

# Annual Report 2022

## Graduate School for Health Sciences

Faculty of Medicine  
Faculty of Human Sciences



GHS Symposium 2022

*Cure sometimes, treat often and comfort always.*

**Hippocrates**

## GHS Annual Report 2022

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## Introduction

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It is a pleasure for me to share with you some GHS highlights from the year 2022.

In December 2022, we received the final approval of the new GHS regulations by the faculties of Medicine, Human Sciences and Vetsuisse. With this milestone, after much coordination effort with all involved instances, an important actualization of the regulations fitting to the needs of the GHS has been achieved.

The new regulations imply an adaptation of some procedures, and we are now aligned to the most advanced standards for quality in PhD supervision. We would like to take this occasion to thank the University of Bern and the three faculties for their continuous engagement and support, which allowed us to reach this aim.

The year 2022 also brought changes to the GHS Steering Board: in the summer of 2022, we welcomed Prof. Marcel Zwahlen as successor of Prof. Thomas Abel. Prof. Abel has been a member from August 2008 to July 2022, and the president of the GHS between 2013 and 2018. On behalf of the Steering Board of the GHS, we express our sincerest thanks to Thomas Abel for his valuable contributions and support over the years, indeed since the foundation of the GHS.

In 2022, the remarkable growth that we have observed since 2019 continued. In fact, we accepted 30 new PhD candidates to the GHS during 2022. With a total of 156 PhD candidates enrolled at the GHS during 2022, the number of candidates has increased by 174 % from 2019 to 2022.

Along with this impressive growth, the increased amount of workload for the coordinator and administrative staff should also be mentioned. They have adopted different strategies to meet the needs of the enrolled candidates and ensure the necessary level of functionality. We are grateful for the contributing GHS faculties for the intermediate support to the GHS office.

Despite the long-lasting negative effects of the pandemic and thanks to the GHS leadership promoting a culture of open communication and collaboration, we managed to keep the GHS going and to guarantee support for our candidates and their supervisors without delays in the graduations. Indeed, 17 defenses were celebrated during 2022 and the scientific output of the GHS PhD candidates resulted in 150 peer reviewed publications, registered in Boris.

The GHS symposium, the annual highlight of our graduate school, was held at the Studienzentrum Gerzensee and was a great success. We are looking forward to welcoming you to our next symposium, which will again take place again in that beautiful location.

In conclusion, 2022 was another intense and successful year for the GHS.

To get an overview of the GHS activities and accomplishments in 2022, I invite you to read this annual report.

Prof. Dr. phil. Sissel Guttormsen

President GHS Steering Board Committee

Bern, August 2023



GHS Symposium 2022

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## Highlights

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From the end of 2018 to 2022 the GHS enjoyed a 174% increase in enrollment, with a total of 156 students enrolled in 2022.

The reasons of this massive increase are several:

We are diversifying the research areas including experts from many different fields as particularly evident in the Expert Committee I.

Thanks to the young Expert Committee III and the innovative 50:50 model, the Clinical Sciences specialization continues to enjoy significant interest.

Furthermore, the quality of the PhD and the offer of administrative support and financial aid from the GHS satisfy our students, experts as well as supervisors according to the exceptionally positive judgments we received in the self-evaluation reported in the Annual Report 2021. Indeed, 90% of the GHS students and 100% of supervisors and committee members who participated in the evaluation would recommend GHS to others, and more than 85 % of the students and 100 % of the participating supervisors and committee members were satisfied with the performances of the GHS office and the program coordinator.

As in 2021, in 2022 the number of graduations further increased, with 17 PhD candidates successfully defending their theses. 2022 was also a busy year in terms of publications, with 150 articles published by GHS students, according to BORIS.

Along with the increase of the numbers of students, the number of experts in the three Expert Committees has grown as well – from 26 in January 2019 to 34 in 2022 (31% increase). Over the same period, the proportion of women in the Expert Committees has increased from 23 % to 50 %.

The 2022 GHS Symposium was held at Studienzentrum Gerzensee in November and enjoyed an extraordinary success with many enthusiastic students and GHS members participating.

Last but not least, we took the final step of renewing the GHS regulations in December 2022, as the new regulations with enactment date on February 01, 2023, were approved by the 3 involved faculties, the Canton of Bern and the Executive Board of the University of Bern.

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## New GHS Committee members

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In 2022 the GHS welcomed seven new Expert Committee (FK) members and one new Steering Board Member:

Prof. Dr. Marcel Zwahlen (Member of the Steering Board)  
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)

Prof. Dr. phil. Stéphanie Baggio (Expert Committee I / FK)  
Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM)

Prof. Dr. phil. Annika Frahsa (Expert Committee I / FK)  
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)

Prof. Dr. med. dent. Vivianne Chappuis (Expert Committee I / FK)  
Institute of Dental Medicine (ZMK)

Prof. Dr. phil. Carla Meyer-Masseti (Expert Committee I / FK)  
University Hospital Inselspital Department of General Internal Medicine

Prof. Dr. med. Manuel Haschke (Expert Committee I / FK)  
University Hospital Inselspital Department of General Internal Medicine

Dr. phil. Lorena Gianotti (Expert Committee II / FKII)  
Institute of Psychology

PD Dr. phil. Jessica Peter (Expert Committee III / FKIII)  
University Hospital of Old Age Psychiatry and Psychotherapy



GHS Symposium 2022

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## Vision and Mission

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### **Vision**

PhD students at the GHS have best conditions and support to advance their knowledge and research competencies in a health science related topic.

### **Mission**

The PhD program promotes and offers scientifically oriented courses in combination with clinical, experimental, and translational research, ensuring integrity and stimulating students to work responsibly and independently in the pursuit of in-depth knowledge.

From these statements, strategic goals and foci have been inferred, that guide the work of the GHS on all levels:

#### **Promote Excellence, Quality, and Integrity**

Guide and prepare doctoral students to deepen knowledge, become competent & successful researchers, ensuring integrity in training and research, in line with ethical principles applied to health sciences and to

achieve an internationally recognized and competitive PhD title.

#### **Foster a solid and advanced knowledge on global health issues**

Provide a program that encourages doctoral students to expand their knowledge beyond their specific research training through interdisciplinary courses, content, and methods in the field of health sciences.

#### **Support and Develop**

Support doctoral students throughout their PhD program, ensuring the best supervision and structure and motivate them to become competent, qualified, and innovative professionals who will contribute to the improvement of health. PhD candidates are supported in building networks within and outside of their PhD group.



GHS Symposium 2022

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## GHS Organization

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The GHS implements the vision and the missions consequently, realizing a very attractive study and supervision program. The PhD program supports the candidates in accomplishing the demands, particularly with regards to admission requirements, courses, and publication output expectations. Additionally, the GHS expects and promotes a lively exchange of ideas from our students.

The GHS is an interfaculty and truly multidisciplinary graduate school. The strength of this multidisciplinary approach to health, using different paradigms and methodologies, is to render the research and clinical interventions more effective.

The program is jointly organized by the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Human Sciences and offers a comprehensive and internationally acclaimed training in the theory and practice of experimental research,

as well as in-depth specialist knowledge of the individually selected research area, addressing questions rooted in both basic research and applied fields.

The GHS is strategically run by the executive board with members from the two faculties and the expert committees.

The GHS has three expert committees covering a wide spectrum of research approaches and methods: in preventive and social medicine, public health, medical education, psychology, rehabilitation & clinical research and other disciplines. (Expert Committee I), neurosciences (Expert Committee II) and clinical sciences (Expert Committee III).

These committees are also responsible for the admittance, guidance, and evaluation of the PhD candidates.

