



SPOG

Schweizerische Pädiatrische Onkologie Gruppe
Groupe d'Oncologie Pédiatrique Suisse
Gruppo d'Oncologia Pediatrica Svizzera
Swiss Paediatric Oncology Group



Annual report

2021

Research – giving a future to
children with cancer

Imprint

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Editorial

Dear readers

2021 continued to be dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic – and SPOG as a whole was no exception.

Despite the challenging situation, all the study therapies were administered in full – something that could not be taken for granted, even in Europe. We as a group were still only able to meet online; our communication methods have evolved over time. Unfortunately, the Annual Scientific Meeting 2021 had to be cancelled completely, but it was at least possible to hold this year's meeting virtually at the end of January.

We are very aware that the pandemic has resulted in major financial losses and limitations in many areas. We are therefore extremely grateful that, in spite of these difficulties, all our supporters were able to maintain their commitment in 2021 – thank you so much! We are also delighted at the funding that has already been promised for 2022 – without this support, the work done by SPOG for children and adolescents with cancer would not be possible.

What else happened in 2021?

At the end of 2021, a total of 31 studies, 15 of them research projects, were open for patient recruitment. The global COVID-19 pandemic continued to cause substantial delays in the opening of new studies. We and our international partners will work hard to catch up with the backlog by the end of 2022.

It is crucially important to encourage the next generation of scientists, and in 2021 this took the form of the SPOG Young Investigator (YI) initiative. Monthly online lectures with speakers from Switzerland and abroad were arranged. Amendments to the professional development catalogue were covered, as well as the subspecialty examination and specific oncological topics. Young Investigators at the various SPOG hospitals were able to get to know each other

and network, while also learning about the research focuses of the individual SPOG hospitals. The SPOG YI Award was presented for the first time: Dr. Christa König of Inselspital Bern and Dr. Maria Otth of Zurich Children's Hospital were the first winners – many congratulations! We look forward to the results of their research projects.

My second year as President has now come to an end. I would like to thank everyone at the SPOG CC, my colleagues on the SPOG Board and all our colleagues at the nine SPOG hospitals for their outstanding collaboration and dedication. Only by working together can we continuously improve the chances of recovery for children and adolescents with cancer and minimise the late effects. •



Prof. Katrin Scheinemann

President of SPOG



Prof. Katrin Scheinemann has been Head of the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Department at Aarau Cantonal Hospital since 2017. She became President of SPOG in 2020.



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Patient-related clinical research

Number of patients included in studies in 2021

A total of 287 new patients were recruited to SPOG studies in 2021. 23 of them are taking part in two studies; one patient is taking part in three studies. They will each be counted in all the studies in which they are participating.

SPOG member hospital	Aarau	Basel	Bellinzona	Bern	Geneva	Lausanne	Lucerne	St. Gallen	Zurich	Total
Total number of study participations	35	22	7	53	19	18	24	26	83	287
Number of study patients (excluding multiple references)										262
Treatment studies	7	15	2	17	11	13	11	10	31	117
AIEOP-BFM ALL 2017	5	11	2	11	4	9	7	4	10	63
ALL SCTped 2012 FORUM		1			1				4	6
B-NHL 2013	1			3				3	3	10
EsPhALL2017						1				1
FaR-RMS							1		1	2
HR-NBL-1.8/SIOPEN		1		1	1					3
HR-NBL2/SIOPEN		1							1	2
IntReALL HR 2010							1		1	2
LBL 2018								1	2	3
LCH-IV				1	1	1			3	6
LINES		1					1	1	1	4
MyeChild 01					2					2
PHITT					2		1	2	2	7
SIOP Ependymoma II	1			1		1			1	4
SIOP PNET 5 MB									2	2
SIOP-HRMB										0
Research projects (registry studies and biology studies)	28	7	5	36	8	5	13	16	52	170
ALL-REZ BFM				1					1	2
COSS Registry	1	1		3			1	1	2	9
CWS Registry SoTiSaR	3			4			2	1	2	12
EU-RHAB									1	1
EWOG-MDS 2006	1	1		1		2				5
EWOG-SAA 2010			1	1					1	3
GPOH-MET Registry	1			2			2		2	7
I-HIT-MED		1	1				1		1	4
INFORM		1	1	2	3	1	1		12	21
KRANIOPHARYNGEOM Registry 2019	7				1	1		2		11
LOGGIC Core	6			4	2		1	5	8	26
MNP2.0		1	1	4		1	2	1	11	21
NHL-BFM Registry 2012	3	1		4			2	3	6	19
PTT2.0				1						1
STEP	4			4				2	1	11
UMBRELLA SIOP-RTSG 2016	2	1	1	5	2		1	1	4	17

Studies open at the end of 2021

The 16 clinical studies and 15 research projects listed in the following tables were open for patient recruitment at the end of 2021. SPOG endeavours to offer open studies at as many of the nine member hospitals in Switzerland as possible so that the largest possible number of children and adolescents with cancer can benefit from SPOG studies. [•](#)

Overview of clinical studies open on 31 December 2021

Study code	Condition under investigation	Number of participating SPOG member hospitals at the end of 2021	Study open since
AIEOP-BFM ALL 2017	Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia	9	2019
ALL SCTped 2012 FORUM	Allogeneic stem cell transplant in children and adolescents with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia	3	2015
B-NHL 2013	Mature aggressive B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma and B-cell leukaemia	9	2019
EsPhALL2017	Philadelphia chromosome-positive acute lymphoblastic leukaemia	9	2019
FaR-RMS	Rhabdomyosarcoma	6	2021
HR-NBL2/SIOPEN	High-risk neuroblastoma	9	2021
IntReALL HR 2010	High-risk relapsed acute lymphoblastic leukaemia	9	2019
LBL 2018	Lymphoblastic lymphoma	9	2020
LCH-IV	Langerhans' cell histiocytosis	9	2014
LINES	Low- and medium-risk neuroblastoma	9	2015
MyeChild 01	Acute myeloid leukaemia	9	2021
PHITT	Liver tumours (hepatoblastoma and hepatocellular carcinoma)	9	2018
rEECur	Recurrent and primary refractory Ewing sarcoma	9	2018
SIOP Ependymoma II	Ependymoma	9	2018
SIOP PNET 5 MB	Medulloblastoma	9	2015
SIOP-HRMB	High-risk medulloblastoma	6	2021



Overview of research projects open on 31 December 2021

Study code	Condition under investigation	Number of participating SPOG member hospitals at the end of 2021	Study open since
ALL-REZ BFM	Relapsed acute lymphoblastic leukaemia	7	2013
COSS Registry	Osteosarcomas and other bone sarcomas	7	2012
CWS Registry SoTiSaR	Soft tissue sarcoma and other soft tissue tumours	7	2011
EU-RHAB	Rhabdoid tumours	9	2013
EWOG-MDS 2006	Myelodysplastic syndrome and juvenile myelomonocytic leukaemia	8	2006
EWOG-SAA 2010	Acquired severe aplastic anaemia	7	2012
GPOH-MET Registry	Malignant endocrine tumours	7	2013
INFORM	Tumours that are recurrent or progressing under therapy	9	2017
KRANIOPHARYNGEOM Registry 2019	Craniopharyngioma	9	2020
LOGGIC Core	Low-grade gliomas	9	2020
MNP2.0	Brain tumours	9	2018
NHL-BFM Registry 2012	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	7	2012
PTT2.0	Brain tumours, sarcomas or peripheral tumours of the nervous system that are recurrent or progressing under therapy	9	2021
STEP	Rare tumours in children and adolescents	7	2013
UMBRELLA SIOP-RTSG 2016	Kidney tumours	9	2020

Highlights / Achievements in the SPOG network

In this annual report, SPOG wishes to draw attention for the first time to the members of the SPOG network with habilitations and adjunct professorships as well as those with responsibilities on national and international committees. It is thanks to these crucial functions and commitments that SPOG is able to conduct research projects and studies in Switzerland in line with the latest scientific knowledge.

