

swiss
clinical
trial
organisation



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Editorial

Dear reader

As a reference institution for patient-oriented research in Switzerland, the Swiss Clinical Trial Organisation (SCTO) is proud to be at the forefront of academic clinical research. **In 2022, we worked hard to strengthen our network at both the national and regional levels.** By joining forces, we contributed to the alignment of clinical research infrastructures and promoted knowledge sharing for innovative, cutting-edge clinical research. The results we achieved in 2022 profoundly and sustainably support our goal to **deliver better therapies to society.**

At the national level, the SCTO is an **active member of the national Coordination Platform for Clinical Research (CPCR)**, where we help shape the future of clinical research in Switzerland in line with the goals outlined in the White Paper: Clinical Research. Several of our long-standing activities directly focus on these goals: our patient and public involvement (PPI) activities establish strong partnerships with patients and society, our Education Platform helps create an attractive environment for clinical research professionals at all career levels, and our other SCTO Platforms contribute to the development of innovative and dynamic clinical research approaches. **To strengthen our regional ties, we have launched a new pilot initiative called CRIC (Clinical Research Infrastructure Cluster).** CRIC aims to foster the alignment between regional and national clinical research infrastructures while avoiding duplication of efforts, and it will amplify the voice of clinical research in Switzerland.

We continue to offer high-quality services to the research community, share our expertise through freely available tools and resources, coordinate the SwissPedNet's paediatric research hubs, and provide access to the international research community as the Swiss representative in the European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ECRIN). Despite the currently difficult collaboration between Switzerland and the European Union, we are proud to be an active partner in several international research initiatives.

As President of the SCTO, I am delighted to see our collaboration with other research infrastructures and stakeholders in Switzerland continue to grow. **It is thanks to a devoted team and many fruitful partnerships based on mutual trust** that our mission – to foster collaboration and a harmonised approach in order to increase the impact and value of clinical research – bears fruit.

Thank you for your interest in our activities.

Yours sincerely



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ch. Pauli-Magnus" followed by a horizontal line.

Prof. Christiane Pauli-Magnus
President

Strategic milestones

2022 marked the second year of our four-year funding period 2021–2024, and we reached two major milestones.

Strategic milestones reached in 2022

In 2022 we reached the following milestones:

- Our topic-based platforms made progress on developing tools and resources for clinical research that is governed by Switzerland’s Human Research Ordinance.
- With regard to patient and public involvement (PPI), we completed the first milestone of identifying and characterising PPI initiatives and projects within academic clinical research in Switzerland.

The three pillars of our strategy

Our strategic and operational priorities for 2021–2024 are based on the **three main pillars supporting our vision and mission statements**:

- value and innovation
- education and the next generation
- visibility and transparency

Visit our main website to learn more about our [strategic priorities for 2021–2024](#).

Highlights

Patient and public involvement (PPI)

Highlights 2022

- Our PPI mapping was completed. We identified 48 PPI initiatives and projects all around Switzerland.
- A video explaining both the concept of PPI and its value was created in four languages.
- Our policy on remuneration for sustainable PPI and two additional PPI templates were made available.
- Our online course called PPI in a Nutshell was offered for the first time.

A partnership based on both mutual trust and transparent communication is what forms the foundation of a dialogue between researchers and those affected by research. Together with other national stakeholders and patient initiatives, we advocate for a national PPI strategy that considers patients and the public as partners in academic clinical research. Our PPI activities contribute to the White Paper: Clinical Research's goal to establish strong partnerships with patients and society.

PPI mapping analysis completed

In 2022, we finished analysing the results of our PPI mapping project. The goal of the project was to identify and characterise PPI initiatives and projects within academic clinical research in Switzerland and thereby determine the status quo. Altogether, 48 initiatives and projects were identified. An [overview of PPI initiatives and research projects in Switzerland](#) is available on the SCTO's website and will be updated regularly.

Raising awareness of the value of PPI

We published a video online explaining PPI in lay language in [English](#), [French](#), [German](#), and [Italian](#). The short video can be used by anybody who needs to explain what PPI is and how it works. In addition, the SCTO held presentations or acted as a moderator on the topic of PPI at ten different events throughout 2022. In April and May, the SCTO offered an online course called PPI in a Nutshell to clinical research professionals who were considering applying for funding from the investigator-initiated clinical trials (IICT) programme of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). The course was well attended with a total of 66 participants. A video recording of the 2022 course is available on YouTube, and an

[updated version of the course](#) will be offered again live online in 2023.

Remuneration policy for facilitating PPI

To implement PPI in a sustainable manner, the SCTO and its Clinical Trial Unit (CTU) Network are committed to compensating PPI contributors fairly and transparently. Therefore, the SCTO has published a [remuneration policy](#) in order to facilitate the compensation of patients and representatives of the public for their PPI contributions.

