

## **LS<sup>2</sup> General Assembly 2024**

21 January 2024  
Online meeting  
13:30 – 15:00

Welcome words from Mario Tschan.

# 1. First impressions: LS2 AM 2024, Lausanne, Emi Nagoshi

## My highlights:



**Hugues Abriel** · 1st  
Vice-Rector (VP) for Research and Innovation, Professor of Molec...  
3d · Edited · 🌐

Yesterday was a gratifying day as I co-chaired a 'One Health' symposium with Prof. [Salome Dürr](#) from the [University of Bern](#) at the annual meeting of the [Life Sciences Switzerland \(LS2\)](#): "The Contribution of One Health for Life Sciences: Fostering from Collaboration between Switzerland and the Global South."

- From mammalian oocytes – Evolution gametogenesis in choanoflagellates and morphogenesis – light and animal behavior,.....**GREAT Keynotes!**
- YSS workshop by hfp consulting, interactive workshop on how to best communicate your various skills



**LS<sup>2</sup>**   
Life Sciences Switzerland

**Mario Tschan:** I would like to start with the highlights of the LS2 Annual Meeting 2024. For me, one of them was the special symposium organized by Hugues Abriel and Salome Dürr – “The Contribution of One Health for Life Sciences: Fostering from Collaboration between Switzerland and the Global South”. It was very interesting to hear those international speakers.

I was also impressed by the Annual Meeting keynote speakers; the talks were not within my field, but I learned a lot. And their talks were very well conducted. The program was very interesting.

Another highlight was the Young Scientists’ Satellite (YSS) with the workshop sponsored by hfp consulting, it was very interactive, and we practised how to communicate skills in the storytelling method.

## 2. Agenda 2024 - approval

### Agenda

1. Welcome from LS<sup>2</sup> President.
2. Agenda approval - **to vote.**
3. Approval of minutes of General Assembly 2023 - **to vote.**
4. Financial report 2023 - **to vote.**
5. Financial prognosis 2024
6. Honorary Memberships 2024 - **to vote.**
7. Elections of LS<sup>2</sup> board members - **to vote.**

New (inter)section board members: MCB: **Torsten Ochsenreiter** (University of Bern) / Proteomics: **Roland Bruderer** (Biognosys) / Cardiovascular Bio.: **Gabriela Kania** (University of Zurich) & **Lucio Barile** (Università Svizzera italiana) / Systems Biology: **Charisos Tsiaris** (FMI) & **Thomas Michaels** (ETH Zurich)

Function changes in boards: Cardiovascular Bio.: **Marie-Luce Piallat** (new president) (University of Geneva) & **Sarah Longnus** (new vice-president) (University of Bern – Inselspital) / Systems Biology: **Benjamin Towbin** (new president) (University of Bern) / ICMT: **Katja Odening** (new president) (University of Bern)

8. LS<sup>2</sup> in numbers – 2023 Report.
9. LS<sup>2</sup> Annual Meeting 2025.
10. New working group – Artificial Intelligence.
11. Projects and events to come.
12. Varia.
13. Questions and Requests.

**Mario Tschan, president of LS<sup>2</sup> will conduct the General Assembly**

**LS<sup>2</sup> scientific officers (Adela Calvente & Neringa Mannerheim) will write the minutes**

**Please vote!**

**Mario Tschan:** We have to vote on today's agenda.

Please vote on the zoom online system.