New roles in the area of paediatric liver tumours

We congratulate Prof. Marc Ansari from the University Hospital of Geneva for his appointment as International Study Chair (the European coordinator) for the Paediatric Hepatic International Tumour Trial (PHITT), a role that he will assume as of 2022. PHITT is a clinical study involving paediatric liver tumour patients and is organised in collaboration with the European Study Group for Paediatric Liver Tumours, the Children's Oncology Group and the Japanese Study Group for Paediatric Liver Tumours. The PHITT protocol is open in Europe (Horizon 2020 grant), North America and Japan. Prof. Ansari also created the RELIVE registry for relapse/refractory paediatric liver tumour in 2020 and serves as International Study Chair for this registry study also open in Europe, North America and Japan. With the PHITT clinical trial and the RELIVE registry study, Prof. Ansari has currently a leading role for all paediatric liver tumours studies.

Prof. Marc Ansari



Significant engagements in haematology

Since 2021 Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourquin is a member of the Board of Directors of European Hematology Association (EHA) and member of the Steering Committee for Hematologic Malignancies of the Innovative Treatment for Childhood Cancer (ITCC) Consortium. We thank Prof. Bourquin for his commitment.

Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourquin



SNSF Eccellenza Awardee

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Eccellenza Professorial Fellowships are aimed at highly qualified researchers who aspire to a permanent professorship. Eccellenza supports them in achieving their goal by allowing them to lead a generously funded research project as an assistant professor with their team at a Swiss higher education institution. We wish to congratulate Prof. Ana Guerreiro Stücklin for being the SNSF Eccellenza Awardee for her project "Decoding and Targeting Novel Oncofusions in Pediatric Gliomas".

Prof. Ana Guerreiro Stücklin



New roles at the European Society for Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE)

The European Society for Paediatric Oncology is the only European organization representing all experts working in the field of cancer in childhood and adolescence. With over 2000 members in 36 European countries, SIOPE is a leading force in ensuring the best possible care and research for all children and adolescents diagnosed with cancer in Europe. Dr. Maria Otth, staff physician and deputy of the Life After Childhood Cancer (LACC) research group at the Kantonsspital Aarau and physician at the University Children's Hospital in Zurich – Eleonorenstiftung, will join the SIOPE Board in January 2022. Dr. Otth will represent the "Young SIOPE" group as its Chair. Congratulations and best of luck to Dr. Otth for taking on these new roles.

Dr. Maria Otth



SPOG is delighted to announce that Prof. Katrin Scheinemann, Head of Pediatric Oncology and Haematology at the Kantonsspital Aarau and the current President of SPOG will be joining the SIOPE Board in January 2022 as a new member. Prof. Scheinemann will represent "Survivorship" in her function as Chair of PanCare since May 2021.

Prof. Katrin Scheinemann



Highlight

First winners of the SPOG YI Award

SPOG has set up the SPOG Young Investigator (YI) initiative to encourage young researchers working in the field of paediatric oncology in clinical practice and research settings. Thus in 2021, for the very first time, SPOG presented two awards for projects by young researchers (YI). Dr. Christa König, who works as a paediatric haematology/oncology fellow at Inselspital Bern, was awarded one of the two YI grants for her research project "Continuous monitoring of vital signs with different wearable devices in pediatric patients undergoing chemotherapy for cancer – a comparison and feasibility pilot study". Dr. Maria Otth works as a paediatric haematology/oncology fellow at Zurich Children's Hospital and has been Chair of Young SIOPE (European Society for Paediatric Oncology) since January 2022. She submitted her research project on the subject of "Aftercare of Childhood Cancer Survivors in Switzerland – General Practitioner Model". Both projects thoroughly impressed the Board of Directors and the Scientific Advisory Board and are being supported financially by SPOG during the course of this year.

Dr. Christa König



Dr. Maria Otth



Publication highlights

Highlight 1; Quality control in radiotherapy

Dietzsch S, Braesigk A, Seidel C, Remmele J, Kitzing R, Schlender T, Mynarek M, Geismar D, Jablonska K, Schwarz R, Pazos M, Walser M, Frick S, Gurtner K, Matuschek C, Harrabi SB, Glück A, Lewitzki V, Dieckmann K, Benesch M, **Gerber NU**, Rutkowski S, Timmermann B, Kortmann RD. Pretreatment central quality control for craniospinal irradiation in non-metastatic medulloblastoma : First experience of the German radiotherapy quality control panel in the SIOP PNET 5 MB trial. *Strahlenther Onkol.* (2021); 197(8), 674-682. doi: 10.1007/s00066-020-01707-8.

The SIOP PNET 5 MB study is an international prospective study designed for children and adolescents with medulloblastoma – a type of malignant brain tumour. The name PNET 5 refers to the preceding PNET 4 trial which also investigated the treatment of medulloblastoma and the results of which formed the basis for this trial. Several studies have shown the negative effects of radiation protocol deviations on tumour control in medulloblastoma. The SIOP PNET 5 MB study introduced a pretreatment radiotherapy quality control (RT-QC) programme. A first analysis of radiotherapy for patients enrolled in Germany, Switzerland and Austria was performed, with a focus on the types of deviation from the initial radiation plan proposals and on the review criteria for modern radiation technologies. This review of pretreatment deviations revealed a high rate of deviations and emphasises the strong need for RT-QC before the treatment of medulloblastoma. Furthermore, the findings indicate the need for new RT-QC criteria for high-precision craniospinal irradiation (CSI) techniques.

How does this study help patients?



The study showed that improving treatment outcomes can sometimes involve more than simply finding new therapeutic approaches: quality controls are also highly important. Systematic implementation of quality controls during radiotherapy for malignant brain tumours may in future lead to better treatment outcomes for the affected patients.

Highlight 2; New medicines are needed

Eckert C, Parker C, Moorman AV, Irving JA, Kirschner-Schwabe R, Groeneveld-Krentz S, Révész T, Hoogerbrugge P, Hancock J, Sutton R, Henze G, Chen-Santel C, Attarbaschi A, **Bourquin JP**, Sramkova L, Zimmermann M, Krishnan S, von Stackelberg A, Saha V. Risk factors and outcomes in children with high-risk B-cell precursor and T-cell relapsed acute lymphoblastic leukaemia: combined analysis of ALLR3 and ALL-REZ BFM 2002 clinical trials. *Eur J Cancer.* (2021); 151, 175-189. doi: 10.1016/j.ejca.2021.03.034.

The purpose of this publication was to present the findings from the treatment of children enrolled in the ALLR3 and ALL-REZ BFM 2002 studies. SPOG also participated in the ALL-REZ BFM 2002 therapy optimisation study for the treatment of children with relapsed acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. The publication shows that the survival rates for patients in ALLR3 and ALL-REZ BFM 2002 were comparable. In summary, it can be said that new induction therapy substances are needed in order to improve the results for HR-ALL relapses and increase the remission rates, and targeted post-induction immunotherapy is important in order to sustain remission after the stem cell transplant.

How does this study help patients?



A comparison of the existing therapy options showed that they produced similar, but not yet satisfactory treatment outcomes. In order to be able to offer these patients a better prognosis, great efforts were made to find new medications, which are now being used in new studies.

Highlight 3; Toxicity makes the difference

Garaventa A, Poetschger U, Valteau-Couanet D, Luksch R, Castel V, Elliott M, Ash S, Chan GCF, Laureys G, **Beck-Popovic M**, Vettenranta K, Balwierz W, Schroeder H, Owens C, Cesen M, Papadakis V, Trahair T, Schleiermacher G, Ambros P, Sorrentino S, Pearson ADJ, Ladenstein RL. Randomized Trial of Two Induction Therapy Regimens for High-Risk Neuroblastoma: HR-NBL1.5 International Society of Pediatric Oncology European Neuroblastoma Group Study. *J Clin Oncol.* (2021); 39(23), 2552-2563. doi: 10.1200/JCO.20.03144.

