

IBDnet

Annual Report 2021–2022

www.ibdnet.ch



A cooperation partner of SGGSSG

EDITORIAL



PD Dr. med. Michel Maillard
President of the IBDnet

Over the last 22 years the IBDnet was continuously growing. Today, the IBDnet counts over 125 members and is constantly reaching out to more Gastroenterologist interested in IBD.

Since 2018 the IBDnet is an official working group of the Swiss Society for Gastroenterology. Within this role the main fields of interest are Clinical Research, Education, Expert Opinions and Patient Relations.

This year, the IBDnet has again placed great emphasis on the implementation of high-quality continuing education in the field of IBD. We are very happy that in addition to the virtual training programme, we were able to hold face-to-face events again. Furthermore, we have put a lot of energy into the further development of the eSIBDC platform to ensure the continued success of the cohort after integration into IBDnet. Since this year, paediatric IBD patients can now be recorded in the eSIBDC. In addition, the platform has been expanded with the option to track Patient Reported Outcomes.

Our most important activities are summarized in this Annual Report 2021–2022.

On behalf of the IBDnet I would like to thank all participating gastroenterologists for their unremitting efforts and all sponsors for their long-standing support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Maillard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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ABOUT IBDnet

The IBDnet is working in various fields, touching scientific projects, continuing medical education and political talking points concerning IBD drug approval, pricing and reimbursement.

Members

After asking all our members to actively confirm and renew their membership at the beginning of this year, we are very proud to have 130 active members to date. With a steering committee of 16 IBD specialists and an operational committee of 8 gastroenterologists. We invite all physicians interested in IBD or wanting to support our work to become a member. Annual membership fees can be paid on an annual basis or on a triennial basis (one year: CHF 30, three years: CHF 60). Members have access to the general assembly allowing to play an active role in deciding about the future research focus and planning of educational projects of the IBDnet. Furthermore, IBDnet members have access to a vast library of educational slides and virtual on-demand education.

More

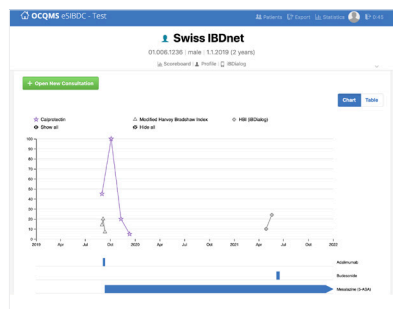
For more information about IBDnet please visit www.ibdnet.ch

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Prof. med. Dr. phil. Gerhard Rogler
Prof. Dr. med. Pierre Michetti

Clinical research is one of the main emphasis of IBDnet.
Several clinical projects are on-going.

eSwiss IBD Cohort Study (eSIBDCS): Integration into IBDnet and introduction of the paediatric eCRF



The most successful project that was made possible over a decade ago by the effort of IBDnet is the Swiss IBD Cohort Study (SIBDCS).

In recent years, the need of developing the SIBDCS into a web-based registry allowing electronic data capture and reporting of patient data become obvious. In analogy

to the Swiss Rheumatology registry SCQM, a respective technical solution was implemented, called eSIBDCS. With the electronic data capture, the eSIBDCS allows continuous follow-up of IBD patients treated by any therapeutic agent, centered on efficacy and pharmacovigilance of these agents.

This database is crucial at the time when anti-TNF biosimilars and several new agents beyond anti-TNFs are introduced for the treatment of IBD.

Today, the eSIBDCS is a professional and user-friendly platform perfectly lined-up for future requirements. Last year, the cohort faced further challenges: on the one hand, there was a change of sponsor and thus definitive integration of the cohort into IBDnet, because the financial support of the SNSF expired. On the other hand, the paediatric questionnaire of the cohort also had to be digitised; the paediatric eSIBDCS now uses the same electronic input mask as the adult cohort and is linked to it.

Also last year, the collection of PROs was rolled out widely. This is done directly by the patient via a password-protected web app. The data entered by the patient is transmitted directly to the eCRF of the eSIBDCS and can thus be viewed by the attending physician.

