

BioMed Student Retreat 2026

June 25th-26th

Centre Löwenberg

Organizers:
Jutta Schillings,
Lisa Gugler,
Nathalie Senn,
PascaleENZ,
Valeria Masciovecchio,
Vanu Someswaran,
Andrea Barbara Schmitz-Derron

Welcome

The Biomedical PhD Retreat 2026 brings together doctoral researchers from across the BioMed Program UZH–ETHZ, alongside invited principal investigators, for two days dedicated to scientific exchange, interdisciplinary dialogue, and community building.

Through oral presentations, poster sessions, keynote lectures, and informal networking opportunities, the retreat offers PhD students a platform to present their research, exchange ideas with peers from diverse biomedical fields, and engage in stimulating scientific discussion.

Beyond the scientific program, the retreat is designed to encourage new connections within the PhD community, foster open exchange across research areas, and create an inspiring and supportive environment for early-career researchers.

Venue

Centre Löwenberg
Löwenberg 45B
3280 Murten, Switzerland

DAY 1

07:15 Meeting point at Zurich HB or individual travel

07:32 Departure from Zurich HB to Centre Löwenberg

*Centre Löwenberg
Löwenberg 45B, 3280 Murten*

10:00 Registration & coffee reception

Collection of name badges and room keys; attendance check-in

10:30 Opening speech

Nathalie Senn

10:45 – 11:45 Scientific session I – oral presentations

Chairpersons: Lisa Gugler & Nathalie Senn

Presentation Format: 10 min presentation followed by 5 min discussion

Miriam Gura	<i>Mitochondrial Dysfunction and Energy Production in Methylmalonic Aciduria: Effects of Cell Type and Variant</i>
Kim Lucien Stocker	<i>Leveraging Control Cohorts in Metabolomics to Overcome Sample Size Limitations in Detecting Inherited Metabolic Disorders</i>
Jutta Schillings	<i>Deciphering the Estradiol-GLP-1 crosstalk to tackle postmenopausal diabetes</i>
Theresa Roth	<i>Full or Half-Siblings? Robust Kinship Analysis with the MIEKA Panel - Even with Missing Data</i>

11:45 – 12:15 Poster session I

Presenters are invited to remain near their posters for discussion while participants are encouraged to explore the session interactively.

12:15 – 13:00 Lunch

Served at the Centre Löwenberg Mensa

DAY 1

13:15 – 14:15 Scientific session II – oral presentations

Chairpersons: Jutta Schillings & Vanu Someswaran

Presentation Format: 10 min presentation followed by 5 min discussion

Nicole Barth	<i>Fermented plant-based yogurt alternatives in Switzerland: nutritional adequacy and fortification practices</i>
Valeria Masciovecchio	<i>CSF2-Driven Myeloid Reprogramming Connects Metabolic Stress to Pulmonary Vascular Remodeling in HFpEF</i>
Louisa Dury	<i>Astrocytic contributions to ADHD pathophysiology investigating dysfunction and its impact on neurodevelopment</i>
Brooke Slade	<i>Peritoneal Patency: Preventing Intraperitoneal Catheter Occlusion</i>

14:15 – 15:15 Poster session II including coffee break

Presenters are invited to remain near their posters for discussion while participants are encouraged to explore the session interactively. Coffee will be served.

15:15 – 16:15 Key note lecture by Gustav Nyström

„Biopolymer hydrogels: perspectives for biomedical applications“

16:15 – 17:30 Free time & hotel check-In

Check in into hotel rooms, individual break and activities

18:00 – 19:30 Retreat dinner

Served at the Centre Löwenberg Mensa

19:30 – open end Social evening & community activities

Pub quiz, interactive games, and informal networking

DAY 2

06:45 – 08:30 Breakfast & check-out

Please complete check-out by 08:30

08:45 – 09:45 Scientific session III – oral presentations

Chairpersons: Pascale Enz & Valeria Masciovecchio

Presentation Format: 10 min presentation followed by 5 min discussion

Aurelia Reiser	<i>Interplay of hypoxia and iron homeostasis in pulmonary hypertension</i>
Evanthia Pavlidou	<i>The role of platelet-derived Sphingosine-1-Phosphate (S1P) in thrombosis & vascular aging</i>
Bianca Battilana	<i>In vivo porcine CTEPH Model</i>
Mohamend Halwish	<i>Assessing the clinical relevance of SCL34A1 and SCL34A3 variants in kidney stone disease through biochemical parameters and in vitro functional studies</i>

