

The 8th SSB+RM Young Scientists Symposium

On 16 January 2026, young researchers from across Switzerland gathered at ETH Zurich for the annual SSB+RM Young Scientist Symposium. The 8th edition was held under the topic “Biomaterials & Regenerative Medicine in Translation”. As every year, the aim of this event was to provide young scientists with the opportunity to present their work, connect with peers, and engage in scientific discussions. For many participants, most being master’s or PhD students, it is their first experience delivering a research talk or presenting a poster. The 56 attendees were affiliated with a variety of institutes, many of them Zürich based (ETH Zürich or University Hospital 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, Dr. Valentina Basoli from the University of Basel and Dr. Bruno Silva from EMPA St.Gallen, who not only introduced us to their lab’s work but also shared the journey that led them to their current positions. Whereas Valentina Basoli emphasized the importance of building a strong network and collaborating to generate ideas and opportunities, Bruno Silva illustrated how a researcher’s career is rarely perfectly planned, but instead evolves by recognizing and seizing opportunities. Thank you both for taking the time to travel to Zurich that day to join our event.

In addition to our two keynotes, there were seven oral presentations and a block of two-minute rapid-fire presentations. Moreover, the symposium featured posters on a range of topics, including biomaterials and regenerative medicine, with both areas well represented. A panel of senior researchers thoroughly assessed the oral, rapid-fire, and poster presentations and distributed awards in all categories. The award for best oral presentation went to Amelia Hasenauer (ETH Zurich), whereas second place went to Claire Chabot (AO Research Institute Davos). For the rapid fire, Andrea Santoro (ETH Zurich) won first place and Anita Jose (AO Research Institute Davos) got second. The best poster presentation was awarded to Silvia Pravato (University Hospital Zurich) and second best to Tudor Lile (ETH Zurich).

Next to all the talks and scientific conversations, we also had a fun quiz that people could fill out throughout the day including estimating the number of viable cells on a confocal image. Antonio Sileo from the University of Basel won the game, getting closest to the actual cell number.

To conclude the symposium, as it is tradition, 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. Arnaud Scherberich, for their support in 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 also want to express our thanks to our jury members: Alessandro Cianciosi from AO Research Institute Davos, Valentina Basoli from the University of Basel, Xi Wu from Empa, Jaimie Mayner from ETH Zurich, Maria Mitsi from the University of Zurich, and Dalila Petta from EOC Bellinzona.

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