We encourage you to participate in this very successful and important cohort study. Please contact us: sibdc@ibdnet.ch

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Prof. med. Dr. phil. Gerhard Rogler
Prof. Dr. med. Pierre Michetti

EoE-like syndrome with low-grade or absent esophageal eosinophilia – Molecular characterization of a new disease entity

This EoE-like phenomenon was recently proposed and described in several EoE families. Other factors such as the newly discovered entity of lymphatic esophagitis and the fact that eosinophil-targeting drugs failed to show efficacy cast doubts on eosinophils' key role in EoE and warrant further investigation of other mechanism contributing to EoE. This study includes 71 patients from six large EoE referral centers in Switzerland and the US. The current project will use readily available biosamples; by performing state-of-the-art big data experiments combined with bioinformatics, this international collaborative study will unravel both pathogenetic mechanisms an EoE-like disease as well as in conventional EoE.

Characterization of eosinophilic esophagitis variants by clinical, histological, and molecular analyses: A cross-sectional multi-center study.
Greuter et al., Allergy 2022 Jan 29. doi: 10.1111/all.15233.

CX3CR1 biomarker Study

The aim of this clinical biomarker study is to investigate whether the presence of a genetic variation within the CX3CR1 gene locus can be used as predictive biomarker for the disease course of CD patients. By analyzing and correlating ASCA serum levels, CX3CR1 polymorphism and disease characteristics using biosamples from 450 SIBDCS patients, it will be tested whether presence of the CX3CR1 gene variation is associated with a complicated disease behavior. The study is ongoing.

Registry to study the incidence, phenotype, risk factors and clinical course of inflammatory bowel disease in Zimbabwe

This non-interventional registry-based study aims at enrolling Zimbabwean IBD patients for long-term follow-up, collect comprehensive data on disease phenotype, severity, complications, disease course, and common environmental risk factors. Furthermore, establishment of a biobank with stool samples, intestinal biopsies,

and germline DNA for future research on the etiology and evolution of inflammatory bowel disease in an African population at an early stage of the IBD epidemic is emphasized.

Further studies with involvement of IBDnet members

- AMT-101-201 Study: Combined phase 2/3 study to assess the efficacy and safety of AMT-101-201 (IL-10 inhibitor) in Ulcerative colitis patients with chronic antibiotic-refractory pouchitis after colectomy and placement of an IPPA pouch (Applied Molecular Transport)
- Phase 2 dose-finding, efficacy and safety study of efavaleukin alfa in Ulcerative colitis patients with moderately severe disease (Amgen)
- TRUST BEYOND: Evaluation of the predictive value of ultrasound parameters for treatment response in patients diagnosed with Ulcerative colitis with moderate to severe disease activity who have been selected for initiation of biologic or JAK therapy

PLANNED STUDIES 2022–2023

ROLE OF MAIT CELL STIMULATORY BACTERIAL METABOLITES IN IBD-ASSOCIATED LIVER DISEASE

This translational project is addressing the role of Mucosal-associated invariant T (MAIT) cells in primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC) and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)-related PSC. There is a strong clinical association of PSC with IBD, the latter being associated with a decreased intestinal barrier integrity, changes in the gut microbiome, and strong mucosal inflammatory responses also involving MAIT cells. Little is known about the involvement of MAIT cells and their bacteria-derived ligands in the pathogenesis of PSC.

IBDnet STUDY GRANTS

IBDnet awards two prestigious grants to researchers and doctors each year. In 2023, four additional smaller grants will be awarded for research studies based on the SIBDCS dataset. For more information and application, please visit www.ibdnet.ch/research/grants

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Prof. Dr. med. Stephan Vavricka
PD Dr. med. Emanuel Burri
PD Dr. med. Pascal Juillerat

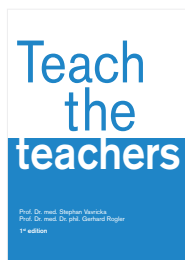
With emphasis on continuing medical education, the IBDnet has generated several educational platforms for physician, medical assistants and nurses. In collaboration with university hospitals and sponsors, the IBDnet ran a variety of local educational events. National events are highlighted below.

IBDnet TALKS 2022



IBD NET TALKS is a training curriculum for Swiss gastroenterology and hepatology fellows and experienced clinicians who want to refresh their knowledge. IBD NET TALKS was initiated in 2016. In its sixth edition in 2022 four training modules were broadcasted and up to 100 participants throughout Switzerland were reached by interactive webinars. This educational format will be maintained in 2023. For further information and registration please visit www.ibdnet.ch/education/medical

Teach the teachers



With this first edition of the booklet «Teach the Teachers» we are pleased to present our readers a comprehensive summary and overview of the most pivotal phase II and III studies in the field of IBD treatment. A huge number of clinical trials have been performed in IBD patients in recent years. It is impossible to keep track of all the results, study designs, in- and exclusion criteria, number of patients or outcome parameters.

