



on

We support,
gladly also with
your contribution

ORTHOPRAEGENERATION

***“The Foundation
supports young,
dedicated physicians
and scientists”***

Prof. Dr. Matthias Steinwachs

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Welcome to the ON Foundation

Orthoregeneration is a relatively recent field. The potential is huge and highly promising. Imagine this vision: Physicians restore injured or degenerated tissues and joints to their original condition, preserving them permanently. They rebuild intervertebral disks, heal joint arthritis, and regrow disrupted nerves.

This is all possible today to a limited extent. In many cases however, physicians have to remove affected tissue, for example the meniscus, or replace entire joints with prostheses. There are still no solutions for paraplegia and other serious injuries.

We are, however, getting closer to the goal just envisioned, thanks to regenerative medicine in general. And especially thanks to orthoregeneration in the field of the musculoskeletal system. My own clinical practice and research have led me to believe that we will make great progress quite soon in this regard. What we need for the breakthrough are as many young and dedicated physicians and scientists as possible. And, of course, financial resources for training these physicians and scientists in the new techniques as well as for the research.

I'm pleased that we were able to establish the ON Foundation and the Orthoregeneration Network in 2018. Our Foundation is the first organization to focus entirely on orthoregeneration - with the target of developing new regenerative treatment options and significantly improving the quality of life for many people. Our commitment is towards research and targeted support for the coming generation in medicine and science. In doing so, we work closely with leading professional societies, and we develop our own attractive formats for knowledge transfer.

Our activities are having an impact. The network continues to grow, and with every published research result, every single support program, and every new piece of knowledge we get closer to our vision. People will be mobile for longer and costs for society will fall.

In this brochure, I introduce you to the Foundation and our projects. I'd also like to invite you to support us and our endeavors. Each contribution increases the impact of our projects and makes the vision come true faster, for the benefit of countless people around the world. I thank you for your interest and wish you a fascinating read. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or the ON Foundation team directly.

Cordially,

Prof. Dr. Matthias Steinwachs, President



The roots of the Foundation

ON stands for Orthoregeneration Network. The ON Foundation is an independent, internationally active foundation in the field of orthopedic regenerative medicine and was founded in 2018. The Foundation is thus still young and is in a very dynamic phase. It was initiated by the Geistlich family and the Geistlich Pharma company together with a small group of globally recognized orthopedic surgeons (see the Foundation Board). The Geistlich family has been involved in medical research for many years. It supports the development of new products and surgical techniques and works closely with experts from research and clinical practice.

Since the mid-1980s under the leadership of Dr. Peter Geistlich, the company has focused on the field of regenerative medicine. Thanks to innovative products it has developed into the global market leader in regenerative dentistry. Peter Geistlich also had the vision of promoting the development of regenerative medicine in a philanthropic way. His successor, Dr. Andreas Geistlich, continues to follow this concept. In the meantime, three foundations (Osteology Foundation, Osteo Science Foundation and the ON Foundation) have been created from this vision. They operate completely independently of each other, controlled and guided by their respective foundation boards.

Purpose of the Foundation

To improve standards of care in regenerative orthopedics for the benefit of patients; to support research in the field of orthopedic tissue regeneration with the aim of promoting innovation and supporting the development of improved treatment solutions; to support physicians in the context of training, consultation and the provision of tools and aids; to provide a network that promotes the active exchange and collaboration of all affected and interested stakeholders.

The overarching objective is to advance regenerative orthopedics for the benefit of patients.

This includes three sub-objectives:

1

Advancing innovations in the field of orthopedic tissue regeneration to develop improved treatment options, including the use of biological therapies.

2

Improving clinical practice through guidance and the training and education of physicians.

3

Establishing an interdisciplinary network of young professionals, experts, decision makers, institutions and the industry with the intention of further developing orthopedic tissue regeneration. Collaboration is key for us.

Foundation Board

The Foundation Board consists of renowned physicians and scientists from various specialist fields in orthopedics. The aim is to expand the Board in the future to include both additional specialty areas and other world regions in addition to Europe and America.

