

Annual Report 2025
Forschung für Leben



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Research for Life: Over 35 Years Dedicated to Science Communication and Outreach

For more than three decades, our association, "Research for Life," has tirelessly championed researchers and Switzerland's position as a leading research hub. We foster crucial dialogue between scientists and the interested public.

Over these 35 years, our work has lost none of its significance – quite the opposite. Given current developments, our outreach and educational efforts are more vital than ever.

National Information Day on Animal Research (#NIDEA) 2025: A Success Story with Growing Support

Since 2023, in collaboration with our partner organizations, the Swiss Association of Veterinarians in Industry and Research (SAVIR) and the Swiss Society for Laboratory Animal Science (SGV), we have organized the National Information Day on Animal Research (NIDEA) in Switzerland. Under the hashtag #NIDEA, we conduct simultaneous public outreach campaigns in various Swiss cities, accompanied by a comprehensive social media campaign. During these events, researchers, veterinarians, and animal caretakers distribute flyers and engage directly with the public. Our goal is to communicate openly and transparently about animal research, providing first-hand information based on our personal workplace experiences.



#NIDEA2025 took place on June 14th, with stands in Basel, Bern, and Zurich. We are especially proud that our initiative received official support from ETH Zurich and the University of Zurich this year. We set up a large stand offering both in-depth information and giveaways. Additionally, visitors could see and touch mouse cages – complete with bedding, food, and water – and discuss the lives of mice in research facilities with researchers, animal caretakers, and animal welfare officers. We plan to hold NIDEA again in 2026 and hope that other universities will join us to continue this important educational and outreach activity.

STAAR: Transparency in Animal Research in Switzerland

In late 2018, FfL, together with the University of Zurich, launched a groundbreaking initiative: an accord on transparency in animal research. This declaration garnered significant interest from Swiss universities, NGOs involved in animal research communication, and many other stakeholders. Swiss universities further developed the initial concept and organized the founding meeting of STAAR (Swiss Transparency Agreement

on Animal Research) in 2022. Since 2023, STAAR has regularly published reports on its members' activities. For more information about STAAR, please visit their website:

<https://www.swissuniversities.ch/organisation/gremien/kammer-universitaere-hochschulen/swiss-transparency-agreement-on-animal-research-staar>

Leadership Transition at FfL: new President, Vice-Presidents, and Treasurer

In June 2025, Markus Affolter stepped down as President-ad-interim and handed the presidency over to Christian Münz. In 2025, the FfL Board also chose two vice-presidents: one representing the animal side of the association (Christoph Schneider), and one from the plant side (Marie Barberon).

Additionally, two board members resigned: Felix Ehrensperger and Lorenz Schmid. Following Lorenz's resignation, a successor was also needed for his role as treasurer. The new treasurer of FfL is Thomas Lutz.

Felix Ehrensperger and Lorenz Schmid become Honorary Members of FfL

Both FfL board members had served for a long time: Felix as the organizer of BioFokus, and Lorenz as treasurer and connection to the Kantonsrat. They officially resigned at the 2025 General Assembly. To honour their long-standing and exceptional commitment, the FfL board proposed Felix Ehrensperger and Lorenz Schmid for honorary membership. This proposal was unanimously approved by the FfL General Assembly. The new President, Christian Münz, presented the new honorary members with their certificates.



SGV Meeting 2025 in Zurich

The SGV Meeting 2025 took place at the Technopark Zurich on November 26 and 27, 2025. FfL and ART were represented with a joint exhibition booth, managed by Iana Buch, the director of both organizations. There was great interest in the booth: numerous members and partners visited us, picked up information materials, and enthusiastically discussed new initiatives and future projects.

FfL in the Press

- September 25th, 2025, Schweizer Familie: "Medizinischer Fortschritt nur dank starker Forschung"
- September 28th, 2025, SonntagsZeitung: "Medizinischer Fortschritt nur dank starker Forschung"

A Fresh Look for Our Communication: New Flyers and Roll-ups!



Our previous communication materials had served us well, but it was time for an update to convey our mission even more clearly. That is why our Managing Director, Ina Buch, teamed up with graphic designer Tatiana Epli to develop a new concept. This new approach strongly emphasizes FfL's core message: we are network of scientists created and dedicated to support scientist. The new materials beautifully reflect this, visually highlighting the connections that unite us all as researchers.

We have also created a new outreach flyer for the general public. It explains in easily understandable language who we are, what our mission is, and what activities we undertake.

These new materials are now available. Please contact the management office to get yours.

X (formerly Twitter)

Our "Forschung für Leben" Twitter account has been active since May 2016, and we currently have 320 followers.

Information for Federal Parliament

We continue to proactively send information and argumentation in favor of animal research to members of parliament ahead of relevant votes or parliamentary discussions.

Mobile Gene Lab

Due to financial constraints, the Gene Lab remains closed. We are actively seeking alternative funding opportunities.

Membership

In 2025, FfL successfully gained several new members. By the end of the year, "Forschung für Leben" had a total of 367 members.

General Assembly

The General Assembly took place on June 24th, 2025, at the University of Zurich. Following the assembly, Prof. Dr. Christian Münz from the University of Zurich, and new President of FfL, gave a public lecture.

FfL Committee

The following individuals served on the committee: Prof Dr. Christian Münz (President), Prof. Dr. Michael O. Hottiger, Prof. Dr. Markus Affolter, Prof. Dr. Gerhard M. Christofori, Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Grüsssem, Prof. Dr. Ueli Grossniklaus, Prof. Dr. Thomas Lutz (Treasurer), Prof. Dr. Valerio Mante, Prof. Dr. Manfred Kopf, Prof. Dr. Gregor Rainer, Prof. Dr. Rolf Zeller, Dr. Bettina Balmer, Prof. Dr. Christian Hardke, Prof. Dr. Aimee Zuniga, Prof. Dr. Christoph Schneider, Prof. Dr. Marie Barberon

FfL Board

The Board met on June 24th, 2025, as usual prior to the General Assembly.