Induction therapy is the most important component in the treatment of high-risk neuroblastomas. Two induction therapy regimens for high-risk neuroblastoma were compared in the HR-NBL1.5 study. The therapeutic outcomes, or the impact on the disease of the two induction therapies rCOJEC and MSKCC-N5, proved comparable. However, acute toxicity was lower for rCOJEC, which is why rCOJEC was chosen as the preferred induction regimen by the International Society of Paediatric Oncology European Neuroblastoma Group.

How does this study help patients?



This study showed that choosing the best therapy sometimes depends not only on the effectiveness of the treatment, but also on the unwanted side effects of the therapy. In future, patients with this disease can be offered whichever treatment has less toxicity for the same effectiveness.

Clinical Project Management and Quality Management

Clinical Project Management and Quality Management are departments of the SPOG Coordinating Center (SPOG CC). The main task of Clinical Project Management is to oversee studies, from their preparation and opening, followed by the implementation of amendments during the study, right through to the conclusion and archiving of the trial. Quality Management is independent from Project Management and carries out quality assurance in accordance with the overarching ICH GCP Guideline, to ensure that the rights, safety and well-being of study participants are upheld, along with the integrity of the trial results.

Clinical Project Management

News from Monitoring

The Monitoring department established itself as a newly integrated unit of the Coordinating Center over the course of the year. This change of structure facilitates close cooperation between Clinical Project Management and Monitoring.

CRC Meeting

27 participants from seven SPOG member hospitals, the Childhood Cancer Registry (ChCR) and the SPOG CC were represented at this year's SPOG Clinical Research Coordinators (CRC) Meeting in Bern at the end of November. Various topics related to clinical project management, fundraising and monitoring were discussed, the amendments to the new SPOG Manual explained and information from the Childhood Cancer Registry (ChCR) presented.

Opening of new studies

The clinical studies MyeChild 01, HR-NBL2/SIOPEN, FaR-RMS and SIOP-HRMB as well as the research project PTT2.0 were opened in 2021. Additional centres were also opened for the clinical study LBL 2018 and the research projects EU-RHAB, KRANIOPHARYNGEOM Registry 2019 and LOGGIC Core,

which are now open for patient recruitment at all SPOG member hospitals. A total of 54 centre openings took place in 2021.

Treatment studies

- MyeChild 01 (An international randomised clinical Phase III study for children with acute myeloid leukaemia): The clinical study was opened at all SPOG member hospitals in 2021.
- HR-NBL2/SIOPEN (High-risk neuroblastoma study 2.0 by SIOP-Europe-Neuroblastoma/SIOPEN): The clinical study was opened at all SPOG member hospitals in 2021.
- FaR-RMS (A study for children and adults with newly diagnosed or relapsing rhabdomyosarcoma): The clinical study was opened at all German-speaking SPOG member hospitals in 2021. The opening at the SPOG member hospitals in Lausanne, Geneva and Bellinzona is in preparation.
- SIOP-HRMB (International study for patients with high-risk medulloblastoma): The clinical study was opened at all German-speaking SPOG member hospitals in 2021. The opening at the SPOG member hospitals in Lausanne, Geneva and Bellinzona is in preparation.

Research projects

- PTT2.0 (Refining diagnosis and identifying possible target structures for individual therapies for tumours that have not responded to treatment or have returned): The research project was opened at all SPOG member hospitals in 2021.

Looking ahead to new studies

Preparations were also made in 2021 for the opening of new studies over the next year. There are plans to open clinical studies and research projects for leukaemias and bone marrow diseases (ML-DS 2018, EWOG SAA 2020), solid tumours (MAKEI V, SIOP Randomet 2017, iEwing Registry) and brain and bone marrow tumours (SIOPE ATRT01, MNP Int-R). The SPOG research council takes decisions on the opening of further studies on an ongoing basis, in response to study proposals following assessment by the PWG.

Overview of submissions to the authorities

The following table shows all relevant submissions to the authorities in 2021.

	Ethics committees	Swissmedic	Federal Office of Public Health	Total
Non-substantial amendments	41	15	0	56
Substantial amendments	20	7	1	28
Annual safety reports (ASR and DSUR)	32	22	1	55
Initial submissions	3	3	0	6
Total submissions	96	47	2	145

Quality Management

New Quality Manager position

Dr. Tu-My Diep Lai, who was previously employed as Clinical Project Manager, has been working as Quality Manager in the SPOG Coordinating Center (CC) since May 2021. This post covers all the key aspects of quality management and replaces the previous position of Assistant Quality Manager. •



Lead QM and CPM

Gitta Wanner-Seleznik
Head Clinical Operations a.i.



Dr. Michael Zeller
Teamleader
Clinical Project Management



Partner Relations

Last year, alongside successful fundraising efforts, SPOG was able to redesign its visual identity and explore the use of social media, among other things. These tools will form the basis for SPOG's communications and fundraising in the years to come.

The Partner Relations team deals with fundraising and communication/marketing. As a non-profit organisation, SPOG relies on new sources of funding each year if it is to open new clinical trials in Switzerland and recruit patients for research projects.

The fundraising unit is responsible for obtaining these resources. In 2021 this was achieved mainly through a service level agreement with the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), as well as requests to various foundations and organisations.

In order to achieve a broader reach and ensure that more people find out about SPOG's mission and decide to support it, SPOG made great progress in creating an extensive communication base in 2021. The use of these new tools complemented SPOG's fundraising efforts, enabling it to meet its budgetary needs for 2021.

Highlights in 2021

Childhood Cancer Day, 15 February

The International Childhood Cancer Day, which takes place on 15 February each year, has a key role to play in raising awareness in the general public about the topic of childhood cancer. On that day in 2021, SPOG was able to draw attention to the importance of clinical research for children and adolescents with cancer, and raise awareness of SPOG's own work, by issuing a media release and a variety of advertisements.

Charity golf tournament

In July, Juliana Felder organised a charity golf tournament at Meggen Golf course as part of her school-leaving certificate project, thus raising money for children with cancer. She was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 11. It is a subject very close to her heart that research into childhood cancer should be actively pursued so that as many children as possible can be treated and the undesirable late effects of the therapies used can be prevented as far as possible. Thanks to the generosity of many donors, Juliana Felder was able to pass the sum of CHF 59 482 on to Kinderkrebshilfe Zentralschweiz, to support SPOG's clinical research into childhood cancer. The event was an outstanding success in every respect, and SPOG is very grateful to Juliana Felder for her magnificent commitment!

New look unveiled in September

Work on shaping SPOG's new visual identity had been going on "behind the scenes" for a considerable period. This involved more than simply creating a new image – the design of our communication materials was overhauled too. The new advertisements and flyers were ready in time for the Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September, and were used for the campaign.

Taking part in Race for Life

On 12 September, SPOG was a partner organisation of Race for Life. SPOG was able to bring its research activities to the attention of a wide audience through its stand, at which children were able to colour special "SPOG" bags and adults were invited to enter a competition. An energetic team from the Coordinating Center also did a sponsored bike ride, jointly covering a 70-km course by pedalling down the



"I'm overwhelmed at how many people supported my project, not only financially but also by offering their time, energy and commitment. I am already really looking forward to holding another charity golf tournament in aid of children with cancer in 2023!"

Juliana Felder

cobblestones in Bern's old town to the river Aare and then all the way back up to the Bundesplatz – in some cases pulling a child in a trailer.

International Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (September)

Children are not simply small adults. They develop different types of cancer and respond differently to medicines. Their cancer must therefore be researched separately so that their particular needs can be taken into account. The month of September has long been a time for raising awareness of this important subject. SPOG drew attention to the need for research by placing numerous advertisements in different media, issuing a media release and posting on social media. Its participation in Race for Life also formed part of the publicity campaign in September.

Social media

At the same time, SPOG also ventured into "unknown territory" by exploring two new information channels. Since September, SPOG has been using Facebook and Instagram for its communications alongside its existing presence on LinkedIn.

