



UZH FOUNDATION
The Foundation of the University of Zurich

INSPIRATIO

Supporting with heart and mind



#13

Inclusive
Annual report



From left to right: Oliver Zerbe, Monica Zwicky, Martin Eckert

Cover picture

Working Together for Research

The “Giving Back” community is committed to strengthening the University of Zurich (UZH) by supporting selected research projects. Last year, CHF 65,000 was raised for a project led by Prof. Oliver Zerbe, which explores new approaches to combatting antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

At his laboratory on the Irchel campus, the research team is investigating how novel antibiotics can be developed that remain effective against resistant pathogens. At the heart of this work is an innovative compound that neutralizes harmful bacteria in a new way.

This active substance is derived from compounds found in tree bugs and has been specifically modified to target disease-causing bacteria—while preserving beneficial microbes in the human body.

As ambassadors for “Giving Back,” UZH alumna and professor Monica Zwicky and UZH alumnus and lawyer Martin Eckert visited Professor Zerbe’s laboratory, where he demonstrated a state-of-the-art high-resolution spectrometer. Both were impressed and proud to support research at UZH through their engagement.



Funding for this project is not yet complete—you can help make a difference. Thank you very much for your donation.

www.uzhfoundation.ch/en/supergerms

Dear Reader,



Do you ever feel that tingling in your fingers—the urge not merely to stand on the sidelines, but to personally take action?

Perhaps when it comes to improving the health of people and the environment. Or when trying to find your way in a world that is becoming increasingly complex, both politically and economically. And especially when it comes to developing solutions to the challenges of tomorrow.

Big issues require strong commitment. The key questions can only be addressed together—with people like you, who take responsibility and actively contribute.

The good news is: at the University of Zurich, this is exactly what happens.

Numerous examples demonstrate the impact of this shared commitment by our donors. Promising progress is being made in the treatment of aggressive brain tumors, for instance, as well as in the development of more sustainable agricultural solutions.

The “Giving Back” community supports the research project “Antibiotics against multidrug-resistant pathogens” through its donations. This clearly shows how much can be achieved through the collective efforts of many individuals. And this community continues to grow—we warmly invite you to become part of “Giving Back.”

Companies, too, are increasingly engaging in philanthropic support for the University of Zurich. Thanks to the support of the Emil Frey Group, a new Center for Mobility is being established at UZH.

In 2025, donors have contributed a remarkable 75 million Swiss francs to UZH—a record level of pledged private funding. We are deeply grateful for this support.

For us, taking responsibility also means continuously developing our own structures. With Claudia Coninx-Kaczynski and Denise Tonella, we have strengthened our Board of Trustees in the areas of media and culture. Dear Claudia, dear Denise, a warm welcome—we look forward to working with you.

Whatever happens in the world, we do not simply stand by and watch. Together, we can take responsibility and broaden horizons.

Thank you very much for your support—today and in the future.

Christian Wenger
President Board of Trustees

Annelise Alig Anderhalden
CEO

Highlights

Status of Honorary Senator for E. Saupper and C. Wenger

In recognition of their many years of service and their close ties to UZH, Christian Wenger and Eveline Saupper were awarded the Honorary Senator status at Dies academicus 2025. As dedicated members of the UZH Foundation's Board of Trustees, they have long demonstrated a deep commitment to the university, its continued development, and Switzerland's research landscape.



UZH.ai: Driving momentum in artificial intelligence

The "UZH.ai" initiative was launched to coordinate and advance AI activities across all faculties at UZH. At its core are people: researchers, lecturers, and students from all disciplines who use AI responsibly to generate new insights and drive innovation.

"Giving Back": connecting, supporting, inspiring

On May 27, friends, alumnae and alumni of UZH will gather for the fourth time for the popular annual "Giving Back" event. This special evening will feature fascinating insights into current research and opportunities to engage with inspiring individuals.



Nobel laureates strengthen UZH

Nobel laureates Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee will join UZH in 2026. Thanks to a generous donation from the Lemann Foundation, two endowed professorships and the new Lemann Center for Development, Education, and Public Policy will be established. This will provide a lasting boost to development economics at UZH.

2025

2026



Discovering science—made possible together

Each year, more than 3,500 children explore the world of science at the Children's University of Zurich—regardless of their background or academic performance. In October 2025, the Children's UZH launched a fundraising campaign. Our sincere thanks go to everyone who has supported this campaign.

Premiere of UZH's most highly endowed prize

The newly established Gretener-Thürlemann Prize was awarded for the first time, marking the most highly endowed distinction at UZH. With prize money of 500,000 Swiss francs, it honored Gordon Freeman and Arlene Sharpe for their groundbreaking research in immunotherapy. The award was made possible through a collaboration between UZH, the Gretener-Thürlemann Foundation, and the UZH Foundation.