- Dr. Samuel Adams, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, USA
- Dr. Brian Cole, Rush Hospital Chicago, USA (President 2018-2020)
- Prof. Roland Jakob, Siloah Clinic, Bern, Switzerland (Honorary Member)
- Prof. Norbert Passuti, Nantes University Hospital, Nantes, France
- Prof. Myron Spector, Brigham and Women's Hospital & MIT, Boston, USA (Honorary Member)
- Prof. Matthias Steinwachs, SportClinic Zurich / Hirslanden klinik, Zurich, Switzerland (President 2021-2023)

The Board is completed by Executive Director Kay Horsch and by a representative of the founder (without voting rights): Ralf Halbach assumed this function from Paul Note in July 2021.



Foundation Board at the founding (from left to right): Kay Horsch, Norbert Passuti, Brian Cole, Roland Jakob, Andreas Geistlich, Joseph Lane, Matthias Steinwachs, Paul Note, Myron Spector

Foundation Board leadership

Prof. Dr. Matthias Steinwachs from Zurich has been President of the Foundation since 2021. As an internationally renowned expert in knee surgery, he is strongly committed, as was his predecessor Dr. Brian Cole, to the development and safe application of new regenerative methods for joint preservation. Dr. Steinwachs treats numerous professional athletes in his clinical practice. He is active in research and education and teaches at the ETH Zurich among other institutions.

As the first ON President, Dr. Brian Cole from Chicago led the set up of the foundation. He is a globally renowned specialist in sports medicine, practices surgery at several hospitals and is particularly involved in the training of junior physicians. Dr. Cole is president of the Arthroscopy Association of North America and is also head team physician for the Chicago Bulls (National Basketball League) and the Whitesox (Major League Baseball).

The presidency of the ON Foundation is limited to three years.

Foundation Team

The business of the Foundation is managed full-time by a team on behalf of the Foundation Board. The team has many years of experience in the areas of foundation management, medical research, education and communication. It currently consists of four people:

- Dr. Kay Horsch (Executive Director, Member of the Board)
- Caroline Cinnanti (Specialist Administration & Events)
- Takanobu Oshima (Specialist Science & Education)
- Kerstin Rauch (Communications Manager)

Expert Team

The ON Foundation’s Expert Team brings together younger talent with experienced experts in the field of orthopedic tissue regeneration. Team members are elected by the Foundation Board. They support the objectives of the Foundation at an operational and technical level. Thanks to the team of experts, the Foundation is able to dedicate itself to even more areas in terms of content and geography than the numerically limited Foundation Board can. The Expert Team currently comprises eight experts and is not limited in size:



Prof. Arnold I. Caplan
Case Western Reserve
University, Cleveland, USA



Dr. Rachel M. Frank
University of Colorado School
of Medicine, Aurora, USA



Dr. Laura de Girolamo
Galeazzi Orthopaedic
Institute, Milano, Italy



Prof. James D. Kang
Harvard Medical School,
Boston, USA



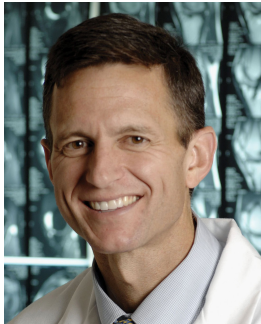
Prof. Ivan Martin
University Hospital Basel,
Basel, Switzerland



PD Dr. Marcus A. Mumme
University Children’s Hospital
Basel, Basel, Switzerland



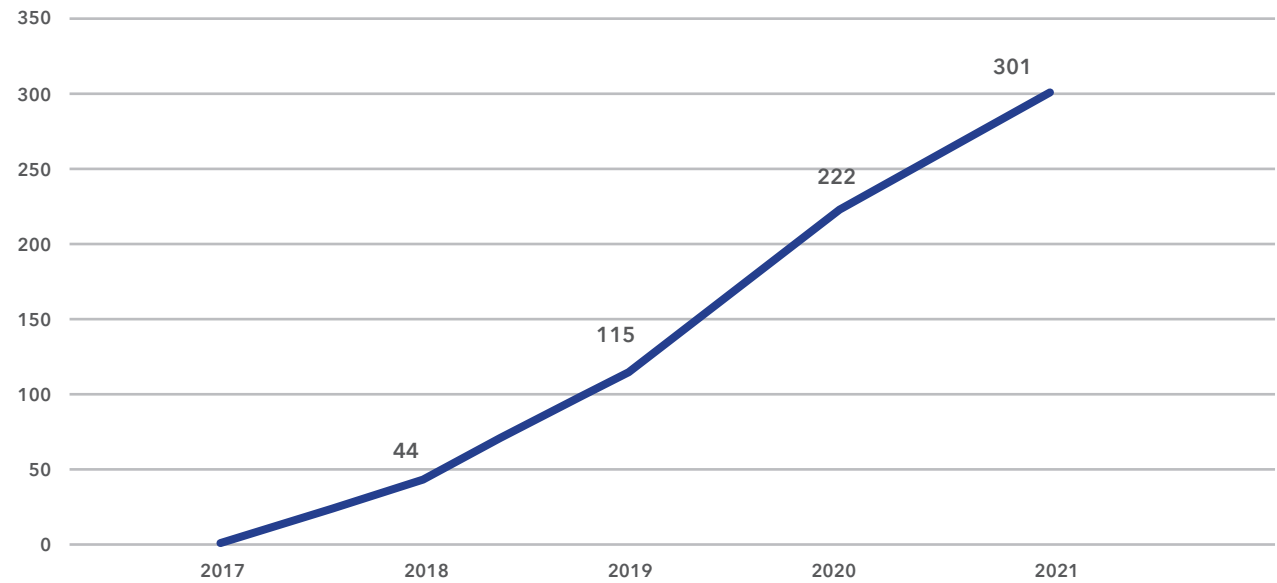
**Dr. Christopher
D. Murawski**
University of Pittsburgh,
Pittsburg, USA