**In Favour - 27, Abstentions – 0, Against - 0. → Unanimously approved.**

### 3. Approval of minutes of 2023 General Assembly

Minutes of the Agenda of 2023 were sent by e-mail to all members

#### LS<sup>2</sup> General Assembly 2023

19 January 2023  
Online meeting  
13:00 - 14:30

#### Agenda 2023

1. Welcome and agenda approval - **to vote**
2. Approval of minutes of 2022 General Assembly - **to vote**
3. Financial report 2022 - **to vote**
4. Financial prognosis 2023 - **to vote**
5. New LS<sup>2</sup> Presidency and Vice-Presidency - **to vote**  
Mario Tschan (UNIBE - LS<sup>2</sup> President)  
Status on LS<sup>2</sup> Vice-Presidency (Resume of a candidate Simon Sprecher is attached with an invitation)
6. Elections of LS<sup>2</sup> board members - **to vote**  
**New (inter)section board members (starts from 2023):**  
Biophysics - Stefanie Jonas (ETHZ, Board Member)  
MCB - Miriam Stober (UNIGE, Board Member)  
Microscopy - Davide Gambarotto (EPFL, Board Member)  
Autophagy - Vassiliki Nikolettou (UNIL, Vice-President)  
**Function changes in boards (starts from 2023):**  
Proteomics - Michal Bassani-Sternberg (UNIL, President)  
Proteomics - Alexander Schmidt (Biozentrum, Vice-President)  
Autophagy - Julien Pierre Puyal (UNIL, President)  
Cardiovascular Biology - Elena Osto (University Hospital Zurich, President)  
Cardiovascular Biology - Marie-Luce Bochaton-Piallat (UNIGE, Vice-President)  
Biophysics - Beat Fierz (EPFL, President)  
Biophysics - Aleksandra Radenovic (EPFL, Vice-President)  
Physiology - (starts in July 2024) David Hoogewijs (UNIFR, Vice-President)
7. LS<sup>2</sup> in numbers.
8. Projects and events in 2023
9. Varia

**Please  
vote!**

**Mario Tschan:** We also have to vote on the minutes of the past GA.

Please vote.

**In Favour - 26, Abstentions – 1, Against - 0. → Approved.**

# 4. Financial Report 2023

Balance 2023

Balance LS <sup>2</sup> 2023 -		12/31/2023	
<b>Income 2023</b>		<b>Expenses 2023</b>	
Mitgliedsbeiträge	Fr. 95,720.00		
Erfolb Section Meetings			
Proteomics	Fr. 41,339.41	Proteomics	Fr. 21,808.35
Cardiovascular	Fr. 15,775.17	Cardiovascular	Fr. 9,221.94
Physiology	Fr. 2,025.00	Physiology	Fr. 880.00
Neurogen & Autophagy	Fr. 2,000.00	Apoptosis & Autophagy	Fr. 1,685.16
Planting	Fr. 22,852.91	Planting	Fr. 15,498.28
Theory across Biology	Fr. 2,000.00	Theory across Biology	Fr. -
Synbio	Fr. 1,119.25	Synbio	Fr. -
DNA Topology	Fr. 823.35	DNA Topology	Fr. 92.94
Webinar series	Fr. -	Webinar series	Fr. -
ERIS AM 2023	Fr. 132,492.65	Expenses AM 2023	Fr. 60,717.43
ICMT section*	Fr. 2,100.00	ICMT section	Fr. 5,457.12
		Personalaufwand	
		Löhne	Fr. 182,725.38
		Digmar Grafiker	Fr. 6,000.00
		Arzt	Fr. 21,734.80
		Website	Fr. 10,000.00
		Michael Vögeli	Fr. 5,572.84
		Stewers	Fr. 850.00
		Tischband	Fr. 7,323.85
		Jahresbeitrag SCNAT FEBS, FEPS, EBSA	Fr. 3,400.00
		Disease Sponsorship**	Fr. 1,957.34
		Verwaltungsaufwand	Fr. 891.47
		Bausparen	Fr. 2,792.56
		Bankaufwand	Fr. 1,333.38
		Strom-charges (online payment)	Fr. -
Verlustvortrag	Fr. 231.48		
<b>Total netto</b>	<b>Fr. 356,977.66</b>	<b>Total netto</b>	<b>Fr. 343,451.52</b>
		<b>Gewinn 2023</b>	<b>13,526.14 CHF</b>

**Resolution 2023**  
 The General Assembly (GA) of the Swiss Society for Cell Biology (SSCB) has approved the following resolutions:

- 1. To approve the financial report of the SSCB for the year 2023.
- 2. To approve the annual meeting report of the SSCB for the year 2023.
- 3. To approve the election of the board of directors for the year 2024.
- 4. To approve the election of the executive committee for the year 2024.
- 5. To approve the election of the members of the board of directors for the year 2024.

