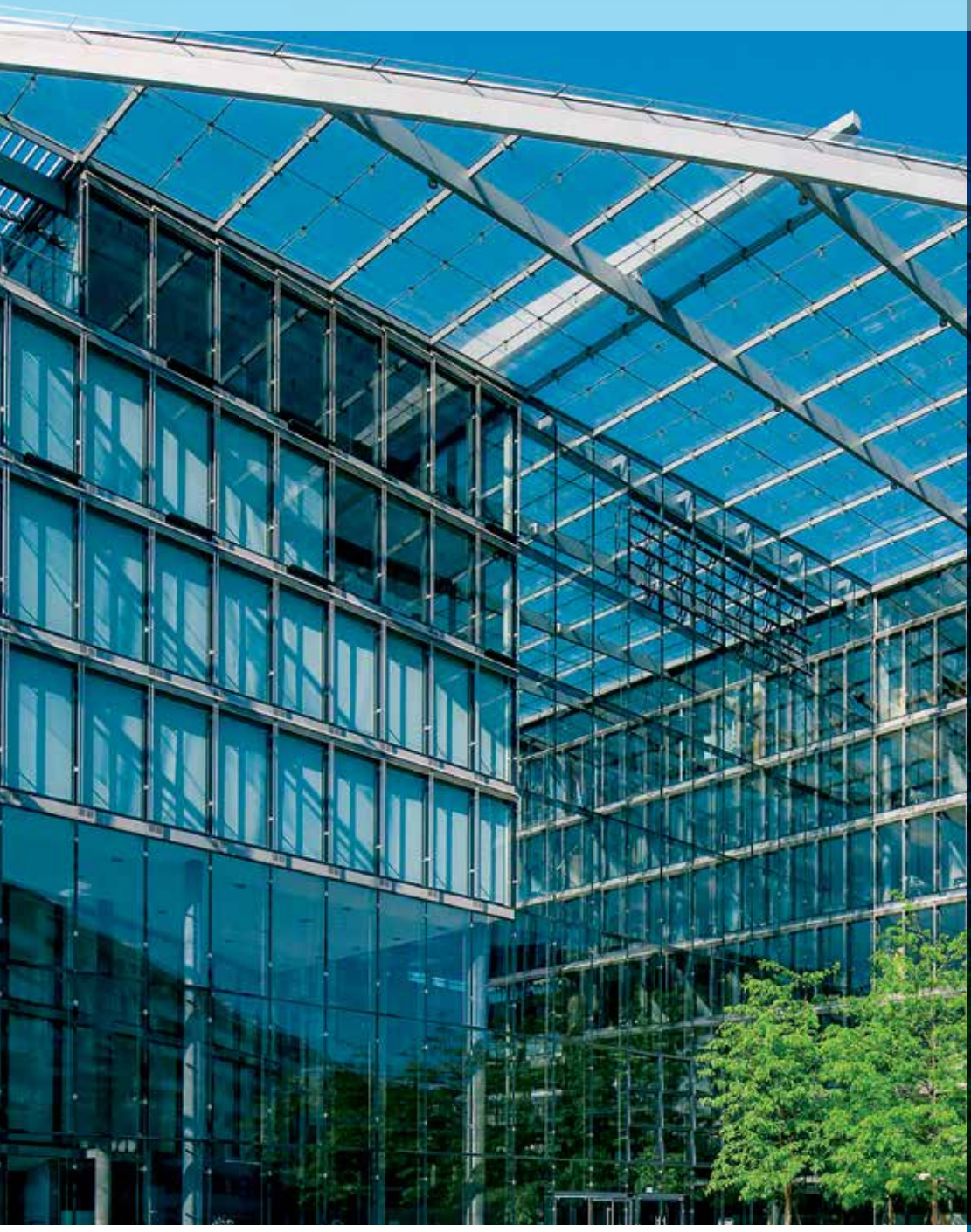
OPENING OF

CAMPUS BIOTECH



campus biotech

Press kit

Friday 22 May 2015

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Fondation Campus Biotech Geneva

