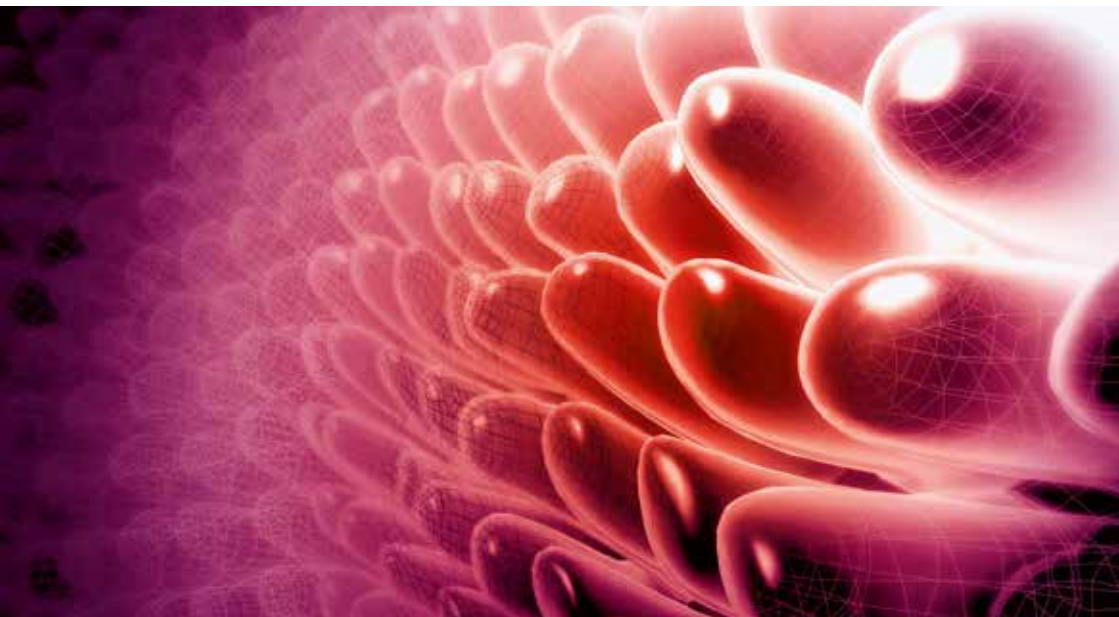




Annual Report 2025–2026

www.ibdnet.ch



A cooperation partner of SGGSSG

EDITORIAL



Dear colleagues,

IBDnet, an official working group of the Swiss Society for Gastroenterology, has grown over more than 26 years into a respected community of over 190 members. Our mission remains clear: advancing clinical research, education, expert exchange, and patient relations.

Over the past year, our network has continued to strengthen its role as a platform for collaboration and innovation in inflammatory bowel disease. We remained committed to delivering high-quality continuing education through engaging on-site meetings and dynamic virtual formats for physicians and medical assistants, supporting healthcare professionals in providing the best possible care for their patients.

A major milestone this year was the strategic evolution of the Swiss IBD Cohort to meet the changing medical and regulatory landscape. The transition from a cohort to a registry marks an important step towards a leaner, more agile structure, ensuring long-term sustainability while maintaining its central role in advancing IBD research and patient care. This achievement reflects the outstanding commitment and collaborative spirit of our members.

The highlights of these and many other activities are presented in this **Annual Report 2025–2026**. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all members for their dedication and active contribution to IBDnet's success. My thanks also go to our sponsors, whose continued support enables us to pursue our mission and further strengthen our network.



Prof. Dr. med. Petr Hruz
President of the IBDnet 2024-2028

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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

The IBDnet currently brings together 196 active members, supported by a Governing Board of 17 IBD specialists. We warmly welcome all physicians with an interest in IBD—or those wishing to support our work—to join our network. At the General Assembly 2025, the membership fee was set at CHF 30 per year or CHF 60 for a three-year membership.

Members have the opportunity to actively shape the future of IBDnet by participating in the general assembly, contributing to decisions on research priorities and the planning of educational initiatives. In addition, members enjoy access to our extensive library of educational slide decks and a wide range of virtual, on-demand learning resources.

More

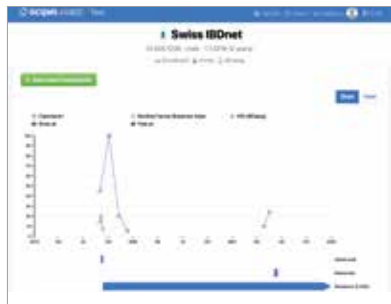
For more information about IBDnet please visit www.ibdnet.ch

CLINICAL RESEARCH

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

Clinical Research – A Core Focus of IBDnet and paving the way for better understanding and treatment of IBD.

**eSwiss IBD Cohort (eSIBDC):
From cohort study to a registry: Ensuring the ongoing expansion of the dataset and conduct of studies.**



One of IBDnet's most significant achievements has been the Swiss IBD Cohort Study (SIBDCS), which has served as a cornerstone of clinical IBD research in Switzerland for nearly two decades.

The transition from a traditional cohort study to the Swiss IBD Registry marks a major milestone in 2026, creating a leaner, more

agile, and sustainable structure while preserving the high-quality clinical data that have made the SIBDCS such a valuable research resource.

Supported by the web-based eSIBDC platform, the registry enables efficient electronic data capture and follow-up, providing a future-ready infrastructure for clinical research, quality assurance, and pharmacovigilance in inflammatory bowel disease.