Approved on 12/31/2023  
 By the General Assembly of the Swiss Society for Cell Biology

**Please vote!**

**Mario Tschan:** Here it is the report of the budget of 2023. The main income comes from the memberships. Then the annual meeting is also an important source of income. Regarding the expenses: the salaries of our staff is the main cost, but it is certainly very necessary, as they run all the administration, and we all benefit from it. I will not go into details, I let you some minutes to look at the numbers. Any questions?

- No questions -

Please vote: **In Favour - 23, Abstentions – 3, Against - 0. → Approved.**

## 5. Financial prognosis 2024

Income 2024		Expenses 2024		
Mitgliederbeiträge	Fr. 96,000.00			
<b>Erlöse Section Meetings</b>		<b>Aufwand Section Meetings</b>		<b>Sum section Meetings</b>
Proteomics	Fr. 33,000.00	Proteomics	Fr. 23,000.00	Fr. 10,000.00
Cardiovascular	Fr. 26,000.00	Cardiovascular	Fr. 24,000.00	Fr. 2,000.00
Physiology	Fr. 2,500.00	Physiology	Fr. 500.00	Fr. 2,000.00
Autophagy workshop	Fr. 1,000.00	Autophagy workshop	Fr. 300.00	Fr. 700.00
Theory across Biology	Fr. 1,000.00	Theory across Biology	Fr. -	Fr. 1,000.00
CMT-Biophysics	Fr. 5,000.00	CMT-Biophysics	Fr. 4,000.00	Fr. 1,000.00
<b>Erlöse AM 2024</b>	Fr. 125,000.00	<b>Expenses AM 2024</b>	Fr. 65,000.00	<b>Sum AM</b>
				Fr. 60,000.00
				<b>Sum all meetings</b>
				Fr. 76,700.00
<b>CMT section*</b>	Fr. 6,742.88	<b>CMT section</b>	Fr. 9,642.88	
<b>Finanzbeitrag</b>		<b>Personalaufwand</b>		
		Löhne	Fr. 161,000.00	
		Dagmar Grafiker	Fr. 6,000.00	
		ANV	Fr. 22,314.10	
		Website	Fr. -	
		Michael Niggli	Fr. 6,000.00	
		Anwalt	Fr. -	
		Steuern	Fr. -	
		Tischband	Fr. 1,000.00	
		Jahresbeiträge SCNAT, FEBS, FEPS, EBSA	Fr. 7,923.85	
		Direkte Sponsoring	Fr. 2,000.00	
		Vereinsbeiträge/Festg**	Fr. 8,000.00	
		Bülerspenden	Fr. 600.00	
		Wertschöpfungsverlust/Gewinn ??	Fr. -	
		Bankaufwand	Fr. 2,800.00	
		Stripe charges (online payment)	Fr. 1,900.00	
<b>Total netto</b>	Fr. 296,242.88	<b>Total netto</b>	Fr. 345,980.83	
*CMT: The total income would be 9642.88, but 2900 CHF are included as memberships.				
<b>Balance 2024</b>	Fr.	<b>-49,737.95</b>		

Please vote!

**Mario Tschan:** The prognosis for next year doesn't look very good, we have a prognosis of -49.000. This tells us that we really need to advertise LS2 and start an important campaign of fundraising (now we have a tax exception). I let you look at the numbers. Any questions?

- No questions –

Please vote. **In Favour - 22, Abstentions – 5, Against - 1.**

**Mario Tschan:** someone voted against. Is there any question? If not, then we can say **the prognosis is also approved with 22 votes in favour from a total of 28**

**Joern Dengjel:** How the minus will be covered?

**Mario Tschan:** We might need to sell some of our securities. But in 2023 we got lucky to get a profit from these investments. Maybe Adela has more information.