EPFL ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE

UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

fb fondation bertarelli

WYSS CENTER

WARNING: embargoed until Friday 22 May, 6pm local time

1: Campus Biotech

1.1 Site History

The Sécheron site's history began in 1891, when the Electrical Equipment Company merged with a company that made dynamo machines, power lines for electrochemistry, and arc and incandescent lighting. A novelty during that time period, the Electrical Industry Company's factory was connected to the nascent power grid--a genuine technical revolution. The company then acquired land in Sécheron near the railroad. From then on, its activities continually increased and it very quickly became an internationally-renowned electrotechnical manufacturer, employing nearly 1,600 people. The factories covered almost 70,000 m2, underscoring the rise of the electromechanical industry In Geneva. But in 1989, they were resold and risked destruction. Their fate remained uncertain until 2003, when Serono purchased the land in order to consolidate its activities. Heirs to over a century of industrial history, these 19th-century buildings were therefore preserved and adorned with glass and steel structures. The new complex was inaugurated in 2006, at the very same time the company was bought by Merck, who closed the site in 2012.

The consortium behind the Campus Biotech consists of individuals and institutions that share the same goal: to ensure that the Lake Geneva region and Switzerland remain at the forefront of biotechnological and life science research. From the beginning, the objective of the Campus Biotech project was to buy back the Sécheron site from Merck Serono in order to development a gathering place for scientists and life science entrepreneurs. The vision of a new Wyss Centre for bio- and neuroengineering was at the very heart of this project. In May 2013, Merck Serono announced that the Campus Biotech had won the auction for the acquisition of its site. From that moment on, the consortium members – the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL), the University of Geneva (UNIGE), the Bertarelli Foundation, and Hansjörg Wyss – took to fulfilling their vision.

In July 2013, Benoît Dubuis was appointed Director of the Campus Biotech, marking the beginning of the development of the organization as we know it today.

1.2 Overview of the Building

The Campus Biotechs' site was designed as a science and research hub; a place for meetings and opportunities in the service of science. The architectural project was directed by Dona Bertarelli, who entrusted the construction work to Murphy/Jahn, Mackay Partners and Oxalis. Their mission was to transform the site into a modern and contemporary space, while preserving the Sécheron district's identity and history. The site is characterized by large open and closed spaces; over 70% of the energy it consumes is renewable. In fact, Lake Geneva is the site's main energy source (approximately 50%). The water, pumped at a depth of 30 meters, warms the premises in winter and cools them down in summer.

A few figures

Total surface area 40,000 sqm

13,000 sqm for the research groups from EPFL, UNIGE, and their partners
5,000 sqm for the research teams and Swiss administrators from the Human Brain Project
8,000 sqm for the Wyss Center for bio- and neuro-engineering
7,000 sqm for «business space»
7,000 sqm for services and common facilities, as well as the technological platforms related to transdisciplinary activities, including:

- A 300-seat auditorium and 55 meeting rooms
- A 460-seat cafeteria
- A 52-place day care
- A parking lot with 330 spaces

2: On the Cutting Edge of Research

2.1 The Founding Members

The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL)
The EPFL is one of the most international Hautes Écoles in Europe. Welcoming over 120 nationalities on its main campus in Lausanne, it has approximately 10,000 students and 5,000 employees. Training and research are organized into five faculties and two colleges, with a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary work.
The EPFL is also active in several specialized locations in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. In addition to Neuchâtel (microtechnology), Sion (energy and health), and Fribourg (sustainable construction), the institute is present on the Campus Biotech in Geneva, where it works to advance research on the brain and neuroprosthetics, alongside prestigious partners such as the Wyss Center and UNIGE.
www.epfl.ch

The University of Geneva (UNIGE)
Founded in 1559 by Jean Calvin and Théodore de Bèze, the UNIGE is now the second largest Haute École in Switzerland, and ranks among the top 100 universities in the world. Crown jewel of the Calvin community, the institution enjoys a privileged international reputation and cultivates its openness to the world. UNIGE welcomes approximately 16,500 students each year to its nine faculties, dealing with the essential domains of science, medicine, literature, economics and management, social sciences, law, theology, psychology, educational science, and translation and interpretation sciences. UNIGE has three missions: education, research, and service to the community. Additionally, UNIGE has been a member of the League of European Research Universities (LERU) since 2002. www.unige.ch

