Office Supplies, Computer and IT Equipment	600,00
Website	2 500,00
Postal Charges	-
Postfinance and Bank Charges	150,00
Others Expenses	500,00
Financial Expenses	-
Fiduciary Fees	600,00
Audit Fees	250,00
A - Operating result (I-II)	(10 900,00)
<b>B - Annual Meeting Benefit</b>	<b>5 000,00</b>
<b>B - Annual Meeting Deficit</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Annual Meeting Income</b>	<b>345 000,00</b>
<b>Annual Meeting Expenses</b>	<b>340 000,00</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>403 500,00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>404 400,00</b>
<b>PROFIT</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>LOSS</b>	<b>(900,00)</b>



# SECTIONS REPORTS

# Molecular Microbiology Section Report

By Profs. Hubert Hilbi and Martin Pilhofer



## Commission members:

Hubert Hilbi (Zürich)  
Simona Huwiler (Zürich)  
Jörg Jores (Bern)  
Martin Pilhofer (Zürich)  
Patrick Viollier (Geneva)  
Jan-Willem Veening (Lausanne)

As of January 2023, Martin Pilhofer (ETH Zürich) succeeded Hubert Hilbi (University of Zürich) as the coordinator and lead of the section Molecular Microbiology. Hubert has been the section lead since January 2019, and he currently serves in the SSM board as the president-elect (presidency 2025-2027).

The SSM Annual Meeting is usually a highlight in the yearly activities of the section Molecular Microbiology. The Annual Meeting 2023 was organized by Gilbert Greub and Alix Coste from August 30-31, at the CHUV, and around different, multi-sectional topics rather than along the classical boundaries of the different SSM sections. Accordingly, the section Molecular Microbiology contributed this year with more general input and by chairing scientific sessions and keynote lectures (Hanna Marti, Yolanda Schærli, Thierry Soldati, Jörg Jores, Jan-Willem Veening, Hubert Hilbi), rather than by organizing specific sessions. Overall, the meeting at the CHUV was attended very well and was a great success.

2023 was also busy with preparations for an international meeting called "Cell biology of host-pathogen interactions", which is a lecture course sponsored by EMBO/FEBS and was scheduled to take place from June 24-28, 2024, in Padua, Italy ([https://meetings.embo.org/files/posters/1705591855\\_24-host-pathogen-bio.pdf](https://meetings.embo.org/files/posters/1705591855_24-host-pathogen-bio.pdf)). Unfortunately, due to administrative reasons, the meeting had to be postponed to 2025 and now will likely take place from May 20-25, 2025 at a lovely Loire castle, Château Royal de Blois, south-west of Paris. The meeting specifics will be posted in due course at the SSM website and communicated to those who have already registered.

*Hubert Hilbi and Martin Pilhofer; Zürich, June 2024*

# Clinical Microbiology Section Report

By Prof. Adrian Egli



## Commission members:

Maria Teresa Barbani (*IFIK, University of Bern*)  
Livia Berlinger (*Cantonal Hospital Lucerne*)  
Alexis Dumoulin (*Sion*)

Adrian Egli (*coordinator; Universität Zürich*)  
Hans Fankhauser (*Kantonsspital, Aarau*)  
Gilbert Greub (*CHUV, Lausanne*)  
Nadia Liassine (*Dianalabs, Genève*)

Reto Lienhard (*La-Chaux-de-Fonds*)  
Linda Müller (*EOC*)

Beatrice Nickel (*Swiss Tropical Public Health Institute*)

Martin Risch (*Imz Dr Risch, Bern*)  
Jacques Schrenzel (*HUG, Genève*)  
Andrea Zbinden (*Universität Zürich*)

Members who left during the period: Gladys Martinetti Lucchini (EOLAB, Bellinzona),

During the past twelve months, the committee continued to meet remotely. Also we have reduced our meeting frequency from every month to every second month. We remain very active for the Swiss Society of Microbiology and our diagnostic microbiological community. The following **new members of CCCM** have joined our group in 2023/2024: Linda Müller (EOC) replacing Gladys Martinetti Lucchini and also new in our team is Maria Teresa Barbani (IFIK, University of Bern).

We thank Dr Martinetti Lucchini for her tremendous work and support of the CCCM during the past years. It always has been a pleasure discussing and working with her.

**Education and recommendations.** We feel dedicated to further educate and train our resident, fellows, stakeholders in healthcare, and ourselves. The CCCM continues to interact with the various stakeholders involved in medical microbiology. Beside guidelines for experts in particular fields, we have also re-initiated an educational program (see below) and have recently established a quality control workgroup to provide additional recommendations in the rapidly changing environment of healthcare.

We aim to provide guidance on diagnostic matters including quality controls and currently work on a series of articles. We also work on a document focusing on IVDR recommendation for microbiology laboratories with Swiss colleagues outside of our working group.

**StAR-3.** The CCCM is currently represented in the STAR-3 incentive by Prof. Adrian Egli and a second person, which has to be determined. The StAR (Strategy on antibiotic resistance) is a multi-disciplinary consortium coordinated by the Federal Office of Public Health and the Federal Office of Food Safety and Veterinary. In this consortium the CCCM provides valuable inputs on diagnostic aspects and helps shaping and maintaining high quality diagnostic aspects in that space.