PPI working group

Having completed its first milestone of mapping out existing PPI initiatives and projects in Switzerland, the PPI mapping working group was transformed into an overall SCTO PPI working group. This multistakeholder working group was established to support the SCTO and its CTU Network with their PPI activities and to do the preparatory work for establishing a future PPI Forum for academic clinical research in Switzerland. The working group meets regularly to share information and lessons learnt and to provide updates on ongoing PPI initiatives and projects. It is currently working on a set of templates that aim to foster the implementation of PPI.

Supporting best practices

Highlights 2022

- Six new tools and publications were developed for the clinical research community.
- Several projects focusing on research governed by the Human Research Ordinance were initiated.

In 2022, the SCTO Platforms developed and shared four new tools and two publications with the clinical research community in Switzerland and beyond. Several tools for our new strategic focus on clinical research projects governed by the Human Research Ordinance (HRO) are currently underway and are expected to be made available online in 2023. The diverse activities of our SCTO Platforms contribute to the White Paper: Clinical Research's goal to develop innovative and dynamic clinical research approaches.

Six new tools and publications in 2022

- [Monitoring Close-Out Visit \(COV\) Report Template](#): The up-to-date and user-friendly Monitoring COV Report Template can be used to report a close-out visit.
- [Monitoring Site Initiation Visit \(SIV\) Report Template](#): The up-to-date and user-friendly Monitoring SIV Report Template can be used to report a site initiation visit.
- [Safety Expert Finder \(online version\)](#): The interactive Safety Expert Finder helps researchers connect with experts who can support them in the safety management of their clinical research study.
- [Risk-Based Monitoring \(RBM\) Score Calculator \(online version\)](#): The RBM Score Calculator is a web-based questionnaire that helps researchers identify the best monitoring strategy for their clinical trial.
- An article on the [Clinical Research Core Competencies Framework \(CRCC Framework\)](#): An article on the CRCC Framework, written by Melanie Glättli, Laura Di Petto, Aurélie Fayet-Mello, Claudia Fila, Simone Kälin, Sandra Kohlmaier, Verena Küppers, and Antoine Poncet, was published in *Swiss Medical Weekly*.
- [Regulatory Affairs Watch, Issue 7](#): Issue 7 of *RA Watch* looks into the issues of data privacy and data sharing in clinical research.

HRO projects as a strategic focus

The SCTO Platforms form an interconnected, nationwide network that provides practical resources and innovative tools for clinical research professionals. During the 2021–2024 funding period, the SCTO Platforms are focusing on **clinical research governed by Switzerland's Human Research Ordinance (HRO)**. This includes observational clinical research as well as research with data and biological samples. Several projects are already underway, including expanding the Clinical Research Core Competencies Framework to apply to the HRO and preparing a position paper on monitoring in non-interventional studies.

Promoting networking across Switzerland

Each platform consists of a team with expertise and skills related to a key area of clinical research. Each Clinical Trial Unit (CTU) in our CTU Network runs a platform, and each platform includes staff from all CTUs. Collaboration within and between the platforms as well as with partner organisations and external experts promotes networking throughout the country and enables the platforms to be incubators of innovation.

All tools and publications from the SCTO Platforms are available on the [Tools & Resources website](#).

Swiss contributions to European projects

Highlights 2022

- Switzerland actively partnered in several research initiatives related to COVID-19.
- As a partner in the c4c network, Switzerland contributed to two major European paediatric studies.
- The SCTO participated in the EOSC-Life project, which promotes a collaborative space for digital biology in Europe.

Switzerland plays a vital role in European research projects. By providing regulatory support for European clinical trials, participating in a pan-European platform for pandemic research and preparedness, and collaborating on a joint publication about sharing sensitive data, our network helps to ensure the success of research projects across Europe.

Being prepared for coronavirus variants:

Supporting HERA Incubator projects

Switzerland participates as active partner in projects funded through the European Union as part of the [European bio-defence preparedness plan called HERA Incubator](#). HERA Incubator projects are aimed at preparing Europe for an increased threat of coronavirus variants. Specifically, Switzerland participated in COVID-19 platform trials on new treatments and vaccinations. The SCTO's Clinical Trial Unit (CTU) Network provides these trials with consulting, regulatory support, monitoring, and project management services.

New treatments for COVID-19 patients:

Switzerland partners with EU-RESPONSE

The [EU-RESPONSE project](#) (EUropean RESearch and Preparedness netWoRK for pandemics and emerging iNfectious diseaSEs) launched several clinical trials to test treatments for COVID-19 and other emerging infectious diseases. One of these projects is the [EU-SolidAct](#), a pan-European platform for pandemic research and preparedness, which is currently investigating the treatment of patients with severe COVID-19 with baricitinib and the treatment of patients with moderate COVID-19 with bemcentinib. The trials are recruiting patients in 14 countries, and Switzerland has received regulatory approval to join them.

