



# SWISS TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY

## «NEWSLETTER»

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Dear members of the Swiss Transplantation Society,

### 1. Congress 2015

The **2015 Congress of the Swiss Transplantation Society** was highly successful, with an all-time high attendance of 165 participants and a scientific program of the highest standard. Our new changes in the organization of the Society at the executive level, with the hiring of a professional company to take on the administrative tasks, has also proven to be a wise and fruitful decision.

### 2. Congress 2016 – venue & scientific program

Quite a few changes have occurred in the organization of the **2016 Congress** of our Society. As I explained to you in last year's fall newsletter and at our last General Assembly, the beautiful Victoria-Jungfrau in Interlaken was no longer sustainable as a venue. The major reason for this was the increasingly strict rules imposed on corporate partners of scientific meetings, which prevent pharma industry sponsors to support and participate to events held in five-star hotels.

This led us to identify and select a new venue, in a place that should be easily accessible, as centrally located as possible, in a facility of appropriate size (and costs) for our Society, and importantly in an attractive location. This task proved to be more difficult than anticipated, but I am happy to announce that **the 2016 Congress of the Swiss Transplantation Society will be held in Thun**, in the 4-star **Congress Hotel Seepark**, ideally located on the shores of beautiful Lake Thun. The Congress will take place on **February 5-6, 2016**, a slight move from our traditional end-of-January dates, which is due to scarce availability of Congress venues around these dates. The networking dinner will be held in Congress Hotel Seepark and will include the chocolate fountain for the aficionados!

A very **attractive scientific program** was put together by the Scientific Committee led by Prof. Philipp Dutkowski. Selected “hot topics” will cover novel approaches in living organ donation, cancer issues in transplantation and organ bio-engineering. We are confident that this program will attract the Swiss transplant community to Thun, to inaugurate the change of venue.

### 3. Honorary Membership

A new feature of the Congress will be the award of a **Honorary Membership** to an individual who has been instrumental for the development, promotion, advances or progress of transplantation in Switzerland. Only two honorary memberships were awarded in the past, to the late Professor Gilbert Thiel, from Basel, and to Prof. Felix Largiadèr, from Zurich, both pioneers of organ transplantation in our country. We wish to establish the celebration of one honorary member each year from now on. The 2016 Honorary Member was selected after deliberation and voting by the Board of the Society, and this distinguished individual’s name will be disclosed in the opening session of the Congress, during which he will be presented with his diploma.

### 4. Young investigators

**Young investigators** are invited to send their best work, in the form of papers either published or accepted for publication in 2015. The best papers, ranked by the Scientific Committee, will be invited for an oral presentation and will have a chance to compete for the 2016 Swiss Transplant Awards, with very attractive money prizes. **Papers must be sent by e-mail in pdf form by December 1, 2015**, to the chairman of the Scientific Committee ([philipp.dutkowski@usz.ch](mailto:philipp.dutkowski@usz.ch)).

A **Young Investigators Workshop** on transplantation immunology was put together for the first time in our latest Congress, and met with a good attendance and very positive comments from the participants. This experience will be repeated in 2016, and this year’s topic will be **“Current status of infection after solid organ transplantation”**. The workshop will take place on Friday morning, in Congress Hotel Seepark. I sincerely hope that this educational session will be even better attended than last year and will meet our younger colleagues’ expectations. I urge our senior members to encourage and facilitate the participation of their junior residents and fellows to this workshop especially designed for them.

## 5. Presidency

The 2016 Congress will mark the end of my tenure as President of your Society. I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to my colleagues of the Board, who have made this a most enjoyable experience in challenging times, to our predecessors in the board, who have created and nurtured our Society, but mostly to you all, Society members, who, by your continuing support and contribution to the Congress, have been instrumental in building it into the vibrant and dynamic Society it has now become. **I will step down and pass on the baton to my friend, Prof. Stefan Schaub, from Basel, who I have no doubt will be a great President of the Swiss Transplantation Society.**

I am counting on your support and your presence in Thun and I am looking forward to meeting you on the occasion of our 2016 Congress.

Professor Thierry Berney



President of the Swiss Transplantation Society

### Swiss Transplantation Society Board

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