



University  
of Basel

**BIOZENTRUM**

The Center for  
Molecular Life Sciences

2025

# Biozentrum Highlights

## Dear readers



Prof. Alex Schier,  
Director of the Biozentrum,  
University of Basel.

"Without you, we die." That's what one of the leaders of Roche told me a couple of years ago, referring to the Biozentrum and other academic institutes. He meant that without the discoveries we make and the scientists we train, there would be no foundation for biotech and pharma to build on, and thus no new diagnostics and therapies to develop. This flow of knowledge and talent from academia to industry results not only in new products that improve health but also generates tax flow to the government. In turn, government funds flow to academia, closing a virtuous cycle that generates knowledge, innovation, jobs, welfare, and healthier and longer lives.

"Without you, we die" also rests on the observation that nearly all major breakthroughs in drug development originate from government-funded academic research. For example, 80 percent of the 28 most transformative medicines approved for clinical use between 1985 and 2009 can be traced back to fundamental research (see Spector et al. 2018; *Science Translational Medicine*). The development of HIV protease inhibitors, for instance, rested on over a century of biochemical and structural studies of proteases. Importantly, these discoveries were made as blue-sky research – without aiming for practical outcomes – and their therapeutic importance only became apparent much later.

In the following pages you will see how research and teaching at the Biozentrum fuel this virtuous cycle. In some cases, our efforts have led to successful start-ups (see page 18), but most of our research remains fundamental, grounded in the belief that today's discoveries will have their impact years or decades from now.

Unfortunately, the academia-industry-government cycle is under threat. This challenge is especially visible in the United States, but even in Switzerland – where education and innovation are cornerstones of our prosperity – science and universities are threatened by funding cuts. Such cuts might give some politicians the illusion of fiscal prudence, but history shows they undermine the welfare of future generations. Without us fueling the virtuous cycle that has improved so many lives, Switzerland risks losing its competitive edge.

Many policymakers understand the immense value of science and continue to champion education and research. My wish for the new year is for many more politicians to recognize the importance of science and education, and say: "Without you, we die".



Prof. Dr. Alex Schier  
Director of the Biozentrum, University of Basel

# 2025 at a glance.



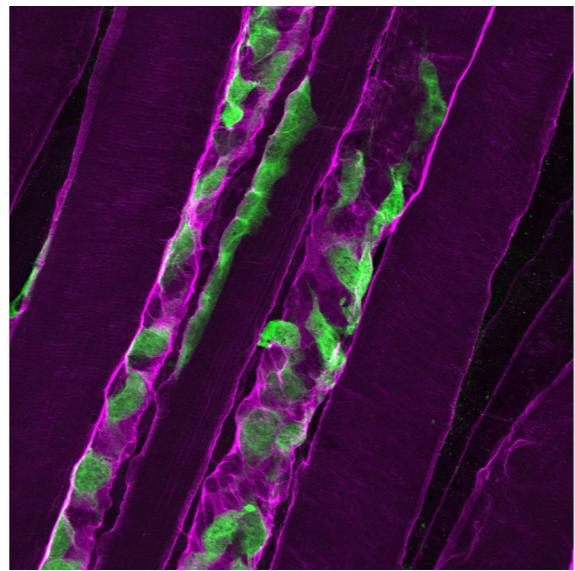
## New endowed Professorship

The University of Basel is setting up a new endowed professorship at the Biozentrum to make fundamental discoveries at the interface between biophysics and climate-relevant environmental biology. This will be made possible by the Georg H. Endress Foundation, which is funding the project with a total of up to CHF 17.25 million over a period of approximately 25 years. Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time. By endowing a professorship in Climate Biophysics, the Georg H. Endress Foundation is helping the University of Basel expand its research into the biophysical foundations of climate-related processes, leading to new discoveries that will inspire applications towards climate protection and sustainability. The professorship will open up a highly topical and promising emerging field of research at the Biozentrum.

## Impaired muscle regeneration in muscular dystrophy

For over 20 years, Prof. Markus Rüegg has studied LAMA2-related muscular dystrophy (LAMA2-MD), a severe genetic disease causing progressive muscle degeneration. The disorder is caused by the lack of laminin-alpha2, a protein essential for stabilizing muscle fibers. New findings show that laminin-alpha2 is also crucial for muscle stem cell function. When missing, as in LAMA2-MD, stem cells proliferate too slowly, so muscle damage outpaces regeneration. Effective future therapies must therefore target both muscle fibers and muscle stem cells. In two further studies, Rüegg's team provides new insights into muscle growth and identifies numerous genes that ensure a stable connection between muscle and nerve cells.

McGowan et al., Ham et al. & Ham et al.,  
Nature Communications



## ERC Grants for Biozentrum researchers

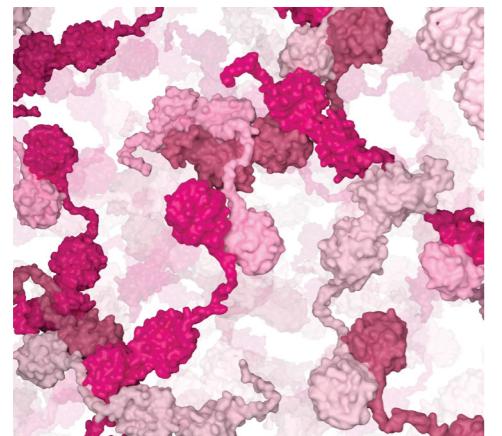
The European Research Council (ERC) awarded prestigious ERC Consolidator Grants to Prof. Claudia Keller Valsecchi and Prof. Flavio Donato (left). Their five-year projects in the fields of genetics and neurobiology will each receive funding of around 2 million Swiss francs. Claudia Keller Valsecchi will study the biological mechanisms of sex chromosome dosage compensation. Flavio Donato aims to explore how the brain manages the balance between memory stability and malleability. Prof. David Brückner was awarded a five-year ERC Starting Grant endowed with 1.4 million Swiss francs (see page 10).