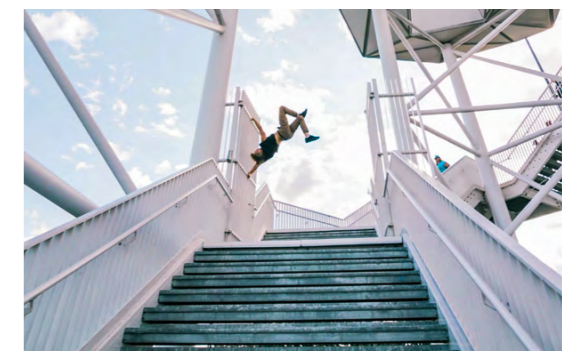


Walter Siegenthaler Memorial Lecture

The Walter Siegenthaler Memorial Lecture will take place on August 25 as part of the ZAIM MediDays Zurich. It continues Walter Siegenthaler's legacy of excellence in teaching and continuing education. This year's lecture will be delivered by Professor Petra-Maria Schumm-Draeger, who will demonstrate how an interdisciplinary perspective can enrich the field of diabetology. The event is open to all.

New minor in Innovation & Entrepreneurship

In autumn 2026, UZH will launch a university-wide minor in Innovation & Entrepreneurship. The program aims to equip master's students from all faculties with the skills to implement rigorous and practical innovation in organizations—whether in companies, start-ups, NGOs, or public administration. The minor is made possible to a large extent through philanthropic support.



Together Toward a Successful Year

The UZH Foundation looks back on an exceptional year in 2025. A total of 75 million Swiss francs in donations was raised—a record-breaking amount. This achievement was made possible by the generous support of many committed donors. Our heartfelt thanks go to all of you.



Why do individuals, foundations, and companies choose to support research and teaching? Because they want to give back and help shape the future.

This is where the UZH Foundation plays a key role: it brings together people who might not otherwise connect—donors and researchers. With its broad overview of foundations and companies supporting research across disciplines, the Foundation can initiate and cultivate tailored partnerships.

In 2025, this led to the highest level of private donations since the UZH Foundation was established in 2012. This issue of “Inspiratio” highlights the wide-ranging commitment of foundations, individuals, and companies—showcasing funded projects, strategic partnerships, and additional opportunities for research and teaching.

The overall impact since 2012 is equally impressive: around 2,700 private individuals, companies, and foundations have supported the University of Zurich. Through the UZH Foundation, they have contributed a total of more than 440 million Swiss francs to research and teaching.

“On behalf of the University of Zurich, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support of our institution. Through your commitment, you strengthen UZH and its research community.”

Prof. Dr. Michael Schaepman, President of the University of Zurich and Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the UZH Foundation

Thank You very much!

Numerous foundations, private individuals and companies supported research and teaching at the University of Zurich (UZH) last year with their donations to the UZH Foundation. In the annual report, we list institutional and private donors of CHF 10,000 or more. In total, 566 individuals, 70 foundations, and 37 companies supported UZH in 2025.

We would like to thank all donors for their commitment!
Our thanks go also to those who prefer to remain anonymous.

Foundations and other organizations

- Baitella-Eberle Stiftung
- Balgrist-Stiftung
- Bärbel und Paul Geissbühler Stiftung
- BAREVA Stiftung
- Baugarten Stiftung
- Colbianco Stiftung
- Dr. Eric Slack-Gyr-Stiftung
- Dr. med. Adolf und Adelheid Gretener-Thürlemann Stiftung
- Dr. Silvain Bruntschwigg-Stiftung
- Ernst Göhner Stiftung
- Evangelisch-reformierte Landeskirche des Kantons Zürich
- Excellence Foundation Zurich
- Fondation DAVAC
- FONDATION DORA
- Fondation Jean-Jacques et Felicia Lopez-Loreta pour l'excellence académique
- Gebauer Stiftung
- Geistlich-Stucki-Stiftung
- Gemeinnützige Stiftung ACCENTUS
- Gemeinnützige Stiftung EMPIRIS
- Georg und Bertha Schwyzer-Winiker Stiftung
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- Hedy Glor-Meyer Stiftung
- Hermann Klaus Stiftung
- Horten Health Foundation
- Irene M. Staehelin Stiftung
- Karl Rischard Stiftung
- LLUI Gemeinnützige Stiftung
- Lotte und Adolf Hotz-Sprenger Stiftung
- Margrit Weisheit - Stiftung
- MIRTO STIFTUNG
- Mitteleuropa Stiftung
- Nestor-Stiftung
- NOMIS Stiftung
- Promedica Stiftung
- ResOrtho Stiftung
- Schweizerisches Institut für Allergie- und Asthmaforschung (SIAF)
- SCS Swiss Child Support Foundation
- Spendenstiftung Bank Vontobel
- Stiftung Familie Fehlmann
- Stiftung für die Ausbildung von Chiropraktoren in der Schweiz
- Stiftung Mercator Schweiz
- Swiss Cancer Foundation
- UBS Foundation of Economics in Society

- UBS Philanthropy Foundation
- Uniscientia Stiftung
- VELUX STIFTUNG
- Vontobel-Stiftung
- walter haefner stiftung
- Werner Siemens-Stiftung
- Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften

