International Geneva Directory of Swiss Global Health Actors

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute | SwissTPH

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

Since its founding in 1943 the Swiss Tropical Institute, now Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH), has become a world-renowned institution for teaching, research and services in the field of Global Health. It focuses on low- and middle-income countries and aims to improve public health and wellbeing of populations through a better understanding of disease and health systems. As an associate institute of the University of Basel, the members of the Swiss TPH teach in the Faculties of Sciences, Medicine and Arts and Humanities, and are engaged in post-graduate education on national and international levels.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Tropical diseases and medicine
- Innovation, Research and Development on diseases and health systems
- Teaching and training of health professionals
- Vaccines and prevention in travel medicine
- Modelling, Monitoring and Training for Malaria Control and Elimination (WHO CC)
- Epidemiology and Control of Helminth Infections (WHO CC)
- Health Technology Management and eHealth (WHO CC)

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Swiss TPH offers a variety of services in the area of international health, including consultancy services, economic evaluations, operations research, project design and implementation, and human resources development, among others. It also plans, conducts and monitors clinical trials in resource-limited settings, especially on poverty-related diseases such as Malaria, Tuberculosis and sleeping sickness. Its travel clinic provides people travelling to tropical areas with vaccinations and information on different tropical diseases. Finally, it offers medical diagnostic services to hospitals and doctors in Switzerland in its function as National diagnostic reference centre for imported parasitic diseases. Swiss TPH's research covers the fields of parasitology, infection biology, health systems and public health. It conducts research on infectious diseases, NCDs, the interactions between society and health as well as environment and health, and health systems and interventions. In its research activities, it emphasizes interdisciplinary approaches through collaboration with national and international partnerships.

Regarding its activity as a WHO Collaborating Centre, the Health Interventions Unit is working on modelling of malaria epidemiology, molecular monitoring of malaria interventions and control programmes, innovation and validation of diagnostic techniques and teaching in

the field of malaria epidemiology, control and elimination. The Unit of Ecosystem Health Sciences is working on conducting spatio-temporal surveillance and evaluation of control interventions of human helminth infections, conducting research and development of anthelminthic drugs, validating innovative diagnostic techniques and providing technical assistance. The Unit of Health Technology and Telemedicine to eHealth to support activities in eHealth/mHealth including capacity building, resource collection, strategy development, needs assessment, procurement, nomenclature, supply chain management, maintenance, training and safe use.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

Daily operations are managed by a 8-member directorate, which includes the President, Jürg Utzinger, an Administrative Director as well as the five Department Heads. The directorate is supervised by a 12-member Board of Governors, headed by the Chair, Dr Andrease Burckhardt. The Swiss TPH employs about 600 staff members and hosts 200 PhD and master students from 79 nations.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

Total operating income in 2017 amounted to CHF 85.7 million, with CHF 64.1 million (75%) earned through research, teaching and training, and services. CHF 18.9 million (22%) of income came from core funding by national and local government. The remaining funds are made up of other income, partly through fundraising (3%).

PUBLICATIONS

See: https://www.swisstph.ch/en/publications/

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