Creating an open collaborative space for digital biology in Europe

Through its observer status in the European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ECRIN), the SCTO participates in the project [EOSC-Life](#), which brings together the 13 life science research infrastructures in the European Strategy Forum on Research

Infrastructures (ESFRI) to create an open, digital, and collaborative space for biological and medical research. The CTU Network provides experts to contribute to distinct work packages through the SCTO's Data Management Platform as well as the coordinated involvement of other relevant organisations in Switzerland, such as the Swiss Personalized Health Network (SPHN) and the Swiss Biobanking Platform (SBP). The collaboration has resulted in a joint [publication on sharing sensitive data](#).

Better medicines for children: Swiss contributions to European studies

The [TRECOPA study](#), which aims to assess the effectiveness of paracetamol on the closure of the ductus arteriosus in very preterm infants, is being performed in Zurich, Geneva, and Lausanne. Zurich was the first centre in Europe that recruited patients and is the centre with the highest recruitment rate. The study is part of the [pan-European paediatric clinical trial network c4c](#) (connect4children). Through the c4c network, it was also possible to open the industry study FIONA in Switzerland, which is sponsored by Bayer. The study investigates how well the study treatment finerenone works and how safe it is in children with chronic kidney disease (CKD) and proteinuria. Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV) is already recruiting patients, and the University Children's Hospital Basel (UKBB) is in the preparation phase and will start recruitment in early 2023. The [Swiss Research Network of Clinical Pediatric Hubs](#) (SwissPedNet) is the Swiss hub in the c4c consortium and therefore the contact point for all c4c activities as well as the link to the Swiss paediatric study sites within SwissPedNet.

Fostering dialogue with national authorities

Highlights 2022

- The seventh annual roundtable took place on the topic of GCP inspections.
- SCTO is represented in the Roundtable on Medical Technology hosted by Swissmedic.

The seventh annual roundtable, hosted by the SCTO and with representatives from Swissmedic, swissethics, and the Clinical Trial Unit (CTU) Network, was devoted to the topic of good clinical practice (GCP) inspections. In 2022, the SCTO joined another roundtable, the Roundtable on Medical Technology (RTMT), which is hosted by Swissmedic and mainly includes medical device industry partners. Overall, the SCTO advocates for a more favourable regulatory environment for clinical research in Switzerland and leads the activities of the national Coordination Platform for Clinical Research (CPCR) working group on this topic.

Seventh roundtable was focused on GCP inspections

For academic clinical trials, inspection fees are a major burden on their budgets. Our seventh roundtable fostered mutual understanding between all parties and provided an opportunity to exchange novel approaches and ideas.

Our take-home messages from the discussion

- Swissmedic plans to increase the number of inspections so that 10% of all ongoing clinical trials in Switzerland will be inspected. With about 400 ongoing category B and C clinical trials, the number of inspections will increase to 40 in 2023.
- For the submission of clinical investigations and in vitro diagnostic medical devices (IVD) performance studies, Swissmedic, swissethics, and the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) have developed an

[information sheet](#) with a useful decision tree for authorisation applications.

- swissethics has observed many missing numbers in their primary registries; therefore, they appealed to the group to increase the awareness of this important requirement.

SCTO is now represented in the Roundtable on Medical Technology

The enactment of the EU's new Medical Device Regulation in 2019 entailed many changes and challenges for everyone involved with medical devices in Switzerland. In 2022, Swissmedic announced a reorientation in the composition of the [Roundtable on Medical Technology \(RTMT\)](#) members; they explicitly want to involve other stakeholder groups along with industry partners. The SCTO applied for membership in the RTMT and became a representative in May 2022.

Education and the next generation

Highlights 2022

- The training course database on the CR Careers website now includes statistics, data science, and epidemiology courses.
- The CR Careers website had more than 2,000 users.
- The Clinical Trial Unit (CTU) Network trained more than 10,200 individuals.
- A new online course called Human Research Beyond Clinical Trials: Conducting HRO Projects was developed and launched.

The Clinical Research Careers website helps young researchers make their way in the complex field of clinical research. In 2022, it was visited over 3,200 times. In addition, the website's course database was expanded, and the Clinical Research Core Competencies Framework was promoted in *Swiss Medical Weekly*. Our activities in this field contribute to the White Paper: Clinical Research's goal to create an attractive environment for research professionals at all career levels.

CR Careers website includes statistics, data science, and epidemiology courses

The [Clinical Research Careers \(CR Careers\) website](#) helps medical students, young physicians, and all research professionals make their way in the complex and exciting field of clinical research. In the last year, the website was visited over 3,200 times by more than 2,000 users. In 2022, the training course database on the CR Careers website was expanded with relevant statistics, data science, and epidemiology training options provided by academic partners. An expansion of funding opportunities from private foundations specifically for young researchers is also under development and will be implemented in the coming months. The CR Careers website is being further developed with the aim of including entire research teams to a greater extent. This aim fits with goals, recommendations, and measures formulated in the White Paper: Clinical Research, published in July 2021 by the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS).