**SAC.** The Swiss Antibigram Committee (SAC) has been re-initiated in late 2023 and is currently headed by PD Dr Stefano Mancini (University of Zurich). We congratulate him for his successful election. The SAC consists of medical microbiologists belonging to the Swiss Society of Medical Microbiology. The Committee is important for the execution of EUCAST established documents.

**Club de microbiologie.** The CCCM has successfully started in summer 2022 an annual in person meeting called "Club de microbiologie". In this meeting we address practical topics and important aspects of microbiological diagnostics, we meet to discuss policies and educate ourself about recent trends. The follow-up meeting was on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2023 in Neuchâtel and again an important success. The annual meeting allows us to exchange and network also in a smaller and more diagnostic-focused group.

We also organize a series of online seminar meetings with diverse topics – usually two talks per session. Regular online meetings, usually over lunch, are organized to educate our members. We thank especially Prof. Jacques Schrenzel, Prof. Gilbert Greub and Reto Lienhard for the organization of the meetings.

**FAMH experts for exams.** The FAMH is responsible for board exams in laboratory medicine. Recently several experts retired. The CCCM member Reto Lienhard coordinates the activities of the FAMH experts for medical microbiology, Drs Alix Coste, Alexis Dumoulin, Peter Keller, and Livia Berlinger are active as examiner experts. An increasing problem is the lack of medical doctors completing the FAMH training.

**Taxpoint reduction.** Before, during and after the pandemic diagnostic laboratories were, are, and will remain a critical corner stone for public health and individual patient treatment in Switzerland. Unfortunately, the 10% tax point reduction in August 2022 has a tremendous impact on the diagnostic laboratories and the Swiss population. CCCM provided a statement on the website about this price reduction.

CCCM contributes with other FAMH members to supporting the ongoing discussion regarding testing. Due to the massive cost pressure initiated by the FOPH, a consolidation period of laboratories has started in Switzerland.

There is a clear danger that additional cost reductions will be initiated by the FOPH. The FOPH has initiated a comparison study for laboratory tests with foreign countries. The SSM together with the FAMH made a clear counter statement. In our point of view the comparison is not fair and neither based on a solid basis. Nevertheless, there is a possibility of further tax point reductions. The situation for healthcare will be unpredictable and will likely result in a massive reduction of service and quality for patient care. There is also a clear danger that basis functions e.g. for preparedness will be reduced. The diversity of laboratories and also direct access to healthcare in remote areas will be in danger if this happens.

**IVDR.** This is another serious topic. The IVDR will generate a problem for in house developed assays which are helpful in e.g. rare diseases or off-label use for a more rapid processing of samples. The IVDR will likely result in a reduction of innovation due to the increased administrative burden. We already noted a drastic reduction of available tests on the Swiss market, as the costs for companies are also too high. Likely less diagnostic tests will be offered in small markets such as Switzerland and the promise of personalized medicine is clearly vanishing.

The SSM tried to be directly involved in the discussions with Swissmedic but unfortunately Swissmedic has several times refused such discussions. The SULM now represents these issues towards Swissmedic.

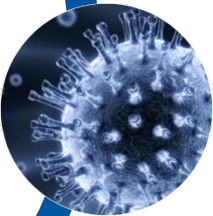
*Adrian Egli, Zürich, May 2024*

# Virology Section Report

By Prof. Volker Thiel



## Commission members:



Angela Ciuffi (*Lausanne*)  
Cornel Fraefel (*Zürich*)  
Jerome Gouttenoire (*Lausanne*)  
Urs Greber (*Zürich*)  
Thomas Klimkait (*Basel*)

Grégory Mathez (*Lausanne*)  
Karin Metzner (*Zürich*)  
Matthias Schweizer (*Bern*)  
Caroline Tapparel Vu (*Geneva*)  
Volker Thiel (*Bern*)

After the last SwissVirology meeting in 2023 the next meeting is scheduled for January 28th – 29th 2025 at the Ambassador Hotel in Bern. We will celebrate the 10 years anniversary with the 10th SwissVirology meeting and the Organizing and Scientific Committee with Angela Ciuffi (University of Lausanne), Cornel Fraefel (University of Zurich), Jérôme Gouttenoire (University of Lausanne), Ben Hale (University of Zurich), Grégory Mathez (University of Lausanne), Karin Metzner (University Hospital of Zurich), Daniel Pinschewer (University of Basel), Philippe Plattet (University of Bern), Mirco Schmolke (University of Geneva), Matthias Schweizer (University of Bern), Caroline Tapparel Vu (University of Geneva), Volker Thiel (University of Bern), and Stefan Wieland (University of Basel) has put together a very interesting program with exciting speakers. The opening Keynote lectures will be given by Timothy Tellinghuisen (Roche, Basel), and Gisa Gerold (University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Germany), and invited speakers are Charaf Benarafa (IVI and University of Bern), Daniel Kaufmann (Lausanne University Hospital), Selma Dahmane (University of Basel), Vibhu Prasad (University of Geneva), Aleksandar Antanasijevic (EPFL), Katharine Röltgen (Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute). A closing lecture will be given by Urs Greber (University of Zürich). For more information, please visit the SwissVirology meeting program webpage at: <http://swissvirology.ch> . Registration will open on October 1st and the abstract submission deadline is November 1st 2024.