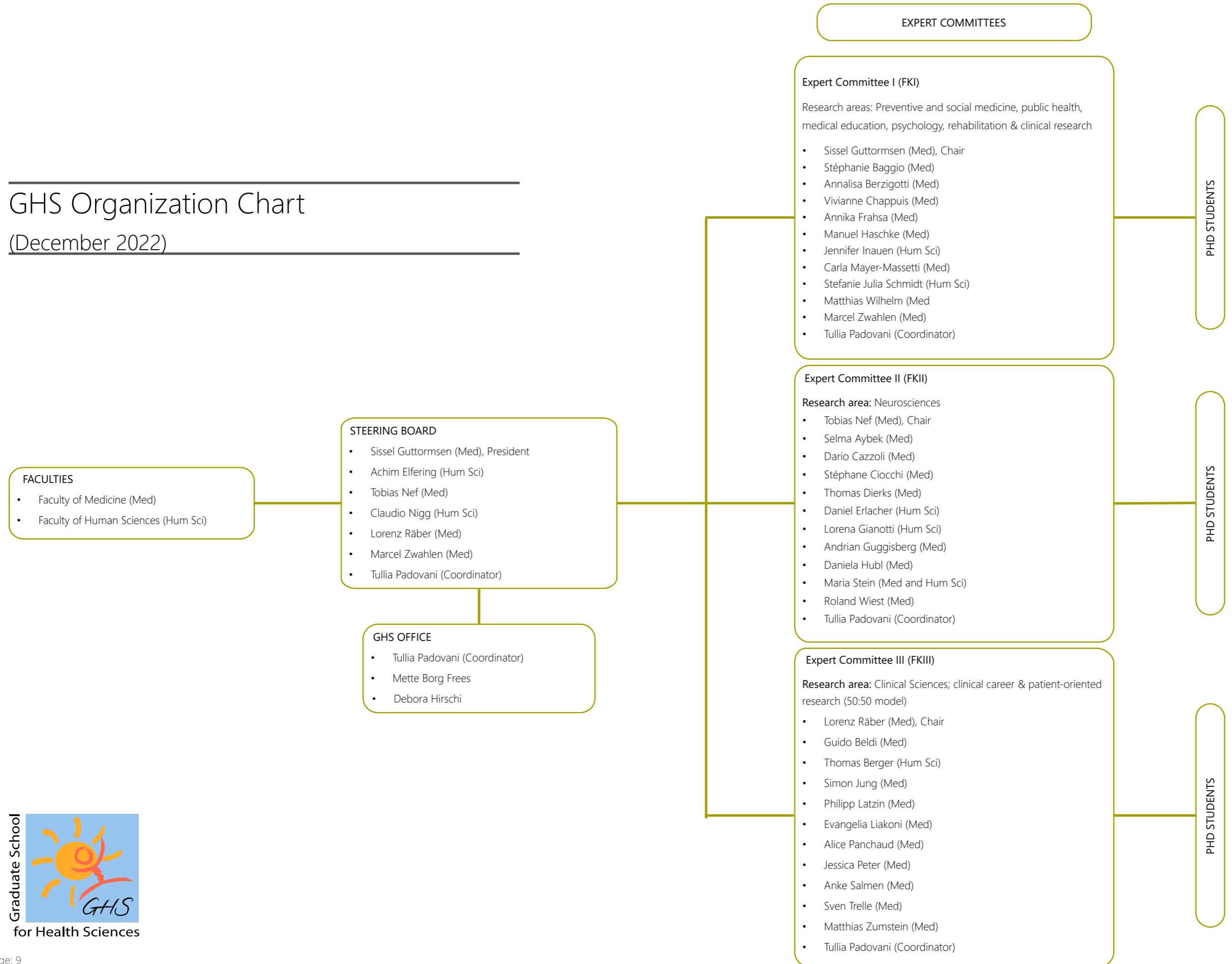
The extensive body of academic experts and resources available enable the GHS students to develop into highly qualified professionals as researchers and academics, in private or not-for-profit industries, ready to use their knowledge and skills in complex subjects in their chosen area. Today 108 academic experts (thesis advisors and co-thesis advisors) support the PhD candidates in their endeavors.

The GHS Office is directed by the GHS Coordinator Dr. Tullia Padovani. Dr. Padovani is responsible for the operative organization. She is supported by the GHS steering board and the GHS office team consisting of Debora Hirschi and Mette Borg Frees.

Awarded PhD title:  
PhD in Health Sciences (specialist area).

# GHS Organization Chart

(December 2022)



# Steering Board

The Graduate School is strategically managed by a Steering Board. The Steering Board is composed of two representatives each from the Faculty of Human Sciences and the Faculty of Medicine, together with the Program Coordinator. Those representing the faculties are professors. At least one representative per faculty must be a member of the respective Faculty Council (Fakultätskollegium). Additional persons can be elected to sit on the Steering Board if the faculties concerned are in agreement.

The members of the Steering Board must be renowned scientists and are elected by the University Board of Directors for a period of office of four years, upon application by the faculties involved. They can be reappointed. The representatives of the Faculties on the Steering Board preside over the Board in turn.



Prof. Dr. phil. Sissel **GUTTORMSEN**

Director, Institute for Medical Education (IML)  
 Founding President and Member since August 2008  
 Chair of Expert Committee I



Prof. Dr.  
 Achim **ELFERING**

Work and Organizational  
 Psychology, Institute of  
 Psychology.

Member since August 2008.



Prof. Dr.  
 Tobias **NEF**

Chair Expert Committee II  
 ARTORG Center for  
 Bio-medical Engineering  
 Research.

Member since August 2021.



Prof. Dr. phil.  
 Claudio **NIGG**

Department of Health  
 Science, Institute of Sport  
 Science.

Member since January 2020.



Prof. Dr. med. Dr. phil. nat.  
 Lorenz **RÄBER**

Chair Expert Committee III  
 University Hospital Inselspital  
 Department of Cardiology.

Member since August 2021.



Prof. Dr.  
 Marcel **ZWAHLEN**

Director i.a. Institute of Social  
 and Preventive Medicine (ISPM).

Member since August 2022.



Dr. phil.  
 Tullia **PADOVANI**

GHS Coordinator and Lecturer.

Member since January 2019.

## Expert Committees

PhD candidates (listed on the [GHS Website](#)) currently carrying out their research projects within the framework of the GHS are grouped by GHS Expert Committees (Fachkommissionen: FKI, FKII and FKIII):

- **Preventive and Social Medicine, Public Health, Medical Education, Psychology, Rehabilitation, Clinical Research & others (Expert Committee / FKI)**
- **Neurosciences (Expert Committee II / FKII)**
- **Clinical Sciences (Expert Committee III / FKIII)**

Each PhD candidate is assigned to one of the GHS Expert Committees. The committees are responsible for the admittance, guidance, and evaluation of the PhD candidates.

| Expert Committee I / Fachkommission I / FKI   |                            |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| Research Areas:<br>Preventive and social medicine, public health, medical education, psychology, rehabilitation, clinical research & others |                            |  |
| Name  | Affiliation                | Institute  |
| <b>Sissel Guttormsen</b>  | <b>Faculty of Medicine</b> | <b>Institute for Medical Education</b>                                       |
| Stéphanie Baggio  | Faculty of Medicine        | Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM)                                     |
| Annalisa Berzigotti   | Faculty of Medicine        | University Hospital Inselspital Department for Visceral Surgery and Medicine |
| Vivianne Chappuis   | Faculty of Medicine        | Institute of Dental Medicine (ZMK)   |
| Annika Frahsa   | Faculty of Medicine        | Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)                           |
| Manuel Haschke  | Faculty of Medicine        | University Hospital Inselspital Department of General Internal Medicine      |
| Jennifer Inauen   | Faculty of Human Sciences  | Institute of Psychology  |
| Carla Meyer-Masseti   | Faculty of Medicine        | University Hospital Inselspital Department of General Internal Medicine      |
| Stefanie Schmidt  | Faculty of Human Sciences  | Institute of Psychology  |
| Matthias Wilhelm  | Faculty of Medicine        | University Hospital Inselspital Department of Cardiology                     |
| Marcel Zwahlen  | Faculty of Medicine        | Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)                           |
| Tullia Padovani   | GHS Coordinator            | Graduate School for Health Sciences  |