About the CR Careers website

The CR Careers website was developed through a collaboration between SAMS, the SCTO, and unimeduisse. It includes several work packages

from the Roadmap 2016–2021 for Developing the Next Generation of Clinical Researchers, published in 2016 by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH). The website contains searchable databases with programmes for career support, funding, and mentoring as well as postgraduate training options in Switzerland. The website also includes the Clinical Research Core Competencies Framework for planning and conducting clinical trials as well as inspiring success stories of physicians who combine clinical research and clinical duties.

Clinical Research Core Competencies Framework in *Swiss Medical Weekly*

In order to facilitate the acquisition of uniform professional qualifications in clinical research, the core competencies needed to run clinical trials were defined and put into the [Clinical Research Core Competencies Framework \(CRCC Framework\)](#) in 2021. In 2022, the CRCC Framework was promoted in an [article in *Swiss Medical Weekly*](#). In 2022, [the SCTO's Education Platform](#) also began developing a similar core competencies framework specific to research projects under the Human Research Ordinance (HRO). This HRO competencies framework will be available online by mid-2023.

Partnering with stakeholders

Highlights 2022

- The SCTO has been represented in the national Coordination Platform Clinical Research (CPCR) since it was established in 2021. In 2022, we carried out our first mandate.
- A new pilot initiative called Clinical Research Infrastructure Cluster (CRIC) was launched, which aims to transfer knowledge and best practices to regional networks.

The SCTO and its Clinical Trial Unit (CTU) Network collaborate at both the national and regional levels. Our coordination of activities with other clinical research infrastructures and stakeholders in Switzerland is aligned to the goals presented in the publication **White Paper: Clinical Research in order to avoid overlapping activities yet benefit from synergies**.

Regular exchange with SBP and SPHN

In order to align activities with complementary clinical research infrastructures, regular meetings with the [Swiss Biobanking Platform \(SBP\)](#) and the [Swiss Personalized Health Network \(SPHN\)](#) took place in 2022. The aim of these meetings was to address topics of mutual interest, share expertise, and decide on an aligned way forward.

SAKK and SCTO walk the talk for patient and public involvement (PPI)

On 29 June 2022, a high-level meeting took place between the SCTO and the [Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research \(SAKK\)](#), in which the presidents and managing directors took up the discussion of potential future collaboration. It is recognised that both organisations already work closely together on the topic of patient and public involvement, for example SAKK participates in the SCTO PPI working group. It was agreed that PPI and training/continuing education should be further developed as pilot projects for cooperation between the SCTO and SAKK within the remaining funding period.

National coordination for a more favourable regulatory environment

Our President, Professor Christiane Pauli-Magnus, has been representing the SCTO in the national [Coordination Platform for Clinical Research \(CPCR\)](#) since its launch in December 2021. In 2022, the SCTO carried out its first mandate towards contributing to the vision laid out in the White Paper: Clinical

Research (WPCR), published earlier in 2021. For this first mandate from the CPCR, the SCTO established and led a multistakeholder working group that included two patient representatives. The group assembled key regulatory pain points in clinical research and elaborated recommendations to the CPCR on how to overcome them.

Transferring knowledge and best practices to regional networks

In order to strengthen the voice of clinical research in Switzerland and share best practices, the SCTO has started a new pilot initiative among all interested Swiss hospitals that are active in clinical research. This pilot model operates under the name CRIC (Clinical Research Infrastructure Cluster). CRIC is a model to strategically expand the activities of the SCTO and its network of Clinical Trial Units (CTUs) throughout Switzerland. Based on this goal, the CRIC initiative fits into the WPCR's vision to join clinical research forces in Switzerland.

Continued support for EUPATI Switzerland

The SCTO and the University Hospital Basel (USB) have supported the founding of the [European Patients' Academy on Therapeutic Innovation \(EUPATI\) Switzerland](#) from the beginning. In 2022, the SCTO continued hosting EUPATI Switzerland's secretariat and supported its Executive Board in its strategic endeavours, especially with regard to EUPATI Switzerland's Patient Expert Training Course.

SwissPedNet: 10 years on the move together as a network

Highlights 2022

- SwissPedNet celebrated its 10-year anniversary with an in-person event.
- An anniversary publication documented the successes of the network's last 10 years.
- Several projects from SwissPedNet's member institutions received funds from SNSF's 2022 IICT call.
- SwissPedNet contributed to SPHN's activities with the Pediatric Personalized Research Network Switzerland (SwissPedHealth).