## Career Event

Big decisions, bold moves, and the courage to shape the future – that was the spirit of the Career Event, which brought together more than 550 participants from Basel's vibrant life sciences community. The evening featured an inspiring conversation with Roche CEO Thomas Schinecker and a lively panel discussion with leaders from Roche and McKinsey & Company. Discussions focused on decision-making, innovation, and career paths, continuing well into the networking apéro with vibrant exchanges of ideas and experiences.





## Folding factories for proteins

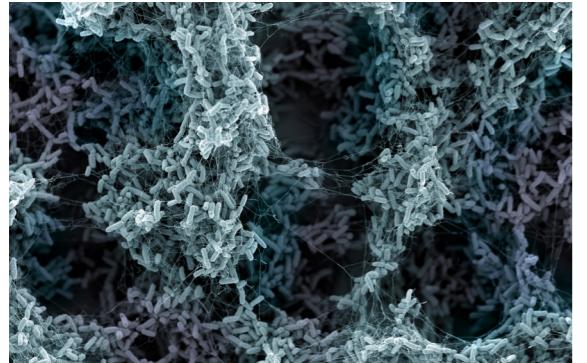
In order to fulfill their many functions, proteins must be folded into the correct shape. Researchers led by Prof. Sebastian Hiller have discovered that certain chaperones self-organize into droplet-like structures called condensates. These tiny “folding factories” in cells enable efficient and accurate protein folding. A lack of these structures can lead to diseases such as diabetes and neurodegenerative disorders.

Leder et al., *Nature Cell Biology*

## New vaccine concept tackles harmful bacteria in the intestine

In the fight against bacterial intestinal pathogens, an international team of researchers including Prof. Médéric Diard has developed a new oral vaccination strategy that combines vaccines with targeted colonisation of the intestine by harmless microorganisms. This approach displaces pathogenic bacteria without the need for antibiotics and is also effective against antibiotic-resistant germs.

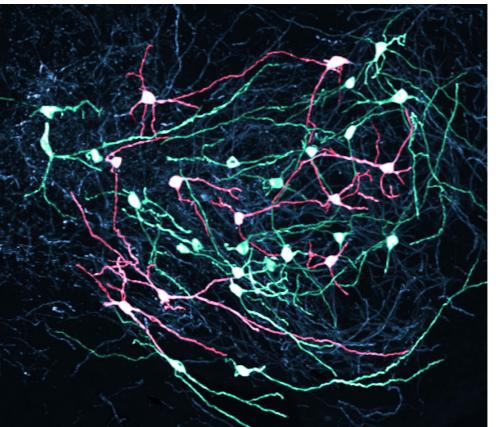
Lentsch et al., *Science*



## How bacteria sense danger

Researchers led by Prof. Knut Drescher have discovered that bacteria can sense threats in advance through a general danger signal. Bacteria detect when nearby cells are dying and proactively form a protective biofilm. Understanding how bacteria communicate and respond to threats is crucial for combating infections.

Vaidya et al., *Nature Microbiology*



## A switchboard with precision

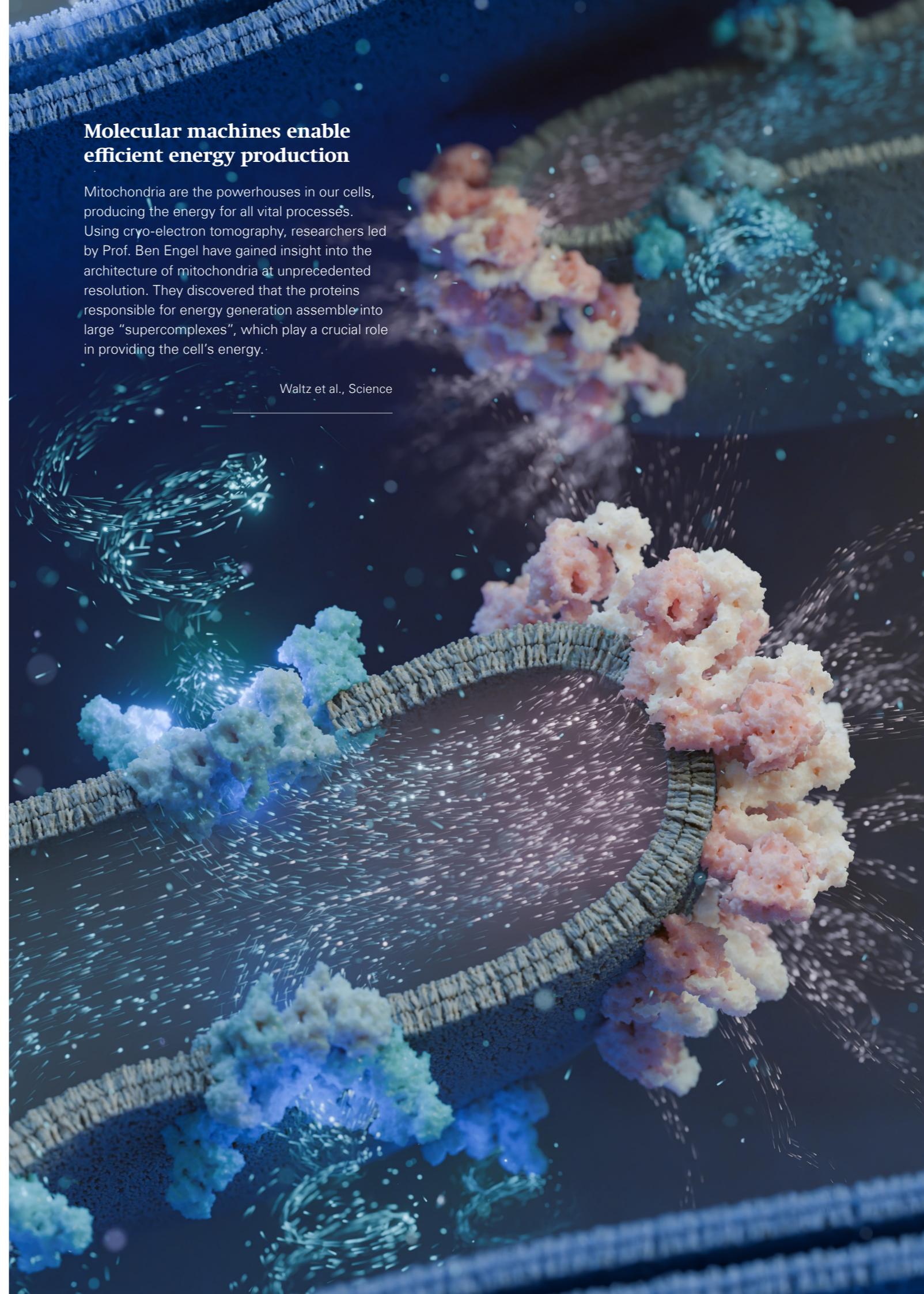
Simple actions like reaching for an apple rely on complex brain processes. Researchers led by Prof. Silvia Arber have shown that specific neurons deep in the brain not only help to initiate movement – they also actively suppress it, and with astonishing precision. The findings are especially relevant for better understanding neurological disorders such as Parkinson’s disease.