Prof. Scott Rodeo
Hospital of Special surgery,
New York, USA

Alumni

One of the Foundation’s goals is to establish an international network. Within this network, of great importance are the beneficiaries: the ON Alumni. They are in active contact with the foundation, and if possible, are also involved in Foundation projects following the original sponsorship. For example, they support the mission of the ON Foundation as reviewers or authors and, at the same time, are able to develop personally.



Approximately 50% of beneficiaries support the Foundation on a longer-term basis.

Partners

In establishing the network, we rely on partnerships with leading professional societies in sports medicine, spine surgery and orthopedic research (see below partner organizations).

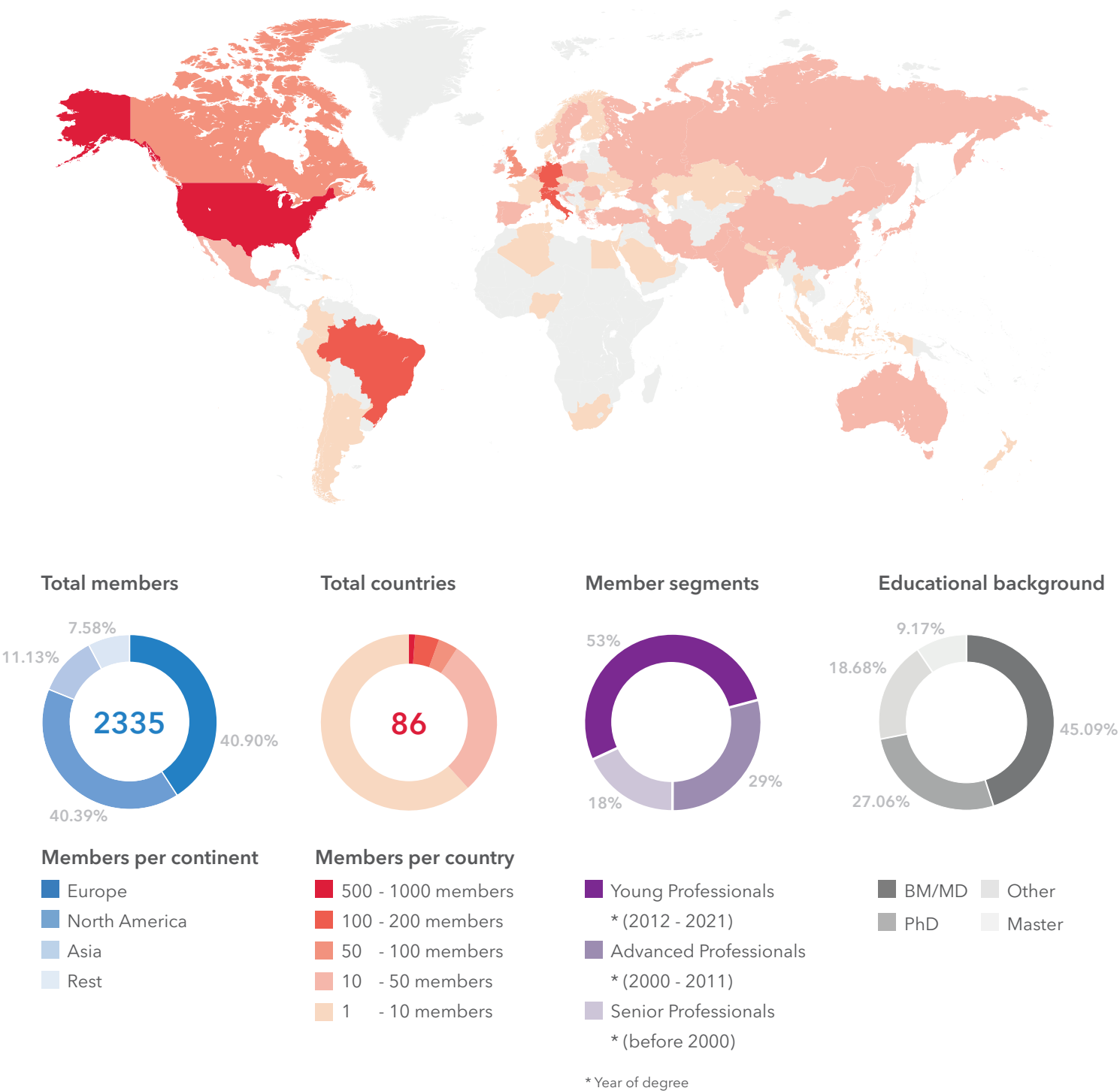
As part of these partnerships, we provide junior physicians and scientists with access to continuing education through Education Grants and Scholarships (see Education Support, page 12). We also provide funding for promising research projects through Research Grants and support publication projects with Literature Grants (see Research Funding, page 16).