In 2022, the Swiss Research Network of Clinical Pediatric Hubs (SwissPedNet) celebrated its 10-year anniversary. SwissPedNet facilitates research in paediatrics on a nationwide scale and thus meets an unmet and urgent need for paediatric translational and clinical studies. In 2023, the network is looking forward to welcoming the cantonal hospital of Fribourg as its tenth hub.

10 years of SwissPedNet

Initiated by eight paediatricians from five university children's hospitals and three cantonal children's hospitals who were keen to conduct clinical research, a national network for paediatric research was established by the SCTO in 2012. The SCTO is proud that SwissPedNet has been recognised as a research infrastructure of national relevance since 2017 and receives direct federal funding according to the Federal Act on the Promotion of Research and Innovation. To celebrate its successes from the past ten years and share its vision for the future, SwissPedNet hosted an in-person anniversary event and released an [anniversary publication on pädatrie schweiz's website](#).

Better therapies for children

SwissPedNet has [very active local and multicentre study projects](#). In addition, several research teams from SwissPedNet's member institutions have received funds from the prestigious Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) investigator-initiated clinical trials (IICT) funding programme. Three examples are the KIDS-STEP project investigating the additional use of cortisone in hospitalised children with community-acquired lower respiratory tract infections, the PASTA trial investigating the effectiveness of a high dose of steroids in children with stroke and unilateral focal arteriopathy, and the

MyTHIC study investigating whether antibiotics are essential in treating lung infections in children.

An active partner in national and international initiatives

SwissPedNet is increasingly recognised as a trusted research network. Nationally, it contributes to the activities of the Swiss Personalized Health Network (SPHN) with a project called the Pediatric Personalized Research Network Switzerland (SwissPedHealth) – a Joint Pediatric National Data Stream. Internationally, SwissPedNet is Switzerland's national hub of the pan-European research infrastructure [connect4children](#) (c4c); since the very beginning, SwissPedNet has also been a member of the [European Network of Paediatric Research at the European Medicines Agency](#) (Enpr-EMA). Read more about international paediatric research projects in this report's section on [Swiss contributions to European projects](#).

Innovative training opportunities for the next generation

SwissPedNet has also initiated innovative training opportunities with its NextGen Program for young paediatric clinical researchers, and the network contributes annually to the translational and clinical research session at pädatrie schweiz's conference.

SCTO events in 2022: (Mostly) back on site!

Highlights 2022

- The SCTO Forum on the EU's CTIS launch and the ICH GCP renovation had 81 participants.
- The SCTO Symposium on data science and artificial intelligence attracted 150 participants.
- More than 75 people participated in the SCTO Platforms Event on communication.
- More than 600 people attended the trinational DACH Symposium.

Research thrives on lively exchange, collaboration, and ventures founded on trust. To foster these conditions, the SCTO has established a strong tradition of hosting forums and providing opportunities to debate challenges and developments in research. We organise these forums together with regional universities and their hospitals as well as with other international clinical research infrastructures in order to stay rooted in science, learning, and practice.

SCTO Forum 2022 on the EU's CTIS launch and the ICH GCP renovation

The [SCTO Forum 2022](#), entitled **On the clinical research horizon: EU CTIS launch and ICH GCP renovation – how will they affect Switzerland?**, was held once again as a fully digital event via Zoom. The 81 participants were treated to interesting presentations on the forum's topic. The discussions focused on the EU's new requirements, their relevance for Switzerland, and what needs to be considered from an academic perspective when submitting applications for clinical trials in Europe.

SCTO Symposium 2022 on data science and artificial intelligence

In June, the [SCTO Symposium](#) in Lugano was devoted to **data science and artificial intelligence in clinical research** and was co-organised by the CTU-EOC Lugano. Leading experts presented practical national and international examples and answered questions as to what extent the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) is already a reality in clinical research. Over 150 participants attended the event. A selection of video recordings and slides from the presentations as well as the symposium's programme are available on our website.

SCTO Platforms Event on improving communication within the CTU Network

In November, the SCTO Platforms held their second joint event in Bern on the overall theme of communication. The event was attended by more than 75 collaborators from the SCTO's Clinical Trial Unit (CTU) Network. The goal of the event was to improve and optimise communication around the platforms' products. This event is held every two

years in order to facilitate networking between the platforms and to give them an opportunity to present their activities and tools to each other.

Contributions to other events

Trinational congress in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland (D|A|CH)

In 2022, the [trinational DACH Symposium](#) took place in Salzburg and was attended by more than 600 participants. The DACH Symposium is aimed at all those involved in clinical trials: study nurses, study coordinators, medical experts, monitors, data managers, project managers, pharmaceutical industry representatives, and patients.

Medical devices training

Together with Integrated Scientific Services (ISS), a service provider specialised in the medical technology field, we organised a training course on medical device software for our CTU members. Around 40 participants from our network completed the training online in April.