Partner workshop

On 9 November, SPOG welcomed several partner organisations to its workshop. Participants spent several hours in the large meeting room at the Allresto Convention Center in Bern, listening to presentations and discussions and exchanging ideas under the slogan "Together for children, together against cancer". Those present included representatives from Zoé4life, ARFEC, Childhood Cancer Switzerland, Kinderkrebshilfe Schweiz, the Stiftung für krebskranke Kinder, Regio Basiliensis, and the Europäische, as well as Schweizerische Stiftung zur Unterstützung von hilfsbedürftigen krebskranken Kindern und Jugendlichen. SPOG would like to thank all participants most sincerely for the enriching day, and is already looking forward to the next opportunity to share ideas with them. •



Lead Partner Relations

Fabian Dreher
Teamleader Partner Relations



Fundraising

SPOG is grateful to all the individuals, charities, organisations, companies and institutions that have assisted it. It is thanks to their generous support that SPOG is able to carry out its research, thus giving a future to children with cancer.

Funding partners

State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)

In 2021 SERI was once again the major funding partner of SPOG. Following a dispatch from the Federal Council to Parliament on the promotion of education, research and innovation, SERI awarded performance mandates to SPOG (cancer research for children) and SAKK (cancer research for adults) covering the period 2021 to 2024. Art. 15 of the Federal Act on the Promotion of Research and Innovation (RIPA) forms the legal basis of this promotion of research by the federal government. The federal contribution may not exceed 50 percent of requirements. SPOG is considered to be a research institute of national importance.

Swiss Cancer Research (KFS)

KFS has been a reliable research funding partner of SPOG for many years. Swiss Cancer Research and the federal government are the most important sources of funding for SPOG.

Zoé4life

Zoé4life has for some years now been giving SPOG regular and significant donations for its research into the especially challenging treatment of relapses in children and adolescents with cancer. This exceptionally active and successful organisation depends on the energetic involvement of affected families, as well as individuals wishing to demonstrate their solidarity.

Swiss Clinical Cancer Research Foundation (SSKK)

This Foundation is another partner which has been providing SPOG with reliable support for many years. Substantial funding is awarded to selected SPOG projects every year.

Kinderkrebshilfe Schweiz

Kinderkrebshilfe Schweiz has undertaken to make generous donations to SPOG between 2020 and 2023. This commitment illustrates the high value placed on SPOG's research activities by those who are directly affected.

Kinderkrebshilfe Zentralschweiz

Thanks to a charity golf tournament, the donation received from Kinderkrebshilfe Zentralschweiz more than doubled in 2021 compared with the previous year. Such support from people affected by cancer is particularly valued.

Childhood Cancer Switzerland (Kinderkrebs Schweiz)

Once again, the umbrella organisation Childhood Cancer Switzerland gave SPOG generous financial support in 2021. Some of these donations were earmarked for particular studies.

Stiftung für krebskranke Kinder, Regio Basiliensis

The Stiftung für krebskranke Kinder, Regio Basiliensis, has been supporting projects for children with cancer and their families for over 30 years and has now become a loyal and valued funding partner for SPOG, to which it made another generous donation in 2021.

Various foundations and organisations

In addition to the above-mentioned organisations, in 2021 SPOG also received generous funding from 37 foundations and organisations, including 10 in French-speaking Switzerland. It currently has agreements spanning several years with the [Gebauer Stiftung](#) and the [Stiftung Domarena](#), both of which provide SPOG with a high level of funding. We should also like to thank the [Stiftung Neue Horizonte](#), which supported SPOG for the first time with an extremely generous donation.

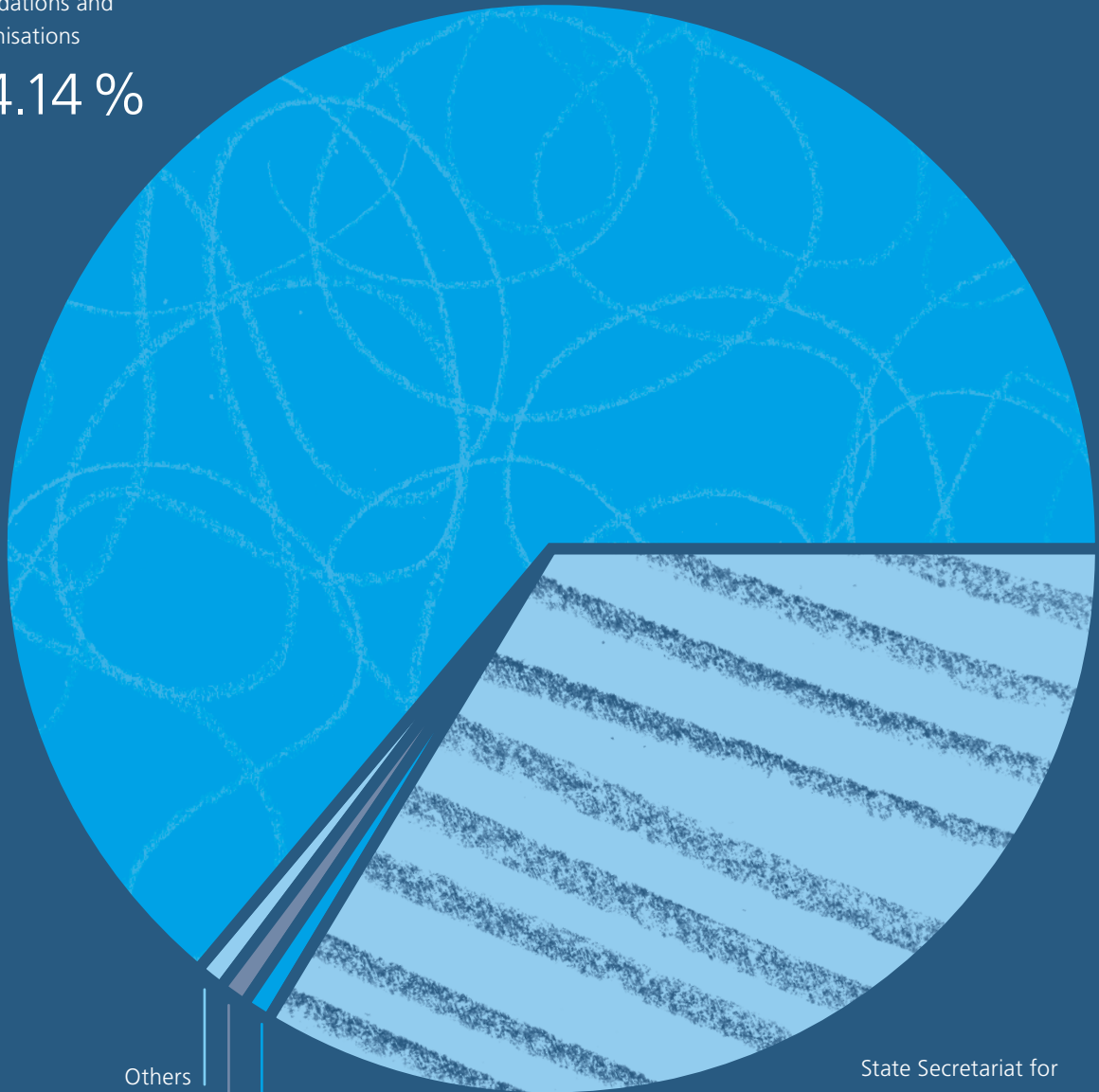
Private donations

Each year, SPOG receives support from private donors old and new. Every donation makes a difference and helps to improve the treatment options and quality of life of affected children and adolescents. We would particularly like to thank [MyLa Steinschmuck](#) for their generous support: SPOG receives five Swiss francs for every item of jewellery sold. In addition, we would like to thank the pupils of the International School Basel most sincerely for their commitment and support in 2021. ●

Sources of funding in 2021

Foundations and
organisations

64.14 %



Others

0.67 %

Private donations

0.95 %

Companies

0.85 %

State Secretariat for
Education, Research
and Innovation

33.39 %

Professional Development Working Group (PDWG)

The Professional Development Working Group (PDWG) is responsible for postgraduate and continuous education in the field of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology (PHO).

