

## **Lab Networking Event: Straumann & Department of Biomedicine Basel**

On November 17th 2023, 37 young researchers from labs all around Switzerland gathered in Basel for an enriching Lab Networking Event. The day was defined by two significant visits: Straumann in the morning and the Department of Biomedicine at the University of Basel in the afternoon. This itinerary provided an invaluable inside look into both a leading medtech company and in a highly translational academic research department in the field of tissue engineering and biomedicine.

The day started with the visit to Straumann, a globally acclaimed leader in implantology, regenerative dentistry, and aesthetics. Participants delved into the Technology and Testing Group, where collaboration among multidisciplinary researchers is fundamental in shaping commercial products and fostering innovation. During the visit, demonstrations of exclusive testing machines developed by Straumann offered a glimpse into their pioneering advancements.

Afterwards, an interactive Q&A session between the young researchers and employees of Straumann of different departments took place. Different topics were touched, from career path, daily work life in the company to the importance of having a network when looking for a job in a company.

The time in Straumann really flew by and we wished to have more time to listen to the wise advice from them.

Gathered all together, we headed to the Department of Biomedicine at the University of Basel for the second part of the day. Here, a diverse array of sandwiches, including vegetarian and vegan options, awaited the group.

After lunch, the head of the Department of Biomedicine, Prof. Ivan Martin, held the welcome presentation and showcased the many different fields the Department of Biomedicine is involved in, with projects ranging from sustainability to translational research. The vision of the research institute is to do "Fundamental research developed in relationship to a clinical question/environment". Highlighting the forthcoming construction of the new Department of Biomedicine near the Biozentrum, noting that this will create a life sciences cluster. He then introduced the Cartilage Engineering and Tissue Engineering labs, focusing on recent achievements and future prospects of the lab. Following his presentation, the group leaders Arnaud Scherberich, Anna Marsano and Andrea Banfi presented their Bone Regeneration, Cardiac Surgery and Engineering, and Regenerative Angiogenesis labs, respectively.



The afternoon continued with the Department of Biomedicine that offered more insights to their research in a lab tour, where the Bone Regeneration, Cartilage Engineering, Tissue Engineering and the Cardiac Surgery and Engineering lab showcased their bioreactors and biomaterials. The 3D print lab of the University Hospital of Basel also opened their doors to our young researchers. In particular they showed us the process from the acquisition of patients' images with skull defects to the printing of the substitute parts. Finally the researchers had the possibility to have a tour inside the Department of Biomedicine in order to have an idea on how the daily work there looks like. The researchers actively engaged and interacted with the labs, fostering a vibrant atmosphere throughout the tour.

As tradition requires, we closed our lab networking event with an apéro where the discussions then continued in a more informal setting.



Overall, we were extremely happy and proud with how the lab networking event went and the feedback that we had received and we are already looking forward to the next one!

We would like to thank Straumann, the Department of Biomedicine at the University of Basel and the 3D Print Lab of the University Hospital of Basel for the hospitality and the time that they dedicated to us. Additionally, we want to thank all the group leaders who generously shared their expertise and facilitated our laboratory visits.

