

SPHN: Setting up the Organisation

• Prof. Peter Meier-Abt, President

Dear Personalized Health Community, we welcome you to this first newsletter – Steps #1 – about the Swiss Personalized Health Network. In the SAMS bulletin 1/2016¹ we have informed you about the goals, the contents, the organisational structure and the implementation steps of this initiative. Meanwhile we have started to set up the SPHN organisation. The National Steering Board (NSB), the Executive Board (EB) and the Data Expert Group (DEG) are established, and a Managing Director is elected. In addition, the Rules of Procedures have been defined and the principles of Funding Procedures are in preparation. The latter is also true for the composition of the Ethical-Legal-Social-Issues Advisory Group (ELSIag), the International Advisory Board (IAB), the Data Organizations, and the definition of the Data Sharing principles.

The SPHN initiative aims for a nationwide harmonisation of molecular and clinical data semantics and of health information technology systems in order to achieve data interoperability among all relevant stakeholders such as University Hospitals, Universities, Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology (ETHZ, EPFL), research funding institutions (e.g. SNSF), other research performing hospitals, political authorities (e.g. FOPH) and relevant biomedical organizations (e.g. Swiss Biobanking Platform). It is planned to run the SPHN initiative over more than just one Federal ERI period of four years. As specified in the adopted implementation report of November 2015², initial funding shall focus on the development of essential infrastructures. Subsequently, funding of research projects will become more and more important (see figure 1, left).

With combined efforts we want to set the stage for Switzerland becoming a leading nation in personalized health research. We will inform you regularly with newsletters about the actual stage of development and important news about the SPHN. The next edition – Steps #2 – describes the Data Organization and the Data Coordination Center (DCC) as planned by the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics. We are looking forward to working together with you and to making the SPHN initiative a success for the benefit of medical research, the health system and for the whole of Swiss society.



Figure 1: Schedule according to the report «Implementation of the SPHN Initiative» (November 2015)

1 www.samw.ch/de/Publikationen/Bulletins/Aktuell.html

2 <http://www.samw.ch/en/Projects/Personalized-Health.html>

National Steering Board (NSB)

The National Steering Board is the highest governing body of the SPHN. It is composed of 18 members representing key partners such as University Hospitals, Universities and ETHs, the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics (SIB), the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) etc. On the list below the terms in brackets stand for the institution or network represented by each member.

The NSB has overall strategic responsibilities for the whole network and maintains regular contacts to the superordinate political authorities. In particular, the NSB exercises the following duties and powers:

- Determine the SPHN’s strategic focus (incl. requirements of data infrastructure, data semantic, scope of coordination, etc.)
- Decide on funds allocated to projects, upon proposal of the Executive Board (EB)
- Approve the business plan prepared and submitted by the EB, the yearly budget and the yearly management report including accounting
- Supervise the activities of the other governing bodies
- Represent the SPHN Initiative to the outside, in collaboration with the EB.

Prof. Peter Meier-Abt, President (SAMS)

Prof. Ron Appel, University of Lausanne
(Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics)

Prof. Herbert Binggeli, Bern University of Applied Sciences (swissuniversities)

Dr. Katrin Cramer, Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH)

Prof. Urs Frey, University Children’s Hospital of Basel (SAMS)

Prof. Matthias Gugger, Bern University Hospital (Cluster Geneva-Lausanne-Bern)

Prof. Detlef Günther, ETH Zurich (ETHZ)

Prof. Nouria Hernandez, University of Lausanne (swissuniversities)

Prof. Denis Hochstrasser, University of Geneva (CampusBiotech)

Prof. Christoph Hock, University of Zurich (swissuniversities)

Prof. Christoph Meier, Basel University Hospital (Cluster Zurich-Basel)

Prof. Arnaud Perrier, Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (Cluster Geneva-Lausanne-Bern)

Prof. Anita Rauch, University of Zurich (SAMS)

Prof. Dominique Soldati-Favre, University of Geneva (Swiss National Science Foundation)

Prof. Jean-Daniel Tissot, University of Lausanne (Cluster Geneva-Lausanne-Bern)

Prof. Didier Trono, EPF Lausanne (EPFL)

Prof. Effy Vayena, University of Zurich (ELSI Advisory Group)

Prof. Gregor Zünd, Zurich University Hospital (Cluster Zurich-Basel)



Peter Meier-Abt



Ron Appel



Herbert Binggeli



Katrin Cramer



Urs Frey



Matthias Gugger



Detlef Günther



Nouria Hernandez



Denis Hochstrasser



Christoph Hock



Christoph Meier



Arnaud Perrier



Dominique Soldati-Favre



Anita Rauch



Jean-Daniel Tissot



Didier Trono



Effy Vayena



Gregor Zünd

Executive Board (EB)

The Executive Board is the operative body of the SPHN. It is composed of 13 members, covering the whole disciplinary range relevant to personalized medicine such as clinical science, medical/clinical bioinformatics, public health/epidemiology etc. EB-members must be active scientists involved in basic, translational and/or clinical human research within their respective organizations/institutions.