We currently put much focus on continuing education. We develop various attractive formats to this effect for conveying clinical and scientific knowledge. It is important to us that all content is available digitally and thus internationally (see Educational Contents and Events, page 22).

Geographically, our focus currently continues to be Europe and North America. However, all funding and continuing education content is available worldwide. With regard to content, a focus is placed on joint preservation and sports medicine. However, we will also pay increased attention to other areas in the future, such as spine surgery.

- Arthroscopy Association of North America (AANA)
- American Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM)
- Biologic Association (BA)
- European Orthopedic Research Society (EORS)
- European Society of Sports Traumatology, Knee Surgery & Arthroscopy (ESSKA)
- Eurospine
- Association for Arthroscopy and Joint Surgery (AGA)
- International Cartilage Regeneration & Joint Preservation Society (ICRS)
- International Combined Orthopedic Research Society (ICORS)
- International Society for Cartilage Repair of the Ankle (ISCRA)
- Orthopedic Research Society (ORS)
- TOBI (The Orthobiologic Institute)

myON members



Educational Support by ON Foundation

The ON Foundation awards various scholarships to junior physicians and scientists. They all provide access to continuing education in the field of regenerative orthopedics. This can be in the context of congresses and courses by professional institutions (Education Grants and Scholarships), or in the context of programs organized by the ON Foundation itself (Research Fellowships and Clinical Fellowships). We distinguish between four types of educational support programs.

“Education Grants provide access to continuing education and create new connections among scientists and physicians”

Dr. Melika Sarem (Grantee), on the right



Education Grants

Education Grants enable young physicians and scientists with limited financial means to attend congresses and courses. The grants amount to CHF 500 in each case and cover registration and travel costs. We invite the grantees to a get-together on location to get to know each other. So far, **more than 200** Education Grants have been awarded. The annual budget is approximately **CHF 25,000**.

Education Scholarships

Education Scholarships enable young physicians with limited financial means to participate in international educational events – for example congresses and courses on other continents. The grants amount to CHF 1,000 each and are for covering registration and travel costs. Here, too, we organize get-to-know meetings on site for the stipendiaries. So far, **59** Education Scholarships have been awarded. The annual budget is approximately **CHF 20,000**.

Research Fellowships

Through organizing Research Fellowships, highly motivated and talented physicians and scientists are able to visit renowned institutions. There they can discuss their own work with leading experts and network internationally. The ON Foundation organizes, pays for and accompanies the trips. Research fellowships take place once yearly. Four fellows participate in each case. So far, three Research Fellowships have been organized, one in Asia, one in the States and one in Europe. The annual budget is currently still **CHF 30,000**. The aim is to offer two Research Fellowships per year in the future with additional support.