Falasconi et al., *Nature*

## Molecular machines enable efficient energy production

Mitochondria are the powerhouses in our cells, producing the energy for all vital processes. Using cryo-electron tomography, researchers led by Prof. Ben Engel have gained insight into the architecture of mitochondria at unprecedented resolution. They discovered that the proteins responsible for energy generation assemble into large “supercomplexes”, which play a crucial role in providing the cell’s energy.

Waltz et al., *Science*



## Biozentrum Research Summer

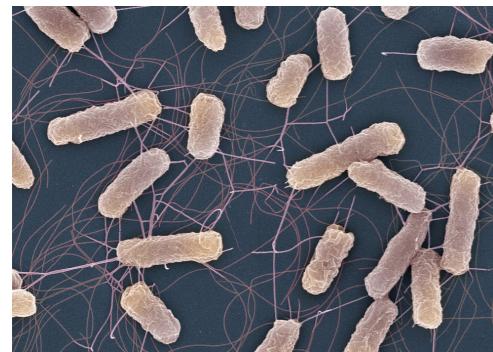
With its Research Summer internship program, the Biozentrum offers Bachelor's students the unique opportunity to experience scientific research at an early career stage. During the Biozentrum Research Summer 2025, twelve students from across Europe explored cutting-edge science in different labs, joined research groups, and experienced the daily life of scientists. The inspiring scientific and social program further supported the exchange between the participants and helped bond the group together.



## Why antibiotics can fail even against non-resistant bacteria

Antibiotics are indispensable in the treatment of bacterial infections. But why are they sometimes ineffective, even when the bacteria are not resistant? In a study, Prof. Dirk Bumann's team challenged the conventional understanding of particularly resilient bacteria and highlighted the limitations of traditional laboratory methods. The team also discovered that a subset of *Salmonella* bacteria hides in macrophages with particularly high levels of iron. Protected from the immune system, the pathogens replicate and survive in these iron-rich niches.

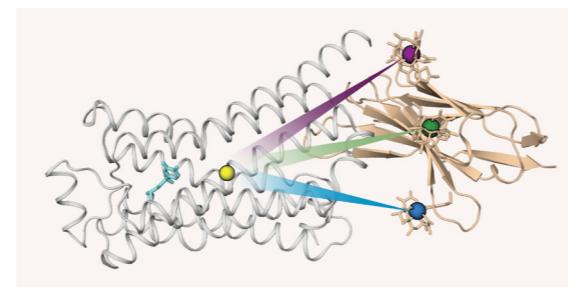
Fanous et al., *Nature* & Roche et al., *Cell Host & Microbe*



## GPS for proteins: Tracking the motions of cell receptors

Taste, pain, or response to stress – nearly all essential functions in the human body are regulated by molecular switches called G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs). Researchers led by Prof. Stephan Grzesiek have uncovered the fundamental mechanism of how such a GPCR works. Using a method similar to the earth satellite GPS, they could track the motions of a GPCR and observe it in action. Their findings provide guidance for designing drugs.

Wu et al., *Science*



## New Professor Claudia Keller Valsecchi

Claudia Keller Valsecchi, a former Biozentrum student, has returned to Basel and the Biozentrum as an Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology. Her path into molecular biology was unexpected: originally more interested in mathematics and physics, she discovered her fascination with molecular life sciences through a high school course on DNA and proteins. This interest deepened during her studies and a master's thesis at the Friedrich Miescher Institute (FMI) in Basel, where she learned the basics of lab work and experimental research.

After completing her PhD on chromatin and RNA regulation in yeast at the FMI, she pursued postdoctoral research at the Max Planck Institute in Freiburg and later became a group leader at the Institute of Molecular Biology in Mainz.

In her research, Claudia Keller Valsecchi focuses on the evolution of sex chromosomes, sex differences, and the causes and consequences of gene dosage alterations. Unlike females, male individuals have only a single X chromosome and therefore just one copy of X-linked genes instead of two. Her team investigates the significance of gene copy number and the molecular mechanisms that compensate for differences in gene dosage. Gene dosage alterations play a pivotal role in aging and disease.