We welcome Grégory Mathez as a new member in the SSM Section Virology Commission. Grégory is working in the group of Valeria Cagno at CHUV and has volunteered to work with the SSM Section Virology Commission. Thanks a lot Grégory for your enthusiasm!

The SSM Section Virology is looking for a new section head. Volker Thiel will step down to give young virologists the opportunity to take over the SSM virology section lead. Please get into contact with the SSM office ([secretary@swissmicrobiology.ch](mailto:secretary@swissmicrobiology.ch)) if you are interested. The transition is planned for next year and candidates may apply at any time. The election will be at the next SSM annual assembly in 2025.

Volker Thiel, Bern, June 2024

# Mycology Section Report

By Dr Markus Künzler (on behalf of Alix Coste)



## Commission members:

Saskia Bindschedler (*Neuchâtel*)  
Philipp Bosshard (*Zürich*)  
Alix Coste (*Lausanne*)  
Jurg Enkerli (*Zürich*)  
Markus Künzler (*Zürich*)  
Frederic Lamoth (*Lausanne*)

Salome Leibundgut-Landmann (*Zürich*)  
Fabio Palmieri (*Neuchâtel*)  
Arnaud Riat (*Geneva*)  
Dominique Sanglard (*Lausanne*)  
Aleksandar Vještica (*Lausanne*)

The subsection 'Fundamental Mycology' was renamed to 'Molecular and Cellular Mycology'. The aim of this subsection is to facilitate interactions, develop synergies, and promote exchange between scientists interested in molecular and cellular biology and genetics of fungi including budding and fission yeast as well as multicellular fungi. By this renaming of the subsection, the coordinators hope to attract more yeast molecular biologists to the SSM by giving them a 'home'. Claudio de Virgilio from Université de Fribourg, who coordinated this subsection for many years, stepped back and was replaced by Aleksandar Vještica from Université de Lausanne. The commission thanks Claudio for all his efforts and welcomes Aleksandar as new member. On June 16th 2023, around a hundred mycologists from all over Switzerland met for the first Swiss Mycology Symposium 2023 at the Vetsuisse Faculty of University of Zürich, Switzerland. The meeting was organized by Salomé Leibundgut-Landmann and originates in the annual Zürich Mycology Symposia initiated by Markus Künzler in 2007 (<https://mycology.ethz.ch/history.php>). The scientific program featured 10 oral presentations from postdocs, PhD students and master students and a keynote lecture by Collin Averill, previous postdoc of Tom Crowther and founder of a startup company that aims at reintroducing fungal biodiversity into forest landscapes to accelerate tree growth and remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. All presentations were followed by very active question & answer sessions. The sequence of talks was interrupted by a long lunch break including a poster session where PhD and master students could present their projects to the audience. All participants enjoyed the personal exchange and the scientific discussions in the context of the biology of their favorite organisms. The next symposium will take place on August 28th 2024 at the Kursaal Bern as satellite (section meeting) of the SSM Annual Congress. The commission hopes that it can attract as many participants as this year.

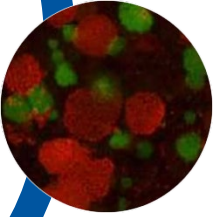
*Markus Künzler (on behalf of Alix Coste), Zürich, March 2024*

# Environmental Microbiology Section Report

By Dr. David Johnson



## Commission members:



Helmut Bürgmann (*Kastanienbaum*)  
Wenyu Gu (*Lausanne*)  
David R. Johnson (*Dübendorf*)  
Pilar Junier (*Neuchâtel*)  
Cara Magnabosco (*Zürich*)  
Sara Mitri (*Lausanne*)

Marie Schoelmerich (*Zürich*)  
Shinichi Sunagawa (*Zürich*)  
Jan Roelof van der Meer (*Lausanne*)  
Julia Vorholt (*Zürich*)  
David Weissbrodt (*Delft*)  
Jakob Zopfi (*Basel*)

The Environmental Microbiology section brings together experts interested in how microorganisms interact with other organisms and with their environment. Our scope is broad and includes all types of microorganisms and their habitats, ranging from those residing in waters and soils, on and within hosts, and in engineered systems. Our scope also includes both fundamental and applied aspects, such as how to manipulate and control microbial systems to achieve desired outcomes.

One of our main activities has been to help organize and plan the 2024 Annual Meeting of the SSM, which will take place in Bern from 28th to 30th of August. As opposed to most years, this year will include a 1-day Satellite Symposium on Environmental and Applied Microbiology on the 28th of August. The purpose of this 1-day symposium is to bring together Swiss researchers interested in key topics in the field, with sessions on Spatial Microbial Ecology, Microbes in a Changing World, and Microbial Ecology of Engineered Systems. We look forward to your attendance and your contributions to a lively discussion!

Another key activity has been to begin planning the 2025 Swiss Microbial Ecology (SME) meeting. The meeting will take place in Einsiedeln from the 15th to 17th of January and will be primarily organized by Jakob Perntaler (University of Zürich) with assistance from Dave Johnson (Eawag/UniBe) and Francesco Pomati (Eawag). We will keep you updated as our plans develop!

