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**Swiss Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences**  
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## **NEWSLETTER 2 / 2021**

Dear Member,

Thank you for reading the Newsletter 2/2021. Any comments and suggestions to [info@saphw.ch](mailto:info@saphw.ch) are welcome.  
Kind regards, your SAPhS



### **A Word from the President**



Dear members of the Academy,

Another year under pandemic conditions comes to a close. Another year where it was shown that only scientific progress - especially in pharmaceutical sciences - will deliver solutions to global threats like Covid-19. We were very fortunate to have a scientist who was instrumental in the development of mRNA vaccines, Prof. Katalin Karikó. She was able to come to Bern in September to receive the Reichstein medal she so rightfully deserved for her lifelong effort to turn this technology into actual vaccines. She indeed is an excellent example especially for our young colleagues of what can be achieved when you set your mind to it.

As we experience as well, the communication of science is oftentimes not well received or welcomed by the general public and lawmakers. The thinking of scientists in probabilities rather than absolute truths is not easily understood by the lay person. However, we as scientists have the obligation to speak up, inform, discuss, and simply translate scientific results into a language the common citizen (and the run-of-the-mill politician) can understand. Policies enforced to fight the pandemic must not be based on wishful thinking, but on factual evidence alone. This has become even more obvious as well as necessary in a period of misinformation and fairy tales.

The Swiss Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences will continue to foster pharmaceutical sciences and scientists, as this, as we have seen, is of high importance for our society.

Wishing you and your families a peaceful period among your loved ones, and a happy and successful New Year.

Gerrit Borchard, PharmD, PhD, President SAPhS



## News

### **University Faculty**

#### **University of Basel**

[Samuel Allemann](#)

New Assistant Professor for Pharmaceutical Care at the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

#### **University of Bern**

[Carla Meyer-Massetti](#)

New leading lecturer and teaching coordinator, Institut for Primary Care/BIHAM

#### **Pharmaziemuseum Universität Basel**

Special exhibition, 3 december 2021 – 5 june 2022

[Special Exhibition](#): «animalistic! Snake, cod liver oil and cortisone - from animals to active pharmaceutical ingredients»

[SRF News](#): «Wie Menschen aus Tieren Heilmittel herstellten»



## Events

### **Online Swiss Pharma Science Day 2021**

SWISS  
PHARMA  
SCIENCE DAY  
2021



SAPhS  
Swiss Academy of  
Pharmaceutical  
Sciences

For a **retrospect**, including conference booklet and report, videostream of whole event, lectures, e-posters, platform presentations of partner associations (GSIA, GSASA, swissYPG) and award ceremony (fellow 2021, poster prizes) see our [website](#) (online until 31 January 2022).

### **Reichstein Medal 2021**

This year's awardee was Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Katalin Karikó, Senior Vice President, BioNTech RNA Pharmaceutical and Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania.



For a **retrospect**, including a portrait of the awardee, videostreams and slides of her public lecture and the award ceremony, laudatio, foto gallery and media reports see our [website](#) (online until 31 January 2022).

### Swiss Pharma Science Day 2022 - Save the date:

19 August 2022, University of Bern

[1<sup>st</sup> Announcement](#)



#### Science



#### Papers of the month

Mhatre S et al: Antiviral activity of green tea and black tea polyphenols in prophylaxis and treatment of COVID-19: A review. [Phytomedicine 2021 May; 85: 153286.](#)

Frisoni GB et al: The probabilistic model of Alzheimer disease: the amyloid hypothesis revised. Nature Reviews – Neuroscience 23 Nov 2021.



#### Education



#### PharmaTalk 3 / 2021:

Modus: Online Webinar

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Katalin Karikó, Senior Vice President, BioNTech RNA Pharmaceutical and Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Reichstein Award Lecture 2021, 6 Sept. 2021, Inselspital Bern

Topic: «Developing mRNA for therapy - Not Warp Speed»

Videostream and slides of lecture: open access, online on our [website](#) until 31 Dec. 2021

## **APhWS «Ausbildung Pharmazeutische Wissenschaften Schweiz, APhWS» (Formation Sciences Pharmaceutiques Suisse, FSPhS; Education Pharmaceutical Sciences Switzerland, EPhSS)**

In the APhWS, formerly called MiniPAP, all university locations of pharmacy are represented as well as pharmaSuisse and the Academy SAPHs. Acting as moderator is Dr. Christine Moll, Vice-President of SAPHs. The aim is to find a common Swiss solution for a minimum standard for the skills in the catalogue of learning objectives that have already been prepared and worked on. The officially published catalogue of learning objectives from the FOPH (version 2) is too superficial and not detailed enough for practical use.

Three documents are being worked on:

Document 1: Matrix inventory of learning content on NCD in basic training.

Document 2: Consultation situations acute and/or chronic. The B+ list was also added there. Consensus between the locations is very important here.

Document 3: Exchange on teaching "Pharmaceutical and Clinical Skills" in the Master's programme in Pharmacy.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 2022.



## **Statements**

### **Statement of SAPHs on the federal popular initiative «Yes to the ban on animal and human trials - Yes to research paths with impulses for safety and progress».**

All pharmaceutical research serves to develop and improve medicines, therapeutic approaches and the prevention of diseases. The focus is on proving the safety and efficacy of drugs. Both can ultimately only be guaranteed through testing in cell culture and in animal models in the preclinical stage, and through studies in healthy individuals and patients in the clinical stage of drug development. For a long time now, pharmaceutical research has been increasingly replacing animal testing with in vitro models. An animal experiment can only be performed if it cannot be replaced. The use of animal experiments must be justifiable according to ethical considerations and based on Swiss animal protection legislation - the latter being one of the strictest in the world. Clinical trials are organized in such a way that they can provide well-founded and statistically validated information about the safety and efficacy of the drug being tested.

The popular initiative proposes a change in the law that would generally prohibit animal experiments as well as clinical studies in Switzerland. Experiments on animals and humans would only be permitted if they are «in the comprehensive and overriding interest of the persons concerned (animals as well as humans)». Which authority would decide on this? On the other hand, these studies would only involve «affected persons», i.e., diseased persons: in today's controlled, evidence-based phase 1 clinical studies, the dosage of the drug that is still safe is first determined in healthy persons, which in turn is based on results from cell culture studies and animal experiments. The conduct of studies proposed by the initiative would be tantamount to «trial and error» on patients, which would contradict any scientific approach and would not be ethically justifiable.

Furthermore, the importation of products developed with the help of animal studies and/or clinical trials would be prohibited, which would include pharmaceuticals. Drug development is organized on a global basis. Already now, the interruption of supply chains results in a shortage of medicines, such as currently the supply of painkillers to cancer patients. Excluding the import of medicines developed through animal testing and clinical trials would dramatically exacerbate this situation.

For the reasons mentioned above, the Swiss Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences SAPHW joins the warning against a ban on medicine and research by swissuniversities, the umbrella organization of Swiss universities.

Gerrit Borchard, PharmD, PhD, President SAPHW

(version in [German](#) and [French](#))



**Last but not least:  
Merry Christmas and Healthy New Year!**



[LinkedIn](#)

**Contact:**

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