Her lab studies these processes across species, including malaria-transmitting mosquitoes. Her team has discovered that some dosage-compensation mechanisms thought to be essential in other organisms are surprisingly dispensable in mosquitoes. This finding is biologically intriguing and has practical implications for malaria control strategies.

Because malaria is transmitted only by female mosquitoes and resistance to insecticides is rising, genetic approaches such as sex-specific sterility strategies are increasingly being discussed. Claudia Keller Valsecchi's work helps to identify which gene-regulatory pathways can be targeted effectively and safely.

Back at the Biozentrum, she values the dense network of excellent research groups, infrastructure, and interdisciplinary exchange. Her lab has already started collaborating with other Biozentrum researchers, and she aims to build a team of scientists at different career stages. Alongside research, she looks forward to teaching topics such as gene regulation and developmental biology.



For young scientists, Claudia Keller Valsecchi emphasizes the importance of solid experimental skills and openness to new perspectives. In her view, leaving one's "own bubble" and engaging with unfamiliar ideas and people is often what opens the door to unexpected scientific opportunities.

Earlier this year, Claudia Keller Valsecchi was awarded the Friedrich Miescher Award. This prize is Switzerland's highest distinction for outstanding achievements in biochemistry. More recently, she received a prestigious Consolidator Grant from the European Research Council (ERC).



## New Professor David Brückner

David Brückner has joined the Biozentrum as an Assistant Professor of Theoretical Biophysics. In this interview, he talks about his research at the interface of biology and physics.

### What fascinates you about this interface?

I'm interested in uncovering physical principles that govern complex biological systems. Biology poses incredibly rich questions, and physics provides powerful tools to describe and understand them quantitatively.

### What are the main questions your group is working on?

We are especially interested in how cells interact with each other to organize collective behavior, particularly during embryogenesis. An embryo starts as a group of identical stem cells, yet over time these cells differentiate, form patterns, and build a well-defined three-dimensional body plan. We want to understand how this coordination emerges and which fundamental principles underlie these processes.

### How do you study such complex systems?

My group develops mathematical and computational models that describe the process of embryogenesis. We use experimental data to constrain these models and then generate predictions. These predictions can subsequently

be tested experimentally. So, while we don't run wet-lab experiments ourselves, close collaboration with experimental groups is essential.

### What attracted you to the Biozentrum?

It's actually not easy to find institutes that support truly interdisciplinary research the way the Biozentrum does. It was important to me that both physics and biology have a high priority, and that there's a clear overlap in biophysics. And indeed, the Biozentrum is pretty unique in that regard.

### You received an ERC Starting Grant. What is the objective of your project?

For an embryo to develop, cells must precisely decide which role to take in the body. We want to investigate the various sources of information that cells use to make decisions: temporal signals, interactions with neighboring cells, and mechanical forces. Our goal is to uncover how cells process this information and self-organize into tissue patterns that are essential for development. Ultimately, we aim to decipher fundamental principles of cellular decision-making and to develop models that open up new approaches to analyzing experimental data.

## Dietary stress supports healthy aging

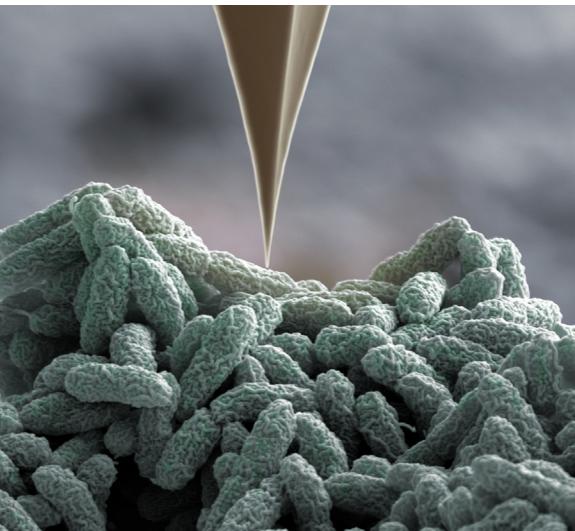
Certain nutrients in food can trigger a mild stress response in nematodes. Using the worm *Caenorhabditis elegans*, Prof. Anne Spang's team has demonstrated that certain RNA molecules in food have a positive effect on the worm's fitness in old age. Another study, involving Prof. Anne Spang's team, revealed that slowing down the intracellular transport of RNA-based drugs can significantly enhance their effectiveness.

Kyriakakis et al. & Malong et al., *Nature Communications*



## Bacteria use nano-spearguns to retaliate against attacks

Some bacteria deploy tiny spearguns to retaliate against rival attacks. Researchers led by Prof. Marek Basler and Prof. Roderick Lim mimicked attacks by poking bacteria with an ultra-sharp tip. Using this approach, they have uncovered that bacteria assemble their nanoweapons in response to cell envelope damage and rapidly strike back with high precision. Furthermore, Marek Basler's team has revealed a surprising microbial trade-off: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* activates a defense program to survive "speargun" attacks from rival bacteria, but this defense makes it more vulnerable to antibiotics.

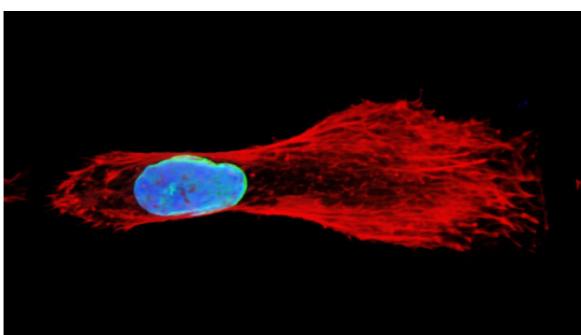


Brüderlin et al., *Science Advances* & Tejada-Arranz et al., *Nature Communications*

## A new layer of control in embryonic development

The journey from a single fertilized egg to a fully formed organism is a highly complex and coordinated process. Using a newly developed AI model, the group led by Prof. Alex Schier has discovered in zebrafish that certain sections of messenger RNA control the extent of protein synthesis during early embryonic development.