Private individuals

- Maja und Andreas Affentranger
- Verena Brunner
- Legat Walter K. Buechler
- Laurent Giacometti
- Susanne und Hans Peter Gilg
- Peter R. Isler
- Natasha Mueller
- Erwin Neuenschwander
- Renata Trottmann Probst
- Alexander G. Rübel
- Hanna Rychener
- Manuela und Jürg Schaeppi
- Kurt Schwarz
- Barbara und Urs Stampfli

Companies

- Adecco Group AG
- EBP Schweiz AG
- Emil Frey Holding AG
- Institut Straumann AG
- Thommen Medical AG
- UBS Fund Management (Switzerland) AG
- UBS Switzerland AG
- Wüest Partner AG

Total donors
in 2025

37
Companies

70
Foundations
and other
organizations

566
Private individuals



Foto: Diana Uirich

Fungi Instead of Pesticides: New Solutions from the Soil

More than 2,000 tons of pesticides are used in Switzerland every year—polluting soil, water, and ultimately human health. Researchers at the University of Zurich (UZH) are searching for alternatives, turning to some of the smallest allies in the soil.

Pesticides have become a routine part of modern agriculture. However, a study published in early 2026 reveals that their impact is broader than previously thought: across 26 European countries, around 70 percent of soils are contaminated with pesticide residues—including those in Switzerland. The need for new solutions is urgent.

One promising answer may lie beneath our feet. The UZH team led by Marcel van der Heijden is exploring how natural soil microorganisms can strengthen plants. Research already shows that certain microbes can activate plant defense systems, improve nutrient uptake, and enhance resilience to environmental stress. A particularly promising strategy involves introducing beneficial fungi—known as arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi—into agricultural soils.

Teamwork in the Soil ...

Mycorrhizal fungi form close symbiotic relationships with plant roots. They receive carbohydrates and fatty acids from the plant as a source of energy. In return, they help plants absorb essential nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen more efficiently.

These fungi also interact with a wide range of other soil microorganisms, forming complex underground networks that are crucial for stable and productive ecosystems. However, how these networks perform under real farming conditions is still not fully understood.

... and in the Field

This is where the research team's work begins. Their goal is to apply mycorrhizal fungi in practical agriculture by deliberately introducing them into the soil—a process known as soil inoculation.

The research goes beyond laboratory experiments. In collaboration with farmers, the team is testing this approach directly in the field. Initial trials with maize have already shown promising results, and further studies are now underway with additional crops.

Fewer Chemicals, Higher Yields

If these benefits can be confirmed under real-world conditions, the use of pesticides and fertilizers could be significantly reduced—while maintaining or even increasing crop yields.

“We still have much to learn about the role of soil biodiversity in agricultural and natural ecosystems. This makes it all the more important to understand how we can foster healthy soil microbiomes. Thank you for supporting our research for more sustainable agriculture.”

Prof. Dr. Marcel van der Heijden,
Professor of Agroecology and Plant–Microbe Interactions, UZH and Head of the Plant–Soil Interactions Research Group, Agroscope

The potential impact on Swiss agriculture is substantial. Projections suggest that, alongside environmental benefits such as reduced crop losses, additional annual revenue of 50 to 100 million Swiss francs could be generated. In the long term, the aim is to develop a simple method that can be easily integrated into sustainable farming systems.

Soil Health and One Health

The project also contributes to the broader “One Health” approach, which recognizes the close interconnection between human, animal, plant, and environmental health.

By promoting resilient crops, reducing chemical inputs, and improving soil quality, this research strengthens the foundation of healthy food systems. It highlights the vital role of soil health and microbial diversity as key factors for the well-being of plants, animals, and humans alike.

Support Research

Help advance UZH's work toward more sustainable agriculture. Donate now:

www.uzhfoundation.ch/en/healthysoils



Pharmacoscopy is used to investigate which medications can inhibit the growth of cancer cells.

Developing Effective Drugs to Treat Brain Tumors

Many brain tumors are fatal, and little progress in therapy has been made over the past few decades. An interdisciplinary research team is taking a new and innovative path with "pharmacoscopy", offering new hope to patients. Foundations and private donors are already supporting this project. To fully realize its potential, additional funding is needed.

Glioblastoma, the most common malignant brain tumor, is highly aggressive and, so far, incurable. Each year, around 620 people in Switzerland are diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor, and about 250 people are diagnosed with glioblastoma—and numbers are rising.

Brain tumors affect people of all ages, including children. With such a poor prognosis, the burden on patients and their families is immense. Surgery, chemotherapy or radiation often prove futile. Around half of patients succumb within the first few years of their diagnosis. Additional treatment options are urgently needed to improve the survival rates of those diagnosed with brain tumors.

A research team led by Prof. Michael Weller at the University of Zurich (UZH), in collaboration with ETH Zurich, has developed an innovative therapy for people with incurable brain tumors – pharmacoscopy. This precision medicine approach involves examining tumor tissue to determine which drugs could potentially inhibit the growth of cancer cells. Almost one hundred drugs already approved on the Swiss market are being tested.



From Lab to Field: Researchers at UZH are testing the use of mycorrhizal fungi directly under real agricultural conditions.

“This cause means a great deal to us. We are proud to support the fight against cancer through our contribution.”