**Adela Calvente:** If we finally end up in minus, this will be covered as Mario commented.

**Marcus Thelen:** How did expenses change from 2023 to 2024? Do we have any extra project?

**Adela Calvente:** No, the projects we have are the usual ones. And the expenses stay

almost the same. Most of the meetings in 2024 are the same as in 2023 (annual), but for example, biannual meetings in 2023 were more profitable. Income mainly drops from lower sponsoring of LS2 Annual Meeting 24.

## 6. Honorary Membership 2024



**Prof. Ernst Niggli** (University of Bern). Nominated by the LS<sup>2</sup> section Physiology



**Prof. François Verrey** (University of Zurich). Nominated by the LS<sup>2</sup> section Ion Channels & Membrane Transporters

Both candidatures were evaluated and approved by the Executive Committee on 29 November 2023

**Mario Tschan:** Honorary Memberships were awarded at the Annual Meeting 2024 in Lausanne. But I have to apologise that these awards were given at the end of the Annual Meeting. Both, Prof. Ernst Niggli and Prof. François Verrey contributed a lot to the society. Also sorry we have to vote after the Annual Meeting, but we usually have a General Assembly during the Annual Meeting. This year is an exception.



## 6. Honorary Membership 2024



**Prof. Ernst Niggli** (University of Bern).

Nominated by the LS<sup>2</sup> section Physiology

- **Research field:** scientific contributions to the field of cardiac physiology by developing novel biophysical and photochemical approaches to characterize the elementary calcium signals that control cardiac contraction.
- **Contribution to LS<sup>2</sup>:** As president of the Swiss physiological society that integrate LS<sup>2</sup>, Ernst made an outstanding contribution to the growth our community by his exceptional sponsoring efforts. He personally secured substantial funding from a private sponsor to create the "Stiftung für Physiologie" (former Oetliker Foundation), a foundation that he now presides, whose sponsors the Young Investigator Award at the LS<sup>2</sup> Physiology Meeting

**Please vote!**

**Mario Tschan:** Please vote: Prof. Niggli - In Favour - 28, Abstentions – 1, Against - 0.  
→ Approved.

## 6. Honorary Membership 2024



**Prof. François Verrey** (University of Zurich).

Nominated by the LS<sup>2</sup> section Ion Channels & Membrane Transporters

- **Research field:** renal ion and amino acid transport. One of Prof. Verrey's most notable accomplishments was his instrumental role as the director of the National Center of Competence in Research Kidney.CH (NCCR Kidney.CH). As the principal investigator, he steered the centre's strategic direction and made invaluable contributions to its success.
- Prof. Verrey's commitment to mentorship and academic advancement is as impressive as his research contributions. His role as the Coordinator of the Translational Nephrology course further exemplifies his dedication to teaching and mentorship
- **Contribution to LS<sup>2</sup>:** He facilitated the transition and fusion of the Swiss Society of Physiology into **LS<sup>2</sup> section Physiology**.

**Please vote!**

**Mario Tschan:** Please vote: Prof. Verrey – In Favor - 27, Abstentions – 1, Against - 0.  
→ Approved.

## 7. Election of LS<sup>2</sup> board members

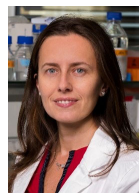
Board members finishing their terms:



**Attila Becskei**  
UNIBAS



**Oliver Rinner**  
Biognosis AG



**Elena Osto**  
University Hospital  
Zurich



**Lydie Lane**  
UNIGE  
(she is still board  
member in proteomics)

**Thank you for your contribution!**

**Mario Tschan:** A big thank you to board members who are finishing their term this year.

## 7. Elections of LS<sup>2</sup> board members

New functions in boards :



President



Benjamin Towbin  
UNIBE



President



Katja Odening  
UNIBE



President



Mari-Luce  
Bochaton-Piallat  
UNIGE



Vice - President



Sarah Longus  
UNIBE

Please vote for the new presidents!