On behalf of the commission of Environmental Microbiology and the SSM, I would like to thank all members of the SSM community and the many individuals that contributed to our work.

Dave Johnson, Dübendorf, March 2024

# Lay Communication Section Report

## By Profs. Gilbert Greub and Pilar Junier



### Commission members:

Christèle Aubry (*Lausanne*)  
Isabelle Frey-Wagner (*Zürich*)  
Gilbert Greub (*Lausanne*)  
David R. Johnson (*Dübendorf*)  
Pilar Junier (*Neuchâtel*)  
Carole Kebbi-Beghdadi (*Lausanne*)

Hanna Marti (*Zürich*)  
Shawna McCallin (*Lausanne*)  
Florian Tagini (*Lausanne*)  
Volker Thiel (*Bern*)  
Philip V'kovski (*Bern*)

With Pilar Junier set to replace Gilbert Greub as the lead for the lay communication section on January 1, 2024, it is an opportune moment to summarize our key objectives and recent activities. The mission of the session is enhancing public awareness of microbes and microbiology, disseminating research from Swiss labs to the general public, fostering broader engagement among microbiologists for lay communication, and strengthening connections with other science communication organizations.

The key objectives for the section are:

- To increase public awareness and promote a broader understanding of microbes and their significance in everyday life.
- To share the groundbreaking work conducted by Swiss microbiologists in a manner that is accessible to lay audiences.
- To encourage more microbiologists in Switzerland to participate in lay communication efforts.
- To build robust networks with other organizations dedicated to science communication.

We have a rich history of initiatives and activities aimed at achieving our objectives, dating back to the inception of our lay communication efforts in January 2016. Some of the activities by members of the SSM that we would like to highlight are:

- An upcoming exhibition at the Museum of Hands that will open for 18 months in Lausanne on JUNE 26 2024, organized by NCCR Microbiota, and led by Jan van der Meer and Gilbert Greub.
- Creating a collection of engaging narratives on microbes, including Hubert Hilbi's work on Legionella.
- The activity "Microbes Go to School", which is an educational outreach activity led by Saskia Bindschedler and Pilar Junier to bring microbiology into classrooms.
- Promoting interactive educational tools like Mykrobs.
- The initiative BiOutils led by Karl Perron to develop educational tools on microbes.

- The creative efforts by Gilbert Greub to make microbiology fun and accessible in the form of "Cartoons on Microbes".
- A Summer School on Lay Communication organized by Massimo Caine, aimed at enhancing communication skills among microbiologists.

While many of these activities are independently supported and not directly funded by SSM, they significantly contribute to our overarching mission.

The Lay Communication Section is now featured regularly on our annual meeting in the form of:

- A Lay Communication Session. In 2023 this session was a resounding success, attracting 81 participants.
- Contest "My Thesis in 180 Seconds", a highly successful initiative with five applicants in 2023, allowing students to succinctly present their research.

Both of these activities are cornerstone events for our lay communication efforts and will be continued at the annual SSM meetings in Bern (2024) and Zürich (2025).

We thank all members for their continued support and contributions to these vital activities.

*Gilbert Greub (Lausanne) and Pilar Junier (Neuchâtel), June 2024*

# “Early Career” Report

By Dr Florian Tagini



Hanna Marti (Zürich)  
Gregory Mathez (Lausanne)  
Francis Muchaamba (Zürich)

Fabio Palmieri (Neuchâtel)  
Florian Tagini (Lausanne)  
Mikaël Tognon (Geneva)

This year, the Early Career section has shown dynamism by organizing regular commission meetings to discuss insights and propel various projects forward. A highlight was the last SSM meeting, where the section adeptly managed two distinct well-attended sessions on Grant Writing and Resilience. We are glad that they were met with positive reception. Furthermore, we organized a networking event in the city, fostering connections among Early Career members of the society.

Looking ahead to the 2024 SSM meeting, which will be this year a joint event with SSI and SSHH, we are excited to introduce an innovative format featuring two round-table sessions. These sessions, scheduled during lunch breaks, aim to facilitate meaningful exchanges between young society members and renowned senior microbiologists, offering an invaluable opportunity for career advice and networking.

To boost participation among Early Career microbiologists in the Society, it's our pleasure to outline the perks available to them. We encourage you to spread the word among your younger peers. Early Career members have the opportunity to apply for an SSM travel grant to participate in international conferences, thereby enriching their resumes. For more details, please visit the SSM grants page (Financial support ([swissmicrobiology.ch](http://swissmicrobiology.ch))).

Being part of the SSM also means enjoying the advantages offered by the Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS), which includes a variety of training opportunities and discounts. More information can be found on the FEMS website (FEMS Events ([fems-microbiology.org](http://fems-microbiology.org))).

For those with an interest in clinical microbiology, engaging in the activities of the Trainee Association of the European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) comes highly recommended. As SSM members, you will also receive the latest updates in this area, aimed at honing both general and specific skills (ESCMID: Trainee Association of ESCMID).