| Expert Committee II / Fachkommission II / FK II |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Research Areas: Neurosciences                   |   |  |
| Name  | Affiliation                                     | Institute  |
| <b>Tobias Nef</b>                               | <b>Faculty of Medicine</b>                      | <b>ARTORG Center for Biomedical Engineering Research</b>                                   |
| Selma Aybek                                     | Faculty of Medicine                             | University Hospital Inselspital Department of Neurology                                    |
| Dario Cazzoli                                   | Faculty of Medicine                             | ARTORG Center for Biomedical Engineering Research  |
| Stéphane Ciochi                                 | Faculty of Medicine                             | Department of Physiology   |
| Thomas Dierks                                   | Faculty of Medicine                             | Universitäre Psychiatrische Dienste (UPD)  |
| Daniel Erlacher                                 | Faculty of Human Sciences                       | Institute of Sport Science   |
| Lorena Gianotti                                 | Faculty of Human Sciences                       | Institute of Psychology  |
| Adrian Guggisberg                               | Faculty of Medicine                             | University Hospital Inselspital Department of Neurology                                    |
| Daniela Hubl                                    | Faculty of Medicine                             | University Hospital of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy  |
| Maria Stein                                     | Faculty of Medicine & Faculty of Human Sciences | Institute of Psychology / Universitäre Psychiatrische Dienste (UPD)                        |
| Roland Wiest                                    | Faculty of Medicine                             | University Hospital Inselspital Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology |
| Tullia Padovani                                 | GHS Coordinator                                 | Graduate School for Health Sciences  |

| Expert Committee III / Fachkommission III  |                            |   |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| Research Areas: Clinical Sciences, clinical career and patient-oriented research (50:50 model) |                            |   |
| Name   | Affiliation                | Institute   |
| <b>Lorenz Räber</b>  | <b>Faculty of Medicine</b> | <b>University Hospital Inselspital Department of Cardiology</b>                   |
| Guido Beldi  | Faculty of Medicine        | University Hospital Inselspital Department for Visceral Surgery and Medicine      |
| Thomas Berger  | Faculty of Human Sciences  | Institute of Psychology   |
| Simon Jung   | Faculty of Medicine        | University Hospital Inselspital Department of Neurology                           |
| Philipp Latzin   | Faculty of Medicine        | University Hospital Inselspital Department of Pediatrics                          |
| Evangelia Liakoni  | Faculty of Medicine        | University Hospital Inselspital Department of General Internal Medicine           |
| Alice Panchaud   | Faculty of Medicine        | Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM)  |
| Jessica Peter  | Faculty of Medicine        | University Hospital of Old Age Psychiatry and Psychotherapy                       |
| Anke Salmen  | Faculty of Medicine        | University Hospital Inselspital Department of Neurology                           |
| Sven Trelle  | Faculty of Medicine        | Clinical Trials Unit (CTU Bern)   |
| Matthias Zumstein  | Faculty of Medicine        | University Hospital Inselspital Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology |
| Tullia Padovani  | GHS Coordinator            | Graduate School for Health Sciences   |



# PhD Program

## Doctoral Program

The Graduate School for Health Sciences (GHS) offers research-oriented curricula on psychological and physiological factors that determine the health of individuals and groups in their social contexts and physical environments. The GHS in general focuses on patient-oriented clinical research that is carried out directly with patients or healthy volunteers. The doctoral degrees are issued jointly by the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Human Sciences, after submission of the written thesis and successful defense of the thesis. As a rule, the PhD thesis must be submitted no later than one year after completion of the experimental work. The University regulations require enrollment until the successful completion of studies.

The PhD typically lasts 3 - 4 years (Expert Committees I and II) or 4 - 6 years (Expert Committee III).

## Supervision

Each PhD candidate is supervised by a thesis committee consisting of the thesis advisor and a co-referee. In addition, the candidates of the Expert Committee III have a mentor assigned, who also chairs the PhD defense. The candidates of the Expert Committees I and II choose a member of the Expert Committees as GHS Representative for chairing the PhD defense.

## Thesis Committee

The *thesis advisor* is responsible for the research project, adequate supervision, the laboratory infrastructure, and the salary of the candidate.

*Co-thesis advisor (optional)* can be appointed to support the thesis advisor. The co-thesis advisor is an expert within the field of the dissertation and is chosen by the thesis advisor.

*Co-referee* should be an expert in the research area of the thesis project but must not be affiliated with

the same institute/department as the thesis advisor. He/she meets with the candidate at least twice a year to discuss and assess progress of the thesis work, as well as advising and supporting the candidate. The co-referee is present at the exams and the thesis defense.

*Mentor (only FKIII)* guides the candidate on the tailor-made training program reported in the doctoral agreement, together with the candidate and the thesis advisor, evaluates the progress report and chairs the defense exam. The mentor is also a mediator in case of conflicts within the thesis committee.

## Requirements

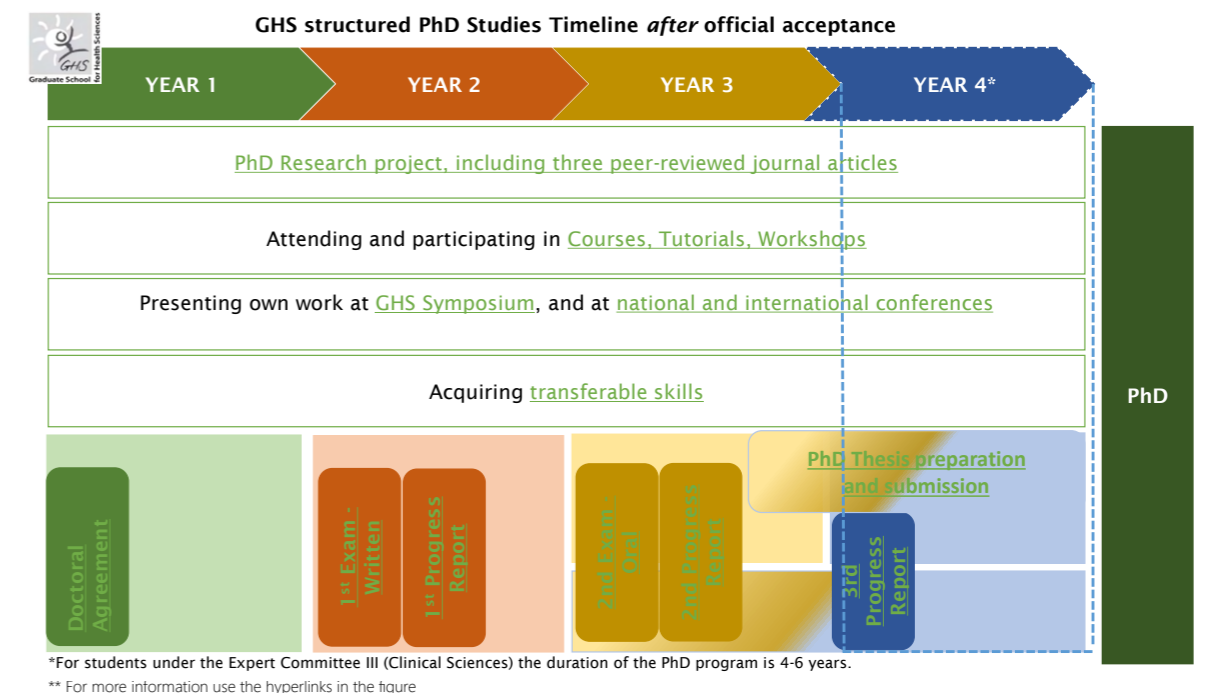
The training program requires at least 18.0 ECTS of learning credits, which can be obtained by participating in approved, project-related and interdisciplinary courses, workshops, conferences, seminars, and lectures.

There are two required exams: A written exam after the first year on methodological aspects of the research project, and an oral exam at the end of the second year, where candidates present their work in a scientific seminar in the presence of the thesis committee, to document in-depth knowledge of the research field.

## Financial Support

By granting a financial contribution, the GHS actively supports the participation of candidates in national and international conferences and in special training courses offered by recognized institutions in Switzerland and abroad.

# PhD Program Structure



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## PhD Curriculum: Courses and conferences

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Seminars and courses are selected for each candidate individually from courses supported by GHS, from the teaching units of the faculties, and from courses offered by other Swiss or foreign universities. Some candidates also take part in internationally organized Summer Schools, which provide high quality training in specific fields. Active participation at meetings or conferences can be recognized as part of the PhD curriculum as well.