**Mario Tschan:** These are new functions in the LS2 boards of different (inter)sections. We will vote for all together.

Please vote – In Favour - 27, Abstentions – 2, Against - 0. → approved.

## 7. Elections of LS<sup>2</sup> board members

New (inter)section board members (starting from Feb. 2024):



**Torsten  
Ochsenreiter**  
UNIBE



**Roland  
Bruderer**  
Biognosys AG



**Thomas  
Michaels**  
ETH



**Charisios  
Tsiairis**  
FMI Basel



**Gabriela  
Kania**  
UZH



**Lucio  
Barile**  
EOC

Last minute notification of two new board members.  
To vote out of the agenda:

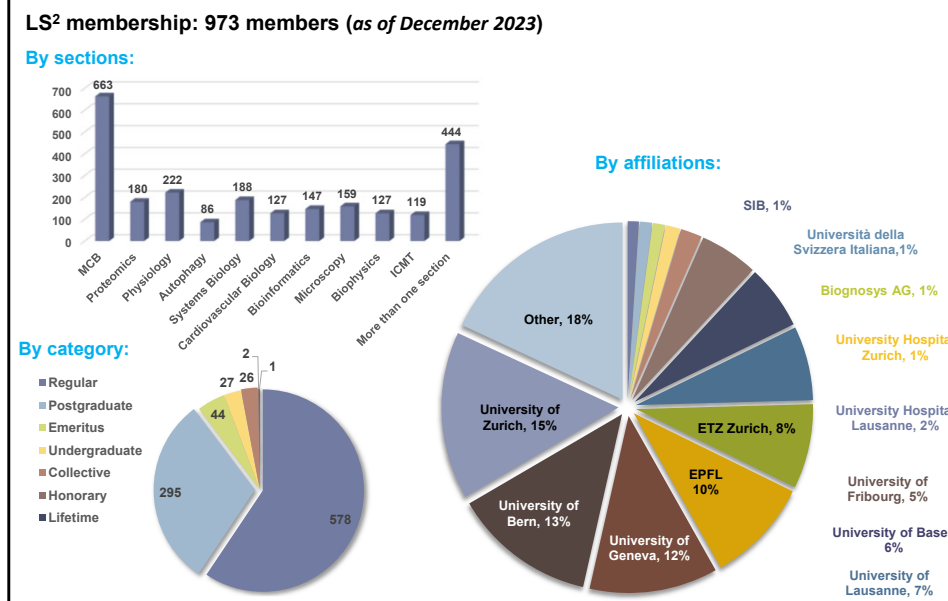
- **Zsolt Balazs** (University of Zurich)
- **Paulina Pacak** (ETH Zurich)



**Please vote!**

**Mario Tschan:** Please vote – In Favour - 25, Abstentions – 2, Against - 0. → approved.

## 8. LS<sup>2</sup> in numbers: membership



**Mario Tschan:** We have a stable number of members, but because of the budget it would be good to increase. Most of the members are included in the category “regular”, followed by “Postgraduates”.

Based on affiliations we can see where we could focus on recruiting new members. Most of our members are in Zurich, Geneva and Bern. Then it comes Lausanne as 4<sup>th</sup> city. Therefore, we should make extra efforts in Fribourg and Basel.

## 8. LS<sup>2</sup> in numbers: 2023 activities

### LS<sup>2</sup> Report of Activities 2023

- ✓ 9 scientific conferences organized by LS<sup>2</sup> (inter)sections
- ✓ **Annual Meeting** and **Young Scientists' Satellite** in Zurich
- ✓ 4 seminars, workshops or webinar series
- ✓ 5 events to promote young scientists organised or sponsored by LS<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ 2 National prizes: Friedrich Miescher Award and Lelio Orzi Award
- ✓ 43 prizes distributed or sponsored by LS<sup>2</sup> (40 for young scientists):  
**more than 13.000 CHF distributed in prizes.**
- ✓ 13 travel grants for PhD students
- ✓ 7 representation at international meetings or at assemblies of international partners
- ✓ 66 volunteers working in the boards of sections and intersections

The full report can be seen [HERE](#).

