SPHN: Setting up the Organisation

• Prof. Peter Meier-Abt, President

Dear Personalized Health Community, we welcome you to this first newsletter – Steps #1 – about the Swiss Personalized Health Network. In the SAMS bulletin 1/2016 we have informed you about the goals, the contents, the organisational structure and the implementation steps of this initiative. Meanwhile we have started to set up the SPHN organisation. The National Steering Board (NSB), the Executive Board (EB) and the Data Expert Group (DEG) are established, and a Managing Director is elected. In addition, the Rules of Procedures have been defined and the principles of Funding Procedures are in preparation. The latter is also true for the composition of the Ethical-Legal-Social-Issues Advisory Group (ELSIag), the International Advisory Board (IAB), the Data Organizations, and the definition of the Data Sharing principles.

The SPHN initiative aims for a nationwide harmonisation of molecular and clinical data semantics and of health information technology systems in order to achieve data interoperability among all relevant stakeholders such as University Hospitals, Universities, Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology (ETHZ, EPFL), research funding institutions (e.g. SNSF), other research performing hospitals, political authorities (e.g. FOPH) and relevant biomedical organizations (e.g. Swiss Biobanking Platform). It is planned to run the SPHN initiative over more than just one Federal ERI period of four years. As specified in the adopted implementation report of November 2015, initial funding shall focus on the development of essential infrastructures. Subsequently, funding of research projects will become more and more important (see figure 1, left).

With combined efforts we want to set the stage for Switzerland becoming a leading nation in personalized health research. We will inform you regularly with newsletters about the actual stage of development and important news about the SPHN. The next edition – Steps #2 – describes the Data Organization and the Data Coordination Center (DCC) as planned by the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics. We are looking forward to working together with you and to making the SPHN initiative a success for the benefit of medical research, the health system and for the whole of Swiss society.

1 www.samw.ch/de/Publikationen/Bulletins/Aktuell.html
2 http://www.samw.ch/en/Projects/Personalized-Health.html
National Steering Board (NSB)

The National Steering Board is the highest governing body of the SPHN. It is composed of 18 members representing key partners such as University Hospitals, Universities and ETHs, the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics (SIB), the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) etc. On the list below the terms in brackets stand for the institution or network represented by each member.

The NSB has overall strategic responsibilities for the whole network and maintains regular contacts to the superordinate political authorities. In particular, the NSB exercises the following duties and powers:

– Determine the SPHN’s strategic focus (incl. requirements of data infrastructure, data semantic, scope of coordination, etc.)
– Decide on funds allocated to projects, upon proposal of the Executive Board (EB)
– Approve the business plan prepared and submitted by the EB, the yearly budget and the yearly management report including accounting
– Supervise the activities of the other governing bodies
– Represent the SPHN Initiative to the outside, in collaboration with the EB.

Prof. Peter Meier-Abt, President (SAMS)
Prof. Ron Appel, University of Lausanne (Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics)
Prof. Herbert Binggeli, Bern University of Applied Sciences (swissuniversities)
Dr. Katrin Crameri, Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH)
Prof. Urs Frey, University Children’s Hospital of Basel (SAMS)
Prof. Matthias Gugger, Bern University Hospital (Cluster Geneva-Lausanne-Bern)
Prof. Detlef Günther, ETH Zurich (ETHZ)
Prof. Nouria Hernandez, University of Lausanne (swissuniversities)
Prof. Denis Hochstrasser, University of Geneva (CampusBiotech)
Prof. Christoph Hock, University of Zurich (swissuniversities)
Prof. Christoph Meier, Basel University Hospital (Cluster Zurich-Basel)
Prof. Arnaud Perrier, Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (Cluster Geneva-Lausanne-Bern)
Prof. Anita Rauch, University of Zurich (SAMS)
Prof. Dominique Soldati-Favre, University of Geneva (Swiss National Science Foundation)
Prof. Jean-Daniel Tissot, University of Lausanne (Cluster Geneva-Lausanne-Bern)
Prof. Didier Trono, EPF Lausanne (EPFL)
Prof. Effy Vayena, University of Zurich (ELSI Advisory Group)
Prof. Gregor Zünd, Zurich University Hospital (Cluster Zurich-Basel)
Executive Board (EB)

The Executive Board is the operative body of the SPHN. It is composed of 13 members, covering the whole disciplinary range relevant to personalized medicine such as clinical science, medical/clinical bioinformatics, public health/epidemiology etc. EB-members must be active scientists involved in basic, translational and/or clinical human research within their respective organizations/institutions.