09:45 – 10:30 Poster session III including coffee break

Poster presenters are invited to remain near their posters to facilitate discussion and scientific exchange. Coffee will be served.

**10:30 – 11:30 Key note lecture by Stefan Bärtschi
„Transitioning to industry: The secret ingredient“**

11:30 – 11:45 Award ceremony

Awards will be presented for:

Best oral presentation

Best poster presentation

11:45 – 12:00 Closing speech

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

At Centre Löwenberg

13:00 – 16:00 Social activity

In and around Murten

Luggage can be left at Centre Löwenberg

16:46 Train back to Zurich HB or individual travel

Poster list

Poster requirements: A0, portrait format

Nr.	Name	Poster title
1	Alexia Malnight-Alvarez	Stereochemical Resolution of Specialized Pro-resolving Mediators using Chiral UHPLC-MS/MS
2	Aline Klaus	Lipid emulsions affect lipid mediator secretion from primary human macrophages in vitro
3	Amina Ben Nejma	Inflammasome-mediated Inflammatory Responses in Human Skin Endothelial Cells
4	Anina Künzli	Direct anti-coagulant effects of icosapent ethyl through suppression of tissuefactor
5	Aurelia Chiara Seeberger	Doxorubicin-Induced Megakaryocyte Extracellular Vesicles mediate a Thrombo-inflammatory Response in Endothelial Cells
6	Elanur Anastasia Cakmak	Modeling cerebrospinal fluid dynamics in murine ventricles imaged with in vivo synchrotron radiation based X-ray microcomputed tomography
7	Fabiana Ziliani	Human Dermal Microvascular Endothelial Cells in Immunoregulation: Insights into Subpopulation Diversity
8	Hannah Auwerx	Unravelling the Critical Role of Wdr72 for Kidney Function
9	Julia Ackva	Gene Therapy for Glanzmann Thrombasthenia targeting the human ITGA2B gene
10	Kathrin von Bassewitz	Investigating weight cycling and weight regain in diet-induced obese rats
11	Lisa Gugler	Methodological benchmarking of human monocyte-derived macrophages in 2D and 3D collagen I culture
12	Lisa Tidecks	Energy metabolism is rewired in methylmalonic aciduria
13	Lukas Otto	Therapeutic Impact of Macrophage Exosomal miRNAs on Insulin Sensitivity and Inflammation
15	Natalia Atzemian	Epigenetic control of renal dysfunction in HFpEF: chromatin remodeling as a driver of cardio-renal maladaptation
16	Nathalie Senn	Optimization of Melanocyte Culture Conditions for Engineered Skin Substitutes
17	Noël Marc Speck	Engineering bioactive cellulose-based hydrogels for advanced chronic woundhealing
18	Pascale Enz	Targeting Epigenetic Readers Rescues Doxorubicin-induced Endothelial Aging
19	Rosie Longster	Effects of oral contraceptives on brain and behaviour
20	Sakshi Yadu	Algorithmic Breeding Planning for the Reduction of Surplus Laboratory Animals
21	Silvia Pickering	Discovery of Novel MRGPRX4 Agonists and Antagonist with Implications for Hepatobiliary Pruritus
22	Vanessa van Ackeren	Leveraging challenging samples in forensics using single cell whole transcriptome sequencing
23	Vanuchija Someswaran	Pre-Vascularized Bladder Wall Substitutes: Promoting Vascular Integration and Regenerative Performance
24	Yu-Jie Lin	Muscle Precursor Cells Microenvironment and Secretome: A Novel Therapeutic Strategy for Prostate Cancer