

The 7th SSB+RM Young Scientists Symposium

On the 17th of January, 2025, young researchers from all around Switzerland came together at ETH Zurich for the 7th edition of the SSB+RM Young Scientist Symposium. The goal of this yearly event is to give young researchers the opportunity to present their work, network with peers and engage in research discussions. As the presenters are usually master students, PhD students or early postdocs, for many of them this is the first time they give a research talk or present a poster. The symposium is therefore a valuable experience for them to gain confidence in presenting and to enhance their skill to talk about research.



Attendees were affiliated with a variety of institutes, many of them Zürich based (ETH Zürich or University of Zürich). Also, people from the AO Research Institute Davos, Empa St. Gallen, University of Basel, and Bellinzona Institutes of Science were among the attendees.

One highlight were the keynote speaker's talks, Prof. Maartje Bastings (EPFL Lausanne) and Prof. Jörn Dengjel (University of Fribourg), who introduced us not only to their lab's work but also talked about their career paths. Whereas Maartje Bastings was telling us how flexibility always limits specificity when it comes to selective material-material interactions, Jörn Dengjel pointed out the huge potential lying in the use of mass spectrometry methodologies for biomaterial research. Thank you both for taking the time to travel across Switzerland to join our event.

In addition to our two keynotes, there were seven oral presentations of 15 minutes each (incl. Q&A) and a block of 10 two-minute rapid-fire presentations. Moreover, the symposium displayed 24 posters showing research covering biomaterial topics, but also regenerative medicine or infection biology.

A jury composed of more experienced researchers evaluated the orals, rapid fires and poster presentations and assessed them carefully. The awards for best oral presentation went to Esma Bahar Tankus (University of Basel), whereas second place went to Jamie Pietrantuono Nepomuceno (ETH Zurich). For the rapid fire Fatemeh Safari (AO Research Institute Davos) won first place and Lisa Krattiger (University of Basel) got

second. The best poster presentation was given by Till Strunk (University of Basel) and Vibuja Manichelvan (ETH Zurich).

Next to all the talks, we also had a fun quiz that people could fill out throughout the day including estimating the number of Eppendorf's in a jar or finding hidden SSB+RM YS logos around the venue. The person who guessed all numbers the closest was Puk Kwant from the AO Research institute in Davos, winning a 50 CHF voucher for Coop.

To conclude the symposium, we met at the bQm bar for drinks and snacks, to finish with some socialising in a relaxed atmosphere.

Such events are only possible thanks to the support provided by the following institutions and individuals:

Our profound gratitude goes to the SSB+RM parent organization, especially to its president, Prof. Dr. Markus Rottmar, for their unwavering support in all our endeavors. Also, we would like to thank our sponsors Exabone, ZEISS and the AO Research institute for their financial support. Additionally, we would like to thank ETH Zurich for supplying the infrastructure to host this event.

We want to express our thanks to our jury members: Zhen Li from AO Research Institute Davos, Nunzia di Maggio from the University of Basel, Kongchang Wei from Empa, Stefan Mommer from ETH Zurich, Maria Mitsi from the University of Zurich and Simone Bersini from EOC Bellinzona.

We are happy about how the event went and are already looking forward to the next symposium in a year!