The EB is responsible for the scientific strategic planning and for operative tasks. In particular, the EB has the following duties:

- Coordinate the requirements of data infrastructure, data semantic, scope of coordination, etc. with the Data Expert Group (DEG)
- Coordinate the collaboration in data collection and research in the field of personalized medicine
- Establish the business plan, the budgets, the annual account and the annual management report to be submitted to the NSB
- Create and appoint commissions or committees for specific purposes, appoint and dismiss the members of such bodies.

Prof. Bernd Bodenmiller, UZH, Technolomics
Prof. Denis Duboule, EPFL, Technolomics
Prof. Manolis Dermitzakis, UniGE, Technolomics
Prof. Christian Lovis, UniGE, Bioinformatics
Prof. Andrew Macpherson, Inselspital, Clinical Scientist
Prof. Olivier Michielin, CHUV, Clinical Scientist
Prof. Holger Moch, UZH/USZ, Clinical Scientist
Prof. Vincent Mooser, UniLS, Swiss Biobanking Platform
Prof. Nicole Probst, UniBS, Public Health/Human Biomonitoring Project
Prof. Gunnar Rätsch, ETHZ, Bioinformatics
Prof. Thomas Schulthess, CSCS, Data Expert
Prof. Torsten Schwede, UniBS/SIB, Data Expert
Prof. Radek Skoda, USB, Clinical Scientist

Managing Director

The Management Office (MO) is responsible for the daily operations of the SPHN. Led by Adrien Lawrence, Managing Director, and locally integrated at the SAMS in Bern, the MO starts its work on the 1st of October 2016.

Adrien Lawrence is currently the Head of Special Projects at the Office of the Vice-Provost for Research at EPFL. Prior to this, he was Chief Science Officer at the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), where his role consisted of managing the chemistry platform and coordinating projects to support the chemical science community. He has also worked in the pharmaceutical industry and for an evidence-based life sciences consultancy in the UK. Adrien Lawrence studied chemistry at EPFL and at the University of Cambridge. After graduating with a MSc and PhD, he carried postdoctoral studies at the University of Lausanne.
Data Expert Group (DEG)

The Data Expert Group defines standardized procedures for data production, data organization and data storage to reach nationwide interoperability of molecular and clinical patient data and to make them usable for research.

The DEG consists of 23 members. It elaborates a technical roadmap for implementation, responsibilities (tasks) and operation of the national Data Coordination Center (DCC). Organization and structure of the DCC will be defined; to clarify which data must be stored centrally and which shall remain locally is thereby of particular importance.

Prof. Ron Appel, SIB, Bioinformatics
Prof. Michael Baudis, UZH, Bioinformatics
Prof. Jürg Blaser, USZ, Clinical Informatics
Dr. Remy Bruggmann, UniBe, Bioinformatics
Dr. Laurence Chapatte, SBP, Biobanking
Dr. Emmanuel Eschmann, USZ, Clinical Informatics
Johannes Gnägi, BAG, eHealth Suisse
Prof. Jean-Pierre Hubaux, EPFL, Information Security
Dr. Nathalie Jacquet, CHUV, Clinical Research Unit
Dr. Alexander Leichtle, Insel, Laboratory Medicine
Prof. Christian Lovis, HUG, Clinical Informatics
Prof. Olivier Michielin, CHUV/UNIL, Molecular Modeling
Markus Obreiter, USB, Clinical Informatics
Prof. Christiane Pauli-Magnus, SCTO, Clinical Trial Unit
Prof. Milo Puhan, UZH, Epidemiology & Public Health
Prof. Gunnar Rätsch, ETHZ, Clinical Bioinformatics
Nicolas Rosat, CHUV, Head of IT Governance
Prof. Patrick Ruch, HES-SO, Text Mining
Dr. Caroline Samer, HUG, Pharmacology & Toxicology
Prof. Torsten Schwede, SIB DCC
Dr. Nicolas Vuilleumier, HUG, Laboratory Medicine
Prof. Ioannis Xenarios, SIB, Vital-IT director
Prof. Mihaela Zavolan, UniBas, Bioinformatics

About this Newsletter
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Responsible for this edition: Franziska Egli (SAMS), f.egli@samw.ch
Design: Howald Fosco Biberstein, Basel
Contact: Prof. Peter Meier-Abt, SAMS, President of the National Steering Board peter.meier-abt@unibas.ch