**18 ECTS credit points are necessary for the GHS PhD program. These ECTS include:**

- Mandatory Requirements (3 ECTS)
- Core Courses (2 to 4 ECTS)
- Method Skills (4 to 6 ECTS)
- Special Knowledge (including meetings and conferences) (min. 6 ECTS)

The [Course Catalog](#) lists suggestions for the different course categories. The Mandatory, Core, Methods and Special Knowledge Courses offered by the GHS are listed on the website. GHS recognizes external courses and meetings/conferences when they meet the requirements and can provide financial support in many cases.

### Curriculum

- Each PhD candidate compiles an individual curriculum based on qualifications and relevance to the research interests.
- Also courses and meetings/conferences not listed in the GHS Course Catalog can be selected upon agreement with the GHS Coordinator; they must involve active participation and be of minimum of 0.5 ECTS and on a 0.5 ECTS scale..
- The selection of courses and meetings/conferences should be documented in the Doctoral Agreement (DA).

### Mandatory Requirements

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Basics of Ethics in Health Sciences Research

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GHS Symposium: Poster presentation

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GHS Symposium: Oral presentation

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## Partner Programs

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### [The BENEFRI Neuroscience Program](#)

is a convention between the Universities of Bern and Fribourg and is available to GHS students. Its purpose is the organization of joint postgraduate courses and lectures for PhD students in Neuroscience at the two Universities. At the moment it includes the Faculty of Medicine in Bern and the Faculty of Science in Fribourg.

### [The Swiss School of Public Health PhD program \(SSPH+\)](#)

assembles the inter-university faculty of public health sciences affiliated with the twelve Swiss universities of the SSPH+ Foundation: Basel, Bern, Fribourg, Geneva, Lausanne, Lucerne, Neuchâtel, Svizzera italiana, Zurich, BFH, SUPSI and ZHAW. SSPH+ is the national coordinating body for the promotion of postgraduate university education and research in the fields of public health.

### [Transferable Skills](#) (University of Bern)

provide key qualifications for your academic and non-academic career through individual feedback from experts, intensive learning in small groups, and multidisciplinary networking. Transferable skills are competencies acquired in one context that can be applied to other contexts, jobs, positions, functions or fields of work.

### [Clinical Neuroscience Bern](#)

is an Interdisciplinary collaboration pivotal to success in clinical neuroscience research and methodology. The research focus of Clinical Neurosciences Bern aims to improve information exchanges and promote cooperation with internal and external partners.

### [The Graduate School for Cellular and Biomedical Sciences \(GCB\) \(University of Bern\)](#)

is jointly administered by the Faculties of Medicine, Science and Vetsuisse, and offers structured, experimental research training programs leading to a PhD, MD.PhD, or DVM.PhD degree.

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## MD-PhD Scholarships

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GHS doctoral students with a Master in Medicine may apply annually for the MD-PhD scholarships. The National MD-PhD Program, which is supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS/SAMW), and several other foundations, awards scholar-ships every year to outstanding graduates in human medicine, veterinary medicine and dentistry with residency in Switzerland.

Students under the Expert Committee III (Clinical Sciences) are not eligible for the MD-PhD Scholarship since the minimum research time is 75%.

Further information can be found on the [SNSF](#) and [SAMS](#) websites.

# New GHS regulations

**Approval date:** November 2022

**Enactment date:** February; 2023

## Which regulations count for you?

Students who have applied to the GHS by May 1st, 2023 are enrolled in the GHS according to the new regulations.

All students enrolled before this date, including those who applied by the January 10th deadline, will conduct their PhD under the old regulations (Link to the regulations: [https://www.ghs.unibe.ch/phd\\_program/regulations/index\\_eng.html](https://www.ghs.unibe.ch/phd_program/regulations/index_eng.html)).

## Structure and hierarchy of the regulations

We have three levels of regulations Promotionsreglement (PR), Studienplan (SP) and Organisationsreglement (OR). In addition, there is an internal regulation approved by the GHS Steering Board called Ausführungsbestimmungen (AB).

*Old regulations and who is involved in the approval steps*

|   | Bildung und Kulturdirektion (BKD) | Faculties | Unileitung | GHS Steering board |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------|--------------------|
| <b>Promotionsreglement (PR)</b><br>Since 15.09.2008 in power    | X                                 | X         | X          | X                  |
| <b>Studienplan (SP)</b><br>Since 01.09.2010 in power            |                                   | X         | X          | X                  |
| <b>Organisationsreglement (OR)</b><br>Since 01.08.2008 in power |                                   | X         | X          | X                  |
| <b>Ausführungsbestimmungen</b><br>Last version in 2011          |                                   |           |            | X                  |

# Why was it necessary to revise the regulations?

- The former regulations were written before 2008 and were not anymore in accordance with the current situation.
- To better align the GHS rules with other regulations from the University of Bern.
- To increase the number of people involved in the supervision team in order to improve the level of support for the students.
- To ensure that new evaluation procedures (e.g. exams, PhD thesis) are made according to the most advanced standards for quality in PhD supervision internationally defined by best practices: (<https://orpheus-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Best-Practices-DOCUMENT-3-May-2022-1.pdf>; <https://orpheus-med.org/>).

# Summary of the Main Changes

## PROMOTIONSREGLEMENT:

1. Vetsuisse joins the GHS
2. Admission of candidate with a master degree from Universities of Applied Sciences (FH)
3. The role of mentor is introduced in all expert committees
4. Changes in the assessments of the PhD thesis
5. Changes in the examiners for the defense exam
6. Changes in the German translation of the PhD title

## STUDIENPLAN:

1. New list of specializations

## ORGANISATIONSREGLEMENT:

1. The president changes every two years (instead of one)

## Explanation of the Main Changes

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### PROMOTIONSREGLEMENT (PR):

1. Vetsuisse joins the GHS.  
In the Art. 1 of the new regulations the Vetsuisse Faculty is added as a new participating faculty as a third faculty, next to the former faculties: Faculties of Medicine and Human Sciences
2. Admission of candidates with a master degree from Universities of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschulen and Pädagogische Hochschulen).  
The Art. 8 of the new regulations allows for admission of candidates with a master degree from the FH and PH to the GHS. This is combined with a demand for compensation of 30-60 ECTS. These can be cumulated during the PhD-Time, in addition to the regular 18 demanded ECTS.

#### IMPLICATIONS:

- The GHS has established a 'bridge commission' (BC) that will evaluate the competencies of FH/PH candidates case by case, based on the CV of the candidates.
  - The BC will propose a number of compensatory ECTS.
  - The compensatory ECTS must be achieved during the PhD-Time in addition to the required 18 ECTS.
  - After the decision of the BC, the candidate will proceed with the standard admission process.
  - Experts from FHs and PHs can be part of the supervision team as co-thesis advisor.
3. The role of mentor is introduced in all expert committees (FKs).  
In the Art. 9 it is now defined that the mentor is a part of the supervision team.

#### IMPLICATIONS:

#### The new supervision team consists of four roles:

- Thesis advisor (same as in former regulation)
- Co-thesis advisor (if any, same as in former regulation)
- Co-referee (same as in former regulation)
- Mentor (until now only in FKIII, now new for all committees)

#### The mentor has the following tasks:

- co-signs the Doctoral Agreement (DA)
- approves the annual progress reports
- if required, mediates in case of conflicts
- can be present at the second-year exam
- chairs the thesis defense.

4. Changes in the assessments of *the PhD thesis*.  
The Art. 19 introduces a new procedure for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis.

#### OLD regulations (currently in use)

1° Assessment → Thesis advisor

2° Assessment → Co-referee

#### NEW regulations

1° Assessment → Thesis advisor + Co-thesis advisor (if any) + Co-referee. Agree on one grade.

2° Assessment → External expert

External experts are independent and internationally recognized researchers from another university, in the research area of the corresponding dissertation and have not published together with the doctoral candidate or the thesis advisor in the last three years.

