



LS² 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



LS² 
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 LS² 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 LS² 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. LS² in numbers – 2023 Report.
9. LS² 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 LS² will conduct the General Assembly

LS² 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

LS² 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 LS² Presidency and Vice-Presidency - **to vote**
Mario Tschan (UNIBE - LS² President)
Status on LS² Vice-Presidency (Resume of a candidate Simon Sprecher is attached with an invitation)
6. Elections of LS² 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. LS² 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.

5. Financial prognosis 2024

Income 2024		Expenses 2024		
Mitgliederbeiträge	Fr. 96,000.00			
Erlöse Section Meetings		Aufwand Section Meetings		Sum section Meetings
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
Erlöse AM 2024	Fr. 125,000.00	Expenses AM 2024	Fr. 65,000.00	Sum AM
				Fr. 60,000.00
				Sum all meetings
				Fr. 76,700.00
CMT section*	Fr. 6,742.88	CMT section	Fr. 9,642.88	
Finanzbeitrag		Personalaufwand		
		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	
Total netto	Fr. 296,242.88	Total netto	Fr. 345,980.83	
*CMT: The total income would be 9642.88, but 2900 CHF are included as memberships.				
Balance 2024	Fr.	-49,737.95		

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 LS² section Physiology



Prof. François Verrey (University of Zurich). Nominated by the LS² 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 LS² 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 LS²:** As president of the Swiss physiological society that integrate LS², 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 LS² 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 LS² 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 LS²:** He facilitated the transition and fusion of the Swiss Society of Physiology into **LS² section Physiology**.

Please vote!

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

7. Election of LS² 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 LS² 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 LS² 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:

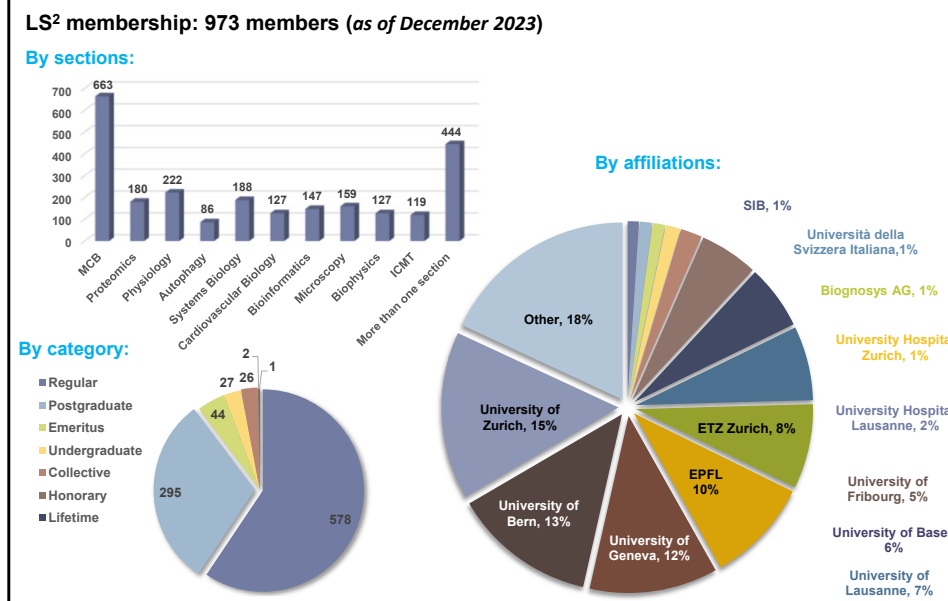
- **Zsolt Balazs** (University of Zurich)
- **Paulina Pacak** (ETH Zurich)



Please vote!

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

8. LS² 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 4th city. Therefore, we should make extra efforts in Fribourg and Basel.

8. LS² in numbers: 2023 activities

LS² Report of Activities 2023

- ✓ 9 scientific conferences organized by LS² (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 LS²
- ✓ 2 National prizes: Friedrich Miescher Award and Lelio Orzi Award
- ✓ 43 prizes distributed or sponsored by LS² (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. LS² 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 16th LS² 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 LS² 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.
- 1st 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

LS²
Life Sciences Switzerland
F.R. 05.001.01.12
1969-2019

33rd Cytomeet
16 January. Bern

Cardiovascular Biology Meeting
16-17 January. Bern

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

LS² 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

12th 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 - 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. Thank you all for joining!

Participants LS2 General Assembly 2024

First Name	Last Name	Email	Registration Time	Status
Adela	Calvente Arroyo	adela.calvente@ls2.ch	20/02/2024 15:57	approved
Patricia	Boya	patricia.boya@unifr.ch	21/02/2024 10:42	approved
Katja	Baerenfaller	katja.baerenfaller@siaf.uzh.ch	21/02/2024 10:53	approved
Nevena	Srejic	nevena.srejic@bc.biol.ethz.ch	21/02/2024 11:15	approved
Jan	Kucera	jan.kucera@unibe.ch	21/02/2024 11:24	approved
Aleksandar	Kondratyev	aleksandar.kondratyev@viforpharma.com	21/02/2024 11:46	approved
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Mario	Tschan	mario.tschan@unibe.ch	21/02/2024 13:12	approved
Alexander	Leitner	leitner@imsb.biol.ethz.ch	21/02/2024 13:13	approved
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