International Clinical Trials Day: ECRIN event on recruitment in clinical trials

On 17 May, the European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ECRIN) held its [International Clinical Trials Day](#) in Berlin entitled **Recruitment in Clinical Trials**.

ECRIN CTU Day 2022

In December, ECRIN hosted its [second CTU Day](#), bringing together members of its CTU community from all its national networks. Over 200 participants tuned in to learn about the latest developments at ECRIN.

Facts and figures: CTU Network's performance indicators

The SCTO's Clinical Trial Unit (CTU) Network is the country's largest provider of training and services for academic clinical research. In 2022, the CTU Network was involved in 2,118 clinical research projects and provided training to more than 10,270 clinical research staff.

Over 10,270 clinical research professionals attended courses in 2022

Over 10,270 clinical research staff received training in 2022, mainly in ethics and good clinical practice (GCP) courses (54%) or in undergraduate or postgraduate training programmes (MD, CAS, DAS, MSc/MAS, PhD) (46%). Over the past few years, the number of people attending GCP courses each year has increased significantly (6,242 attended courses in 2022 compared to 4,800 in 2017). This growth is due to new GCP refresher courses as well as the increasing availability of online training opportunities.

Main services provided to projects in an academic setting

The CTU Network offers comprehensive support throughout all phases of a clinical research project. In 2022, the network provided 3,870 services to 2,118 clinical research projects. Most of these services were related to data management (45%) and consulting (48%). One-third of the projects supported were **multicentre projects**, and most of the funding came from academic sources.

Contributions to over 211 scientific publications

Acting as academic partners, members of the CTU Network co-authored 211 scientific publications in 2022.

Services to the projects	3,870
Data Management	45%
Consulting	48%
Statistics / Methodology	28%
Monitoring	20%
Regulatory Affairs	15%
Project Management / Study Coordination	11%
Coordinator / Study nurse / Physician	9%
Quality Assurance-Audits	1%
Quality Assurance-Pharmacovigilance / Safety	2%
Quality Assurance-SOPs	3%

Training courses delivered

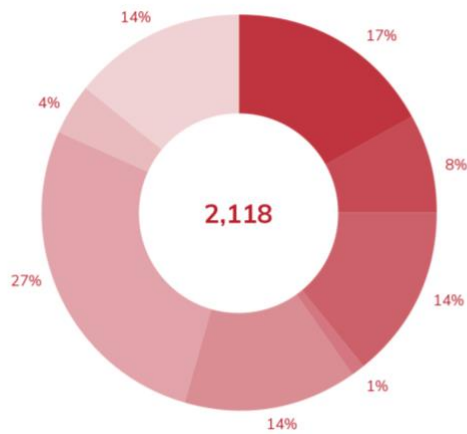
225

Research Ethics, GCP refresher (other), continuing GCP education	29%
Research Ethics and GCP (Investigator Level)	17%
Research Ethics and GCP (Sponsor-Investigator Level)	8%
Undergraduate e.g. MD, MSc	19%
Postgraduate (CAS, DAS, MSc/MAS, PhD)	27%

Main characteristics of supported projects

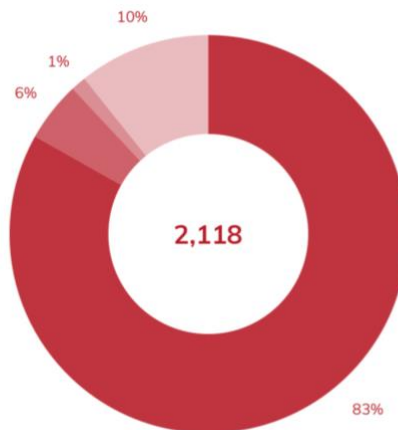
Type of projects supported

- Investigational medicinal product (IMP, ClinO)
- Medical devices (MD, ClinO)
- Other (ClinO)
- Transplant products / Gene therapy (ClinO)
- Further use of data or samples (HRO)
- Sample / data collection (HRO)
- Non-HRA regulated projects
- Unknown / missing



