

DBM PhD retreat summary 2015



The DBM PhD retreat is a yearly event organized by PhD Club for PhD students of the Department Biomedizin (DBM), where participants have the opportunity to train the presentation skills and to discuss their own work.

This year's retreat took place on 28th - 30th of May in the Hostellerie in Schwarzsee, FR. The weather was perfect from the very beginning, when 50 participants reached the 4-star hotel after a 3-hour bus ride. The program of the first day started soon after arrival with a Neurobiology session, which consisted of three presentations given by PhD students.

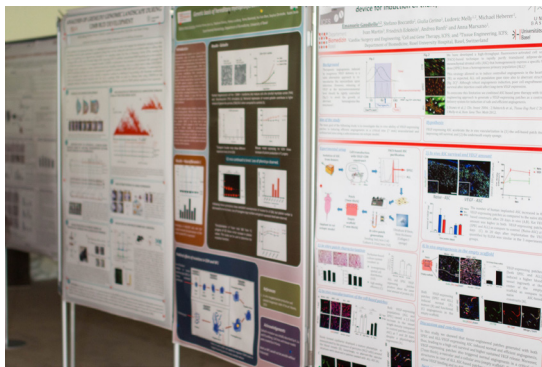


After a well-deserved lunch break, the first keynote lecture was held by Prof. Ed Palmer. In a very compelling talk he was looking back at his PhD studies and pointed out what has changed for students since then. Prof. Palmer also described critical characteristics that PhD students should have if they plan to build up an academic career. The fact, that universities generate more PhD's than academia needs, was the basis of a very emotional chapter of

his talk. The apparent 'overproduction' requires that today's PhD students need to be much more inventive in how to find or create their niche. At the end of this talk, numerous questions and comments were raised, which showed how relevant the content was for the attendees.

An Immunology session with three presentations from PhD students followed Ed Palmers talk. After a short coffee break, the last session of the day, Cardiobiology & Physiology, was held by another three PhD students. The time left before dinner was reserved for a first round of 16 poster presentations.

The social time of the first day started with a delicious 4-course dinner and was followed by a short walk and a bonfire close to the lake.



The second day began with an Oncology session and another round of 15 poster presentations. After lunch, the second keynote lecture was held by Cesar Nombela Arrieta, a junior group leader in Hematology at the University Hospital Zürich. He showed astonishing 2D & 3D pictures from the bone marrow microenvironment. The images were acquired with new technologies that allow mapping the structure of a mouse tibia without the need of cutting the bone. The possibility to analyze single cells of the 3D scans in a FACS-like way together with the spatial information on their position or distance to other cells drew the interest of many of the PhD students.

Three students held the last scientific session of the retreat focused on Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine. The day was closed by a plenary session about the newly created independent PhD program and the upcoming events of the PhD Club.



During an evening Aperero on the pier, winners of the best posters and best presentations awards were announced.

David Steini from Cardiovascular Molecular Imaging (best presentation) and Philippe Heim from CardioBiology (best poster), were awarded with Golden Pipettes and 150CHF in Pro Innerstadt bons.

Second places: Anna Engler from Embryology and Stem Cell Biology (presentation) and Virginie Tissieres from Developmental Genetics (poster) received 100CHF.

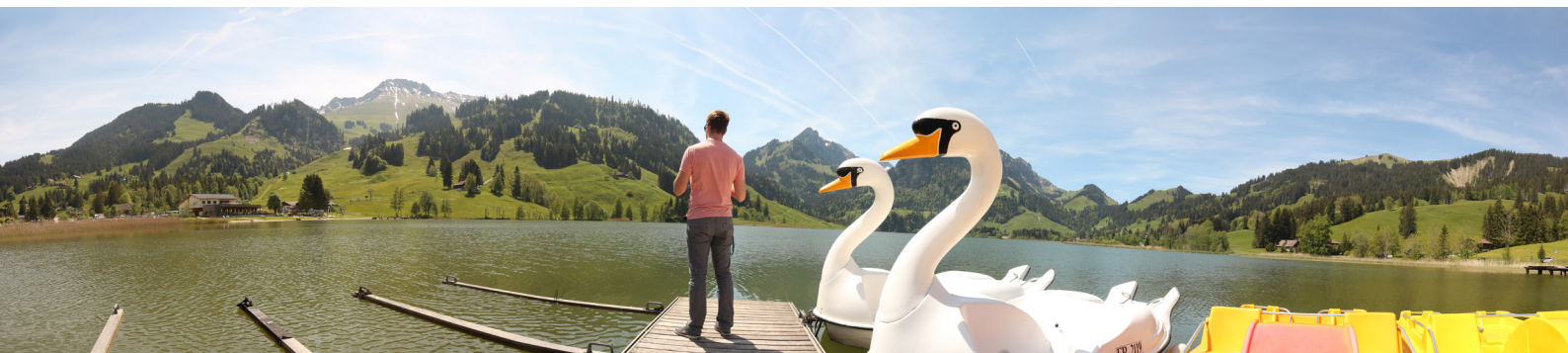
Third places: Andrea Erni from Embryology and Stem Cell Biology (presentation) and Julie Leclercq from Developmental Genetics (poster) received 50CHF.

(The awards were sponsored by Actelion Pharmaceuticals Ltd.)



Congratulations to all winners!

Traditionally, the third day was reserved for social activities. In the morning students were hiking or going by cable car uphill, to then chase down on Mountain Trottinets. On the way back, the bus stopped in Broc at the Maison Cailler. After the sweet tour through the chocolate production history and tasting, the group arrived in Basel at 18:00 in the evening.



Due the success of this year's retreat we are looking forward to planning a new retreat the next year!

The PhD Club Committee wants to thank Prof. Nicole Schaeren-Wiemers for her enormous support. We also want to thank all our sponsors for helping to realize all our ideas without influencing scientific part of this event.

Anna, Basia, David, Flurina, Kata, Konstantin, Ronny, Vincent

See you again in 2016!