Clinical Fellowships

Clinical Fellowships enable talented and highly motivated physicians to directly learn from renowned experts. During a one-week stay, the physicians and experts maintain an intensive, personal exchange at the institution of the respective expert. A focus is placed on methods of regenerative treatment. ON organizes access to the experts and supports the fellows' stay and travel to the amount of **CHF 2,000**. Previous fellowships were awarded for stays in Zurich, Munich, Chicago and Morrisville. The annual budget is currently still **CHF 10,000** and the aim is to significantly expand this valuable program with additional funding.

Selection process

To apply for ON Foundation educational support, applicants register via the myON platform. The application is made via an online form with uploading of personal details, a letter of motivation, a CV and a letter of recommendation.

Our programs support talented and highly motivated young physicians and scientists to advance in the field of orthoregeneration. The age limit is 40 years, and the evaluation of submitted application documents is performed according to clear criteria.

High motivation

The candidate shows very high interest in clinical therapy or research in the field of orthoregeneration and has already contributed to this field through their own work.

Focus and network

The candidate is active in orthoregeneration, either clinically or in research, and has contributed posters or presentations to conferences. Distinctions or experience in various institutions is a plus.

Focus and quality of research

The candidate has published in the field of orthoregeneration, has submitted a manuscript for publication or has added an abstract to their work on orthoregeneration to contribute to the advancement of clinical solutions.

Selection

All applications are screened online by three independent reviewers and scored from 1 (unsatisfactory) to 9 (excellent). Scholarships are awarded to the applicants with the highest overall score. In the case of a tie, an additional reviewer will decide in a run-off.

Decision period

Following the end of the submission period, evaluation as well as acceptance or rejection take place within two to four weeks.

Payment

Education Grants, Scholarships and Clinical Fellowships are paid directly to the beneficiaries. This is carried out after participation in the respective educational event. In individual cases, payment may be made in advance. In the case of Research Fellowships accompanied by a representative of the Foundation, the ON Foundation covers the costs directly, booking all flights, transfers and accommodation. There is no payment to the beneficiaries.

Final report

Education grantees and scholars are required to share the highlights of their continuing education on social media, report to the Foundation, or write up a report for the subject-specific ON Glossary encyclopedia. Research fellows collaboratively write a final report and share their impressions in a presentation. Clinical fellows write up a final report or create a presentation or video.

Currently, the total budget for continuing education grants is still CHF 135,000 per year. The goal is to increase this amount to CHF 500,000 per year via matching grants or additional funding to support even more young physicians and scientists.

Research grants

Regenerative orthopedics is a young field, and many scientific questions remain open. So a great deal of research is still needed to test new ideas and better procedures and develop these to the level of clinical application. We make a contribution to this through our research grants, which flow into the realization of research projects. Indirectly, we also support young physicians and scientists who are dependent on financial resources for their projects and publications. This applies in particular to small and mid-sized projects for which no government support is available (e.g. through the Swiss National Fund for Scientific Research, Horizon 2020, NHS).

We distinguish between four types of research grants.

Literature Grants

With our Literature Grants we aim to close existing gaps in specialist literature and motivate young authors to publish. Publications are valuable additions to CVs. ON makes it possible to publish in prestigious journals. Literature Grants to a total of **CHF 2,500** are used to publish articles that are accessible for free in order to disseminate knowledge as widely as possible.



Kick-Starter Grants

Our Kick-Starter Grants give young scientists the opportunity to explore an idea or an open issue in a small scientific project. This can be a clinical, a preclinical or an in vitro study. The objective is to publish the results in an international journal with free access for all.

To now, the ON Foundation has awarded **25** Kick-Starter Grants. Three of the studies have already been completed and published. The grant total is **CHF 10,000** and each study is expected to be completed within one year. The current annual budget is **CHF 100,000**.

Pilot Grants

Pilot Grants primarily serve to support young scientists and physicians. These are given the opportunity to explore an idea, an open issue or a pilot experiment in a scientific project. This can be a clinical, a preclinical or an in vitro study. The focus is on a potential clinical application and the goal is to publish the results in an international journal with free access for all.

To now, the ON Foundation has awarded **13** Pilot Grants. One study has already been completed and published. The grant consists of **CHF 25,000** and the study is expected to be completed within two years. Currently, the annual budget for Pilot Grants is **CHF 100,000**.