The Bertarelli Family
It was Fabio Bertarelli, the father of Dona and Ernesto, who actually introduced the life science sector to Geneva, when he moved the Serono family company there. The small pharmaceutical company went on to be developed by three generations of Bertarellis. When it was acquired by Merck in 2006, ten years after Ernesto had taken the reins and developed the biotechnology research sector, Serono was the third largest company operating in the field of biotechnology, known especially for its groundbreaking work in fertility.
In addition to conducting joint and individual business, the Bertarelli Foundation is one of the family's main activities. Presided over by Dona and Ernesto, it is mainly involved in ocean conservation and life sciences, two areas that are important to the family.

Hansjörg Wyss
Hansjörg Wyss built his fortune as an entrepreneur and businessman. When he became head of the US subsidiary of the Swiss company Synthes in 1976, his team consisted of only 12 people. When the company was sold to Johnson & Johnson in 2012, Synthes had become an organiza-

tion that employed approximately 8,500 people; it revolutionized the medical device market, and changed the surgical approach to healing traumatic injuries.
An active philanthropist, Hansjörg Wyss has financed numerous initiatives to promote innovative methods for tackling significant challenges around the world in the fields of medicine, conservation, art, and humanitarian aid.
In 2009, Mr. Wyss made a $125 million donation to Harvard University – the highest in the university's history – in order to create the Wyss Institute for Biologically-Inspired Engineering. This donation was followed by a second $125 million donation in 2013. In Switzerland, he created the Wyss Center for bio- and neuro-engineering on the Campus Biotech in 2013, for which he allocated 100 million francs. In 2014, he donated 115 million francs to found the «Wyss Transnational Center Zurich», headed by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and the University of Zurich.

2.2 The Campus Biotech Foundation, Geneva

The Campus Biotech Foundation, Geneva (FCBG), a non-profit organisation, was created on 5th December 2013 by EPFL, UNIGE and the Canton of Geneva, to manage the 26,000m2 of Campus Biotech, which are dedicated to research. The foundation is not a simple grouping together of individuals and institutes, it creates a new ecosystem based on a multidisciplinary approach of life sciences from a «translational» perspective. The FCBG aims to host and support the research groups, to provide the financing and to manage the common support platforms. The Rector of UNIGE, Jean-Dominique Vassalli, the president of EPFL, Patrick Aebischer, the vice president of the Council of the State in Geneva, Anne Emery-Torracinta and the director general of the University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG), Bertrand Levrat make up the Foundation Board.

2.3 The groups and research teams

The Centre for Neuroprosthetics (CNP)
Equipped during its creation 2012 with five research chairs, of which three are supported by the Bertarelli Foundation, the CNP and EPFL, has since strengthened with the creation of two new chairs. Six professors and their teams (seven from the end of this year), attached to two EPFL faculties, work in a resolutely multidisciplinary perspective, with, as their common aim, to rehabilitate people suffering from neurological problems, whether they are of a congenital or pathological origin, or which have occurred through accident. The ways developed in the CNP, go from implants and soft and intelligent prosthetics, to brain-machine interfaces, from nerve reconstruction to virtual reality. cnp.epfl.ch

The Geneva Neuroscience Centre (CIN)
A reference of neuroscience multidisciplinarity, the CIN groups together more than 50 research groups, affiliated with different UNIGE departments. The members of the centre, place under the supervision of Professor Patrik Vuilleumier, lead cutting edge research in different neuroscience

areas, by studying, in particular, the standard or pathological behaviours of the brain, both in human beings (adults or children) and animals. The centre also coordinates university information programmes, based on neurobiology and cognitive sciences. Moreover, the CIN offers numerous seminars, conferences and public events, such as the brain week in Geneva or education programmes for Radio Télévision Suisse (Swiss Radio Television).
neurocenter.unige.ch

