

MEDIA RELEASE

Bern, May 5, 2022

National Councilor Marianne Binder-Keller and Dr. Christian Rathgeb elected to the Board of the Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK).

On May 4, 2022, The General Assembly of the Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) appointed Marianne Binder-Keller (National Councilor for *The Centre* party from the canton of Aargau and a communications consultant) and Dr. Christian Rathgeb (Director of Finance of the canton of Graubünden and Chairman of the Conference of Cantonal Governments (CCG)) as new members of the SAKK Board.

The appointments bring two new members with broad expertise to the SAKK Board.

Marianne Binder-Keller has extensive experience in politics and communications. After completing secondary school, she followed a varied career that included time spent as a teacher, journalist and head of communications for the CVP, now The Centre. She has been a member of the National Council since 2019, prior to which she was a member of Aargau Cantonal Parliament. Since 2016, she has chaired the Aargau branch of The Centre and is also a member of the party's national Executive Council. "I am delighted to be able to play an active role in advocating SAKK's interests as a Board member", said Marianne Binder-Keller in response to her election. "I would like to thank the Board for their confidence in me. Having strong research in Switzerland is something close to my heart and I am aware of the concerns of various top-ranking research institutions. Although I will primarily be a political ambassador for the Board, I also want to contribute to communications activities". The 63-year-old is married and has two adult children. She and her husband live in Baden. She will join the SAKK Board straight away.

On January 1, 2023, **Dr. Christian Rathgeb** will be joining the SAKK Board fresh from his term of office with the Graubünden government. The doctor of law had this to say about his new role as an SAKK Board member: "I would like to thank the Board for electing me and am very much looking forward to starting work. I hope to contribute my enthusiasm and the experience I have gained in seven years as a Cantonal Minister of Public Health, as Chairman of SwissDRG AG and in my current post as Director of Finance and Chairman of the Conference of Cantonal Governments (CCG) to drive forward SAKK's development". The 52-year-old is married and lives with his family in Chur.

Marianne Binder-Keller and Dr. Christian Rathgeb were elected to the Board for a three-year term of office at the General Assembly held on May 4, 2022. The Board is SAKK's senior supervisory body.

"We are delighted that Marianne Binder-Keller and Christian Rathgeb will be adding their talents to our organization's Board", said SAKK President Prof. Miklos Pless. "Their extensive experience will be a source of additional expertise for our interdisciplinary Board, and I am confident that they will be a source of positive stimuli for SAKK's development going forward".

About SAKK

The Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) is a decentralized academic research institute that has been conducting clinical trials of cancer treatments in all major Swiss hospitals since 1965. It operates a network of around 20 research groups and a Coordinating Center in Bern. It also works with selected cooperative groups abroad, particularly on rare forms of cancer. SAKK's aim is to advance existing cancer treatments, investigate the efficacy and tolerability of new treatments (radiotherapy, medicines and surgery) and set new standards in treatment. 21 Swiss hospitals are full members of SAKK. Research activity is funded by federal subsidies provided by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and financial support from other partner organizations such as the Swiss Cancer League and the Swiss Cancer Research Foundation. Further information can be found at www.sakk.ch.

Contact

We are happy to arrange interviews with the new members of the SAKK Board. Pictures can be provided on request.

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Caption: Marianne Binder-Keller is a new member of the SAKK Board



Caption: Dr. Christian Rathgeb is a new member of the SAKK Board