Break-Through Grants

Our Break-Through Grants support research projects that test the suitability and efficacy of an innovative regenerative treatment method or address important open issues. In ideal cases the testing is done on a patient, preclinically if necessary. The study should be completed within three years and the goal is to publish the results in an international journal with free access for all.

The grant consists of **CHF 100,000**. Until now, no Break-Through Grants have been awarded. As soon as the necessary funds are available, one to two research projects will be funded annually.

Selection process

To apply for ON Foundation research funds, applicants register via the myON platform. The application is made via an online form as well as personal details, the following information and explanations are submitted: letter of introduction, study background, research question, hypothesis and project targets, a transcription of the innovation potential and clinical relevance, materials and methods and a description of the research institution and expertise. Also required are a letter of recommendation, a CV and an approval of an ethics committee (for human studies) or animal study approval (for preclinical projects).

The myON platform provides a tool (Research Designer) for those with little experience in writing such applications. This guides applicants step-by-step through the application and provides additional useful information.

Criteria

All applications are screened online by three independent reviewers and scored from 1 (unsatisfactory) to 9 (excellent). Scholarships are awarded to the applicants with the highest overall score. The reviewers are selected based on their expertise and own activity in the respective field. In the case of a tie, an additional reviewer will decide in a run-off. Evaluation of the applications is based on clear criteria.

Innovation potential

Does the project test an innovative approach or address an important open issue that fosters promising treatment?

Clinical relevance

Is there a clinical need for the planned application? Is there a possibility of clinically applying the tested regenerative procedure in the foreseeable future?

Sound hypothesis

Is the project unique and the hypothesis clear?

Research plan

Is the research protocol suitable for investigating the hypothesis?

Facilities and qualifications

Is the research group capable of successfully completing the research project?

Processing period

Following the end of the submission period, evaluation as well as acceptance or rejection take place within four to six weeks. Authors of rejected applications receive individual feedback with suggestions for improvement.

Break-Through Grants are awarded as part of a two-step process. Applicants first submit a short proposal which is evaluated within two to four weeks. The authors of the best three proposals are invited to submit a detailed main proposal within six weeks. Based on this, three reviewers make the final decision within two to four weeks. The two-step process is intended to reduce the workload for both applicants and reviewers.

Payment

Kick-Starter and Pilot Grants are disbursed in two installments: 90 percent of the amount is paid upon submission of the required institutional approvals, with the remaining 10 percent paid at the end of the project upon submission of the final report or a copy of the journal manuscript submitted.

Break-Through Grants are disbursed in three installments: 70 percent of total funding upon submission of the required animal study permit or approval of an ethics committee for human probands. A further 20 percent follows upon submission of the annual progress report. The final 10 percent of total funding is paid upon submitting the final report or accepted publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

With Literature Grants, payment is disbursed once the manuscript has been submitted to the ON Foundation and accepted by the journal.

The funds of Research Grants are not tied to the applicant but to the project. This means the payments go to the institute where the research is conducted. The ON Foundation places importance on deducting no more than 20 percent of the total amount for administrative costs.

Final report

For us it is important that the results of the funded research projects are published. Successful publication in a scientific journal is thus simultaneously the final report. In individual cases, several publications may result from a funded project. Authors are obliged to note funding by ON in the articles.

More than 30 research grants have already been awarded with a total value of CHF 575,000. As soon as we have the appropriate funds, the number of grants will be increased and additional larger amounts as so-called break-through grants will be awarded for clinical studies. The goal is to invest CHF 500,000 annually in research in the long term.

The ON Research Award

To effectively advance orthoregeneration, many high quality research projects are needed. For this reason, and to further motivate researchers, the ON Foundation awards the ON Orthoregeneration Award for outstanding and already realized projects. They promote commitment in this important field of research and publication of the results of the research work.

The ON Orthoregeneration Award is presented at selected symposiums to leading investigators of successful, forward-looking scientific projects. The nomination is made by the researchers themselves or by colleagues who submit a one-page brief description of the project or a scientific poster.

The winners are nominated by a jury made up of several experts – either on the basis of the submitted documentation (short description, poster) or as part of a competition with presentations by the nominees.

If possible, the award ceremony takes place in front of an audience as part of a congress. Afterwards, the Foundation and the participating professional association honor the winners via their respective communication channels, e.g. newsletters, blogs, and social media.