Christine und Hans C. Bodmer,
Donors

How drugs reach brain tumor cells

Pharmacology focuses on drugs that are known to pass through the blood-brain barrier and reach the brain. These are mainly drugs used to treat neuropsychiatric diseases such as epilepsy, depression or schizophrenia.

Previous studies in animal models have already produced promising results and identified medications that can be used to treat brain tumors. The findings were published in November 2024 in the prestigious journal “Nature Medicine”. Researchers will now carry out a clinical study with patients to test and confirm the efficacy of this approach.

Support now

Foundations and private individuals are already supporting this research. To fully realize the project, we rely on additional funding. If you would like to contribute, we invite you to donate here:

www.uzhfoundation.ch/en/pharmacology



“Our therapy aims to significantly improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Thank you for supporting this important and innovative research.”

Prof. Dr. Michael Weller, Director of the Department of Neurology at USZ

When the Bladder Loses Its Memory

Life can change abruptly after a spinal cord injury. Beyond visible limitations in mobility, bladder dysfunction is a common consequence—often severely affecting daily activities and quality of life. New research is now offering hope.

In healthy individuals, bladder function is controlled by nerve pathways that run from the brain through the spinal cord to the bladder. When these pathways are damaged by a spinal cord injury, this control is disrupted. As a result, patients may experience a reduced sensation of bladder fullness, incomplete emptying, or urinary incontinence.

“Thanks to this study, I have the opportunity to try a therapy at an early stage and reduce the risk of long-term health complications, including kidney damage.”



Delia Guggenheim,
Study Participant

Limitations of Existing Treatment Approaches

If left untreated, bladder dysfunction can lead to lasting damage to the urinary tract—in severe cases, even kidney failure. Despite this, treatment is often initiated only after symptoms have already developed. Existing therapies are frequently either insufficiently effective or associated with significant side effects.

This is where a new, globally unique study comes in. Led by Prof. Dr. med. Thomas Kessler and conducted in collaboration with all paraplegia centers in Switzerland, the study explores new ways to address these challenges.

New Hope for Patients

The study investigates an innovative treatment approach aimed at preventing bladder dysfunction at an early stage—before irreversible damage occurs. The method is based on neuromodulation, in which specific nerves are stimulated using targeted electrical impulses.

The goal is to maintain key reflexes via specific neural pathways that are essential for bladder control. In the long term, this approach aims to prevent secondary complications and significantly improve patients’ quality of life.

At the same time, the study is generating valuable insights into the neural control of the bladder. These findings may also benefit patients with other neurological conditions such as multiple sclerosis, stroke, Parkinson’s disease, or spina bifida.

Support Us Now

Part of the study is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation. However, to bring this research project to completion, additional financial support is essential.

Learn more about the project and how you can contribute:

www.uzhfoundation.ch/en/tasci





Shaping Her Own Path— and Giving Back

Monika Schleiss has always been determined to forge her own path—both in her career and in life. Health challenges eventually led her to a new passion: gender medicine. Through a bequest, she hopes to help ensure that medicine better understands and addresses the different needs of women and men.

Monika Schleiss's day begins with a simple ritual: a cup of tea, an egg, and a conversation with her partner. Perhaps it is this clarity that guided her early on to follow her own path. After attending the Lausanne Hotel Management School and studying at the University of St. Gallen, she entered the then-emerging field of strategic tourism management—becoming one of the first women to teach and lead in this area.

At the time, resistance was part of everyday life. “I sometimes had to be faster and louder to be heard,” she recalls. Rather than being discouraged, she founded her own consulting firm, creating the space to develop ideas on her own terms. This mindset—taking initiative and assuming responsibility—has stayed with her ever since.

**“If I can play a small part
in driving change, I will have
achieved my goal.”**

From Personal Experience to a Passion for Change

A health crisis brought gender medicine into focus. A damaged esophagus and a hip fracture confronted her with challenges that made her realize how, in medicine, little distinction is often made between women and men. “Why, as a woman, am I given the same medication as a man who is two meters tall?” she asked herself. This question became the starting point of an intensive journey of learning. She began to research, ask questions, and speak with experts. Through her family doctor and other physicians, she was introduced to the University of Zurich (UZH) and the UZH Foundation. “I was grateful to have someone who could guide me, listen to me, and explain the broader context.” She ultimately decided to revise her will and establish a bequest in support of gender medicine. A decision that allows her commitment to extend beyond her lifetime.

Time to Give Back

Her dedication goes beyond supporting research—it is also about raising awareness. “It’s about making things visible,” she says. Gender medicine is not about division or disadvantage, but about better understanding—benefiting women and men alike. “It was important to me to know where my money goes and that it can truly make a difference—so that research can continue to move forward.” For Monika Schleiss, one thing is clear: gen-

der-specific differences must be more strongly considered—in everyday life, in education, and in research. Only by acknowledging these differences can therapies be truly effective for everyone.

Although she does not see herself as a mentor, she has a clear message for those who want to make a difference: “Just do it. Be proactive. Every step counts.”