Early Career members are eligible for awards such as the PhD award and the SSM Encouragement Award, with more information available on the SSM awards page (Awards ([swissmicrobiology.ch](http://swissmicrobiology.ch))). Throughout the annual meeting, various competitions are organized by the society, including awards for the best oral presentation, the best poster, and contests in lay communication. Additionally, as outlined previously, there are dedicated sessions specifically for Early Career members.



Membership as a student in the SSM is required to take advantage of these benefits, and it is open to those studying in microbiology-related fields (at the bachelor, master, or PhD levels) or those undergoing training in clinical microbiology (FAMH). This membership comes with a reduced annual fee of 35 CHF (instead of 110 CHF !) and discounts for attending the annual meeting.

Early Career members benefit from the same rights as regular members, including the receipt of professional news via electronic means, networking within the microbiology community, voting rights at the general assembly, and opportunities to apply for positions such as the Early Career representative or other roles within the SSM board.

Looking forward to the upcoming SSM annual meeting, we encourage the sharing of your ideas, thoughts, or projects for the society. Young members eager to participate in organizing activities are especially encouraged to reach out. Furthermore, we invite all members to follow our Twitter account @SwissMicrobe and engage with us using #SSM on LinkedIn.

*Florian Tagini, Lausanne, June 2024*



# SSM BENEFITS

The SSM offers a wide range of benefits to its members:



## Scientific Information and Networking

- Annual meeting
- Newsletter, Social media
- Advantages of affiliated societies (see list page 41)



## Financial Support

### - Travel Grants

The SSM provides travel grants for young member scientists.

### - Meeting Grants

The SSM supports the organisation of scientific meetings.

To know more about the rules, please go to <https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/society/grants>



## Awards:

- **SSM Encouragement Award** is given to young investigators in the field of microbiology for achievements that are outstanding in terms of their originality and of particular scientific value. Achievements in the field of teaching as well as research and development are taken into consideration as well. The Award is given for a work that has been carried out in Switzerland or that is closely connected with our country.

More details: <https://swissmicrobiology.ch/en/society/awards>

- **SSM PhD Award** distinguishes outstanding PhDs obtained in the field of microbiology and carried out in Switzerland or in close collaboration with Switzerland.

More details: <https://swissmicrobiology.ch/en/society/awards>

- **Best Oral Presentation:** 5 Awards (one per section) in the context of the annual meeting presentations.

- **Poster Award:** 3 Awards selected during the annual meeting



# TRAVEL GRANTS REPORTS 2023

The Swiss Society for Microbiology SGM-SSM can provide funding for activities related to the dissemination of scientific results by its members. To know more about the rules, please go to <https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/society/grants>.

In 2023, the SSM provided seven travel grants:

- **Jordan Costafrolaz-** Bacterial Morphogenesis, Survival and Virulence, *Goa, India*, 06.02.2023 - 10.02.2023
- **Noémie Mathey-** Bacterial Morphogenesis, Survival and Virulence, *Goa, India*, 06.02.2023 - 10.02.2023
- **Hanna Marti-** Chlamydia Basic Research Society (CBRS), *Omaha, Nebraska, USA*, 19.03.2023 - 24.03.2023
- **Gregory Mathez-** Scientific exchange, *University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague*, 27.03.2023 - 30.06.2023
- **Srinithi Purushothaman-** ECCMID conference, *Copenhagen, Denmark*, 15.04.2023 - 18.04.2023
- **Nuria Bosch-** 31<sup>o</sup> International Conference on Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology (ICYGMB31), *Florence, Italy*, 20.08.2023 - 25.08.2023
- **Franziska Solger-** International conference "Microbiology 2023", *Würzburg, Germany*, 20.09.2023 - 22.09.2023

**All reports are available on our website**

<https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/en/society/grants>



# MEMBERS & AFFILIATIONS

# Current List of Honorary Members

By alphabetical order



- Prof. Dr. Michel ARAGNO
- Prof. Dr. Werner ARBER
- Prof. Dr. Méd. Raymond AUCKENTHALER
- Prof. Dr. Reinhard BACHOFEN
- Prof. Dr. Méd. Jacques BILLE
- Prof. Dr. Méd. Gabriela PFYFFER VON ALTISHOFEN
- Prof. Dr. Jean-Claude PIFFARETTI
- Prof. Dr. Linda THOENY-MEYER
- Prof. Dr. Méd. Alexander VON GRAEVENITZ
- Prof. Dr. Méd. Reinhard ZBINDEN