To date, the ON Orthoregeneration Award has been awarded sixteen times. The award is endowed with CHF 1,000 and includes an attractive trophy. The annual budget currently consists of CHF 5'000. As soon as we have the appropriate funds, ten awards will be made annually in various specialist fields of regenerative orthopedics.

ON Glossary

The ON Glossary is a reference work containing short explanations of specialist terms and abbreviations. Each entry is supported by references and a bibliography. The target audience is primarily junior physicians and scientists. The ON Glossary answers fundamental questions, explains new terms and aids entry into the field of orthoregeneration. The explanations are written by alumni and volunteers from the ON network. An editor, currently Professor Myron Spector (Harvard, MIT), ensures the quality and originality of the entries. All contributions are freely accessible online on the myON platform.

The ON Glossary is still in its early stages, but is being supplemented and updated on an ongoing basis. Due to the online format, the costs and amounts needed from the network are relatively low. With annual support of CHF 10,000, the full potential of the platform could be realized.



Keynotes and scientific presentations

Presentations and lectures continue to be an important form of knowledge transfer. ON contributes to the scientific program of partner associations and societies with selected keynote presentations or sessions with several speakers. In terms of content a focus is placed on themes relevant to orthoregeneration.

ON provides compensation for the speakers and records the presentations. These are accessible to a larger international audience, free of charge, via the myON platform. The speakers are selected according to their expertise in the respective field of clinical therapy or research.

The aim of the project is to share knowledge about orthoregeneration and related topics with the audience and, in terms of content, to support the institutions. The target audience is both young and experienced physicians and scientists interested in orthoregeneration and important peripheral areas.

Each year, the Foundation supports three keynotes and four sessions, each with four to six lectures. We invest between CHF 10,000 and CHF 20,000 each year for this purpose. In the future, the presentations will increasingly take place via online channels.



Professor Bill Taylor, ON/ORS Keynote Speaker 2021



ONcases document cases that have been treated according to best clinical practice. They describe the procedure for deciding on a regenerative procedure and its clinical application. ONcases follow a standardized layout. They mainly contain video content, in this way providing clear guidance for own practice.

The selection of cases and quality assurance are performed by an ON Foundation panel of experts. The ONcases are produced together with international specialists in their clinics. Consent by the patients is of course a prerequisite. Several cases are already available online and new ones are regularly added.



ONcase Night is a very special continuing education format. In the style of a TV show, it communicates specialist knowledge in an entertaining way. Experts explain selected treatment methods based on clinical cases. Surgical techniques, biological principles, diagnosis and follow-up treatment are focused on. In addition to physicians and experts, patients also provide input.

The aim of ONcase Night is to support an understanding of the scientific basis of various therapeutic concepts, to help physicians make better decisions and to improve the quality of treatment.

The sessions are recorded in professional studios. The initial broadcasts are made as part of virtual events and are then available free of charge on the myON platform.

The production costs per episode range from CHF 12,000 to CHF 15,000 depending on travel expenditure. International experts are brought together online to minimize costs. The current annual budget is CHF 50,000. We would like to produce more ONcase Nights with additional support. The target is to broadcast one episode a month.



ONstage is a unique event format in the medical field. The format offers renowned physicians and scientists a stage for high quality short presentations in the style of the famous TED Talks. The content is all related to regeneration but looks at the topic from highly different angles. The speakers are selected based on their rhetorical qualities and the specific topics.

ONstage is both highly interesting and entertaining. It is intended to inspire, to impart knowledge and generate ideas. The event also offers a good platform for exchange among experts and for expanding the network in an interdisciplinary way. The presentations are recorded and can be accessed worldwide for free on the myON platform.

ONstage events take place every one to two years with ten to twenty speakers each time. The costs amount to approximately CHF 65,000 per event. In the mid-term, expenses are intended to be covered by admission fees. Responsibility for the program lies in each case with a foundation board which then also acts as the host. Additional financial support would enable us to expand the concept further and provide a stage for even more first-class speakers.



Consensus meetings are an important way of reviewing the literature on specific topics in order to derive guidelines and recommendations. These are usually made available to an interested audience. Unfortunately, the relevant professional publications are frequently not available to all physicians and only a portion of these takes the time to read them. To reduce this hurdle, ON produces attractive short videos in which physicians receive evidence-based recommendations for daily decision-making and clinical practice.