This mindset continues to shape her actions today. “I’ve led a happy life despite challenges,” she says. “Now it’s time to give something back.” With her bequest in support of gender medicine, she hopes to create a lasting impact—even if she may not witness the results herself.

Make a Lasting Impact with a Bequest

Would you like to include UZH in your estate planning? Discover the cause closest to your heart and support it with a bequest.

We look forward to hearing from you:

www.uzhfoundation.ch/en/legacy



Gender Medicine at UZH

With the establishment of the Chair of Gender Medicine in 2024, UZH created the first professorship of its kind in Switzerland. Cardiologist Carolin Lerchenmüller is investigating how biological and social gender differences influence health outcomes.

In the past, such differences have often been overlooked, as many studies were based predominantly on male subjects. Expanding research and education in this field remains a challenge and requires additional funding.

Support from private individuals and foundations plays a vital role in advancing this work.

An Umbrella Foundation for Your Philanthropic Engagement

Since 2018, the UZH Foundation has supported donors as an umbrella foundation in planning and implementing their philanthropic activities. It relieves donors of administrative tasks, allowing them to focus on what matters most: the targeted support of research, teaching, and early-career scholars at the University of Zurich (UZH). Dominik Heitzmann, CFO of the UZH Foundation, explains how this model works and the advantages it offers.

Interview: Sarina Tobler

Dominik, the UZH Foundation integrated its first foundation under its umbrella in 2018. How did that come about?

The initiative came from the Foundation for Research at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Zurich. The aim was to reduce administrative burdens and place greater emphasis on the foundation's core mission. At the same time, we were able to establish standardized processes and create clear governance structures within the university environment.

Since then, the UZH Foundation has grown steadily as an umbrella foundation. What has driven this development?

A key factor is the efficiency gained through the umbrella foundation model. In addition, we bring many years of experience in managing grant-making foundations. The demands placed on foundation boards are continuously increasing. Clear responsibilities, professional asset management, and lower barriers to entry compared to establishing an independent foundation make this model particularly attractive. As a result, we have steadily expanded our funding portfolio. Today, we bring together 14 sub-foundations under our umbrella. In 2025 alone, three new foundations joined: the Walter Frei Fund, the Prof. Dr. Hans E. Schmid Fund, and the Gustav and Wilhelmine Reiser-Siemssen / Martha Selve-Gerdzten Scholarship Foundation.

You mentioned clear lines of responsibility. Could you elaborate?

Responsibilities are deliberately kept separate. Each sub-foundation defines its strategic focus and makes its own funding decisions. The UZH Foundation, in turn, manages all administrative, regulatory, and financial tasks—from asset management and reporting to ensuring compliance with legal requirements. This centralized approach creates economies of scale: shared structures make processes more efficient and cost-effective for each sub-foundation.

What is the process for establishing a foundation or integrating an existing one?

It begins with a non-binding consultation to discuss motivations and objectives. Based on this, we jointly develop the contractual framework. The UZH Foundation then handles the legal implementation, communication with authorities, and the transfer of assets. This allows founders to focus on the strategic and thematic aspects of their philanthropic engagement from an early stage.

How much individuality can a sub-foundation retain within a shared structure?

A great deal. Founders define the purpose, name, and funding model of their sub-foundation and may, if they wish, serve on its advisory board. Funding activities are correspondingly diverse, ranging from awards and



Dominik Heitzmann,
CFO UZH Foundation

scholarships to support for early-career researchers and project funding across a wide range of disciplines.

What do sub-foundations value most about working with the UZH Foundation?

Above all, they value the reliability and transparency of the collaboration. In addition, the UZH Foundation offers access to a strong network within UZH and beyond. This combination builds trust and provides a solid foundation for long-term engagement.

Establish a new foundation or integrate an existing one into the UZH F

Would you like to establish your own foundation or integrate an existing one under the umbrella of the UZH Foundation?

Dominik Heitzmann would be pleased to discuss your options in a no-obligation consultation. To get in touch:

www.uzhfoundation.ch/en/myfoundation



“By integrating the Reiser-Siemssen / Selve-Gerdzten Scholarship Foundation into the UZH Foundation, we were able to streamline administrative responsibilities and focus entirely on our mission to support students. This has proven beneficial in every respect.”

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Siegert, Chair of the Advisory Board
Stipendienstiftung Reiser-Siemssen / Selve-Gerdzten

Introducing our newest Sub-Foundations

Walter Frei Fund

The Walter Frei Fund supports excellence in veterinary medicine. Every two to three years, the Walter Frei Prize—endowed with up to CHF 20,000—is awarded by the Vetsuisse Faculty at UZH.

The fund traces its origins to the Walter Frei Foundation, established in 1979, and commemorates Prof. Dr. Walter Frei (1882–1972), long-time director of the Institute of Veterinary Pathology at UZH.

Prof. Dr. Hans E. Schmid Fund

The Prof. Dr. Hans E. Schmid Fund supports early-career researchers in organic chemistry at UZH. As a rule, scholarships of up to CHF 50,000 are awarded every two years.

The fund honors the legacy of Prof. Dr. Hans Eduard Schmid, who played a defining role in shaping organic chemistry at UZH over several decades.

