

Press Release

SAKK 2024 Annual Report

The Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) is committed to independent clinical cancer research at the highest level in Switzerland. The 2024 annual report was presented at its current half-yearly meeting in Interlaken.

What it is all about:

- SAKK presented its 2024 annual report at its half-yearly meeting at the Kursaal Interlaken Congress.
- SAKK has had a successful year with its new CEO, Vincent Gruntz. Thanks to ongoing and planned clinical trials, it looks forward to promising results.
- SAKK's financial results were positive for the third time in a row.

SAKK's annual report testifies to a successful start for the new CEO, Vincent Gruntz, and documents a successful and financially positive 2024 with a total of 67 ongoing clinical trials.

New CEO

After an extensive search, Vincent Gruntz, an exceptional personality and leader, took up his role as the new CEO of SAKK in September 2024. In this interview, he explains how milestones achieved within the organisation can save a lot of time in future clinical trials and what he sees as the challenges of the coming years. Thanks to a modular approach to clinical services and rationalised processes, SAKK has already managed to pave the way for future studies to be conducted more efficiently. A new statistics programme also supports the Clinical Science and Clinical Operations departments. Digital solutions are also being further promoted in all areas. At the same time, the funding of non-profit clinical cancer research remains an important task and challenge, to which collaboration with other organisations and the authorities contributes.

A successful 2024 and an exciting outlook

President of the Board of Directors Prof Miklos Pless confirms the continued positive development of SAKK and reports on new strategic partnerships. With 67 active clinical trials and 38 published scientific articles, SAKK can look back on a successful year. A total of 20 research groups are active within SAKK and 11 young oncologists have been accepted into the Young Oncology Academy. In 2024, SAKK and its partners from industry and business presented 8 awards, including the SAKK Network Trial Award. Forty



percent of ongoing clinical trials are actively recruiting, so SAKK can look forward to promising study results in 2025 as well.

Positive balance sheet

SAKK's financial balance sheet was positive for the third time in a row. This success was possible thanks to the continued support of key sponsors and is a significant step on the road to financial recovery. The strategic support provided by the Finance Committee on the Board of Directors, the new CEO and the employees of the Competence Centre also made a significant contribution to financial stability. Thanks to the solid financial situation, important clinical studies could be supported. Discussions have been initiated with various institutions and organisations to explore how clinical cancer research can be further promoted.

For questions and further information

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You can find **more information** about SAKK on: www.sakk.ch

About the Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research SAKK

The Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) is the leading national competence centre for non-commercial, multi-centre cancer research. Since its establishment as an association in 1965, it has coordinated clinical trials in collaboration with all leading hospitals in Switzerland and international academic partners. The national SAKK network reaches almost all cancer patients in Switzerland and makes a significant contribution to the further development of existing therapies and research into new treatment options.

As a non-profit organisation, SAKK is committed to the sustainable improvement of clinical care for oncology patients. In addition to academic studies, it also conducts research projects in cooperation with industry in order to accelerate access to innovative therapies.

The members of SAKK – clinical oncology centres at university, cantonal and private hospitals – work closely with other hospitals and doctors. The aim is to improve the chances of a cure and to advance research independently of commercial interests through national and international collaborations. SAKK is celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2025.