# New ordinary members in 2023

## By alphabetical order

In 2023, the SSM welcomed **84 new members:**

- **27 new students:**

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INSTITUT
BERTOLA	Anouk	University of Basel
BÜTTNER	Karina	University of Zürich
CARRARA	Alessia	Institute of microbiology/CHUV
CHERBUIN	Jérémy	Vetsuisse
CHOI	Yangji	Institute of microbiology/CHUV
CREZE	Margaux	University of Lausanne (UNIL)
DE ARRIBA SANCHEZ	Magdalena	University of Zürich
DE VILLIERS DE LA N	Hugues	CHUV
DELFINO	Alexandre	CHUV
DEMARIA	Francesca	FHNW
GHAZI-SOLTANI	Giti	Institute of microbiology/CHUV
GROSS	Sonja	University of Zürich
HOFACKER	Lara	Hochschule Fresenius University of Applied Science (Germany)
HOUMEL	Maya	University of Lausanne (UNIL)
INÄBNIT	Jana	University of Bern
JAEGGI	Tobias	UZH
Kozusnik	Thomas	Institute of microbiology/CHUV
KRAHENBUHL	Sven	ETHZ
LIEN	Yun-Wei	ETH Zürich
MAZZA	Léna	University of Geneva
NASSIRNIA	Sedreh	Institute of microbiology/CHUV
PIGNON	Estelle	University of Lausanne (UNIL)
RODRIGUEZ	Daniel	Institute of microbiology/CHUV
STAUBLI	Samuel	IFNH
STEVERS	Karen	University of Bern
YERSIN	Simon	University of Lausanne (UNIL)
YIMTHIN	Thatcha	Veterinary Bacteriology (IVB)



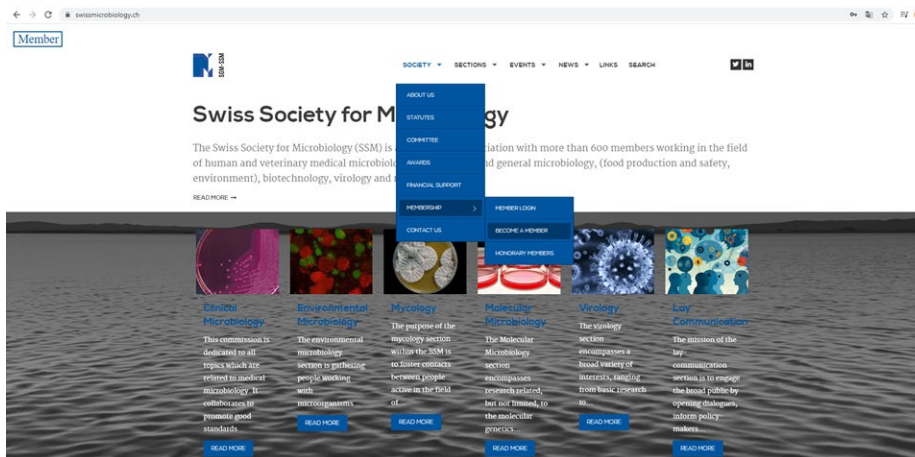
○ **57 new ordinary members:**

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INSTITUT
AKARSU EGGE	Hatice	Institut für Veterinär-Bakteriologie
ANDERSON	Caleb	University of Geneva
BORN	Yannick	Unilabs
BORODAVKINA	Anna	
CACACE	Elisabetta	ETH Zurich
CASTEL	Camille	GHOL
COLOMER WINTER	Cristina	University of Geneva
DE KORNE	Jolinda	EAWAG
DEMOULINS	Thomas	University of Bern
D'INCAU	Stephanie	Hôpital du Valais, ICH
DOLLENMAIER	Günter	zmsg
EPP	Selina	LUKS
FERRETTI	Valentina	
GABRIELLI	Marco	Eawag
GISLER	Valentin	Kantonsspital Aarau
GÖZEL	Bülent	University Hospital of Bern
GSCHWEND	Florian	Agroscope
GU	Wenyu	EPFL
HANYECZ	Markus	Bruker
HARTMANN	Martin	ETH Zürich
HAUSMANN	Stéphane	CMU
HIEBEL	Anne-Cécile	University of Basel
HITZ	Eva	KSA Kantonsspital Aarau
JACOT	Damien	CHUV Institut de Microbiologie
KINDLE	Patrick	Zentrum für Labormedizin
KLEYER	Hannah	Nestlé Institute of Food Sciences
KUSUMAWARDHANI	Hadiastri	University of Lausanne (UNIL)
LEMAIRE	Baptiste	Clinique de La Source
LÖRTSCHER	Fabian	Dr. Risch
MAGNABOSCO	Cara	ETH ZÜRICH
MAMIN	Aline	Hôpitaux Universitaires Genève (HUG)
MANCINI	Stefano	University of Zürich
MANOIL	Daniel	University of Geneva
MAURER	Josua	MCL medizinische Laboratorien
MORAZ	Milo	Laboratoire de l'Institut Central des Hôpitaux
MORENO	Anaisa	University of Zürich
MUCHAAMBA	Francis	Institute for Food Safety and Hygiene
OGGENFUSS	Ursula	Medical School-Microbiology & Immunology
ORASCH	Christina	SYNLAB Suisse
PAN	Fei	University of Basel
PRAMATEFTAKI	Paraskevi	Institute of Veterinary Bacteriology- UNIBE
PRIOUR	Sarah	Nestlé
RAYO	Enrique	University of Zürich
ROSSELIN	Manon	Dianalabs
SCHALLER	Sarah	Universität Bern
SCHIBLER	Manuel	Hôpitaux Universitaires Genève (HUG)
SCHMID	Tobias	labor tem
SCHOELMERICH	Marie	Berkeley and starting August ETH Zurich
SCHWEIZER	Tiziano	University of Zürich
STEVENS	Marc	University of Zürich
STOJANOV	Milos	CHUV
TOMASEK	Kathrin	EPFL
UNAY	Jovelyn	University of Geneva
VALENTIN	Jules	University of Fribourg
VAN SCHIE	Sabine	University of Lausanne (UNIL)
VJESTICA	Aleksandar	University of Lausanne (UNIL)
WAMPFLER	Rahel	MCL Medizinische Laboratorien

# Membership Form



**New members:** become a member by filling the online form <https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/en/society/membership/become-a-member>, make sure to fill all fields. A kind reminder, since 2021, there is a new category in the form: "Student".