Reiser-Siemssen / Selve-Gerdzten Scholarship Foundation

The Gustav and Wilhelmine Reiser-Siemssen / Martha Selve-Gerdzten Scholarship Foundation supports particularly talented students across all disciplines at UZH who are in financial need.

The foundation is rooted in the philanthropic commitment of Gustav and Wilhelmine Reiser-Siemssen as well as Martha Selve-Gerdzten.

For more information about the sub-foundations, please click here:

www.uzhfoundation.ch/en/funds



Corporate Partnership Enables New Research Center

The UZH Center for the Future of Personal Mobility is being established at the Faculty of Business, Economics and Informatics at the University of Zurich (UZH). The center will focus on key questions surrounding the future of individual mobility. To support this initiative, UZH entered into a partnership with the Emil Frey Group in 2025. Engagement from the private sector plays a vital role in advancing excellent research and fostering innovation.

Mobility is an integral part of everyday life. New technologies, alternative modes of transport, innovative mobility concepts, and evolving policy frameworks are continuously reshaping how we move. While public transportation has been widely studied, private mobility has received comparatively little attention.

To address this gap, UZH is partnering with the Swiss automotive and mobility company Emil Frey Holding AG. Thanks to a donation of CHF 12.7 million, the Faculty of Business, Economics and Informatics is establishing the UZH Center for the Future of Personal Mobility.

“Thanks to the foresight of UZH and the Emil Frey Group, we can advance the still largely unexplored field of individual mobility.”

Prof. Dr. Harald Gall, Dean, Faculty of Business, Economics and Informatics, UZH

Achieving More Together: Business Meets Academia

What applies in business also holds true for research: innovation rarely happens in isolation. It thrives on collaboration. The exchange between industry and academia creates fertile ground for new ideas and perspectives.

Challenges from everyday business practice provide valuable input for research. At the same time, scientific insights flow back into companies—through joint research projects and the development of talent.

As Switzerland’s largest comprehensive university, UZH—with its seven faculties—is ideally positioned to drive cutting-edge research. At the same time, Zurich offers a unique ecosystem where academia and industry can collaborate closely. Especially in times of uncertainty, companies benefit from close ties to academic expertise and innovation.

“Mobility plays a central role in people’s everyday lives. Our goal is to shape it sustainably and make it fit for the future. We are very pleased to build the necessary expertise together with UZH.”

Kathrin Frey, Member of the Executive Board, Emil Frey Group

A Holistic Approach to Mobility Research

A key component of the new Center is a dedicated professorship, to be filled in summer 2026. Dean Harald Gall sees great potential in this field:

“Mobility is a fundamental aspect of people’s lives and affects us all. I am delighted that this expertise will be brought together at UZH’s new Mobility Center.”

In the coming months, the Center will launch its first courses and research projects.

The UZH Center for the Future of Personal Mobility will focus on the impacts of transport and climate policy, new propulsion technologies, innovative mobility concepts, digital connectivity, and the development of charging and refueling infrastructure.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration

The new Mobility Center will be based at the Department of Business Administration and will collaborate closely with experts from a range of disciplines at UZH, including geography, psychology, and ethics.

Dean Harald Gall underlines “Recognizing the strategic importance of this emerging and forward-looking field, UZH has established an interdisciplinary research agenda to foster its development.”



Learn More

Would you like to find out how your company can engage in research partnerships?

Linda Schweizer-Thong would be happy to discuss the opportunities with you.

linda.schweizer@uzhfoundation.ch
Phone 044 634 61 77

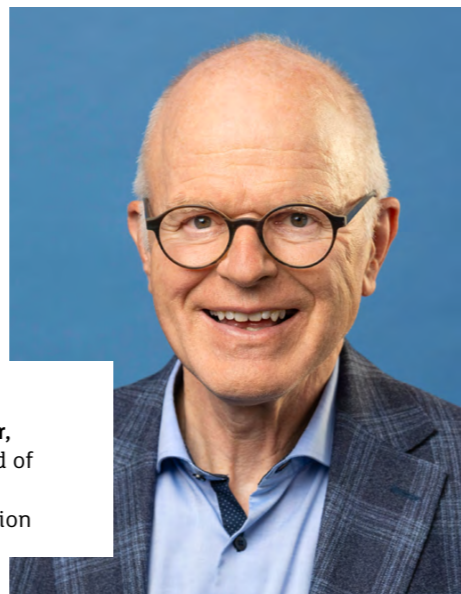
www.uzhfoundation.ch/en/companies



Bringing Bold Ideas to Life

Since 2003, the Werner Siemens Foundation (WSS) has been dedicated to fostering innovation and supporting excellent research. To this day, the foundation remains true to the vision of entrepreneur Carl von Siemens: to strengthen future generations in a sustainable way.

Dr. Hubert Keiber,
Chair of the Board of Trustees, Werner Siemens Foundation



This commitment is clearly reflected at the University of Zurich (UZH). Since 2018, the Werner Siemens Foundation has focused its engagement at UZH specifically on promoting innovation. With a grant of CHF 10.7 million over ten years, it has supported the expansion of the UZH Fellowship Program in medical technology.