However, for the comparison of treatment strategies, for scientific and clinical discussions, and also for day-to-day decision making, this is sometimes imperative.

Therefore, we have taken the effort to analyze manuscripts that report results of clinical trials in IBD according to strict criteria. Subsequently, all studies are presented in our overview summaries in the same structured way to allow for better comparability. Our booklet cannot replace the original publication but is intended to provide an overview of the most essential parameters. A revised version of the booklet is planned for 2023.

PLANNED MEDICAL EVENTS 2022–2023

8TH POSTGRADUATE COURSE IN IBD 2022

The 8th Postgraduate Course in IBD will be held on December 1-3, 2022, at the very remote Wolfsberg Educational Center in Ermatingen. The program consists of an interactive hands-on workshop, followed by state-of the art lectures and case-based workshops. For further information and registration please visit www.ibdnet.ch/education/medical

IBD SUMMER SCHOOL 2023

Please mark your agenda on 31 August–1 September 2023. As in previous years, on a biennial basis, an interactive two-day summer workshop will be held in its 6th edition in Thun. The program will be available in due time. For further information please visit www.ibdnet.ch/education/medical

7TH IBD NET TALKS

Based on the positive resonance, IBD NET TALKS will be continued in its 7th edition with four modules throughout 2023. For further information and registration please visit www.ibdnet.ch/education/medical

NURSE EDUCATION

PD Dr. med. Luc Biedermann
PD Dr. med Christian Mottet

The yearly Nurse Workshop has been a very popular IBD-specific educational platform for medical assistants and IBD nurses over the last thirteen years.

Nurse Workshops 2021



The Nurse Workshop 2021 was dedicated to the topic of «Therapeutic approaches to IBD: surgery, medication and nutrition». From this perspective, current surgical methods were explained, stoma care was discussed, and drug therapies and nutrition in IBD were illuminated.

The Nurse Workshop 2021 could again be held as a face-to-face event and was well attended with overall 73 participants in Zurich (59) and Lausanne (14).

Nurse Webinars 2022



Increasing numbers of participants in the Nurse Workshops as well as many enquiries from IBD Nurses have prompted us to launch another training format for IBD Nurses.

The Nurse Webinars are intended as a complementary continuing education format for IBD Nurses. The Nurse Webinar Curriculum includes six webinars per national language, which are conducted over two years. The Nurse Webinars are offered in German

and French, respectively, and are each conducted by a gastroenterologist and an experienced IBD nurse.

The Nurse Webinar Curriculum has started very successfully and enjoys a high level of participation.

PLANNED NURSE EVENTS 2022–2023

NURSE WORKSHOPS 2022

In 2022, the workshops will be held on 3 November in Zurich, and 10 November in Lausanne, respectively. The theme of this year's workshop is the pathogenesis of IBD and relapse prevention. For further information and registration please visit www.ibdnet.ch/education/nurse

NURSE WEBINARS 2023

As a continuation of the Nurse Webinar Curriculum, three interactive virtual sessions per national language will take place again in 2023. For further information please visit www.ibdnet.ch/education/nurse

PRACTICAL GUIDELINES

PD Dr. med. Luc Biedermann
Prof. Dr. med. Alain Schöpfer

Based on the strategic focus of IBDnet, clinically relevant topics are defined, which are addressed within the framework of expert recommendations.

IBD Special issue in digestion



As in recent years, authors from Switzerland in collaboration with international colleagues have the pleasure to contribute to a special issue/supplement of DIGESTION focused on IBD. This special issue was published online in DIGESTION in March 2020. The print version is available since beginning of 2021. The full Special Issue in IBD is available on www.ibdnet.ch/recommendation/recommendations

The following manuscripts have been prepared throughout 2020:

- Treatment algorithm for moderate to severe ulcerative colitis – an update
- TNF-alpha blockers in inflammatory bowel diseases: practical consensus recommendations and a user's guide - an update
- Pregnancy in IBD
- Treatment algorithms for Crohn's Disease
- Vaccination in patients with IBD
- Emerging treatments in IBD: Stem cells, JAKS and more
- Therapies in IBD patients with extraintestinal manifestations
- Gender differences in IBD
- The elderly IBD patient
- Nutrition in IBD

FMT: Current approaches in fecal microbiota transplantation in daily practice

Under the leadership of Prof. Dr. med. Frank Seibold, a group of experts has developed recommendations for FMT therapy in practice. The statements were evaluated in a Delphi process and then finalised at the expert meeting in June 2022. The published FMT expert recommendations are expected by the end of 2022.