The EB is responsible for the scientific strategic planning and for operative tasks. In particular, the EB has the following duties:

- Coordinate the requirements of data infrastructure, data semantic, scope of coordination, etc. with the Data Expert Group (DEG)
- Coordinate the collaboration in data collection and research in the field of personalized medicine
- Establish the business plan, the budgets, the annual account and the annual management report to be submitted to the NSB
- Create and appoint commissions or committees for specific

Prof. Bernd Bodenmiller, UZH, Technolomics

Prof. Denis Duboule, EPFL, Technolomics

Prof. Manolis Dermitzakis, UniGE, Technolomics

Prof. Christian Lovis, UniGE, Bioinformatics

Prof. Andrew Macpherson, Inselspital, Clinical Scientist

Prof. Olivier Michielin, CHUV, Clinical Scientist

Prof. Holger Moch, UZH/USZ, Clinical Scientist

Prof. Vincent Mooser, UniLS, Swiss Biobanking Platform

Prof. Nicole Probst, UniBS, Public Health/Human Biomonitoring Project

Prof. Gunnar Rätsch, ETHZ, Bioinformatics

Prof. Thomas Schulthess, CSCS, Data Expert

Prof. Torsten Schwede, UniBS/SIB, Data Expert

Prof. Radek Skoda, USB, Clinical Scientist



Bernd Bodenmiller



Denis Duboule



Manolis Dermitzakis



Christian Lovis



Andrew Macpherson



Olivier Michielin



Holger Moch



Vincent Mooser



Nicole Probst



Gunnar Rätsch



Thomas Schulthess



Torsten Schwede



Radek Skoda

Managing Director



Adrien Lawrence

The Management Office (MO) is responsible for the daily operations of the SPHN. Led by Adrien Lawrence, Managing Director, and locally integrated at the SAMS in Bern, the MO starts its work on the 1st of October 2016.

Adrien Lawrence is currently the Head of Special Projects at the Office of the Vice-Provost for Research at EPFL. Prior to this, he was Chief Science Officer at the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), where his role consisted of managing the chemistry platform and coordinating projects to support the chemical science community. He has also worked in the pharmaceutical industry and for an evidence-based life sciences consultancy in the UK. Adrien Lawrence studied chemistry at EPFL and at the University of Cambridge. After graduating with a MSc and PhD, he carried postdoctoral studies at the University of Lausanne.

Data Expert Group (DEG)

The Data Expert Group defines standardized procedures for data production, data organization and data storage to reach nationwide interoperability of molecular and clinical patient data and to make them usable for research.

The DEG consists of 23 members. It elaborates a technical roadmap for implementation, responsibilities (tasks) and operation of the national Data Coordination Center (DCC). Organization and structure of the DCC will be defined; to clarify which data must be stored centrally and which shall remain locally is thereby of particular importance.

Prof. Ron Appel, SIB, Bioinformatics

Prof. Michael Baudis, UZH, Bioinformatics

Prof. Jürg Blaser, USZ, Clinical Informatics

Dr. Remy Bruggmann, UniBe, Bioinformatics

Dr. Laurence Chapatte, SBP, Biobanking

Dr. Emmanuel Eschmann, USZ, Clinical Informatics

Johannes Gnägi, BAG, eHealth Suisse

Prof. Jean-Pierre Hubaux, EPFL, Information Security

Dr. Nathalie Jacquemont, CHUV, Clinical Research Unit

Dr. Alexander Leichtle, Insel, Laboratory Medicine

Prof. Christian Lovis, HUG, Clinical Informatics

Prof. Olivier Michielin, CHUV/UNIL, Molecular Modeling

Markus Obreiter, USB, Clinical Informatics

Prof. Christiane Pauli-Magnus, SCTO, Clinical Trial Unit

Prof. Milo Puhan, UZH, Epidemiology & Public Health

Prof. Gunnar Rättsch, ETHZ, Clinical Bioinformatics

Nicolas Rosat, CHUV, Head of IT Governance

Prof. Patrick Ruch, HES-SO, Text Mining

Dr. Caroline Samer, HUG, Pharmacology & Toxicology

Prof. Torsten Schwede, SIB DCC

Dr. Nicolas Vuilleumier, HUG, Laboratory Medicine

Prof. Ioannis Xenarios, SIB, Vital-IT director

Prof. Mihaela Zavolan, UniBas, Bioinformatics



Ron Appel



Michael Baudis



Jürg Blaser



Remy
Bruggmann



Laurence
Chapatte



Emmanuel
Eschmann



Johannes
Gnaegi



Jean-Pierre
Hubaux



Nathalie
Jacquemont



Alexander
Leichtle



Christian Lovis



Olivier Michielin



Markus
Obreiter



Christiane Pauli-
Magnus



Milo Puhan



Gunnar Rättsch



Nicolas Rosat



Patrick Ruch



Caroline Samer



Torsten Schwede



Nicolas
Vuilleumier



Ioannis Xenarios



Mihaela Zavolan

About this Newsletter

«Steps» informs 3 to 4 times per year about milestones in the development and implementation of the Swiss Personalized Health Network (SPHN). For any further information please visit: www.sams.ch/en/Projects/Personalized-Health.htm

Responsible for this edition: Franziska Egli (SAMS), f.egli@samw.ch

Design: Howald Fosco Biberstein, Basel

Contact: Prof. Peter Meier-Abt, SAMS, President of the National Steering Board
peter.meier-abt@unibas.ch