In addition to funding fellowships, the foundation has also invested in laboratory infrastructure at the Schlieren campus. In doing so, it supports not only talented researchers but also the structural foundations needed to enable sustainable scientific innovation.

“Entrepreneurship is part of the Werner Siemens Foundation’s DNA. We are committed to passing this spirit on to young talents—by supporting research and innovation at UZH.”

Supporting Talent and Entrepreneurship

A key element of this commitment is the MedTech Entrepreneur Fellowship. The program is aimed at outstanding early-career researchers who seek to translate research-based innovations into entrepreneurial applications.

Alongside financial support, fellows benefit from access to infrastructure, coaching, and a strong professional network. Since the program’s launch, 28 early-career researchers have been supported through UZH fellowships. Several of these projects have led to successful start-ups and spin-offs, bringing new therapies, surgical methods, and medical technologies into practice.

Driving Innovation at the Institutional Level

Beyond supporting individual researchers, the Werner Siemens Foundation is also active at the institutional level. In 2023, it launched a call for proposals for a new WSS Research Center for Technologies for Sustainable Resource Use, with a total budget of CHF 100 million.

A research team led by UZH chemistry professor Greta Patzke successfully advanced to the first stage of the competition and was awarded CHF 1 million in funding.

From Research to Impact

A recent example of the foundation’s impact is the project “SonoGuard – Deep Tissue Wound Monitoring with Ultrasound Spectroscopy.” Supported by a donation of CHF 8 million from the WSS, the project was realized at the Ingenuity Lab in 2025.

This high-resolution ultrasound technology enables precise monitoring of deep tissue wounds, supports the early detection of infections, and allows for more individualized treatment approaches.

On behalf of UZH and its early-career researchers, we extend our sincere thanks to the Werner Siemens Foundation for its longstanding trust, generous support, and exceptional commitment. Partnerships like this play a vital role in advancing scientific excellence, innovation, and societal impact.

Get in Touch

Would you like to learn more about how your foundation can support research at UZH? Sabine Schweidler would be happy to discuss the opportunities with you:

sabine.schweidler@uzhfoundation.ch
Phone 044 634 61 85

My Heart Belongs to UZH—What About Yours?

The University of Zurich has been part of my life since my law studies. It has given me so much: a broad perspective that reaches beyond academia, and the tools I need for my professional journey. And last but not least, I made friendships at UZH that I still cherish to this day.

The University of Zurich has been part of my life since my law studies. It has given me so much: a broad perspective that reaches beyond academia, and the tools I need for my professional journey. And last but not least, I made friendships at UZH that I still cherish to this day.

I would like to share this strong sense of connection. That is why I launched the “Giving Back” initiative four years ago. It brings together friends and committed alumni with a shared goal: to strengthen the University of Zurich and support its research.

More and more people who are passionate about research are joining us. Today, our community includes nearly 200 supporters. To everyone who has contributed so far, I extend my heartfelt thanks.

But we want to go further. Our goal is to grow “Giving Back” to **500 committed members**.

Help us reach this goal—spread the word among your friends. Every contribution makes a difference.

Thank you sincerely for your support.

Yours
Christian (Chrigel) Wenger

“It fills me with pride to see more people every year joining ‘Giving Back.’ We haven’t reached our goal yet—join us and be part of it!”

Giving Back

**Invitation: “Giving Back” Annual Event
May 27, 2026**

Once a year, we invite you to our annual event—an opportunity to gain insights into outstanding research projects and meet the people behind them. The next event will take place on **Wednesday, May 27, 2026**, at UZH. I would be delighted to welcome you there in person.

Join Us—Everyone is Welcome.

Does your heart belong to UZH too? Become part of our community. With your annual contribution, you support valuable research at the University of Zurich and the important work of the UZH Foundation.



We look forward to your registration:



www.uzhfoundation.ch/en/gb2026



Giving



“UZH is my intellectual home, and I am proud to support it. In a world where falsehoods can seem more appealing than facts, education is the best investment in our future.”

Prof. Dr. Monica Zwicky
Alumna and UZH Representative
for Academic Integrity

“I am passionate about a university that helps move society forward. To achieve this, we need your support.”

Dr. Martin Eckert
Alumnus, Law



Back



Donate Now and become part of “Giving Back”.



Consolidated financial statement

Balance sheet

in CHF	31. December 2025	31. December 2024
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	10 371 238	10 488 396
Other current receivables	571 837	1 025 061
Accrued income	58 723	6 852
Current assets	11 001 798	11 520 309
Financial assets	153 888 888	133 275 995
Intangible assets	5 661	66 795
Fixed assets	153 894 550	133 342 791
Total assets	164 896 348	144 863 100
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	183 652	525 513
Other current liabilities	12 728	16 423
Accrued expenses	45 492	31 378
Current liabilities	241 872	573 314
Restricted fund capital	161 047 064	140 960 599
Debt (including restricted fund capital)	161 288 936	141 533 913
Foundation capital	50 000	50 000
Committed capital	2 418 887	2 140 663
Free capital	1 138 523	1 138 523
Retained earning previous years	1 138 523	1 138 523
Result current year	0	0
Equity	3 607 412	3 329 187
Total liabilities	164 896 348	144 863 100

Commentary on the financial statements

Profit and loss statement

The 2025 financial year was marked by the highest level of donations received since the UZH Foundation was established. With total donations amounting to CHF 40.3 million, all revenue streams increased, compared to the previous year.