5. Changes in the examiners for the defense exam.  
In the Art. 23 it is now specified who are the examiners at the final exam.

#### OLD regulations (currently in use)

1° Examiner → Thesis advisor

2° Examiner → Co-referee

3° Chair: GHS representative

#### NEW regulations

1° Examiner → Thesis advisor + Co-thesis advisor (if any)

2° Examiner → Co-referee

3° Examiner → External expert

Chair: mentor, does not give a grade

The mentor will chair the defense and will write the protocol but will not take part in the grading.

6. Changes in the German translation of the PhD title.  
The Art. 32 allows to have a German translation of the title which was not possible before. The proposed translations will render it possible.

#### OLD regulations (currently in use)

Currently there is no recognized translation

#### NEW regulations

German translation of the original title in English:

**Dr. sc. med.** → Medical Faculty

**Dr. sc. med. vet.** → Vetsuisse Faculty

**Dr. phil.** → Human Sciences Faculty

**STUDIENPLAN:**

- 1. New list of specializations.

**Title awarded from the GHS:** PhD in Health Sciences (specialization)

The Art. 2 defines the following specializations:

- Medicine,
- Dentistry,
- Pharmacy,
- Applied Health Sciences,
- Epidemiology and Biostatistics,
- Public Health Sciences,
- Medical Education,
- Psychology,
- Sport and Exercise Science,
- Neurosciences,
- Clinical Sciences,
- Patient oriented research,
- Veterinary Medicine,
- Biomedical Engineering.

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## Review: 2022 in numbers

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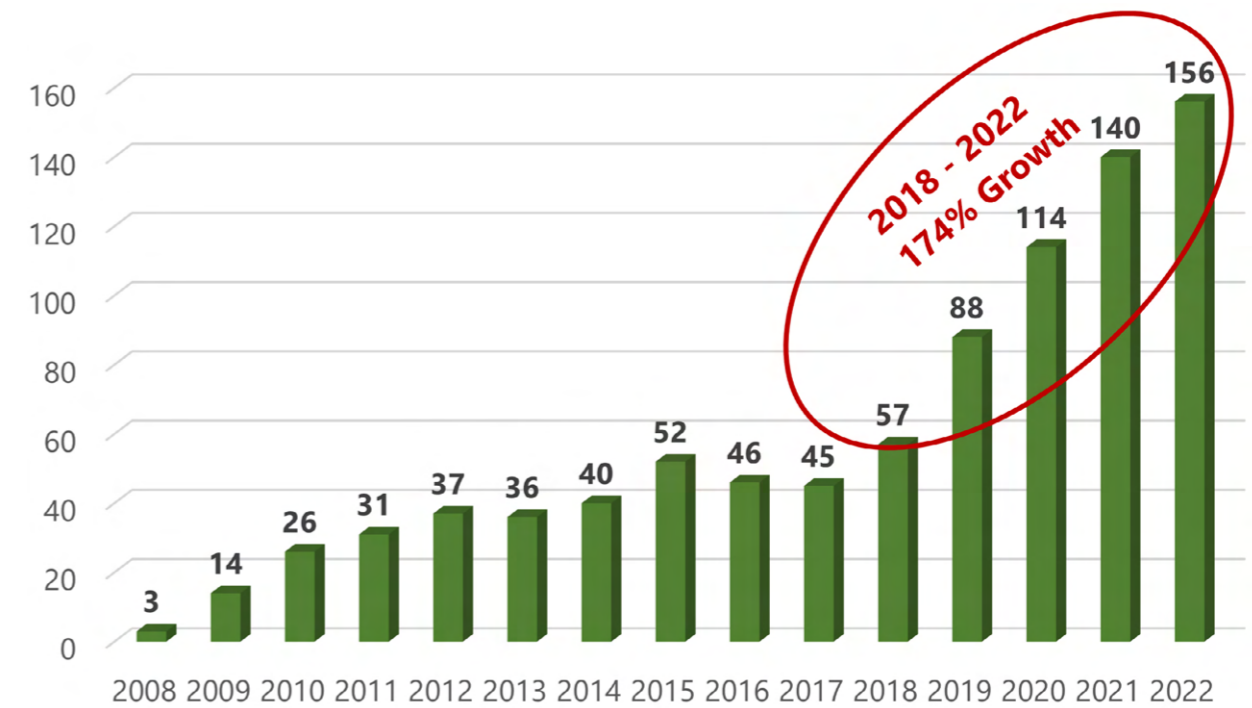
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### Students

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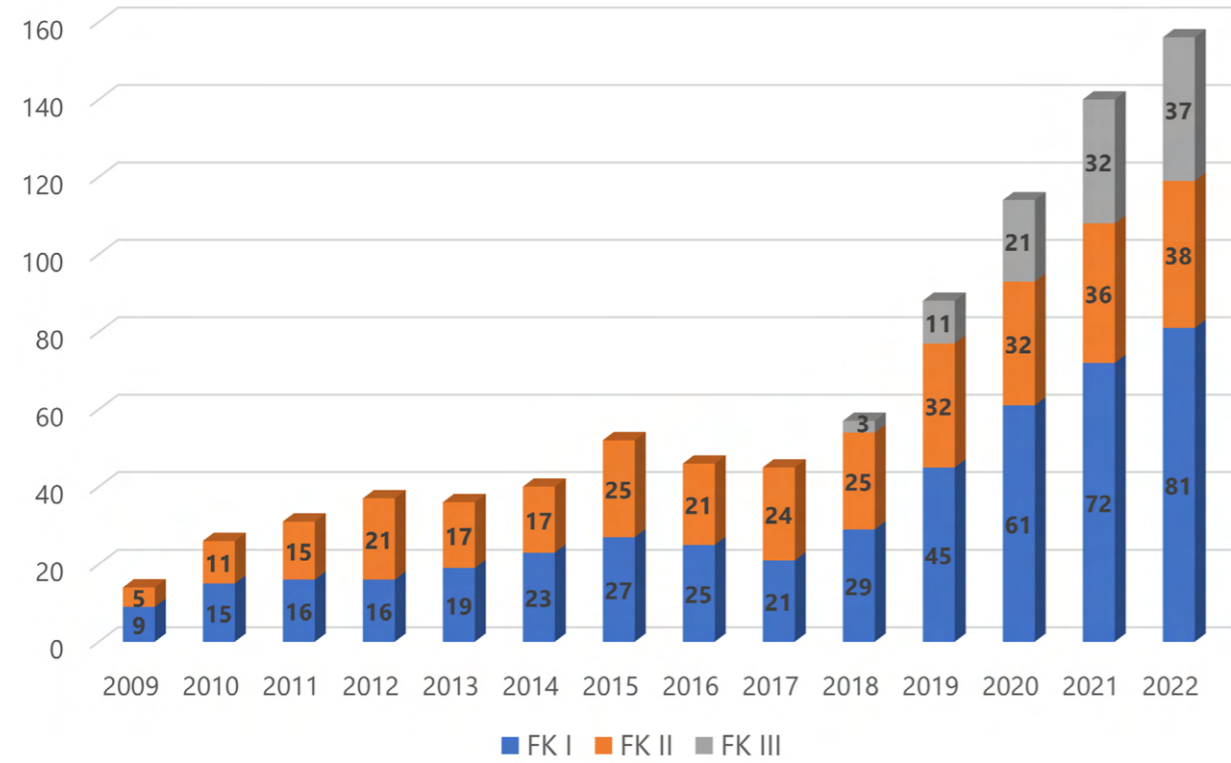
Growth in GHS Matriculations 2008 - 2022