The Interfaculty Centre for Affective Science (CISA)
Directed by Professor David Sander, the CISA of UNIGE is the main research centre dedicated to the multidisciplinary study of emotions and their effects on human behaviour and society. Since 2005, it has hosted the Affective Sciences National Research Centre, which is financed by the Swiss Confederation, and administered by the Swiss National Fund of scientific research. The main objective of the CISA is to better understand the involvement of emotions in the areas as varied as those like health, human resources, resource management and art through disciplines such as psychology, philosophy and neurosciences. For several years, the CISA has also successfully developed research partnerships with the public and private sectors, based on using research results on the impact of emotions in daily life.
www.affective-sciences.org

The Wyss Centre for Bio- and Neuroengineering
Financed by the Wyss Foundation, the Wyss Centre is a multidisciplinary institute, whose aim is to develop solutions, inspired by biology, in order to resolve serious medical problems. Inspired by the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering of Harvard University, the institute looks to respond to some of the most complex challenges in the world, in the areas of health and the environment. The centre favours collaborations between science and industry, in order to make sure of the transfer of cutting edge research to medical treatments. It is directed by the American Professor, John Donoghue.

Department of Radiology and Medical Informatics - UNIGE Faculty of Medicine
The research groups of Professors Antoine Geissbühler and Christian Lovis are affiliated to the Department of Radiology and Medical Informatics of UNIGE's Faculty of Medicine, as well as, respectively, to the Cyberhealth and Telemedicine Department and to HUG's Medical Information Sciences Department. By concentrating their work on the knowledge of the human being and illness, with the patient as the main actor, researchers aim to develop new therapeutic solutions, and to improve the diagnostic tools, the prevention, the quality of treatment, help and support for patients.
www.unige.ch/medecine

The School of Landscaping, Engineering and Architecture (hepia)
Part of the group that forms the HES-SO Geneva schools, hepia constitutes the ultimate engineering centre. Welcoming more than 1000 Bachelor's and Master's students overall, it offers nine training subsidiaries, grouped together in four departments. The school offers a vast range of multiple scopes for engineering and architecture, enabling it to deploy a multidisciplinary approach of teaching and research. hepia has four applied research institutes, which put it at the

cutting edge of innovation in the projects that it carries out, in collaboration with its partners. The school puts emphasis on developing a technology to the researchers department, most especially in the areas of biotechnology and bioengineering, which makes it an important skills centre to benefit Campus Biotech.
www.hepia.hesge.ch

The Human Brain Project (HBP)
The HBP is one of the two flagship research projects of the European Commission, at an estimated cost of 1.2 billion Euros. Amongst its objectives, features the modelling of the human brain, made possible through the development of new information technologies, particularly based on imitating the working of neural networks. The goal of the HBP is to build a new technological infrastructure for brain research. It relates to integrating the data produced and collected by doctors and neuroscientists, in order to understand the human brain, its working and its diseases. The HBP will develop six information technology and communication platforms, dedicated to neuroinformatics, brain simulation, high performance information technology, medical informatics, neuromorphic informatics and neurorobotics.
www.humanbrainproject.eu

The Institute of Global Health (ISG) - Faculty of Medicine of UNIGE
Professor Antoine Flahault is the Head of the Institute of Global Health, which succeeded in January 2014, the Social and Preventative Institute of UNIGE's Faculty of Medicine. The unique position of Geneva will enable the ISG to develop strong links with global actors in global health. The institute produces a reflection, research and cutting edge teaching, so that students, professionals and decision-makers can cope better with the contemporary challenges of global health. Its researchers are concentrated on three theme-based axes: «epidemiology and cancer prevention», «health and human rights» and «public mental health and ageing». Outside of its research activities, the ISG takes part in academic training, by offering a Master's and Doctorate programme in Global Health, as well as ongoing training certificates.
www.unige.ch/medecine

The Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics (SIB)
Being based on the federal Swiss model, the SIB is organised as a federation of research groups and bioinformatics departments, coming from Swiss schools. After more than 15 years in existence, the institute today gathers together 56 groups and more than 650 scientists. Its objective is to supply bioinformatics departments at the forefront of the national and international scientific community, in the areas of genomics, proteomics and system biology. The departments include any infrastructure required for bioinformatics research: databases, software, servers, but also scientific media and making key skills available. The institute also plays a unifying role with the Swiss bioinformatics community.
www.isb-sib.ch