## Join us!

### Application for membership

Membership  Student member CHF 35 p.y.  Ordinary member CHF 75 p.y.  
 Collective member CHF 300 p.y.

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

Email

Second E-mail

Username

Password    
Your password will be sent to the above e-mail address.  
Once you have received your new password you can log in and change it.

Address

City

State/Region

Country

NPA

Department

Institution

Section  Molecular Microbiology  Environmental microbiology  Clinical microbiology  
 Mycology  Virology  Lay Communication

Academic qualifications / title

Obtained from:

Mobile

Business phone

Fax

Notes

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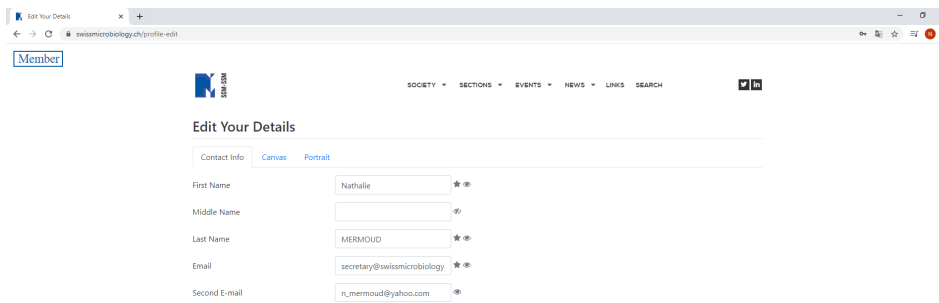
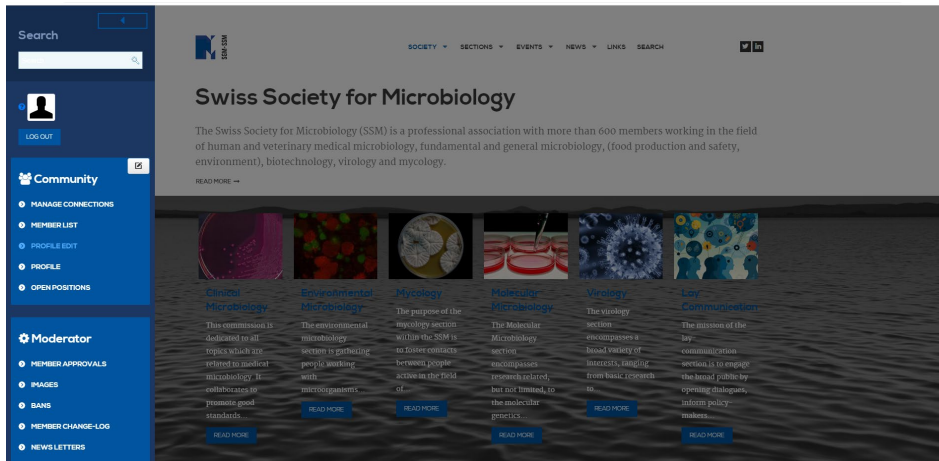
#### Instructions

According to Art. 6 of the Articles of Association the undersigned wishes to apply for membership to the SGM-SSM as:

- Student member CHF 35 p.y.
- Ordinary member CHF 75 p.y.
- Collective member CHF 300 p.y.

# Members Profile page

**Current members:** update your profile by logging in, select edit profile and update your info. You can also send a mail to [secretary@swissmicrobiology.ch](mailto:secretary@swissmicrobiology.ch)



# SSM Affiliations

The SSM is currently affiliated to the following societies (*by alphabetical order*). Our members can thus benefit of some advantages offered by these societies.



European Confederation of Medical Mycology

<https://www.ecmm.info>



European Federation of Biotechnology

<http://www.efbiotechnology.org>



European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

<https://www.escmid.org>



European Society for Virology

<http://www.eusv.eu>



Federation of European Microbiological Societies

<https://fems-microbiology.org>



International Mycological Association (IMA)