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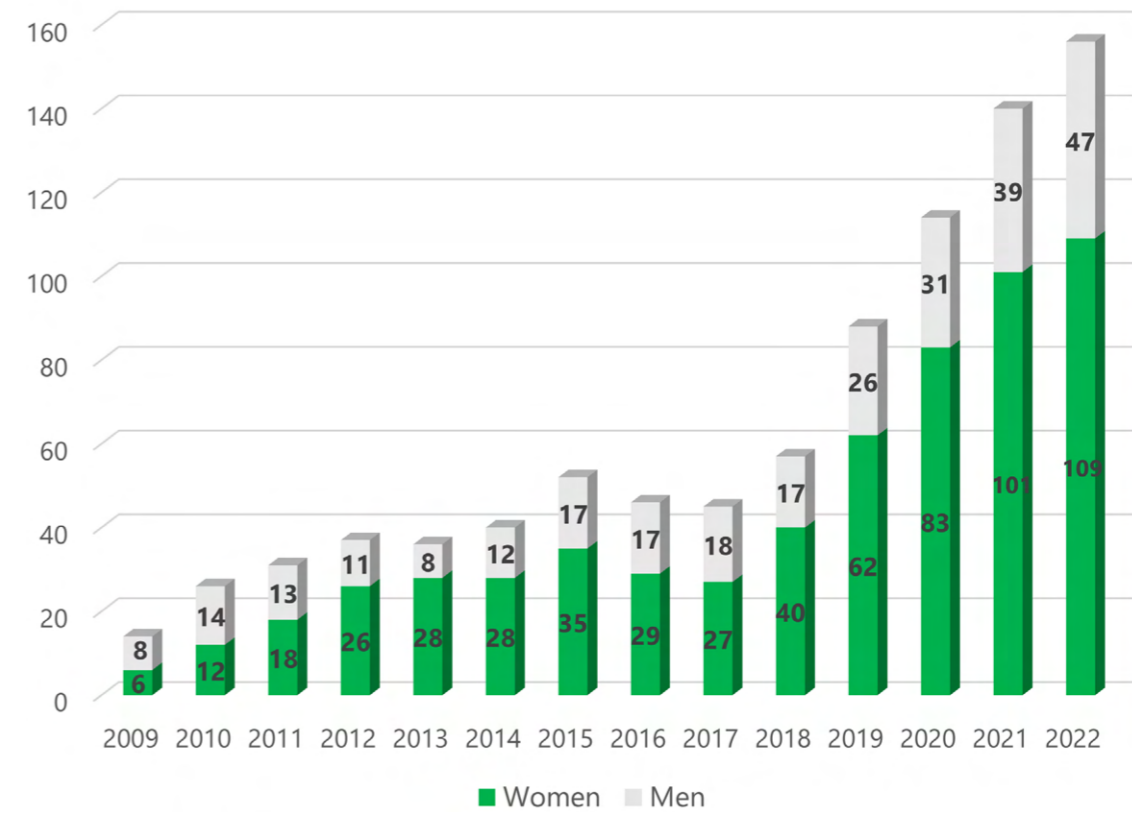
## Expert Committees

Student Distribution across Expert Committees 2008-2022



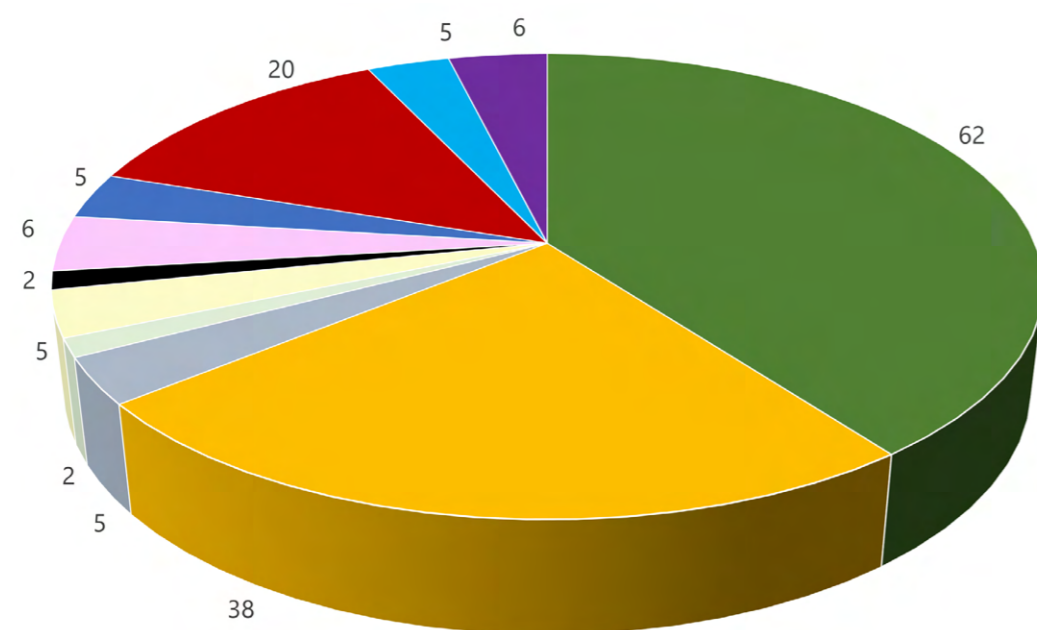
## Gender

Student Gender Distribution 2008 - 2022



## Field of Study

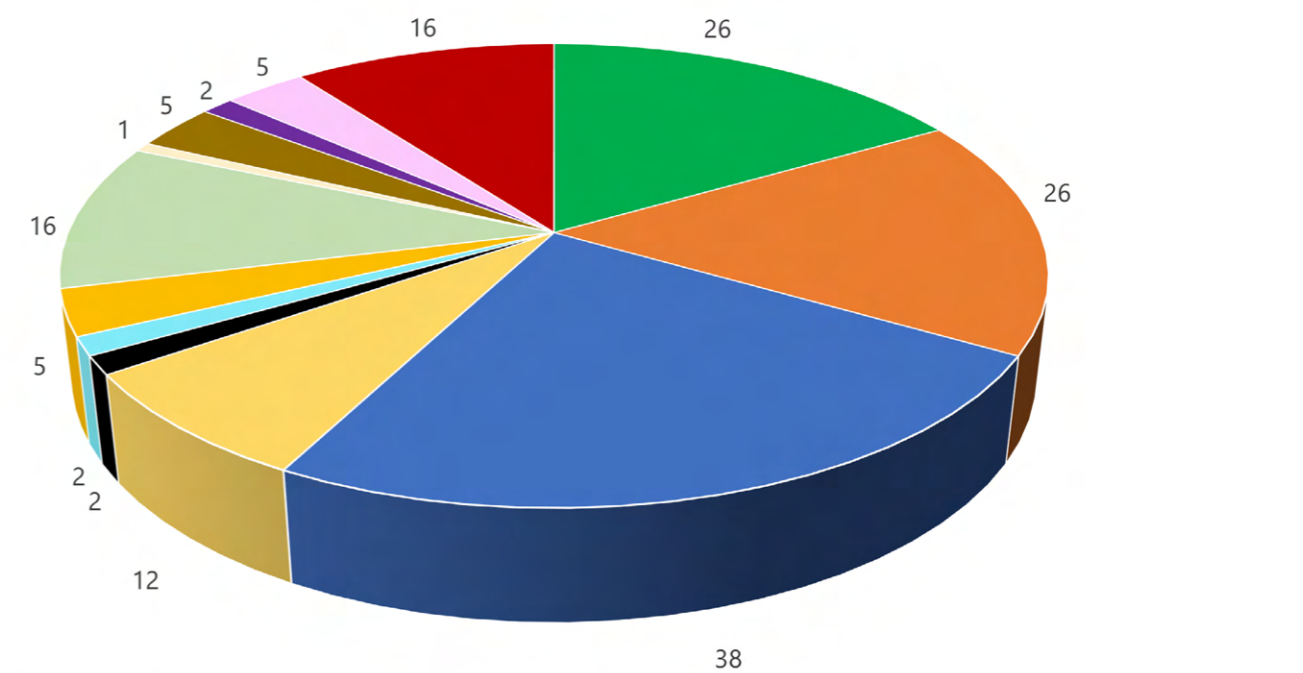
GHS Students – Master's Degree Fields of Study



- Medicine
- Psychology
- Statistics
- Sport
- Health sciences
- Veterinary
- Engineering and Biomedical Sciences
- Nursing and physiotherapy
- Public Health & Policy
- Social Sciences and Humanities
- Others