**Mario Tschan:** We organized many events and had many prizes in the past year. I believe we did a very good job.

## 9. LS<sup>2</sup> Annual meetings 2025

**12 & 13 February 2025**  
**11 February 2025 Young Scientists' Satellite**  
**University of Fribourg, Campus Perolles**

Chairs: **Prof. Jörn Dengjel** & **Prof. Simon Sprecher** from the University of Fribourg



**We look for chairs for  
YSS and PIOT session!**

Confirmed speakers:

- ✓ **Prof. Bernhard Kuster** (Technical University of Munich. DE)
- ✓ **Prof. Irene Miguel-Aliaga** (Francis Crick Institute. UK)
- ✓ **Prof. Sascha Martens** (University of Vienna. Vienna BioCenter. AT)

**Mario Tschan:** Next Annual Meeting is in Fribourg. With Prof. Simon Sprecher and Prof. Joern Dengjel. We look forward to welcoming you to Fribourg in 2025. We are looking for YSS and PIOT chairs. Please contact us if you are interested or give the information if you know someone that can be interested. It's a great experience.

**Torsten Ochsenreiter:** What is the topic for AM25?

**Joern Dengjel:** The Complexity of Life: From Molecular Assemblies to Networks



## 10. New working group: AI

### **Background and Objective:**

At the 16<sup>th</sup> LS<sup>2</sup> Executive Committee Meeting (Bern, 29.11.2024), the committee members agreed to create a working group with the objective of:

- Compilation of information, guidelines, and tools that other institutions offer on the use of AI in life sciences (i.e. how to use AI for grants writing, ethical implications; use of AI in research; data management).
- Publishing a guide that unifies criteria and all those links on the LS<sup>2</sup> website.

### **Workload:**

- 3-4 meetings (including the welcome meeting) throughout the year. The total number of hours would depend on tasks and final number of members, but we consider no more than 20 hours of work/ committee member in the whole year.
- 1<sup>st</sup> report is expected by November 2024.

**Mario Tschan:** At the Executive Committee Meeting we decided to create a working group on AI. We are looking for members to join this group, the working load is expected to be 3-4 meetings/year. Please let us know if you are interested.

## 11. Projects and events in 2024

**LS<sup>2</sup>**  
Life Sciences Switzerland  
1996-2019

**33<sup>rd</sup> Cytomeet**  
16 January. Bern

**Cardiovascular Biology Meeting**  
16-17 January. Bern

**Worldwide Sodium Channel Conference**  
31 Jan. – 2 Feb. Grindelwald

**LS<sup>2</sup> Annual Meeting & YSS**  
13 – 15 February. Lausanne

**Theory Across Biology**  
14 June. Bern

**Swiss Drosophila Meeting**  
20 June. Lausanne

**Swiss Proteomics Meeting**  
20 – 21 June. Yverdon-les-Bains

**12<sup>th</sup> Cell Migration Retreat**  
End of Summer

**Swiss Physiology Meeting**  
3 September. Fribourg

**Autophagy Workshop**  
12 – 13 September. Lausanne

**Microscopy Core Facility Day**  
Early autumn

**Biophysics and ICMT joint meeting**  
20 November. Lausanne

[www.ls2.ch](http://www.ls2.ch) - [info@ls2.ch](mailto:info@ls2.ch)

**Mario Tschan:** Exciting meetings coming up. Please help advertise.

## 12. Varia





**Mario Tschan:** Anything left to discuss? Any questions? Ideas? You will receive minutes and slides of this meeting. Please contact us any time at [info@ls2.ch](mailto:info@ls2.ch). Thank you all for joining!