The principal tasks of this working group include defining, checking and revising the curriculum for PHO training, and specifying the eligibility criteria for examinations in this subspecialty. Of five candidates, three passed the subspecialty examination in 2021. The PDWG is also responsible for organising and conducting the PHO subspecialty examination, awarding credits for continuing professional development on request, and checking and selecting abstracts for SPOG's annual Scientific Meeting.

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the PDWG and its members were able to meet in person on two occasions in 2021. The first meeting was held in Aarau on 12 April 2021 and the second took place at the Swiss Oncology and Hematology Congress (SOHC) in Zurich on 19 November 2021.

Highlights in 2021

In 2021, the PDWG was primarily occupied with a fundamental revision of the previous learning objectives catalogue for PHO trainees and switching the PHO curriculum over to the PROFILES and EPA system. This switch is accompanied by a complete change of system and approach, and not only requires PDWG members to have skills and competences in this area but also takes up significant time resources. The working group is therefore planning to recruit two young researchers who are already familiar with the PROFILES and EPA system. •



PDWG Lead

Dr. Jeanette Greiner
PDWG Chair



Prof. Katrin Scheinemann
PDWG Vice-Chair



What does the PDWG do?



This working group is assuming responsibility for some areas of professional training and development in the specialist area of childhood cancer. It can award credits for professional development events that count towards professional development requirements. In addition it organises, coordinates and runs the annual subspecialty examination in Paediatric Haematology and Oncology.

Protocol Working Group (PWG)

The main task of the Protocol Working Group is to evaluate new study proposals and submit its recommendation to the SPOG Research Council.

The Protocol Working Group mostly held its meetings virtually in 2021, with one exception. The members of the PWG attended five Skype Meetings and one Zoom Meeting, and a face-to-face meeting at the SOHC congress in November 2021.

Main outcomes of the PWG meetings in 2021

In 2021, several protocols were discussed and evaluated as SPOG studies and submitted to the Research Council for approval. In addition, the PWG evaluated and recommended to the Research Council candidacies for National Study Chairs (NSC) and Vice National Study Chairs (Vice-NSC) positions for several studies in 2021. The following NSCs and Vice-NSCs were subsequently elected by the Research Council.

- [SIOPE ATRT01](#): Katrin Scheinemann (Aarau) as NSC and Manuel Diezi (Lausanne) as Vice-NSC.
- [iEWING Registry](#): Thomas Kühne (Basel) as NSC and André von Büren (Geneva) as Vice-NSC.
- [LCH-IV study](#): Frédéric Baleyrier (Geneva) as Vice-NSC.
- [ML-DS 2018](#): Nicole Bodmer (Zurich) as NSC and J.P.- Bourquin (Zurich) as Vice-NSC.

- [EWOG SAA 2020](#) with Markus Schmutz (Zurich) as NSC and Raffaele Renella (Lausanne) as Vice-NSC.
- [MNP Int-R](#) with Nicolas Gerber (Zurich) as NSC and Manuel Diezi (Lausanne) as Vice-NSC.
- [MAKEI V](#) with Sabine Kroiss (Zurich) as NSC and Jochen Rössler (Berne) as Vice-NSC.

The PWG was also involved in the decision not to open HIT-HGG 2013 as a SPOG protocol. The insufficient scientific background in an environment where contracting is delayed by years, as well as the fact that there was little time left until the study was completed, can be indicated as reasons for the decision. In addition, the SPOG CC had already invested too many working hours.

Highlight in 2021

Since 2021, all SPOG member hospitals except Bellinzona are represented in the PWG. •

What does the PWG do?



This working group evaluates all studies submitted by members of the SPOG with respect to their adoption as group-wide protocols. After a prior review of relevant regulatory aspects by SPOG Coordinating Center employees, checking for conformity with research guidelines, laws and protection of study participants, the medical, methodological and financial aspects of the study are discussed. Following this the working group formulates a recommendation concerning the participation or non-participation for the SPOG Research Council, which ultimately decides on the recognition of a study as a group-wide SPOG protocol.



PWG Lead

Prof. Maja Beck-Popovic
PWG Chair



Dr. Nicolas Gerber
PWG Vice-Chair



Germline DNA Working Group (GDWG)

The aim of the Germline DNA Working Group (GDWG) is to collect DNA samples throughout Switzerland from childhood cancer survivors as well as pediatric patients suffering from cancer and other blood diseases in order to promote research in this field.

The GDWG has been able to establish collaborations throughout the country, encouraging nationwide collection of germline DNA and linking it to reliable clinical data. Due to the ongoing pandemic and the travel constraints, the GDWG has only pursued virtual meetings in 2021. There were five meetings in total: an online meeting in March 2021 with the full group, followed by a BioLink management meeting, as well as another BioLink management meeting in Mai 2021, September 2021 and December 2021. Moreover, the members of the GDWG participated in meetings of the BioLink Core Group, which took place approximately every two to four months.

Main outcomes of the GDWG meetings in 2021

The work of the Germline DNA Working Group enabled the collection of constitutional DNA samples from more than 500 childhood cancer survivors in 2020 and 2021 for whom the DNA extraction started at the end of 2021. The GDWG is now planning the collection of DNA of newly diagnosed patients at the associated clinical centers. Through the national collaboration, an important Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) BioLink grant ("The Swiss Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Metabank – a network for precision medicine research", CHF 593 638) was received (collaboration of the WG members Profs Bourquin, Ansari and Kuehni), which assures sustainable data linkage of germline DNA and tumour samples as well as clinical data. The efforts of the Germline DNA Working Group and its members allowed Switzerland to participate in an international research project with genetic and clinical data on second thyroid cancers after a different first childhood cancer.

Highlights in 2021

Of the manuscripts produced in 2021 resulting from the GDWG collaboration, six manuscripts have already been accepted after peer review, and further manuscripts are in progress. Through the SNF BioLink project, the GDWG was able to lay the foundation for a large-scale constitutional DNA and tumour sample collection with linkage to clinical data. The resulting tool will improve the feasibility of related research projects. •



GDWG Lead

Dr. Tiago Nava
GDWG Chair



Dr. Nicolas Waespe
GDWG Vice-Chair



What does the GDWG do?



The purpose of this working group is to collect and evaluate germline DNA from pediatric and adolescent patients and survivors with hematological or oncological diseases. The group aims to invite as many eligible patients and survivors of Switzerland as possible to enlarge the available dataset. Germline DNA can be collected at diagnosis or after treatment. The research on collected germline DNA facilitates knowledge-building among specialists, which in turn will help children and young people treated for such diseases in the future.

Paediatric Haematology Working Group (PHWG)

Overall, 2021 has been a year of intense discussions and collegial exchange amongst the members of the SPOG PHWG (and guests of its meetings). The PHWG continues to build its authoritative leadership for pediatric hematology in Switzerland.

Structure

The leadership mandate of PD Dr. Raffaele Renella (Chair) and Prof. Markus Schmugge (Vice-Chair) is defined to last until 2025. Guest colleagues with specialized interests (e.g. Dr. Nicolas Waespe, Dr. Mutlu Kartal-Kaess, etc.) have actively been participating in the discussions and meetings, and the group remains very grateful to their contributions. It is important that the group remains open and connected to the practicing clinicians and the researchers in the field, as this will best serve the interests of children with non-malignant blood disorders in Switzerland. This year, the group has held three meetings, including one at the national Swiss Oncology-Hematology Congress 2021 in Zurich.

