

# Mission Statement

The Network for Clinical Research

## Vision

Clinical research deals with the causes, diagnosis, course, treatment, and prevention of diseases in humans. As such, it is one of the most important factors for progress in medicine. Clinical research in Switzerland is innovative, high quality, and at the cutting edge internationally.

## Mission

The Swiss Clinical Trial Organisation (SCTO) is the central cooperation platform for translational and patient-oriented clinical research in Switzerland. Its primary objective is to position Swiss clinical research in an attractive and competitive way internationally with respect to innovation and quality. The SCTO advances these objectives by:

- Promoting a high-quality and nationally harmonised study culture—including the continuing education and training necessary to do this
- Supporting efficient, linked infrastructures nationally, as well as exchanges between these infrastructures
- Promoting the involvement of Swiss clinical research in international networks
- Promoting the transfer of knowledge between basic research and therapeutic applications
- Building bridges between academia, industry and the authorities, as well as trade organisations and professional associations

Moreover, the SCTO advocates favourable legal, political, and financial conditions in the field of clinical research.

## Strategy

To fulfil its mission, the SCTO supports the implementation of the standards crafted by the CTUs for clinical researchers for quality, project, and data management, as well as those for continuing education and training, and it is working towards getting them recognized throughout Switzerland. These standards are aligned with national and international specifications and ethics guidelines.

The SCTO adds value to the CTU network by facilitating the communication and exchange of skill sets and ensures that each CTU can bring its strengths to the network.

The SCTO paves the way for multilateral exchanges with national and international partner organisations and promotes the involvement of Swiss clinical research at European level.

The SCTO takes on coordinating roles for multicentre studies, bringing interested partners from academia and/or industry together and helping with study placement.

The SCTO represents the interests of the CTU Network and is the contact point for the authorities, industry, ethics committees, trade organisations and professional associations, and the media.

## **Organisation**

The Swiss Clinical Trial Organisation (SCTO) is an association based in Basel. Its members are the five Swiss university hospitals, the St. Gallen Cantonal Hospital, the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMW) and the representatives of the medical school faculties (Collège des Doyens) at the Swiss universities. Through these members the SCTO is closely connected to the six Clinical Trial Units (CTUs).

A board made up of members' runs the SCTO. The executive office in Basel manages the day-to-day business of the organisation. The advisory board is made up of representatives of the Consortium of Ethics Committee (AGEK), the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF), and SGCI Chemie Pharma Schweiz (chemical and pharmaceutical industry association). In the future, the SCTO and the advisory board can bring in additional partners from the field of clinical research or organisations associated with clinical research.

## **Principles**

The SCTO lives and breathes a culture of cooperation, respect, trust and transparency internally and externally. It promotes active exchanges and teamwork among members and provides support in the listed areas.

It cultivates professional and collegial relationships with other organisations, stakeholders in clinical research, industry and the authorities.

The SCTO strives to have all research projects associated with it meet the applicable ethical and legal requirements. In everything it does, the SCTO is conscious of the responsible use of resources.