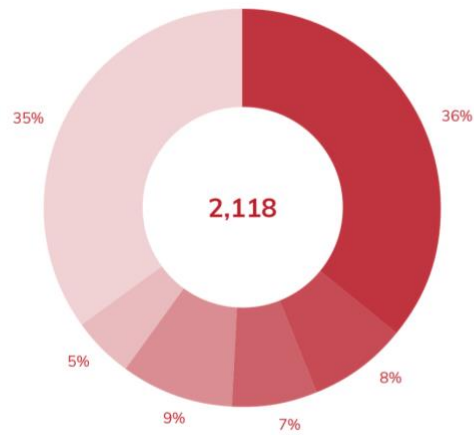
Sponsor of projects

- Academy
- Industry
- Other
- Unknown / missing



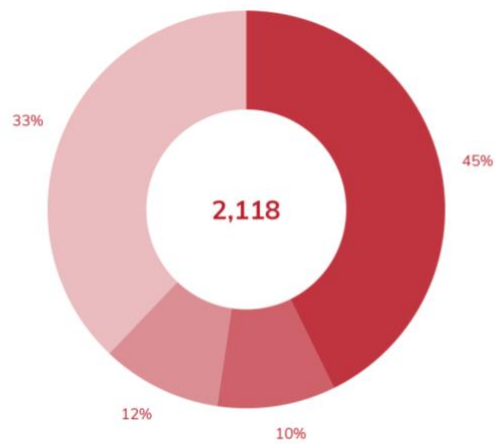
Funding category

- Academy
- Industry
- Mixed funding
- Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
- Other external competitive
- Unknown / missing



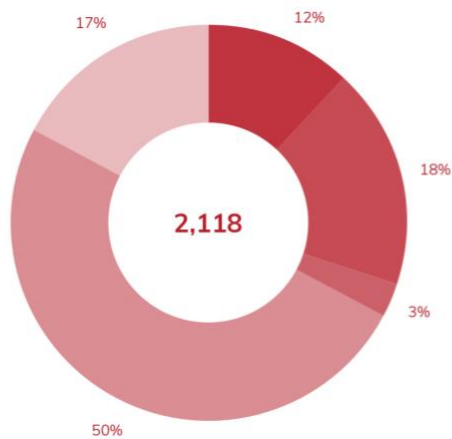
Risk categories of supported projects

- Risk category A
- Risk category B
- Risk category C
- Unknown / missing



Design of project

- Multicentre international study
- Multicentre Swiss study
- Multicentre unknown
- Single centre
- Unknown / missing



Facts and figures: Tools & Resources website

Our Tools & Resources website has really taken off! In 2022, six new tools were published and over 9,600 users from a wide range of university hospitals and private research institutions in Switzerland and beyond visited the website.

The SCTO Platforms form an interconnected, nationwide network that provides practical resources and innovative tools for clinical research professionals. In June 2021, we launched the new Tools & Resources website to increase the visibility of the platforms and their products and to facilitate measuring their performance.

In 2022 the Tools & Resources website attracted 9,600 users all around the world, with the majority

coming from Switzerland, followed by the United States. In total, users downloaded 2,861 resources from the website.

Visit the SCTO Platforms' Tools & Resources website to learn more about the platforms' members: [Tools & Resources website](#).

Key figures from 2022

6

new tools and publications were published on our Tools & Resources website

9,600

users visited the website

2,861

items were downloaded from the website

5,332

clicks were made on our web-based tools

Facts and figures: Communications and stakeholder engagement

Highlights 2022

- We published a video pencast in four languages explaining patient and public involvement (PPI).
- Our SCTO Symposium in Lugano attracted 150 participants.
- The SCTO's former managing director participated in a radio interview about Switzerland's popular initiative to ban human and animal research.

Our audience

2,950

newsletter subscribers

557

Twitter followers

1,023

LinkedIn followers

Our channels

34

newsletters and news posts

116

different topics and reading tips

61

tweets

37

posts on LinkedIn

19

videos on YouTube

Our websites

14,088

users on the SCTO's main website

9,600

users on the SCTO Platforms' Tools & Resources website

2,211

users on the Clinical Research Careers website

Our events

8

events and workshops (co-)organised by the SCTO team

13

contributions to third-party events

>1,700

participants at our 8 events

Financial statement

The SCTO will remain on a firm financial footing provided the government does not reduce its funding. Its balanced financial result for 2022 is due to responsible management as well as accurate financial planning and effective financial controls.

The SCTO closed out its 2022 financial year with a slight profit. This positive result was due to personnel changes, administrative adjustments, and the release of a provision.

The SCTO plans to invest the additional income in revising its communication activities (concept and website) and updating both the Clinical Research

Careers website and the Executive Office's IT infrastructure.

BDO AG audited the SCTO's 2022 financial statement and did not find any violations of laws or statutes.

In order to carry out any new mandates, the SCTO will require additional funding or will need to reduce the scale of its existing activities.

Expenses	CHF
Personnel expenses	
Salaries	939K
Social charges	198K
remaining personnel expenses	35K
Total	1,172K
Clinical Operations	
Platforms management and liaison costs	32K
Funding Network (CTU Network and SwissPedNet hubs)	4,052K
other	367K
Total	4,451K
Business Operations	
Administration charges	86K
Fiduciary charges	25K
IT	25K
Total	136K

Communication	
Website	15K
Translation service	6K
Miscellaneous	73K
Total	94K
Patient and Public Involvement	
organisational costs	22K
Total	22K
Events	
Symposium / Forum / other	37K
Total	37K
Total expenses	5,912K

Income	CHF
<hr/>	
Swiss National Science Foundation	1,000K
State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation	4,387K
SCTO Association	140K
Other (Events, SecuTrial, Advisor)	399K
Total income	5,926K
Status of association assets 31.12.2022	240K

Governance

After more than 10 years as Managing Director, Annette Magnin left the SCTO at the end of November 2022. As of January 2023, we have set sail for new shores under the leadership of Victoria Sarraf.