Reimão Pinto et al., *Developmental Cell*



## Cellular memory

In wound healing, immune response, and cancer metastasis, cells migrate through the body – often squeezing through confined spaces. Together with experimental collaborators, Prof. David Brückner revealed that cells can "remember" how they previously navigated such constrictions. This allows them to move more quickly and efficiently through complex tissues.

Kalukula et al., *Nature Physics*

## Outreach activities

Early involvement of students in research has always been a tradition at the Biozentrum. Several times a year, young people from all over the world have the opportunity to learn what it means to be a scientist. During the Biozentrum Research Summer, Bachelor's students slip into lab coats and work side by side with our researchers on their own projects.

Together with high school students from the Basel Summer Science Academy (BSSA), Dominik Buser went in search of new phages. This year, their journey led them to collect samples at the Basel Zoo before heading back to the lab to experiment.

At the UniKidsCamp and on Future Day, even the youngest got their turn: They could determine their own blood type. Together with the team from the Imaging Core Facility (IMCF), the kids experienced a microscopy tour.

This commitment also extends to public outreach, such as the University of Basel's "Uni am Markt" initiative and the Info Day Bachelor, which attracted many prospective students.





#### We often see a gender gap at the PI and professor level.

#### Do you have ideas on how to close it?

Women in science still face challenges such as unconscious bias, a lack of mentorship, and the difficulty of balancing professional and personal lives – especially when it comes to family responsibilities, which can lead to career interruptions. To address these issues, it is essential to raise awareness, recalibrate expectations, and foster supportive work environments. Additionally, the presence of female role models can serve as an invaluable source of inspiration and empowerment.



**“I hope in the future we see a scientific community with equal opportunities.”**

Michelle Gut, PhD student

#### What role do mentors and role models play in shaping the careers of women in science?

They play a crucial role in shaping careers, opening doors to opportunities, and offering moral support during difficult times. Feeling seen, heard, and understood can make all the difference in staying resilient and moving forward with confidence in a scientific career.

#### What do you wish for the future?

I hope in the future we see a scientific community with equal opportunities that encourages everybody, regardless of gender, sexual orientation or beliefs, to pursue a scientific career.



**“Diversity ensures that the next generation can find relatable role models.”**

Dr. Madalena Madeira Reimão Pinto

#### What inspired you to pursue a career in science?

Perhaps what captivated me to pursue research in molecular biology is the fact that the scientific process challenges me not only on an intellectual level but also to become a better experimentalist, planner, writer, leader, etc. I really enjoy that being a scientist makes me continuously grow in many ways.

#### What does being a woman in science mean to you?

I see myself as a scientist, not a "woman scientist". I've been fortunate to work in inclusive environments where I haven't felt like people had different expectations of me because of my gender. However, I recognize that this is not the case for everyone in academia.

#### What are some challenges women in science face today, and how can we address them?

I believe that challenges in a career in science often stem from hidden power relations and social hierarchical structures. Addressing these requires open discussions about these topics with the intent to implement institutional changes, transparent hiring and promotion criteria, peer support networks, equitable work environments... but what do I know, I am just a scientist. Perhaps institutes ought to bring in external, unbiased professionals to help drive the meaningful change we want to experience!

#### Do you think it is important that we celebrate this International Day of Women and Girls in Science?

Becoming a scientist requires dedication, perseverance and a passion for the pursuit of knowledge. It's both a privilege and responsibility, and celebrating this day acknowledges those who choose to dedicate their lives to science.

#### Do you think it is important to celebrate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science?

I think it is very important to celebrate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. Because women are underrepresented and less visible in many scientific fields, dedicating a day to raising awareness of gender imbalances and stereotypes helps remind young women of the presence of female scientists and encourages them to pursue scientific careers.

#### Can you share an example of a female scientist who has influenced your work or inspired you?

At the beginning of my PhD, Professor Maryam Mirzakhani at my university was awarded the Fields Medal, the most prestigious honor in mathematics, becoming the first woman to receive this prize since it was established in 1936. Seeing a female scientist achieve such an accomplishment in a male-dominated field boosted my confidence and continues to inspire me to pursue my passions, even during difficult times.

#### What role do mentors and role models play in shaping the careers of women in science?

They are important resources for young scientists to get guidance and inspiration from. Since people of the same gender tend to share more common ground and life experiences, female students are likely to feel more comfortable sharing their concerns with and seeking advice from a female mentor. By having female mentors and role models, female students are more likely to have a sense of belonging, to believe in themselves, and to strive for higher achievements in their careers.

Prof. Yuping Li

**“Role models are important resources for young scientists to get guidance and inspiration.”**

Prof. Yuping Li



## Einblicke Biozentrum 2025

The Biozentrum successfully continued its public lecture series "Einblicke Biozentrum". The monthly talks attracted a large audience and offered fascinating insights into the diverse research carried out at the Biozentrum. Group leaders presented their work in an engaging and accessible way, taking attendees on enlightening journeys through topics ranging from bacterial warfare and the cell's recycling machinery to autism spectrum disorders. The strong attendance highlights the continued public interest in our research and institute.



### ERC Advanced Grant for Alex Schier

The European Research Council (ERC) awarded Prof. Alex Schier a prestigious Advanced Grant. His project "Selforganize" receives funding of about 2.5 million Swiss francs. Over five years, he will investigate how embryonic cells interact and self-organize to form body axes and organs. Using the killifish as a model, his research aims to uncover fundamental mechanisms of embryonic development and may inform future approaches to building artificial organs. This is Alex Schier's second ERC Advanced Grant.



### Biozentrum welcomed delegations

Throughout the year, the Biozentrum welcomed several international delegations. Visitors included the Slovenian Minister of Economy, Tourism and Sport, members of his ministry, and the Slovenian Ambassador. After last year's Czech visit, a follow-up visit brought the President of Brno University, faculty representatives, and the Czech Ambassador to explore potential collaborations. In addition, Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) visited to learn about the Biozentrum's research and teaching concept and building design. Basel Area Business & Innovation also contacted the Biozentrum to organize a visit by a US biotech company.



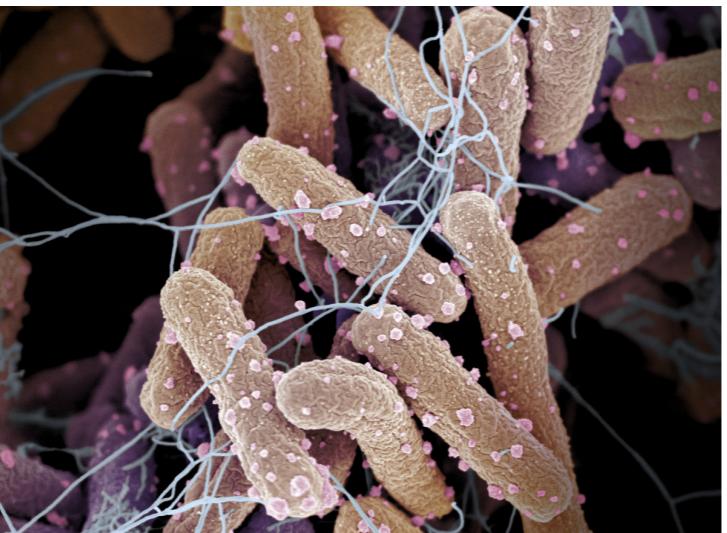
### Scientific distinctions for Anne Spang

Prof. Anne Spang received two major distinctions for her research in cell biology. She was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for her outstanding contributions to understanding intracellular transport and recycling processes. These mechanisms are crucial for cell function, development, and organ formation. In addition, she was awarded the 2024 Lelio Orci Award for her pioneering work in intracellular organization.

## Slow-growing bacteria are more sensitive

Bacteria have a simple yet potent mechanism that controls their sensitivity to environmental stimuli. A new study by Prof. Erik van Nimwegen's team has revealed that the responsiveness of cells is directly linked to their growth rate: the slower cells grow, the more sensitively they respond to their environment. This increased sensitivity can give the cells a crucial survival advantage. The team has also discovered that rapid fluctuations in the concentration of regulatory proteins drive complex gene regulation in bacteria.

Julou et al., *Science Advances* & Galbusera et al., *PRX Life*



## Biozentrum Startups

The biotech company Aukera Therapeutics is emerging from stealth to accelerate the preclinical development of its first-in-class RAPTOR inhibitors. The Biozentrum spin-off, co-founded by Stefan Imseng in 2021, has secured approximately CHF 4.5 million in funding and welcomed a new investor, who also serves as a member of the Board of Directors. Additional investors include Kickfund and Zürcher Kantonalbank. In addition, the two Biozentrum startups – Aukera Therapeutics and NXI Therapeutics – were selected for the Top 100 Swiss Startups.

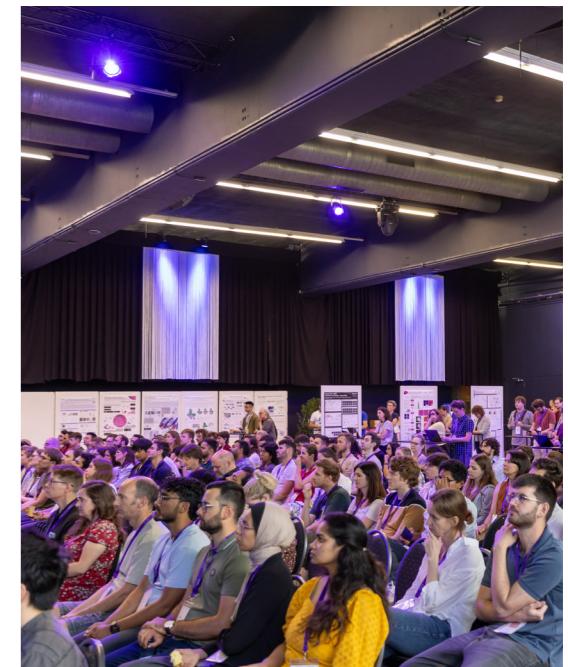
## Biozentrum PhD Fellowships

Twice a year, the Biozentrum encourages talented, ambitious and highly motivated young scientists from all over the world to apply for its prestigious and sought-after fellowships. The "Biozentrum PhD Fellowships" are awarded on a competitive basis to a maximum of ten candidates per open call. This year, about 1888 applications were received across two calls. Since its inception in 2007, 108 PhD fellows from about 30 countries – about half of them women – have successfully graduated from this program, emphasizing scientific excellence and diversity. Currently, the Biozentrum is home to 42 fellows.