A series on the subject of regeneration in the ankle has already been completed. It provides a synopsis of a publication from the journal Foot & Ankle International in 21 short videos. Two series on the treatment of knee injuries will be published during 2022. The costs amount to CHF 5,000 to CHF 10,000 for each series. In the future, our goal is to summarize in video format all consensus statements published in this field.



One format that is particularly interesting for junior clinicians and physicians is learning content for in between or while “on the go”. Ten to twenty-minute audio and video podcasts created by the ON Foundation provide knowledge about orthoregeneration in an attractive format that is also conveniently scalable. Experts discuss regenerative treatment methods, new publications and trends.

These audio and video podcasts are broadcast live via social media (Facebook, YouTube and LinkedIn). There is an opportunity to interact with the audience. After broadcast, the podcasts are available on myON as well as on streaming platforms such as Spotify and Soundcloud. The target group is junior physicians who wish to further their education in an impactful and entertaining way.

No fees are paid. Due to the online format, production is also very cost-effective. The cost for maintaining the platforms is less than CHF 5,000 per year.

This is how you can support orthoregeneration as well

Would you like to support young clinicians or researchers, facilitate research projects or promote a specific continuing education project? Or are you particularly interested in a specialist area (e.g. spine, osteoarthritis etc.)?

Contact us!

Together we'll find the way that best suits your needs.

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Charitable donations to the ON Foundation can be deducted from tax according to Art. 33a DBG (Swiss Federal Tax Law).

Interview with Dr. Kay Horsch, Executive Director

A highly innovative approach to musculoskeletal medicine is orthoregeneration. This is promoted by the ON Foundation, established in 2018 specifically for this purpose in Lucerne. Executive Director Dr. Kay Horsch answers the most important questions.

Originally a basic researcher in the fields of cancer and osteoporosis, Dr. Kay Horsch now devotes himself to regenerative medicine and management of the Foundation. Dr. Horsch studied in Mannheim and received his doctorate from the University of Basel. In basic research he initially worked at the Friedrich Miescher Institute in Basel, then at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa. Following several years in clinical research for Geistlich Pharma AG in Switzerland, he advanced oral regeneration for more than ten years as Executive Director of the Osteology Foundation. He has been rapidly expanding the ON Foundation with a small, highly motivated team since 2017.

What is regenerative medicine?

The concept is to stimulate the body's own repair mechanisms to restore damaged tissues and organs. Formerly irreparable tissues and organs should thus heal in this way.

Do you have an example?

Instead of replacing a joint with a prosthesis, injured articular cartilage is guided to rebuild itself through the body's own repair mechanisms.

What are the milestones in the history of the Foundation?

Firstly, highly respected luminaries and pioneers were enthusiastic about us from the very beginning, and some are still on the Foundation Board today. And secondly, our network already includes over 2,500 experts from medicine and research. They all want to advance regenerative orthopedics, identify new solutions and improve quality of life.

In which areas of orthopedics does the Foundation involve itself?

We're strongly committed to research. Our research grants support small and mid-sized pilot projects that test innovative therapeutic approaches. We also impart knowledge in the field of orthoregeneration, and with this in mind we organize speakers for continuing education and produce our own formats that are very attractive, with all being accessible online.

What is your cooperation strategy with other foundations and with patrons?

In our dynamic field, the number of open issues, important studies and content exceeds our own resources. This is an opportunity for patrons and foundations. They can get involved in a very targeted way regarding a specific issue, study or continuing education.



“Patrons and foundations can get in touch with us in a very involved way”

In what way does the Foundation help society?

Thanks to the ON Foundation, there will be progress along with scientific and medical breakthroughs. That's the aim. The more that can be healed or at least alleviated in a regenerative way, the better. And the more strongly we support this field, the faster patients will benefit and costs in the healthcare sector saved through innovative treatment methods.

Why should patrons and foundations network with the ON Foundation?

Patrons and foundations have the resources needed to drive innovation in medicine. We have the necessary network of experts and a solid basis. Together, we can get things going even more and advance orthoregeneration even more rapidly. Of course, it's not possible without a network of experts, but neither without sufficient funding.

What does your work mean to you?

Early on, I had to replace a hip joint with a prosthesis that has a limited lifespan. This made me aware of how important it is to preserve our own joints and regenerate tissue. Thanks to the work in the ON Foundation, I can play my part in developing better solutions together with a great deal of very interesting people. At the same time, I'm stimulated by the necessary research, which has always interested me as a basic researcher. Yes, this work means a lot.



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