



SAPhS
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Dear Members of SAPhS,

this pandemic is affecting us pharmaceutical scientists and pharmacists in several aspects. Those of us who teach do this by recording their lectures by talking to their computer screens for hours. Students access these lectures online, discussions are organized by chats. Our students are also prematurely confronted with the realities of their chosen profession by helping out in their local pharmacies. Lists of volunteers - PhD students, technicians and faculty members - are being established at the Schools of Pharmacy around the country to support our colleagues in the hospital pharmacies. Those of us who are involved in research activities to develop therapies and vaccines against the virus and still have access to lab facilities network and support each other with scientific data, material and equipment. I personally experience a great solidarity among pharmaceutical scientists in this time of crisis.

But there's more to do: it appears to dawn on the powers-to-be as well as on the general public that only science will be able to find a solution. That political, societal and economic decisions must be based on scientific evidence from basic virology through drug development to epidemiology, and not on wishful thinking. In this situation we must engage not only in scientific discussions with our peers. Those of us who were trained as pharmacists should remember their truly translational skills and engage in interpreting scientific knowledge and its consequences to our family members, friends and neighbors. Fortunately we do have the tools at our disposal. This letter, as well as new scientific study results and publications of interest, will also be posted on the LinkedIn website of the Academy at www.linkedin.com/groups/3854754/. The site serves as a platform of reliable information and discussion platform for our community.

We also need to take care of ourselves and our mental health. As there is only so much interesting Netflix to binge, some take to meditation, practice yoga, are busy in their gardens or finally read that book. I personally do what I have always done to regain my balance: I run. Having the luxury of living in the Jura, and being blessed (or cursed) with being an early morning person, the only creature my presence puts at risk is the occasional squirrel. With the preparation for the Zermatt marathon on July 4 in full swing, I pledge to donate 1 Chf for every kilometer I run until then to the Swiss Philanthropy Fund (<https://www.swissphilanthropy.ch/en/covid19fund/>). I am looking forward to hopefully celebrate our independence from the pandemic on July 4 in Zermatt.

Wishing you all the best for the coming weeks, please stay safe and healthy.

Prof. G. Borchard
President SAPhS