PLANNED PROJECTS 2022–2023

THERAPY SEQUENCING

For the upcoming year the IBDnet intends to develop practical consensus recommendations on sequencing of therapies and patient stratification.

PATIENT RELATIONS

Prof. Dr. med. Frank Seibold
PD Dr. Valérie Pittet

The IBDnet and patient organisation Crohn Colitis Switzerland (CCS) are in close collaboration for several shared activities.

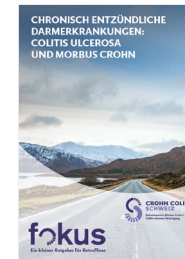
Patient Webinars 2021-2022

In collaboration with the patient organization Crohn Colitis Switzerland a series of several interactive, Q&A based patient information webinars and hybrid events were conducted throughout the year. We were able to reach out to up to 1000 patients with this informational platform. Most speakers at these patient information events were IBDnet steering committee members. The following topics were discussed, among others:

- Current and future therapies
- Nutrition in IBD
- Surgical therapy
- IBD in children and teenagers
- Articular manifestations
- Complementary medicine in IBD
- The role of the IBD Nurse

All patient events were recorded and can be viewed on-demand on the Crohn Colitis Switzerland website.

Patient Guidebooks fokus / accent



General information about Crohn's disease and Ulcerative colitis

In collaboration with the patient association Crohn Colitis Schweiz (CCS) a novel concept of patient information material called fokus / accent has been developed in 2015. To date, several patient guide-books covering basic aspects of IBD and IBD therapy, respectively, have been published, more are to come.

Download: www.ibdnet.ch/patients



Medical therapy in IBD (4th edition) acute



Social insurances and IBD



Intimacy in IBD



Steroids for the treatment of IBD flares



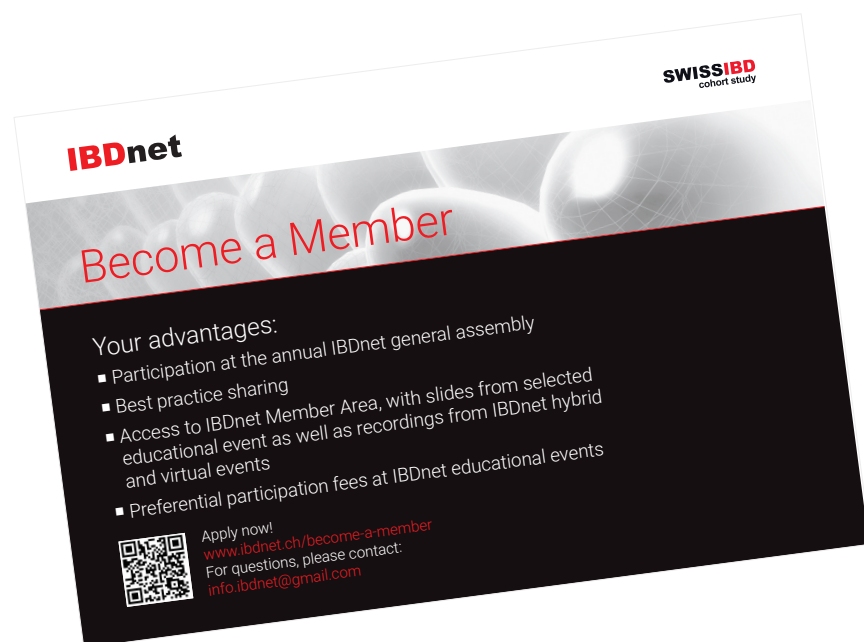
Extraintestinal Manifestations in IBD

PLANNED PROJECTS 2022-2023

In collaboration with Crohn Colitis Switzerland the IBDnet will further develop fokus / accent guidebooks on perianal fistulising Crohn's Disease and bowel preparation and endoscopy.

BECOME A MEMBER

The IBDnet is a Swiss interest group of medical doctors and scientists specializing in inflammatory bowel disease. The aim is the promotion of research communication and education on diagnosis and therapy in order to improve patient outcomes.



Apply now!

www.ibdnet.ch/become-a-member

For questions, please contact:

info.ibdnet@gmail.com

Acknowledgement

We thank our sponsors for their long standing financial support:



