Local initiatives in Swiss university hospitals to build the next generation of clinical researchers

In Geneva

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Pregrad

Sensitization to research

- Summers in research programs (1st and 2nd year)
- Option course of research (bachelor)
- Information about MD-PhD (early master)
- Master thesis (4th et 5th year)
- Months of research possible (6th year)
Doctorates for MDs

- Doctorate in medicine
- Doctorate in sciences – PhD
  (Mixt committee - faculties of sciences and medicine)
- Doctorate in medical sciences – "MD – PhD"
  (MD-PhD committee, faculty of medicine)
- Doctorate in neurosciences – PhD
  (Lemanic school of neurosciences)
MD – PhD, doctorate in medical sciences

- Open to all MDs
- Mentor/director from the faculty of medicine
- Project submitted and evaluated by the committee
- Letter from a chief of a medical division to employ the MD-PhD student after his/her doctorate
- Preparation of MD-PhD candidates to the national stipend
- 2 tracks: **clinical and basic research** with distinct programs (20 ECTS, 3 years) but same degree
PhD, number of years after MD exam:

MD-PhD performed between 1990-2010, Faculty of Medicine, Geneva
37 responses/43 surveys sent
The PhD was helpful/hindering in my career:

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“Soft landing” after an MD-PhD doctorate

- 3 positions/yr of “scientific interns” for MD-PhDs
- 50% research (paid by the faculty of medicine)
- 50% clinical (paid by the hospital)
- During 2 years
- Awarded on the basis of a research project (committee of research and careers, faculty of medicine)
- To pursue research and finish publications
Post-doctoral fellowship abroad

- First year can be awarded by the hospital
- 12 stipends awarded/year
- Candidates presented by the clinical departments
- Award based on a (research) project for an academic career
Protect research time and establish an independent research

- Positions of “research fellows” for MDs ("chefs de clinique scientifiques")
- 50% to 80% research (paid by the faculty of medicine)
- Nearly exclusively clinical research
- Up to 3 years (~ 8 stipends given each year)
- Awarded on the basis of a research project and career plan (committee of research and careers, faculty of medicine)
More protected time, development tools for an academic career

- Bursar of excellence (univ. of Geneva)
- Tremplin (univ. of Geneva)
- Marie-Heim Vögtlin
- Ambizione
- Professor bursar of the SNF
- Cloëtta Foundation
Local funding, grants for young clinical researchers

- Grants for young researchers (20 x 50 kCHF/year, R&D HUG)
- STARTER grants for translational research (200 kCHF, 2 years, 3 grants/yr, scientific committee CTU + external evaluation). One group from basic research + one group from clinical research
  - Private foundation of HUG
  - Louis-Jeantet foundation
- CONFIRM grants, clinical, translational, and basic research (600 kCHF, 3 years, 3 grants/yr, scientific committee CTU + external evaluation)
  - Private foundation of HUG
Teaching clinical research (Geneva CTU)

- GCP courses (2 times per year)
- CAS “Patient-oriented clinical research”
- DAS “Management of clinical research”
- MAS “Drug discovery and clinical development”

Prizes for the best clinical research @ HUG (“Clinical research day”, in May)

http://crc.hug-ge.ch
Support for clinical researchers (Geneva CTU)

CTU (Geneva)
(Prof. J. Pugin)

Clinical investigation unit
(Prof. J. Desmeules)

Methodological support unit
(Prof. Th. Perneger)

Quality, audits
(Dr. F. Lascombes)

- 9 beds, phase I, II CTs
- Monitoring
- Research nurses
- CRAs
- SwissMedic submissions
- EC submission
- Data Management
- Study design
- Feasibility
- Power calculation
- Biostatistics
- Teaching

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Thank you for your attention!

We can replace it. We have the technology.