

"Further strengthening the network of cancer centres in Switzerland"

The semi-annual meeting of the Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) that took place from 30 June to 1 July 2016 at the Marriott Hotel in Zurich marked the inauguration of the new President of SAKK, PD Dr. Roger von Moos. During his coming term he intends to maintain successful achievements and at the same time tackle some new, forward-looking activities.

Dr. Roger von Moos, who was elected six months ago, follows Prof. Dr. Beat Thürlimann as President of SAKK. Von Moos is Head of Medical Oncology/Haematology at Cantonal Hospital Graubünden and a Senior Physician at Zurich University Hospital (Head of the Phase I Oncology Unit). Von Moos has been a Board member of the Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) since 2007 and its Vice-President since 2011. Von Moos had no hesitation in standing for election when the post of SAKK President became vacant. His wish is to perpetuate the spirit of the organisation's founders, and he expressed the following intention: "As a young doctor and researcher I benefited greatly from work done by older colleagues who received support from SAKK. Now, in my role as SAKK President, I would like to enable today's young researchers to get the same assistance. This will bring about a decisive improvement in patient care and strengthen the network of cancer centres in Switzerland."

It's no coincidence that von Moos wants to strengthen the network because, as he says, he is a passionate networker. This is also the reason he wants to bring the research efforts of university hospitals, cantonal hospitals and private clinics closer together. The use of new and innovative therapies can benefit cancer patients, at the same time reinforcing the role of Switzerland as a base for research and the health sector as a whole. A strong SAKK is the only way to make these activities successful at both the national and international level. Another objective that von Moos will be pursuing during his term of office is the intensification of SAKK's involvement in immuno-oncology and molecular oncology. It is difficult to overstate the significance of the work done by SAKK in this area because, as von Moos says, "SAKK unites the will and the directions being taken by the 20 major cancer hospitals in Switzerland."



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The Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) is a non-profit organization, which has been conducting clinical trials in oncology since 1965. Its primary objective is to research new cancer therapies, to develop existing treatments further and to improve the chances of a cure for patients with cancer. This takes place through cooperative projects within Switzerland and in collaboration with centers and study groups abroad. The SAKK is supported by a service-level agreement with the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and also by partners such as the Swiss Cancer League and Swiss Cancer Research. For more information, go to www.sakk.ch