

Press release

**Successful Wyss Zurich model receives further donation of around CHF 100 million**

- After seven years of development and consolidation, Hansjörg Wyss is donating an **additional CHF 100 million** to the Wyss Zurich Translational Center.
- The center, a joint initiative of ETH Zurich and the University of Zurich dedicated to promoting startup projects in the fields of regenerative medicine and robotics, has established itself as a **successful model**.

*Zurich, May 18, 2022 – Having funded more than 20 projects, some of which have already been successfully brought to market, Wyss Zurich has established itself in Zurich, a center of innovation. Now it will be receiving another donation of around CHF 100 million from its initiator, Dr. h.c. mult. Hansjörg Wyss, ensuring its operations for another six to eight years.*

In 2014, Swiss entrepreneur and philanthropist Hansjörg Wyss made his first donation (USD 120 million) to ETH Zurich and the University of Zurich with the aim of creating a joint translational center at the interface of medicine, natural sciences and engineering. The Wyss Zurich Translational Center – Wyss Zurich – began operating in 2015 with its first projects in the fields of regenerative medicine and robotics. In addition to receiving financial support, for example for clinical trials, Wyss Zurich projects gain access to the two universities' translational technology platforms as well as to a unique network of scientists, clinicians, industry experts and entrepreneurs.

The basic research conducted in Switzerland is among the best in the world, especially in the life sciences and engineering. However, it often takes too long for research findings to be made available for practical application and the benefit of patients. Recognizing this as a major problem, Hansjörg Wyss, patron and founder of the medical technology company Synthes, wanted to find a solution. In 2014, with the help of the two founding directors of Wyss Zurich – Simon P. Hoerstrup, a physician at the University of Zurich, and Roland Siegwart, a robotics expert at ETH Zurich – the idea was born to promote the research conducted at the universities in a way that draws the attention of investors and potential industrial partners and encourages them to bring the products and therapies resulting from that research to the market, thereby contributing to the common good.

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*"We are very grateful for the foresight and trust shown by Hansjörg Wyss in helping to launch our translational center for the promotion of startups – and for his continuing support. We view this additional major donation as recognition for our work and as an incentive for us that allows us to realize further promising projects and to support highly motivated teams."*

*Simon P. Hoerstrup*

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With ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich and the University Hospital in close proximity to one another, Wyss Zurich offers ideal and globally unique conditions for fulfilling its mission. Michael Schaepman, President, and Elisabeth Stark, Vice President Research of the University of Zurich, as well as Joël Mesot, President, and Vanessa Wood, Vice President for Knowledge Transfer and Corporate Relations of ETH Zurich, are in constant exchange with Wyss Zurich to establish and further expand knowledge transfer. According to Michael Schaepman, "The collaboration between our universities is working very well and it shows us that a collaborative funding model like that of the Wyss Zurich Translational Center is groundbreaking for the future. Together, we can accomplish much more than we can individually."

Thanks to two exceptionally well-equipped technology platforms for regenerative medicine and robotics and highly specialized expertise, it provides outstanding opportunities for young entrepreneurs to work and advance in their fields. In the future, particular emphasis will be placed on "bionic technologies," a combination of regenerative medicine and robotics to which the existing Wyss Zurich platforms are ideally suited.

Before projects are funded at Wyss Zurich, they undergo a rigorous four-stage approval process during which they are carefully scrutinized by leading scientists in the fields of regenerative medicine and robotics as well as by a panel of independent experts from industry and academia, among others. This is a crucial element in ensuring that the projects achieve the highest possible success rate on their teams' paths to entrepreneurship.

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*"After seven years, we can proudly say that Wyss Zurich's acceleration of technology transfer is working very well. Many of the 23 Wyss Zurich projects are already successful and have created several hundred new jobs. Thus, Hansjörg Wyss' donation has an excellent leverage effect for the benefit of society and the economy."*

*Roland Siegwart*

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## About Wyss Zurich

The Wyss Zurich Translational Center (Wyss Zurich) is a joint accelerator of the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich), which was made possible by a generous donation from the Swiss entrepreneur and philanthropist Dr. h.c. mult. Hansjörg Wyss. It was established to foster translational research focused on developing treatment protocols and clinical therapies, as well as novel technologies and intelligent systems, in the emerging fields of Regenerative Medicine, Robotics, and hybrid technologies thereof. Wyss Zurich unites world-leading experts from both institutions in multidisciplinary teams, pooling their knowledge and expertise. For more information, please visit [www.wysszurich.ch](http://www.wysszurich.ch)