## Institutes and departments

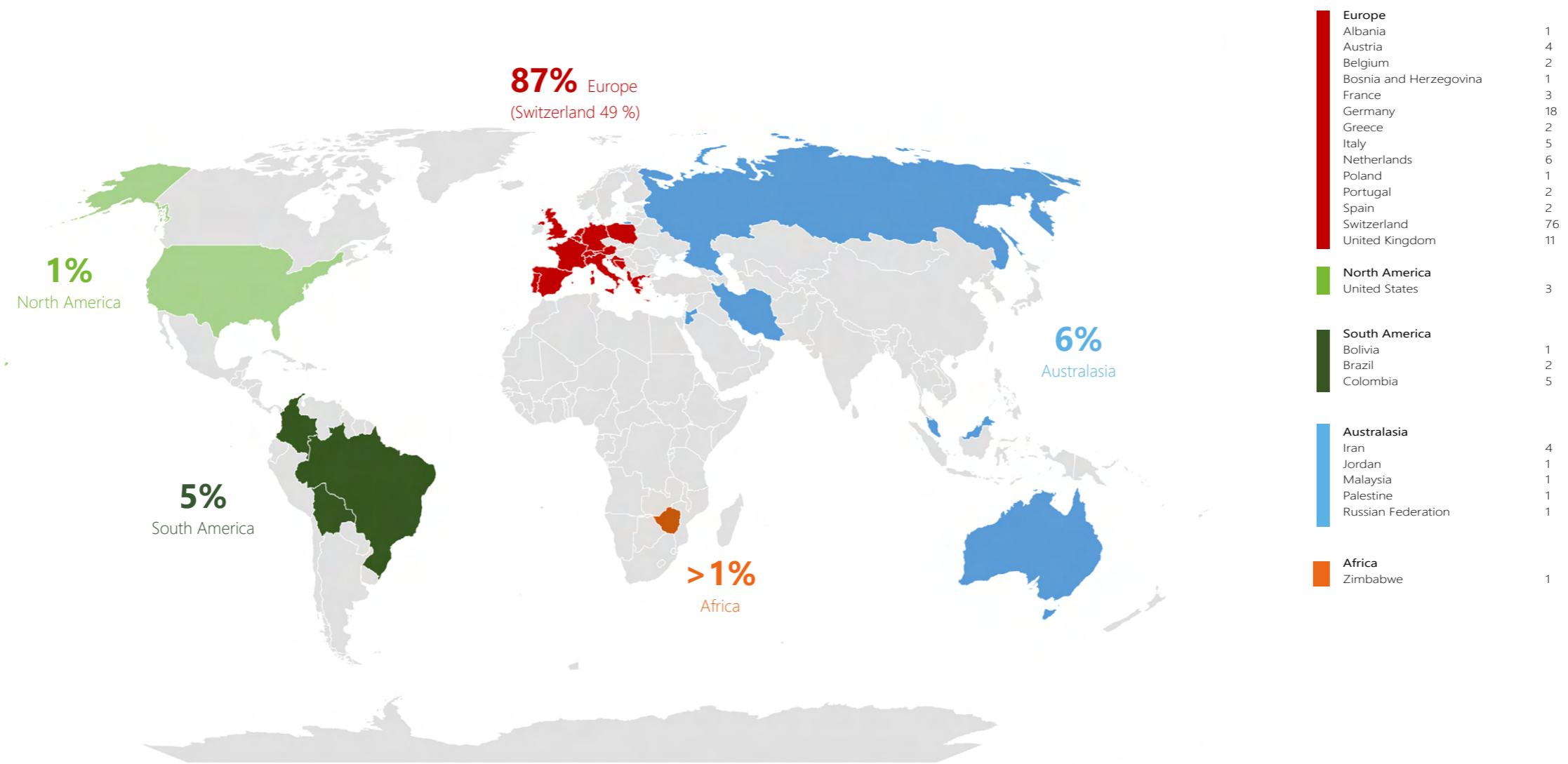
GHS Students – Institutes and departments where research is performed



- University Psychiatric Services (UPD)
- Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)
- Vetsuisse
- Institute of Medical Education (IML)
- Institute of Psychology
- Bern University of Applied Sciences
- Other
- Departement of Neurology Inselspital
- Bern Institute of Primary Care (BIHAM)
- Department of Cardiology Inselspital
- Department for BioMedical Research (DBMR) Inselspital
- Institute for Infectious Diseases (IFID)
- Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology Inselspital

## Country of Master's Degree

The 2022 cohort of doctoral students in the GHS was made up of 156 students who obtained their master's degree from 26 different countries



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GHS Symposium 2022

## GHS Symposium

Someone once said that the prerequisites for a successful congress are good organization, good food, and good technical support.

Indeed, these characteristics proved to be true for the 14th GHS Symposium, held on November 29-30, 2022 at the Studienzentrum Gerzensee.

Even more importantly, the many enthusiastic participants contributed with their high-quality presentations and with a constructive and enriching exchange, making the Symposium a great success.

With 41 student talks and 44 poster presentations scheduled, the 14th Symposium was the best-attended GHS Symposium to date.

### Day One: Talks and Posters

After welcome speeches by the GHS President Sissel Guttormsen and the GHS Coordinator Tullia Padovani, the morning and early afternoon were devoted to students' talks sessions. To deal with the massive increase in the number of students and to give students enough time to present their research, the talks were held in parallel sessions, which took place in different rooms named after the major Swiss cities. The talk sessions were followed by an entertaining "poster flash session" in which students had to present their poster in no more than one minute and make sure to convince the audience to go visit their poster at the next "poster viewing session". The "poster flash session" was indeed very lively and the following "poster viewing session" was accompanied by a small apero in the building's panoramic room. In the evening, the participants attended a pleasant dinner and after there was an informal get together with music and recreational activities.



Day 1: Talks



Day 1: Poster Viewing Session



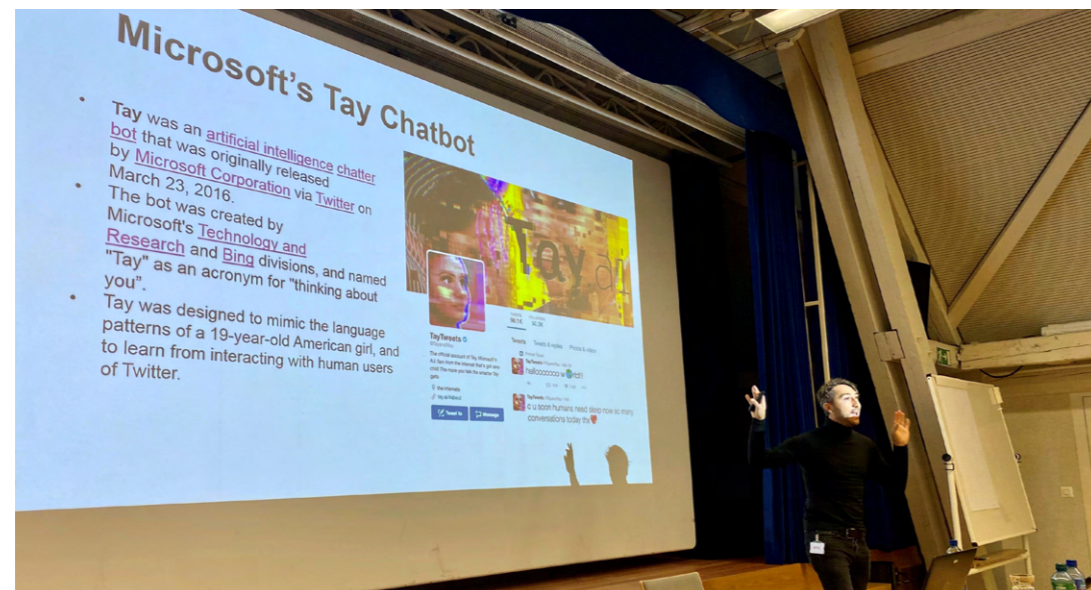
Day 1: Poster viewing

## Day Two: Workshops and Talks

The second day of the Symposium began with a workshop on the theme "Ethics in Health Sciences". The two guest speakers, PD Dr. Roberto Andorno (University of Zurich), and Dr. Marcello Ienca (EPFL) introduced the first workshop session with the lectures "Ethical principles for basic and clinical research: a very short introduction" and "Ethics of Emerging Technologies in Biomedicine" respectively. After two parallel interactive workshop sessions in separate rooms, the guest speakers continued with lectures on human rights (Roberto Andorno) and neurorights (Marcello Ienca), which were again followed by two parallel workshop sessions.