## Scientific Community

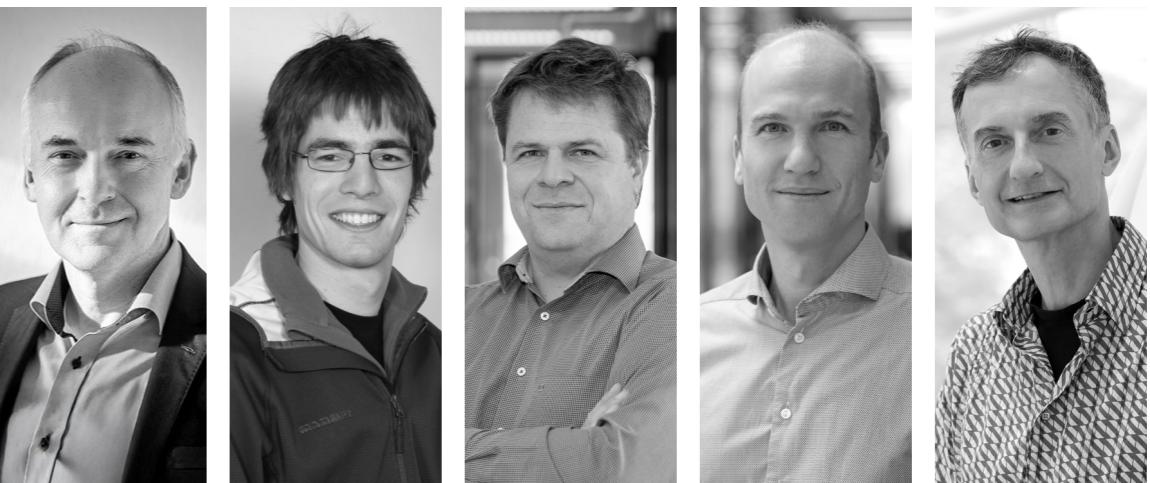
One of the year's highlights was the Biozentrum Symposium 2025, when around 300 researchers from the Biozentrum gathered in uptown Basel to share their passion for science. The symposium reflected the institute's broad scientific spectrum and encouraged lively exchange across disciplines. Engaging talks and keynote lectures offered insights into a wide range of research areas, while flash talks and poster sessions gave early-career scientists a platform to present their work. Prestigious PhD prizes recognized outstanding achievements. The day concluded with the Director's traditional State-of-the-Union address, highlighting the societal importance of science, followed by a shared dinner celebrating the Biozentrum's vibrant research culture.





## AI tool use at the Biozentrum

Large language model-based tools have made their way into our work and private lives over the last three years. At the Biozentrum, it is no different. A survey among the Biozentrum employees by Research IT has now put numbers behind this trend. Nearly all respondents use large language models, with researchers and technical staff doing so weekly or even several times daily. Core use cases across all roles are information retrieval and working with texts, such as writing assistance and summarizing documents. For researchers and technical roles, programming and debugging computer code stand out as applications that are perceived to most significantly enable progress and accelerate workflows. At the same time, respondents show strong reflection and a clear awareness of potential pitfalls, including the need to verify AI-generated information. The survey's findings will inform discussions on concrete support measures in 2026. The Biozentrum also addressed AI in its public outreach. As part of the "Einblicke Biozentrum" lecture series, Prof. Torsten Schwede explained how recent AI-driven advances in protein structure prediction are transforming life science research.



## Five Biozentrum scientists among the world's most cited

Prof. Torsten Schwede, Dr. Gabriel Studer, Prof. Sebastian Hiller, Prof. Richard Neher and Prof. Alex Schier are recognized as some of the most frequently cited scientists in the world, according to the latest edition of the "Highly Cited Researchers" ranking. The list of Highly Cited Researchers, published annually by the US company Clarivate, includes nearly 6,900 researchers worldwide this year. Switzerland ranks ninth in the country ranking with 130 distinguished scientists.

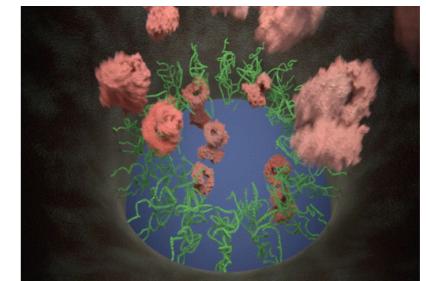
## Farewell to two Professors

Two long-standing professors concluded distinguished careers at the Biozentrum. After almost four decades of pioneering research, Prof. Markus Affolter reached emeritus status, recognized for his key contributions to developmental biology. Stephan Grzesiek was Professor of Structural Biology until his retirement in 2025. He advanced high-resolution Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy to study biological macromolecules.



## Master's graduation

The Master's graduation ceremony acknowledged the academic achievements of the graduating students and celebrated the successful completion of their Master's programs. In total, 85 graduates completed their studies, including 45 from the Biozentrum, 29 from the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, and 11 from the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of Basel.