Particularly encouraging is the continued growth of our donor base, along with the increasing diversity of causes supported. The establishment of three new sub-foundations also contributed to this positive development.

Disbursements rose slightly, reflecting the implementation of objectives across more than 180 ongoing projects. The expansion of our fundraising team is likewise reflected in higher fundraising expenses.

The implementation of the new investment strategy was largely completed during 2025. Thanks to the positive

performance of the capital markets, asset management delivered a strong result—despite the negative impact of the US dollar's depreciation against the Swiss franc.

Balance sheet

The balance sheet reflects successful fundraising, with a corresponding expansion in total assets. The implementation of the investment strategy and the returns achieved led to an increase in financial assets, while the investment ratio remained stable at over 90%.

On the liabilities side, restricted capital increased due to incoming earmarked funds. The rise in unrestricted donations also contributed to higher organizational capital.

Profit and loss statement

in CHF	31. December 2025	31. December 2024
Grants received – Contract management	20 145 010	17 101 531
Grants received – Acquisition	15 258 278	12 838 926
Grants received – Sub-foundations	4 497 023	2 629 248
Undesignated donations received	403 023	117 107
Grants received	40 303 335	32 686 813
Contribution UZH	742 500	742 500
Various income	940 364	889 587
Operating income	41 986 199	34 318 900
Direct project expenses	–27 819 339	–26 216 510
Personnel expenses	–878 806	–671 106
Other operating expenses	–122 665	–83 955
Fundraising expenses	–1 001 471	–755 061
Personnel expenses	–798 745	–891 067
Other operating expenses	–73 633	–111 471
Depreciation and amortization	–76 364	–90 212
Administration expenses	–948 742	–1 092 750
Operating result	12 216 647	6 254 579
Financial income	12 447 482	8 123 244
Financial expenses	–4 299 439	–1 232 078
of which asset management costs	–464 696	–367 982
Net financial result	8 148 043	6 891 166
Annual result (before change in fund and organizational capital)	20 364 690	13 145 745
Withdrawals from funds	33 590 223	28 567 812
Allocations to funds	–53 676 688	–41 738 117
Fund result	–20 086 464	–13 170 305
Annual result (before change in organizational capital)	278 225	–24 560
Fund withdrawals committed capital (unrestricted funds)	227 159	178 760
Fund allocations committed capital (unrestricted funds)	–505 383	–154 200
Fund result committed capital (unrestricted funds)	–278 225	24 560
Result current year	0	0
Change in other organizational capital	0	0
Balance (after allocation to organizational capital)	0	0

Audit report

As a charitable foundation, the UZH Foundation is tax-exempt. It pursues neither profit nor personal benefit. Quality and transparency are important cornerstones of its actions, which is why its activities are based on the principles of the Swiss Foundation Code. The Investment Committee monitors the investment strategy defined by the Board of Trustees. An independent auditing company audits the bookkeeping and

the annual financial statements. The annual financial statements were prepared in accordance with the accounting regulations of Swiss GAAP FER 21. The UZH Foundation is subject to the foundation supervision of the Canton of Zurich.

You can find the auditor's report at www.uzhfoundation.ch/en/auditreport

Working Together for Zurich as a Center of Research

Eleven distinguished individuals from business, politics, academia, and culture serve on the Board of Trustees of the UZH Foundation as volunteers. With their experience, sense of responsibility, and personal commitment, they actively support research, innovation, and teaching at the University of Zurich (UZH).

Three Questions for Felix R. Ehrat, Board Member and Chair of the Investment Committee

What motivates you in your role as a member of the UZH Foundation Board?

What motivates me most is the opportunity to contribute—both directly and indirectly—to research and teaching at the University of Zurich. UZH plays a central role for the Canton of Zurich and for Switzerland as a whole. I also see my involvement as a way of giving back, out of gratitude for the excellent education I received. Serving as Chair of the Investment Committee is both professionally and personally rewarding.

What insights have you gained through your work on the Foundation Board?


I have gained a deeper understanding of the complex environment in which the University—and by extension the UZH Foundation—operates. It is shaped by diverse interests: the pursuit of excellence, the competition for top talent, and the expectations of policymakers, administrators, and taxpayers. Balancing these perspectives requires respect for differing priorities, sound judgment, and a clear sense of direction.


What do you think sets the UZH Foundation apart?


The UZH Foundation mobilizes private funding in support of a predominantly publicly funded university. At the heart of this work lies the trust of our donors. This trust is reflected in growing levels of support—but it must be continually re-earned. It shapes not only the work of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Office, but also the collaboration within all committees.




A Board of Trustees with diverse expertise


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