

Activity Report 01.01.2017 – 31.12.2017

The necessary extension of the *Balgrist Campus*, of which ResOrtho is a 60 % shareholder, was planned and implemented in order to complete the *research facility of national importance*.

ResOrtho decided to support a further professorship (foundation chair).

1. Activities of the Foundation

A) Musculoskeletal Research and Development Centre, Balgrist Campus

In December 2016, the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research declared the Balgrist Campus to be a **research facility of national importance**, just one year after it had been opened. From 2017 - 2020 Balgrist Campus will receive some CHF 16 million for the provision and operation of a highly specialised scientific infrastructure for research into problems of the musculoskeletal system.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the necessary extensions and conversions was held in August 2017. Commissioning of the **Swiss Center for Musculoskeletal Biobanking (SCMB)** and the **Swiss Center for Clinical Movement Analysis (SCMA)** is planned for Spring 2018. The **Swiss Center for Musculoskeletal Imaging** should start operations in Autumn 2018.

The following financing is necessary for this additional major project:

<u>Financial requirements for the research facility of national importance</u>	
Construction costs	CHF 12,850,000
Prospective donations	- CHF 5,000,000
Funding gap in construction	CHF 7,850,000
Imaging and laboratory equipment	CHF 16,000,000
Federal contribution	- CHF 14,500,000
Funding gap in equipment	CHF 1,500,000

The ResOrtho Foundation aims to contribute to the best possible coverage of these funding gaps by developing further donations in order to create optimal conditions for the use of this research infrastructure.

Balgrist Campus financial statement

The second year of operations has also been successful: thanks to good capacity utilisation and practically no rectification work, the annual financial statement – as in the first year – was closed with a slightly positive result.

B) Muscle Biology Professorship (Foundation Chair)

Prof. Martin Flück	Head of Department
Dr. sc. nat. Marco Toigo	Senior assistant (30%)
Dr. Martino Franchi	Postdoctoral research worker (80%)
Dr. Paola Valdivieso	Postdoctoral research worker (70%)
Dr. Stephanie Kasper	Biology lab/administrative assistant
Else-Marie Pedersen	Biology lab assistant (80%)
Daniel Fitze MSc	Lab assistant (70%)
Dr. sc. ETH Sandro Müller	(Scientific associate) external

Supervised PhD students: 2

Supervised Master's students: 10

The team under the leadership of Prof. Flück has once again successfully studied the changes occurring in muscles after tendon rupture. In a sophisticated large-scale prospective study, they showed for the first time that clearly identifiable genetic factors play a significant role in tendon tears and the success or failure of subsequent treatment. In addition, studies on sheep allowed the mechanism of action of steroids in preventing the fatty degeneration of muscles to be determined more precisely. The team identified and studied a substance (in the experimental animals) that can reduce early muscle wasting after a tendon tear.

During the reporting year, the muscle biology team worked closely with Prof. S. Ward and his research group at the University of California. Prof. Ward and two of his team came to the Balgrist Campus on sabbatical, and we will be able to report on the ensuing work in the coming year.

C) Individual academic sponsorship for young researchers

Due to our concentrated efforts on the Balgrist Campus and the Muscle Biology Professorship, only two individual grants were awarded in 2017:

1. Book project “Notfallarzt-Sammlung” [emergency doctor collection] with CHF 5,000
2. South Africa Fellowship Grant, Dr. P. Fornaciari with CHF 10,000

2. Overview of the financial situation

Donations received in 2017 amounted to just about CHF 140,000.

The Muscle Biology Professorship (Foundation Chair) at the University of Zurich awarded to Prof. M. Flück was financed with CHF 600,000 from ResOrtho as contracted.

The Foundation’s assets were entrusted to Albin Kistler AG for asset management. The assets showed a good 7 % net profit.

As in previous years, the Foundation’s management expenses were kept to a low level.

The *Schweizerische Revisionsgesellschaft* (SRG) and *expertinum*, Zurich, were responsible for the audit.

3. New assistant professor for tumour research

Together with the Balgrist Foundation, ResOrtho decided to finance an assistant professor for research into the biology of skeletal muscle tumours. This will involve a scientific project coordinated with the clinical activities of the Balgrist University Hospital, provisionally scheduled to run for six years. We expect that the position will be created and filled by 2019.

4. Acknowledgements and outlook

The members of the Foundation Board, Dr. E. Honegger, Prof. C. Gerber and Prof. K. Wellershoff have offered their services on a pro bono basis. Many other people have also sustained and further strengthened the Foundation in its activities.

We would like to thank all the individuals, companies and foundations who have supported us with generous donations and thereby contributed to achieving the Foundation’s goals. This applies in particular to the donations which were gratefully received last year:

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- Frau M. Bodmer
- Prof. Christian Gerber
- Robert Zingg
- Fritz Fahrni*
- D. & D. Goeudevert
- Dr. A. Gerber Popp*
- Heinz Werner Spross*

**contribution in reporting year*

The ResOrtho Foundation is still dependent on your support to achieve its goals and maintain its future responsibilities (the research infrastructure of national importance at Balgrist Campus, as well as a new assistant professor in tumour research).

Thank you very much for your interest and support. We hope that you will continue to play a part in our projects and goals. Do visit our websites www.resortho.com and www.balgristcampus.ch for further information.

ResOrtho Foundation Board



Prof. C. Gerber, President