Day 2: Workshop with PD Dr. Roberto Andorno, University of Zurich



Day 2: Workshop with Dr. Marcello Ienca, EPFL

After lunch, the program continued with two parallel talk sessions.

The Symposium was concluded with a closure talk from the GHS President and GHS coordinator followed by an award ceremony for the best talk and best poster.

The **Award for the Best Talk** went to **Viktoria Gastens** for the presentation "Development and internal validation of a new life expectancy estimator for multimorbid older adults".

The **Award for the Best Poster** went to **Martina Zangger** for the poster entitled "Prescriptions for long-term beta blockers after myocardial infarction in Europe - Protocol for a case vignette study exploring the perspective of general practitioners".



GHS Symposium 2022

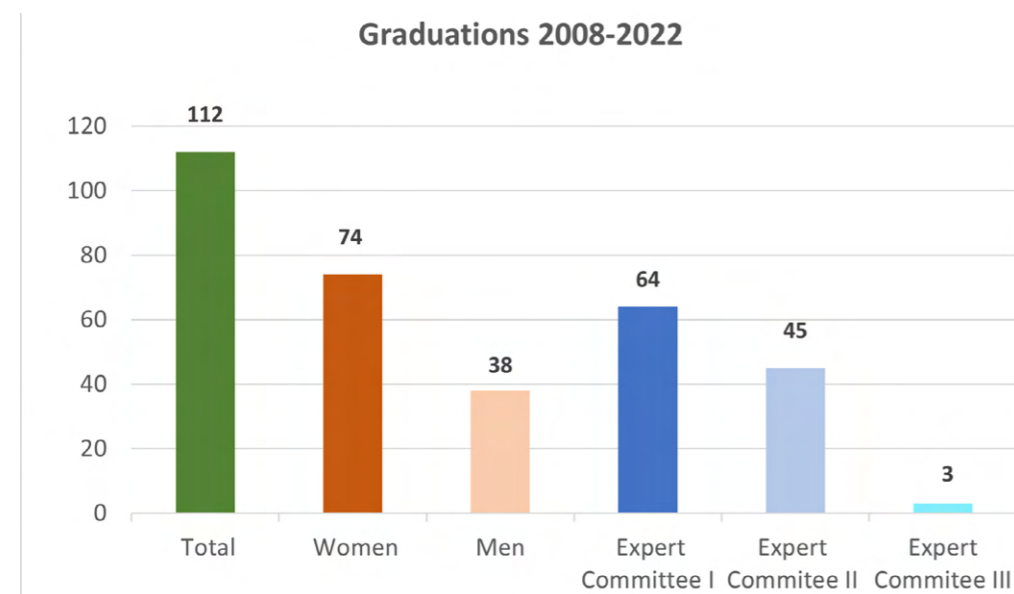
We would like to thank all of you very much for your participation and for the motivating and useful feedback we received.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the 15th GHS Symposium from November 22 - 23, 2023, which will take place at the same location, Studienzentrum Gerzensee.



Diploma Ceremony Medical Faculty

## Graduations



### April 06

**Nicole Göbel** PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)

Inselspital, University Hospital

Project title: Creativity after focal brain lesions – A matter of paradoxical facilitation?

Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. René Müri and Prof. Dr. Jean-Marie Annoni

### April 25

**Johanna Manuela Kurz** PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)

University Childrens Hospital Bern

Project title: Validity of ventilation inhomogeneity measurements - an evolving biomarker

Thesis advisor and co-referee: PD Dr. Florian Singer and Prof. Dr. Claudia Kühni

### April 27

**Sabine Nabecker** PhD in Health Sciences (Medical Education)

Department of Anaesthesiology and Pain Medicine, Inselspital

Project title: Assessment in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training

Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Robert Greif and Prof. Dr. Sören Huwendiek

### May 18

**Michael Seo** PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)

Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)

Project title: Evidence synthesis methods for personalizing the choice of treatment

Thesis advisor and co-referee: PD Dr. Orestis Efthimiou and Dr. Dimitri Mavridis

### June 02

**Stephanie Maissen** PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)

University Clinic for Diabetology, Endocrinology, Nutritional Medicine & Metabolism (UDEM), Inselspital, Bern

Project title: Opportunities and Limitations of Research Methods in Clinical Neuropsychology - Insights from Pediatric Stroke and Adult Phenylketonuria

Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Regula Everts and Prof. Dr. Nicolas Langer

### June 07

**René Alexander Rüegg** PhD in Health Sciences (Public Health)

Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine / BFH

Project title: Health Literacy: Determinant of Health or Status Indicator?

Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. em. Dr. Thomas Abel and Prof. Dr. Thomas Kohlmann

#### June 14

**Yuly Paulin Mendoza Jaimes** PhD in Health Sciences (Medicine)

Department for BioMedical Reserch (DBMR), Inselspital Bern

Project title: Prognostic stratification in advanced chronic liver disease (ACLD)

Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Annalisa Berzigotti and MD PhD Christine Bernsmeier

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#### June 29

**Marina Wunderlin** PhD in Health Sciences (Neurosciences)

Universitäre Psychiatrische Dienste Bern (UPD)

Project title: Acoustic stimulation during Slow Wave Sleep – a tool to counteract cognitive decline?

Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. med. Stefan Klöppel and Prof. Dr. Katharina Henke

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#### July 01

**Judith Jantine Willemijn Van Beek** PhD in Health Sciences (Rehabilitation Sciences)

Neurocenter, Cantonal Hospital of Lucerne

Project title: Precision Work - Innovative Rehabilitation Techniques for Improving Dexterity in Neurological Diseases

Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Tim Vanbellingen and Prof. Dr. Tobias Neff

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#### July 08

**Giorgia Grisotto** PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)

Institute for Social and Preventive Medicine

Project title: Diet and menopause

Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Oscar H. Franco and Prof. Pedro Marques-Vidal

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#### August 19

**Nathalia Gonzalez Jaramillo** PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)

Institute for Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)

Project title: The role of physical activity in established atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease

Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Oscar H. Franco and Prof. Dr. Matthias Wilhelm

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#### September 1

**Johannes Kaesmacher** PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Sciences)

University Institute Neuroradiology

Project title: On the value of thrombolysis in contemporary endovascular stroke treatment

Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Urs Fischer and Prof. Dr. Hendrik von Tengg-Koblig

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#### September 08

**Marc-Alexander Heinz Oestreich** PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)

Division of Paediatric Respiratory Medicine and Allergology, Department of Paediatrics, Inselspital Bern

Project title: Development and longitudinal assessment of small airway physiology in healthy infants and infants with cystic fibrosis using the multiple-breath washout technique

Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Philipp Latzin and Prof. Dr. Dominik Obrist

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#### October 10

**Thomas Raphael Meinel** PhD in Health Sciences (Clinical Sciences)

Department of Neurology, Inselspital Bern

Project title: Evidence-based cardioaortic imaging after an ischemic stroke

Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Simon Jung and Prof. Dr. Christian Seiler

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#### November 28

**Zayne Milena Roa Díaz** PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology)

Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)

Project title: The role of menopause and genes in cardiometabolic health

Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Oscar H. Franco and Prof. Dr. Suzanne Suggs

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#### December 02

**Virginia Chiocchia** PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)

Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)

Project title: Methods for ranking competing treatments in network meta-analysis

Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Dr. Georgia Salanti and Dr. Tianjing Li

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#### December 08

**Peter Francis Raguidin** PhD in Health Sciences (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)

Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)

Project title: Determinants of cardiometabolic health in spinal cord injury

Thesis advisor and co-referee: Prof. Taulant Muka and Prof. Dr. Lia Claudia Bally

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