Roadmap 2016-2021 for Building up the Future Generation of Clinical Researchers

7th SCTO Symposium
Lausanne, 16 June 2016
Background

- 2013: Masterplan of the Federal Council to strengthen Biomedical Research and Technology in Switzerland
  -- > Mandate of the platform “Future of Medical Education”

- 2014: FOPH/SAMS-report with recommendations, how Clinical Research in Switzerland can be promoted
  -- > Orientation of the Federal Council, adoption through the “Dialogue on national health policy”

- 2015: Taskforce assigned to draft Roadmap for implementation

- 2016: “Roadmap 2016-2021 for building up the future generation of clinical researchers” in consultation
  -- > Adoption of the final version in summer 2016; start implementation
Roadmap: direction of impact

- Improvement and optimisation of the existing system
- Building up on existing structures and expertises
- Bring key partners together
- Focussing on medical professions (as a start):
  - origin of mandate
  - difficulties when combining medical specialisation and clinical research
- Understanding of clinical research in its broadest sense
Roadmap elaboration

**Taskforce**
(with representatives of University Hospitals, Medical Faculties, SAMS, SCTO, VUM, and Industry):

- Renewed assessment of the current state of the promotion of young physicians in the field of clinical research
- Meet for 3 meetings
- Concretised appropriate measures, defined responsibilities, laid out time line for realization of the 2014-report recommendations within the framework of a national Roadmap
- Sought support of players and stakeholders in the field of clinical research in Switzerland
The FOPH/SAMS-report 2014 called for a systematic support of research-oriented clinicians in each stage of their career path and concludes with three concrete recommendations and potential measures to improve the situation:

| Level education | 1. Early identification and promotion of research-oriented medical students |
| Level specialisation | 2. Optimal professional qualification during advanced training |
| Level establishment | 3. Improvement of working conditions and career opportunities |
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Aim

Build up the future generation of clinical researchers to perform more clinical research projects in order to improve medical therapies.

Strengthening clinical research and more interaction between basic and clinical research will generate added value out of the investments in these fields.

(part of the national platform “Future of Medical Education”, therefore physicians are addressed)
## Roadmap Future Generation Clinical Researchers

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Work Package 1 – Collaboration with local MD-PhD Graduate Schools

At all five location, an MD-PhD with focus on clinical research is possible.

Background
BE, LS and GE open the existing MD-PhD programs for clinical researchers; BS and ZH have special programs (PhD in Clinical Science)

Responsibility: local MD-PhD Graduate Schools, coordination SCTO
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Work Package 2 – Minimum standards for competencies in clinical research

Definition of minimum standards for competences in clinical research to facilitate the acquisition of consistent professional qualifications.

To assist candidates in choosing appropriate training programs for their individual purposes, a comprehensive and up-to-date overview of all relevant training programs (e.g. CAS, DAS, MAS, PhD, or modules of these programs) will be provided.

Responsibility: SCTO network in close collaboration with other concerned stakeholders
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Work Package 3 – Swiss Clinical Research Education Centre (SCREC)

Build a framework structure for clinical research education:

- Granting substantial and sustained support for trainees during the specialisation phase;
- Providing a common structure and a pre-organized schedule/procedure for training and education;
- Reaching the greatest possible compatibility with all medical specialisation trainings;
- Preventing an extensive prolongation of the specialisation phase;
- Facilitating mobility of fellows throughout Switzerland.
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Work Package 3 – Swiss Clinical Research Education Centre (SCREC)

How to?

➔ Virtual school, the Swiss Clinical Research Education Centre (SCREC) building up on existing infrastructures and expertises.

➔ The SCREC will be a part of the SCTO and its CTU network, since the network is already today a major provider of clinical re-search trainings and mentoring services.

➔ Identify and collaborate with all other important stakeholders and existing platforms!! (Medical faculties / FMH / SSPH+ etc. etc.)

Responsibility: SCTO
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Work Package 4 – Funding program for physicians in clinical research (starter-grants)

The promotion of young talents in clinical research is time-consuming and cost-intensive - financial support needed!

• Existing grants focus on advanced researchers with track record.
• Gap: starter grants for promising candidates, who enter a training program through the SCREC, through a competitive selection procedure.
• Pilot – evaluation of success – establish long term solution

Responsibility: SAMS
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Work Package 5 – Research-friendly conditions of employment and career opportunities

Medical Faculties and University Hospitals to jointly elaborate a concept for attractive employment and career opportunities:

• Starting in the medical services (identify potential candidates).
• Establishment of a dual path allowing the clinical specialization in parallel with academic activities (chief of service, along with the medical and academic authorities).
• Career plan (clinical services and research in parallel possible).
• Protected time / special positions (50:50) / financial support guaranteed by different sources.

Responsibility: University Medicine Switzerland
Additional remarks

• SCTO responsible for overall coordination and implementation of the roadmap
• Pilot period (09/2018-09/2021)
• Evaluation of implementation (FOPH)
• Further development and adaptation based on evaluation
• Funding not yet addressed