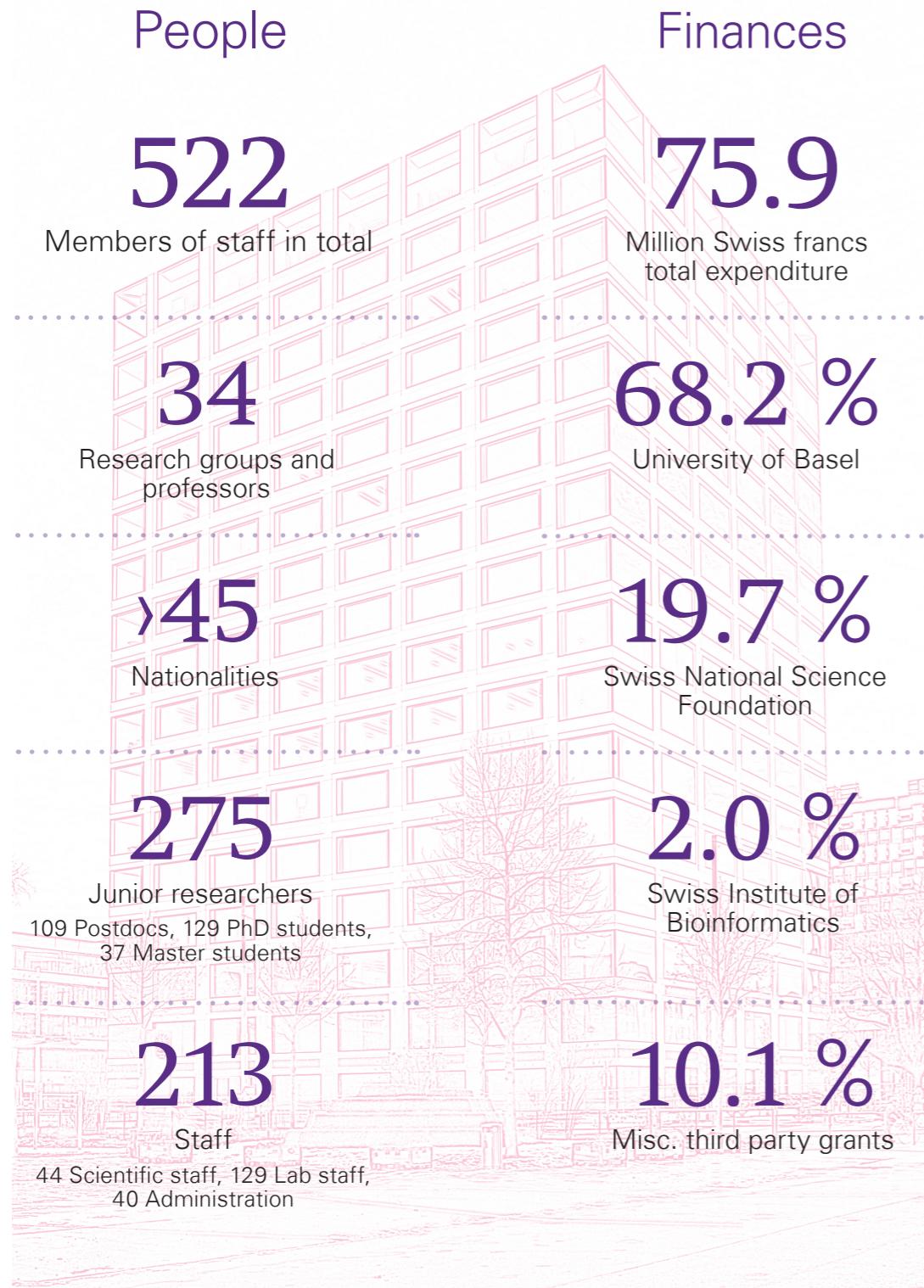


## Shapeshifting gates guard the cell nucleus

An international study led by Prof. Roderick Lim has discovered that nuclear pore complexes – tiny gateways in the nuclear membrane – are not rigid or gel-like as once thought. Their interiors are dynamically organized, constantly moving and rearranging. The findings reshape our understanding of a vital transport process in cells and have implications for diseases and potential therapies.

Kozai et al., *Nature Cell Biology*

# Biozentrum in brief.



## Awards, Grants & Fellowships for PhD students and Postdocs

**Volkan Adak**, Swiss Society for Research on Muscle Diseases (FSRMM)  
**Hirotaka Araki**, EFSD and JDS Reciprocal Travel Research Fellowship Programme 2025  
**Kadjita Asumbisa**, Postdoctoral Fellowships from EMBO, Human Frontiers Science Program and Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada  
**David Beriashvili**, EMBO Postdoctoral Fellowship  
**Kerstin Dörner**, Research Fund Junior Researchers, University of Basel  
**Fanny Eggeler**, Walter Benjamin Postdoc Stipendium from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft  
**Luis Ferrández-Peral**, SNSF Postdoctoral Fellowship  
**Regula Furrer**, FreeNovation Grant  
**Alexander Kanitz**, UKRI Medical Research Council  
**Elena Kaube**, Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds Fellowship  
**Elgin Korkmazhan**, SNSF Postdoctoral Fellowship  
**Debadatto Mookherjee**, Research Fund of the University of Basel for Excellent Junior Researchers  
**Julian Naderi**, Schmidt Science Fellowship  
**Judith Reinhard**, Foundation Voor Sara, Netherlands  
**Matthias Schneider**, EMBO Postdoctoral Fellowship  
**Leoni Swart**, Research Fund Junior Researchers, University of Basel  
**Davide Tamborini**, SNSF and EMBO Postdoctoral Fellowships  
**Sam van Beljouw**, EMBO Postdoctoral Fellowship  
**Florent Waltz**, SNSF Ambizione Fellowship

## Research groups 2025

|                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Prof. Jan Pieter Abrahams | Prof. Maria Hondele            |
| Prof. Markus Affolter     | Prof. Urs Jenal                |
| Prof. Silvia Arber        | Prof. Claudia Keller Valsecchi |
| Prof. Marek Basler        | Prof. Anissa Kempf             |
| Prof. Attila Becskei      | Prof. Yiping Li                |
| Prof. David Brückner      | Prof. Roderick Lim             |
| Prof. Dirk Bumann         | Prof. Timm Maier               |
| Prof. Christoph Dehio     | Prof. Susan Mango              |
| Prof. Médéric Diard       | Prof. Richard Neher            |
| Prof. Fiona Doetsch       | Prof. Jean Pieters             |
| Prof. Flavio Donato       | Prof. Markus Rüegg             |
| Prof. Knut Drescher       | Prof. Peter Scheiffele         |
| Prof. Benjamin Engel      | Prof. Alex Schier              |
| Prof. Stephan Grzesiek    | Prof. Torsten Schwede          |
| Prof. Michael N. Hall     | Prof. Anne Spang               |
| Prof. Christoph Handschin | Prof. Erik van Nimwegen        |
| Prof. Sebastian Hiller    | Prof. Mihaela Zavolan          |