<http://www.ima-mycology.org/>



International Society for Human and Animal Mycology

<https://www.isham.org>



European Union of Medical Specialists

<https://www.uems.eu>



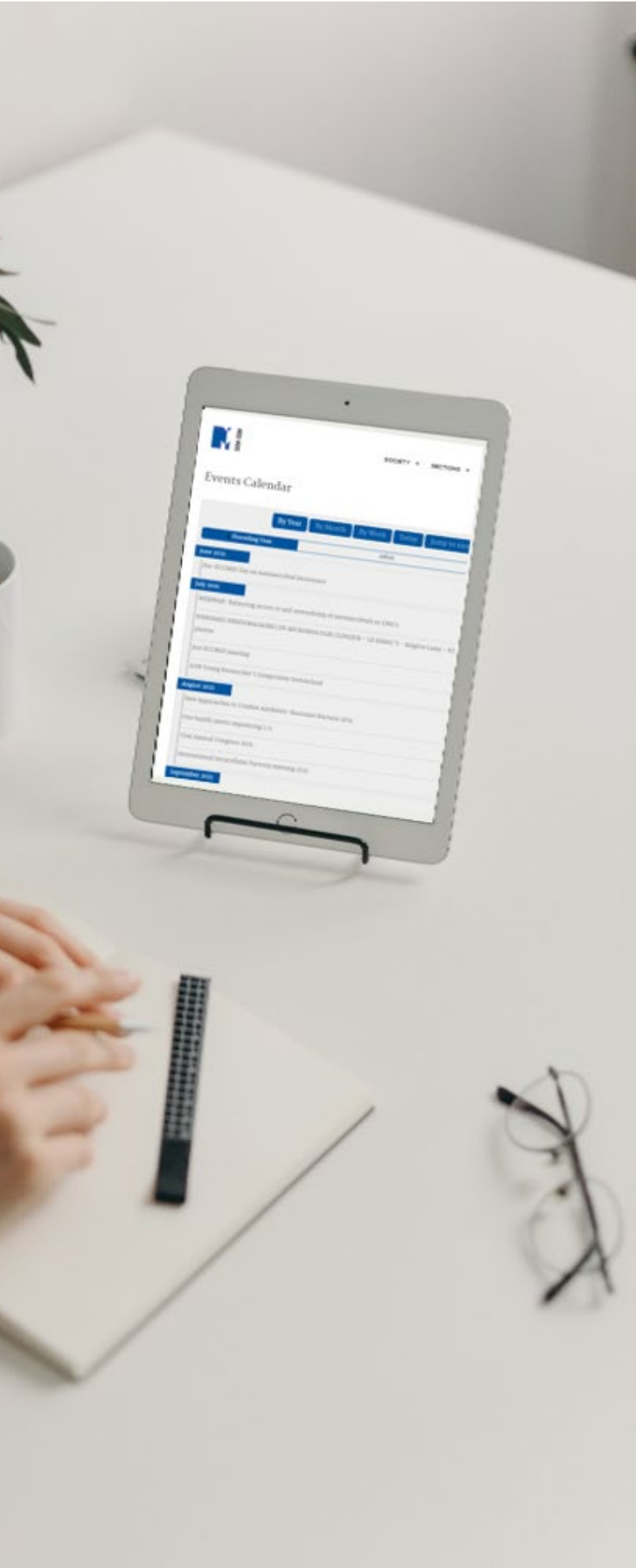
Swiss Academy of Sciences

<https://naturalsciences.ch>



Swiss Union of Laboratory Medicine

<https://www.sulm.ch>



# CALENDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

The below events can be subject to change, so please check regularly our website event page and the related event page to view the latest updates. <https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/events/year.listevents>

<b>PLANNED 2024 EVENTS</b>	
<b>JUN - JUL</b>	
30 JUN - 03 JUL	European Congress on Biotechnology ECB2024
15 JUL - 19 JUL	Viruses of Microbes 2024 Meeting
29 JUL - 30 JUL	5th World conference on infectious diseases
<b>AUG</b>	
11 AUG - 12 AUG	12th International Mycological Congress (IMC12)
<b>28 AUG – 03 AUG</b>	<b>SSM-SSI Joint Annual Meeting 2024 - BERN</b>
<b>SEPT</b>	
18 SEPT - 21 SEPT	26th Annual Conference of the European Society for Clinical Virology
22 SEPT - 26 SEPT	V International Symposium on Fungal Stress
<b>OCT</b>	
21 OCT - 23 OCT	11th European Seminar in Virology
23 OCT - 25 OCT	18th Congress of the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS) 2024
<b>NOV</b>	
7 NOV - 8 NOV	9th International Congress on Clinical Metagenomics (ICCMg)
<b>PLANNED 2025 EVENTS</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	
28 JAN - 29 JAN	10th SwissVirology meeting
<b>FEB</b>	
02 FEB - 07 FEB	BMSV 2025 conference
04 FEB	Rigi Workshop 2025: Microbiome Meets Metabolism !
12 FEB - 13 FEB	LS2 Annual Meeting 2025
<b>MAY</b>	
20 MAY - 25 MAY	EMBO/FEBS Course "Cell biology of host-pathogen interactions"
<b>27 AUG - 28 AUG</b>	<b>SSM Annual Meeting 2025 - INTERLAKEN</b>



SGM·SSM

SWISS SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY  
SOCIÉTÉ SUISSE DE MICROBIOLOGIE  
SOCIETÀ SVIZZERA DI MICROBIOLOGIA  
SCHWEIZERISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR MIKROBIOLOGIE

“INFO” is the Official Annual Report of the Swiss Society for Microbiology.

It is sent to all SSM members once a year.



The current SSM annual report « INFO 72» has been prepared by:

Nathalie MERMOUD

General Secretary

Swiss Society for Microbiology

E-mail: [secretary@swissmicrobiology.ch](mailto:secretary@swissmicrobiology.ch)

We would like to thank SCNAT for their financial support