Clinical practice

The group continues to lead a monthly national video board for pediatric myelodysplastic syndrome, severe aplastic anemia and bone marrow failure (MDS/SAA/BMF), where all SPOG member hospitals present cases and benefit from a centralized pathology review by the European Working Group (EWOG)-approved/certified national pathology reference center at the CHUV Lausanne for pediatric MDS/SAA/BMF. The group is extremely grateful to Dr. Carole Gengler,

expert hematopathologist, who functions under the auspices of the National Study Chair of the EWOG SAA/MDS protocols (Prof. M. Schmugge). Concretely, this year again >20 samples have been received and reviewed, and the video boards were joined by several SPOG member hospitals. A new study on pediatric SAA by the EWOG consortium (EWOG-SAA 2020) has been submitted by the NSC Prof. M. Schmugge to the SPOG Research Council and the hope is that it will be opened in 2022. The group is also currently engaged in a process review of the new treatments for pediatric hemoglobinopathies, including a definition of their indications and possible future reimbursement strategies. The PHWG specifically met to discuss these matters in a “mini-virtual retreat” format to develop a consensus. A guideline document for a minimal set of required clinical care standards in pediatric hemoglobin disorders and red cell disorders is currently being drafted as a result by the group leadership, and will be circulated in 2022. Discussions in the PHWG have included the appropriate registration of pediatric patients with rare blood disorders within the existing frameworks.

Academic achievements

The PHWG has also concluded its first research study on the epidemiology of children with Diamond-Blackfan Anemia in Switzerland, which has concluded with the help of all participating SPOG member hospitals under the coordination of Dr. Heinz Hengartner (PI). The manuscript has been successfully published in the European Journal of Pediatrics. Also, of note, the PHWG Vice-Chair Prof. Schmugge again co-organized and chaired the Joint SSH-SPOG session at the Swiss Oncology Hematology Congress 2021. •

What does the PHWG do?



The PHWG has several aims in the area of paediatric haematology. One objective is to represent this specialist area both within SPOG and externally. In addition, the working group formulates care guidelines and supports the participation of SPOG member hospitals in international studies as well as the training of specialists in the area of paediatric haematology.



PHWG Lead

Dr. Raffaele Renella
PHWG Chair



Prof. Markus Schmugge
PHWG Vice-Chair



Translational research / Biobank

The Swiss Pediatric Hematology and Oncology (SPHO) Biobank Network was established as a national project for the collection of samples from pediatric patients, who have been treated in SPOG member hospitals. The biobank infrastructure is located in the Oncology Research Laboratory of the University Children's Hospital Zurich, at the Balgrist Campus.

What does the Biobank do?

In the SPOG member hospitals, samples are collected with the consent of the patients or their parents. Hematological samples are processed by the oncology diagnostic laboratory of the Children's Hospital Zurich, which acts as the national reference laboratory for leukemia clinical studies. For solid tumours, collaborations have been established with Pathology Tissuebanks in three university hospitals (Zurich, Bern and Basel). Tumour samples are stored locally in the tissue banks and only the clinical data and the declaration of consent are archived centrally in the SPHO biobank. These collaborations allow the highest quality in the samples processing.

The biobank has been supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) for the years 2019-2021, in the development of an online tool to evaluate feasibility studies in pediatric oncology with the goal of generating a research pediatric oncology metabank for feasibility studies, representing a unique resource for pediatric research in Switzer-

land to identify matched samples (tumour-germline samples pairs). The project was designed and led by Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourquin (Director of the SPHO Biobank Network), Prof. Marc Ansari (Director of the Paediatric Biobank for Research in Hematology and Oncology, BaHOP, Geneva) and Prof. Claudia Kuehni (Director of the Childhood Cancer Registry, ChCR, Bern) and aims to combine the two pediatric biobank databases with the research database of the former Swiss Childhood Cancer Registry (SCCR).

Highlights in 2021

Thanks to the support of the SNSF, the SPHO Biobank has established a new solution for a biobank database (BIMS) by implementing the use of the software CentraXX (by Kairos GmbH), which has been installed with the same configuration as at the University Hospital Zurich and further adapted to the local needs. In 2021, the SPHO Biobank Network was granted the "NORMA label" certification by the Swiss Biobanking Platform (SBP). SBP is the national coordination platform for human and non-human biobanks and was initiated by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) in 2016. SBP offers a compliance review through SBP Biobank SQAN to biobanks, its online assessment tool of biobanks' practices. After completion of the compliance review, three labels can be awarded. The Vita label was awarded to the SPHO Biobank Network in 2019. The NORMA label certifies the biobank compliancy of IT, equipment, personnel and sample processes. •

Link to SPOG



The SPHO Biobank Network's activity is strictly connected to the SPOG member hospitals. The biobank collects viable cells and tumour material from patients treated at SPOG member hospitals and is able to professionally store them and provide them for future research projects. Thanks to our collaborations with pathology Institutes in some of the SPOG member hospitals, solid tumours are now also available as fresh frozen tissues, allowing for studies previously impossible to be performed. Review Boards, whose members are appointed by the SPOG Research Council, govern the review process of the biobank.



Contacts SPHO Biobank Network

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News from the Childhood Cancer Registry (ChCR)

The Childhood Cancer Registry (ChCR) is a national register which records cancer in children and teenagers. In addition to new cases and information about the diagnoses, it also documents the treatment offered, the course of the disease and late effects. The ChCR evaluates the data collected and provides information on the development and course of different types of cancer in children and adolescents and on the efficacy of treatments.

The Childhood Cancer Registry, formerly known as the Swiss Childhood Cancer Registry (SCCR), was founded by SPOG in 1976; from 2004 to 2019 it was managed jointly with the paediatric epidemiology research group at the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine at the University of Bern. The Cancer Registration Act (CRA; SR 818.33), which requires the registration of cancer in Switzerland, came into force on 1 January 2020. The Federal Government conferred this federal task on the SCCR bidding consortium (consisting of SPOG and the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) at the University of Bern) in the summer of 2018. The ChCR registers cancer in children and adolescents under 20 using a defined process. Cancer in adults, on the other hand, is recorded in the cantonal cancer registry of the canton in which the person lives. The Cancer Registration Act specifies the types of cancer, precancerous conditions and information about the diseases that must be notified to the cancer registry. The CRA also regulates patients' rights and the cooperation between the various players in cancer registration: the cantonal cancer registries, the ChCR, persons with a reporting obligation (such as doctors, hospitals, etc.), the National Agency for Cancer Registration, the Federal Office of Public Health and the Federal Statistical Office. The CRA therefore defines for the whole of Switzerland who must notify which data to whom and what happens to the data. Further information may be found in the ChCR annual report on the ChCR's website (www.childhoodcancerregistry.ch).

Highlights in 2021

- **Cancer Report 2021:** This report is published in Switzerland every five years to inform both the general public and healthcare specialists about the latest trends relating to cancer: its incidence, prevalence, mortality and survival rates, as well as potential risk factors. The publication is produced jointly by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO), the National Agency for Cancer Registration (NACR) and the ChCR. The Cancer Report 2021 was published on 14 October 2021 and covers the period 2013–2017.
- **“Childhood cancer” on the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) website:** Every year the ChCR provides the FSO with incidence and mortality statistics that are published on the FSO website. The data from the ChCR is used to calculate incidences.
- **Provision of statistical analyses on the ChCR website:** Since 2020 the ChCR has published on its website tables and figures showing the number of children diagnosed with cancer (incidence), classified according to diagnostic groups, sex and age. It also provides information about the survival rates of children with cancer.
- **International cooperation:** The ChCR works with international organisations such as the International Association of Cancer Registries (IARC) and the European Network of Cancer Registries (ENCR) and prepares data for international calls for data.
- **National cooperation:** The ChCR works closely with all the national stakeholders in cancer registration and is in regular contact with the FOPH, FSO, NACR, ASRT and the cantonal cancer registries. It maintains regular contact with Childhood Cancer Switzerland and, through it, with the related patient associations as well. •



Lead ChCR

Prof. Claudia Kuehni





Radio-oncology and paediatric surgery reports

Radiation Oncology (Radiotherapy)

Radiotherapy (RT) is delivered to a substantial amount of children with cancer (Leukemias, lymphomas, brain tumours and solid tumours with embryologic origin are common with a variety of subtypes). Noteworthy, most pediatric cancers are curable having survival rates around 87 % with proper treatment; as such, appropriate RT delivery is of paramount importance so as to increase the likelihood of tumour control and minimize the risk of radiation-induced late adverse effect. Radiation may have detrimental effects on the growing child, thus radiation dose limits are much lower than in adults, and radiation is always combined with chemotherapy, which requires good collaboration with paediatric oncologists. Anesthesia and proper positioning are essential in small children during simulation and treatment, with a need of extra staff and effort. As there is yearly a small number of children with cancer and a large number of RT departments, private and public, it is important that children are treated in a RT department linked to SPOG member hospitals with specific pediatric expertise.

Paediatric Surgical Oncology

Surgery often plays a critical role in children's cancer treatment. It is essential to focus on the treatment of various types of cancers including neuroblastoma, wilms' tumour, hepatoblastoma, brain and bone tumour in an interdisciplinary team. We discuss with specialists from oncology, radiology, radiotherapy and pathology the best strategy for a paediatric patient with a tumour. In Switzerland, with several centers for Pediatric Oncology, we continuously strive for optimal treatment options for paediatric patients across cantonal borders to achieve the best possible outcome. In order to reach this goal, it is of utmost importance to network across all specialties. SPOG is the ideal society to obtain this and strengthen the collaboration and exchange between oncologists and surgeons. •



Our Author

Prof. Damien Charles Weber
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Our Author

Dr. Sasha J. Tharakan
University Children's Hospital Zurich



Did you know?

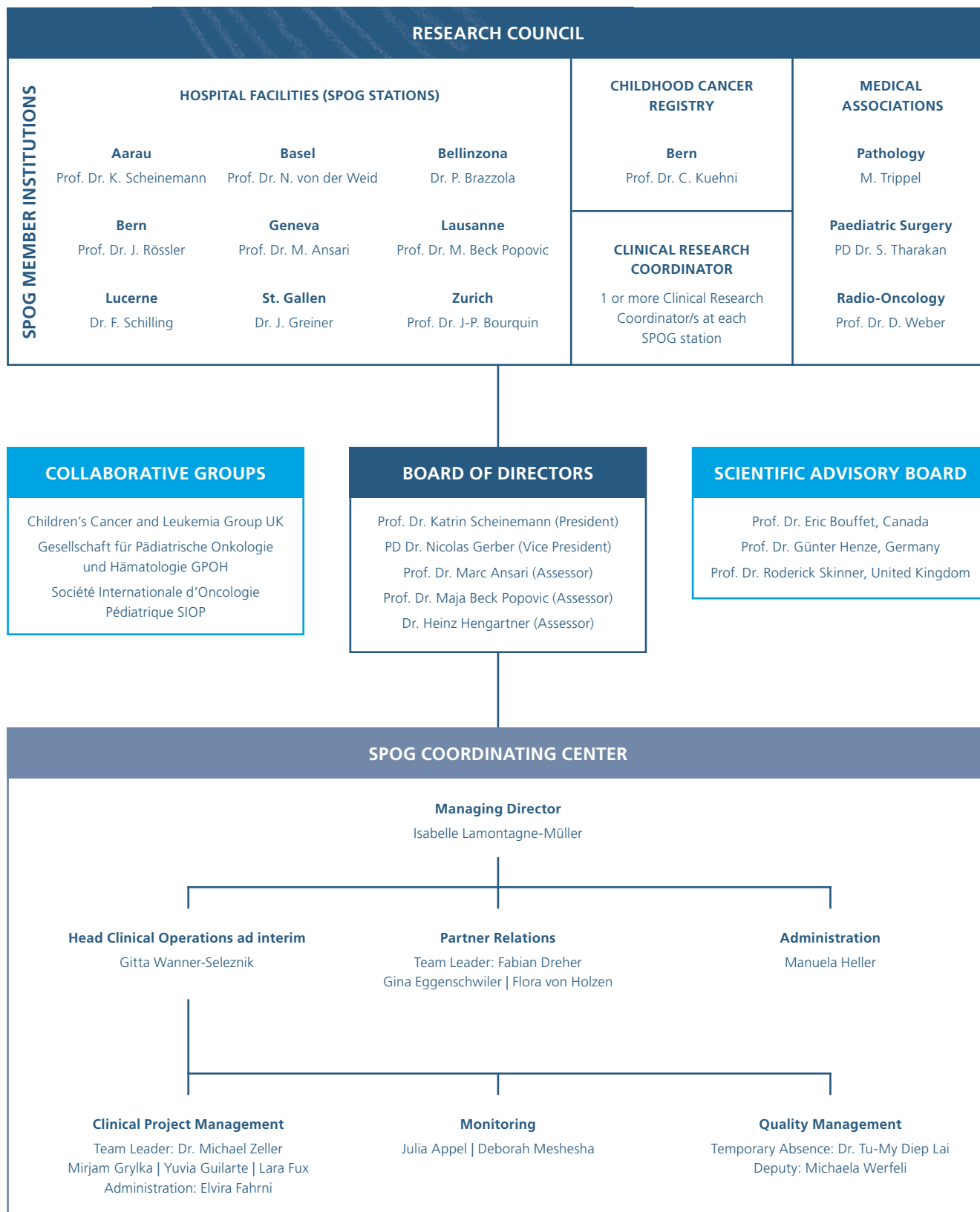


The Paul Scherrer Institute PSI is the largest research institute for natural and engineering sciences in Switzerland, conducting cutting-edge research in three main fields: matter and materials, energy and the environment and human health. PSI develops, builds and operates complex large research facilities. Every year, more than 2500 scientists from Switzerland and around the world come to PSI to use our unique facilities to carry out experiments that are not possible anywhere else.

Annual accounts

Operating account				
1 January to 31 December				
	2021		2020	
	CHF		CHF	
Operating income				
Research contributions, Federal Government	959'000		992'167	
Research contributions, third parties	1'542'207		1'402'548	
Research contributions, (KFS)	300'000		300'000	
Miscellaneous income	70'814		55'617	
Total operating income	2'872'020	100.0 %	2'750'332	100.0 %
Operating costs				
Miscellaneous study-related expenses	-89'300		-87'750	
Research contributions, centers	-613'091		-708'759	
Other operating expenses	-50'290		-57'109	
Total operating expenses	-752'681	-26.2 %	-853'618	-31.0 %
Interim result 1	2'119'339	73.8 %	1'896'714	69.0 %
Coordination expenses				
Personnel expenses	-1'460'202		-1'330'750	
Other coordination expenses	-327'731		-296'200	
Total coordination expenses	-1'787'933	-62.3 %	-1'626'950	-59.2 %
Interim result 2	331'406	11.5 %	269'764	9.8 %
Financial result				
Financial expenses	-8'389		-6'170	
Total financial result	-8'389	-0.3 %	-6'170	-0.2 %
Interim result 3	323'018	11.2 %	263'594	9.6 %
Extraordinary expenses & out-of-period result				
Extraordinary expenses	0		0	
Out-of-period income	0		26'000	
Total extraordinary expenses & out-of-period result	0	0.0 %	26'000	0.9 %
Annual result	323'018	11.2 %	289'594	10.5 %

Structure of SPOG





SPOG Publications in 2021

Below is a list of the publications that appeared in national and international scientific journals in 2021 and in which people from the SPOG network were actively involved.

