

[On behalf of Life Sciences Switzerland (LS2), we would highly appreciate it if you could circulate the below call among its target audience, or alternatively publish it online on your news sites/social media]

Dear postdoctoral fellows,

We are pleased to announce the call for applications to the

"PIs of tomorrow: The Future of Swiss Research"

session at the next **LS² Annual Meeting 2026**, which will be held at Irchel Campus, **University of Zurich**, on **February 11-12, 2026**. This session offers an **opportunity for postdocs and junior researchers** interested in pursuing an academic career **to present a talk in a similar format to a professorship application interview**.

Four finalists will have the chance to deliver a **presentation** to a broad audience **highlighting their future research plans**, as well as their **current achievements**. A jury panel of professors will evaluate the presentations and provide feedback in a one-on-one session afterwards.

Two prizes will be awarded: the Jury prize and the Public prize. In addition, all finalists presenting in the session will receive feedback from the jury in a one-on-one private session, focused on career development and advice. Finalists will also be invited to attend the LS² Annual Meeting 2026 free of charge and have the opportunity to network with Swiss and International attendees.

Eligibility criteria:

1. **Early career post-PhD researcher with a net academic age of max. 5 years** (following SNSF age regulations to take into account career breaks, maternity/paternity leaves, etc: https://www.snf.ch/media/en/Of9kzylTRoatIliN/SNSF_net-academic-age.pdf).

2. **Ties to Switzerland** (i.e. Swiss citizenship, Swiss residency, past or on-going affiliation with a Swiss institution of at least two years).

3. **Currently not in a permanent or tenure track position (e.g post-doc, maitre-assistant-e, Ambizione fellow...).**

For all requirements, the relevant date is that of the deadline (05.10.2025 at 23:59 CET).

The following documents are required for the application:

1. **Cover letter** highlighting your career path, research interests and motivation to become an independent researcher (max. 1 page)

2. **Research plan/statement.** Please provide a research plan or statement from a recent application/proposal (e.g. Research plan for ERC grants, SNSF Ambizione, academic position applications, etc.), maximum 3 pages (excluding references and figures). The document can be split in different sections as you see fit.

3. **Graphical abstract**, overview of the proposed project/research plan (max. 1 page)

4. **Curriculum Vitae**, including information about grants, research mobility, teaching and supervision experience, collaborations, outreach activities, and major scientific achievements (max. 3 pages) Only the new SNSF CV format (<https://snf.ch/en/gKcnwW6aEft4bMPF/page/your-curriculum-vitae-all-about-the-cv-format>) is allowed.

All documents need to be submitted as a single PDF file. For cover letter and research plan, use the text formatting as a standard font (Arial, Calibri, Times,...) 12pt, 1.5 paragraph spacing, and justified alignment.

Selection criteria:

- Scientific quality of proposed research
- Novelty and creativity
- Relevance and impact
- Research output
- Collaborations, networks and outreach
- Teaching and leadership
- Independence and maturity
- Mobility

To **apply**, please follow the guidelines in the application **link below** to upload your documents **in a single pdf file (max. 5 MB)**:

<https://form.jotform.com/211792813615356>

Applications must be received by **October 5, 2025 (23:59 CET).**

For questions on the session, contact postdocsession@gmail.com. We look forward to your application and hope to see you in February 2026 at the LS² meeting!

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Monika Gjorgjieva (University of Geneva)
Dr. Ana Ricardo da Costa Xavier (University of Basel)
Dr. Carina Osterhof (University of Fribourg)
Dr. Manon Guivier (University of Fribourg)
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