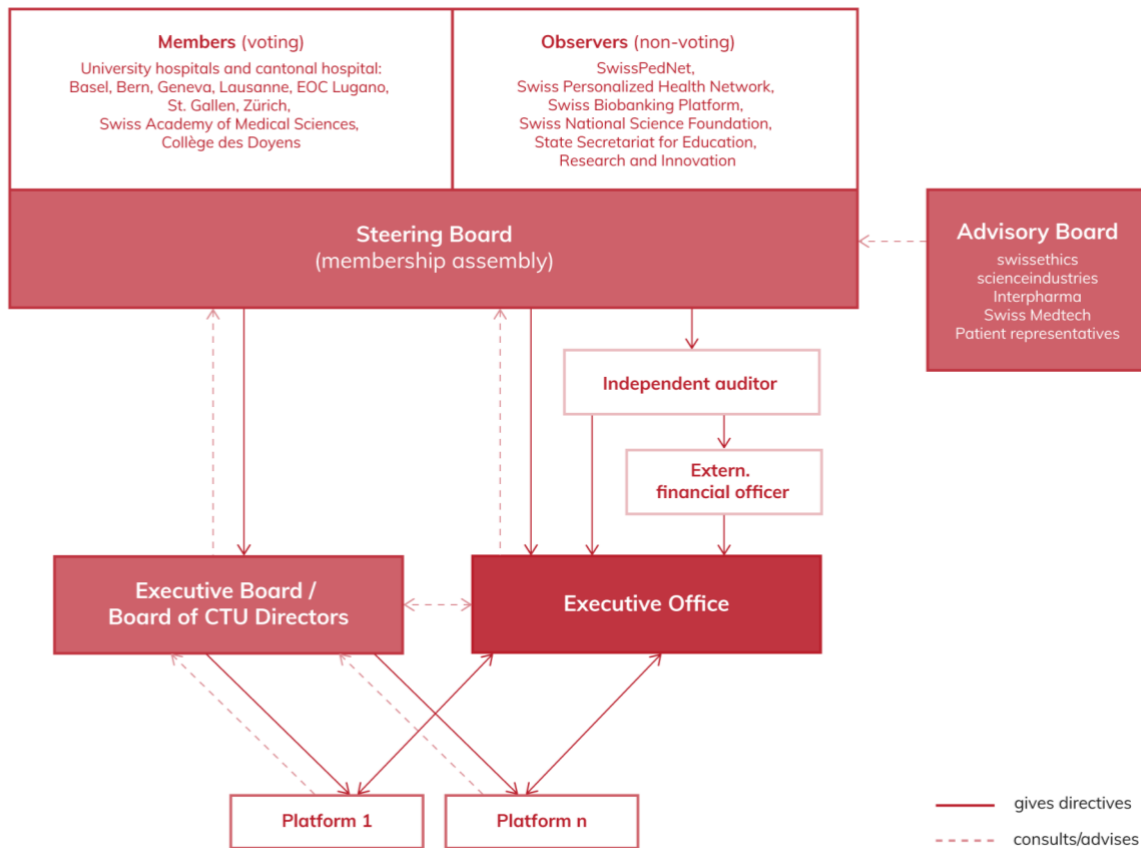
About our governance

The SCTO has the following members at an institutional level: the five university hospitals, two cantonal hospitals, the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS), and the Collège des Doyens. Each member institution appoints a representative to the **SCTO Steering Board**.

- The Steering Board interacts with the **Board of CTU Directors**, which is a permanent committee

composed of the directors of the Clinical Trial Units (CTUs).

- The **SCTO Advisory Board** is an independent committee that supports the Steering Board with its strategic decision-making.
- The **SCTO Managing Director** is responsible for running the SCTO Executive Office.



About us

We promote valuable, innovative, and visible clinical research in Switzerland.

The Swiss Clinical Trial Organisation (SCTO) is the **central cooperation platform for patient-oriented clinical research in Switzerland.**

The SCTO is an independent organisation and is based on a joint initiative of the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences. As of 2017, the SCTO is a research infrastructure of national importance funded by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation and the Swiss National Science Foundation.

The SCTO's primary objective is to catalyse valuable, innovative, and visible clinical research in Switzerland so as to deliver better therapies to society.

More information about us:

- [Members and boards](#)
- [Executive Office](#)
- [Vision and mission](#)

Contact

Do you have any questions or want to give us feedback?
Contact us at info@scto.ch.

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Imprint

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