	Authors / title / journal	Publications in peer reviewed journals and cited in PubMed	JIF as per Guide Journal
1	Adam C , Deffert C, Leyvraz C, Primi MP, Simon JP, Beck Popovic M , Bénard J, Bouthors T, Girardin C, Streuli I, Vuillmoz N, Gumy-Pause F . Use and Effectiveness of Sperm Cryopreservation for Adolescents and Young Adults: A 37-Year Bicentric Experience. <i>J Adolesc Young Adult Oncol</i> . (2021); 10(1), 78-84. doi: 10.1089/jayao.2020.0121.		1.465
2	Ansari M , Petrykey K , Rezgui MA , Del Vecchio V, Cortyl J, Ameur M, Nava T , Beaulieu P, St-Onge P, Jurkovic Mlakar S , Uppugunduri CRS , Théoret Y, Bartelink IH, Boelens JJ, Bredius RGM, Dalle JH, Lewis V, Kangaroo BS, Corbacioglu S, Sinnott D, Bittencourt H, Krajinovic M. Genetic susceptibility to acute graft versus host disease in pediatric patients undergoing HSCT. <i>Bone Marrow Transplant</i> . (2021); 56(11), 2697-2704. doi: 10.1038/s41409-021-01386-8.		4.725
3	Atallah I, Quinodoz M, Campos-Xavier B, Peter VG, Fouriki A, Bonvin C, Bottani A, Kumps C, Angelini F, Bellutti Enders F, Christen-Zaech S, Rizzi M , Renella R , Beck-Popovic M , Poloni C, Frossard V, Blouin JL, Rivolta C, Riccio O, Candotti F, Hofer M, Unger S, Superti-Furga A. Immune deficiency, autoimmune disease and intellectual disability: A pleiotropic disorder caused by biallelic variants in the TPP2 gene. <i>Clin Genet</i> . (2021); 99(6), 780-788. doi: 10.1111/cge.13942.		3.578
4	Balduini C, Freson K, Greinacher A, Gesele P, Kühne T , Scully M, Bakchoul T, Coppo P, Drnovsek TD, Godeau B, Gruel Y, Koneti Rao A, Kremer Hovinga JA, Makris M, Matzdorff A, Mumford A, Pecci A, Raslova H, Rivera J, Roberts I, Scharf RE, Semple JW, Van Geet C. The EHA Research Roadmap: Platelet Disorders. <i>Hemasphere</i> . (2021); 5(7), e601. doi: 10.1097/H59.000000000000601.		No JIF available
5	Balduzzi A, Bönig H, Jarisch A, Nava T , Ansari M , Cattoni A, Prunotto G, Lucchini G, Krivan G, Matic T, Kalwak K, Yesilipek A, Ifversen M, Svec P, Buechner J, Vettenranta K, Meisel R, Lawitschka A, Peters C, Gibson B, Dalissier A, Corbacioglu S, Willasch A, Dalle JH, Bader P, EBMT Pediatric Diseases Working Party. ABO incompatible graft management in pediatric transplantation. <i>Bone Marrow Transplant</i> . (2021); 56(1), 84-90. doi: 10.1038/s41409-020-0981-7.		4.725
6	Bauer C, Quante M, Breunis WB , Regina C, Schneider M, Andrieux G, Gorka O, Groß O, Boerries M, Kammerer B, Hettmer S. Lack of Electron Acceptors Contributes to Redox Stress and Growth Arrest in Asparagine-Starved Sarcoma Cells. <i>Cancers (Basel)</i> . (2021); 13(3), 412. doi: 10.3390/cancers13030412.		6.126
7	Baugh JN, Gielen GH, van Vuurden DG, Veldhuijzen van Zanten SEM, Hargrave D, Massimino M, Biassoni V, Morales la Madrid A, Karremann M, Wiese M, Thomale U, Janssens GO, von Bueren AO , Perwein T, Hoving EW, Pietsch T, Andreiuolo F, Kramm CM. Transitioning to molecular diagnostics in pediatric high-grade glioma: experiences with the 2016 WHO classification of CNS tumors. <i>Neurooncol Adv</i> . (2021); 18(3), vdab113. doi: 10.1093/oaajnl/vdab113.		10.247
8	Bell, LM, Holm A, Matysiak U, Driever W, Rössler J , Schanze D, Wieland I, Niemeyer CM, Zenker M, Kapp FG. Functional assessment of two variants of unknown significance in TEK by endothelium-specific expression in zebrafish embryos. <i>Hum Mol Genet</i> . (2021); 31(1), 10-17. doi: 10.1093/hmg/ddab196.		5.100
9	Belle FN , Chatelan A, Kasteler R , Mader L , Guessous I, Beck-Popovic M , Ansari M , Kuehni CE , Bochud M . Dietary Intake and Diet Quality of Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer and the General Population: Results from the SCCSS-Nutrition Study. <i>Nutrients</i> . (2021); 13(6), 1767. doi: 10.3390/nu13061767.		4.546
10	Ben Hassine K , Nava T , Théoret Y, Nath CE, Daali Y, Kassir N, Lewis V, Bredius RGM, Shaw PJ, Bittencourt H, Krajinovic M, Uppugunduri CRS , Ansari M . Precision dosing of intravenous busulfan in pediatric hematopoietic stem cell transplantation: Results from a multicenter population pharmacokinetic study. <i>CPT Pharmacometrics Syst Pharmacol</i> . (2021); 10(9), 1043-1056. doi: 10.1002/psp4.12683.		No JIF available
11	Ben Hassine K , Powys M, Svec P, Pozdechova M, Versluys B, Ansari M , Shaw PJ. Total Body Irradiation Forever? Optimising Chemotherapeutic Options for Irradiation-Free Conditioning for Paediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. <i>Front Pediatr</i> . (2021); 9, 775485. doi: 10.3389/fped.2021.775485.		2.634
12	Benzing V , Siewart V , Spitzhüttl J , Schmid J, Grotzer M , Roebbers CM, Steinlin M, Leibundgut K , Everts R , Schmidt M. Motor ability, physical self-concept and health-related quality of life in pediatric cancer survivors. <i>Cancer Med</i> . (2021); 10(5), 1860-1871. doi: 10.1002/cam4.3750.		3.491
13	Bernard F , Uppugunduri CRS , Meyer S, Cummins M, Patrick K, James B, Skinner R, Tewari S, Carpenter B, Wynn R, Veys P, Amrolia P, UK Paediatric BMT group. Excellent overall and chronic graft-versus-host-disease-free event-free survival in Fanconi anaemia patients undergoing matched related- and unrelated-donor bone marrow transplantation using alemtuzumab-Flu-Cy: the UK experience. <i>Br J Haematol</i> . (2021); 193(4), 804-813. doi: 10.1111/bjh.17418.		5.518

	Authors / title / journal	Publications in peer reviewed journals and cited in PubMed	JIF as per Guide Journal
14	Bernhard SM, Adam L, Atef H, Häberli D, Bramer WM, Minder B, Döring Y, Laine JE, Muka T, Rössler J , Baumgartner I. A systematic review of the safety and efficacy of currently used treatment modalities in the treatment of patients with PIK3CA-related overgrowth spectrum. <i>J Vasc Surg Venous Lymphat Disord.</i> (2021). doi :10.1016/j.jvsv.2021.07.008.		3.137
15	Bernhard SM, Tuleja A, Laine JE, Haupt F, Häberli D, Hügel U, Rössler J , Schindewolf M, Baumgartner I. Clinical presentation of simple and combined or syndromic arteriovenous malformations. <i>J Vasc Surg Venous Lymphat Disord.</i> (2021). doi: 10.1016/j.jvsv.2021.10.002.		3.137
16	Berthold F, Rosswog C, Christiansen H, Frühwald M, Hemstedt N, Klingebiel T, Fröhlich B, Schilling FH , Schmid I, Simon T, Hero B, Fischer M, Ernst A. Clinical and molecular characterization of patients with stage 4(M) neuroblastoma aged less than 18 months without MYCN amplification. <i>Pediatr Blood Cancer.</i> (2021); 68(8), e29038. doi: 10.1002/psc.29038.		2.355
17	Berthold F, Spix C, Erttmann R, Hero B, Michaelis J, Treuner J, Ernst A, Schilling FH . Neuroblastoma Screening at 1 Year of Age: The Final Results of a Controlled Trial. <i>JNCI Cancer Spectr.</i> (2021); 5(4), pkab041. doi: 10.1093/jncics/pkab041.		No JIF available
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