In 2026, the Swiss IBD Registry also entered a new phase of governance. After many years of outstanding leadership, Professor Gerhard Rogler stepped down from his role as Principal Investigator upon expected retirement. We extend our sincere gratitude for his visionary leadership and invaluable contribution to establishing the Swiss IBD Cohort as a leading research platform.

A new leadership team, chaired by Professor Emanuel Burri, was appointed to guide the next phase of development. One of its first priorities was the establishment of the independent Swiss IBD Registry Association, founded in 2026 to provide the registry with an autonomous legal and operational structure. Throughout 2026, the Association prepared for its operational activities and, from 2027 onwards, will assume responsibility for all assets and operations of the Swiss IBD Registry.

The founding Board of the Swiss IBD Registry Association consists of PD Pascal Juillerat, Prof Luc Biedermann, Prof Thomas Greuter, PD Christiane Sokollik, and Dr Nadine Zahnd.

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

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. Further information: michael.scharl@usz.ch

CLINICAL RESEARCH

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

Cholecalciferol Comedication in patients with Chronic inflammatory bowel disease – the 5C-study

The overall purpose of this study is to investigate whether the administration of vitamin D in addition to the basic treatment in IBD patients influences the intestinal inflammatory process. The primary outcome to be assessed will be the change in the concentration of faecal calprotectin [µg/g]. Secondary outcome will be change in CRP, 25(OH)D serum levels and change in clinical disease activity scores (HBI, MTWSI). The study is completed, the manuscript has been submitted and is under review. Further information: petr.hruz@clarunis.ch

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. The study is ongoing. Further information: emanuel.burri@ksbl.ch

Bacterial strain engraftment determines clinical outcomes after fecal microbiota transplantation

Fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) is highly effective in recurrent Clostridioides difficile infections, while outcomes in inflammatory bowel disease remain less predictable. A team led by Prof. Dr. Bahtiyar Yilmaz investigated bacterial transmission and long-term engraftment after FMT. Although many donor species were initially detected, only a small proportion of strains established permanently. Clinical improvement was linked not to greater bacterial diversity, but to specific donor strains successfully displacing resident strains. These findings highlight strain compatibility and long-term engraftment as key determinants of FMT success and support more targeted

microbiome therapies. The study was published in August 2026 (Cell Rep. 2026 Jul 28;45(8)). Further information: bahtiyar.yilmaz@unibe.ch

Evolution of growth following anti-TNFα therapy in paediatric Crohn's disease

The aim of this eSIBDCS-based study is to determine the impact of biological agents on growth in paediatric Crohn's disease patients with respect to medication and treatment strategy (top-down vs. step-up approach). Furthermore this study aims at determining whether a particular group of individuals would benefit more from biological agents, growth-wise, and what factors influence this growth benefit. The manuscript has been published in October 2025 (Inflamm Intest Dis. 2025 Oct 2;10(1):347-358). Further information: clea.kunz@unil.ch

Understanding the evolution of information needs and expectations of Swiss ulcerative colitis patients over a 10-year follow-up

The main objectives will be to explore what participants considered to be the key unmet needs in diagnosis, treatments and follow-up and their hopes for the future, and compare it with results of focus groups (FG) we performed in 2014. Furthermore, we aim at conducting a survey to assess the overall levels of patient-reported concerns, needs and expectations in our Swiss UC population after 10 years. Further information: valerie.pittet@unisante.ch

Implementation and evaluation of quality-of-care indicators in inflammatory bowel diseases

The aim of this pilot project will be to implement and measure a set of quality indicators for IBD. We will complement physician- and patient-reported data we already collect. We will produce regular reports, and continuously check the measures to take adaptive actions, to contribute to equal care delivery with the highest care quality to each individual patient, in a durable and economic way. Further information: valerie.pittet@unisante.ch

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

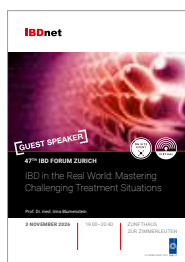
Prof. Dr. med. Stephan Vavricka
Prof. Dr. med. Emanuel Burri
PD Dr. med. Pascal Juillerat

Committed to continuing medical education, IBDnet educational platforms tailored for physicians, medical assistants, and nurses.



IBDnet TALKS 2026

IBDnet TALKS is a training curriculum for Swiss gastroenterology and hepatology fellows and experienced clinicians who want to refresh their knowledge. IBDnet TALKS was initiated in 2016. In its 10th edition in 2026 three training sessions were broadcasted, up to 100 unique participants joined in the interactive webinars. This educational format will be maintained in 2027 with two sessions. For further information and registration please visit www.ibdnet.ch/education/medical



IBD Forum 2026

The IBD FORUM is an interactive round-table format where experts discuss clinical situations from participants' daily practice, followed by lectures presenting the relevant evidence. Held twice a year, the sessions are also broadcast for virtual participation. Highlights of the 2025–2026 programme included two outstanding guest lectures: Prof. Dr. med. A. Moschen presented «Redefining IBD Treatment: Innovative Solutions for Unmet Patient Needs», and Prof. Dr. Bram Verstockt delivered «Seeing is Believing: Monitoring on the Highway to Heal».

PLANNED MEDICAL EVENTS 2026-2027

10TH POSTGRADUATE COURSE IN IBD 2026

Mark your agenda on 3–5 December 2026. We look forward to welcoming you to Weggis for three days of education, exchange, and the latest developments in inflammatory bowel disease. The programme features hands-on training in intestinal sonography and endoscopy, therapy updates and state-of-the-art lectures, as well as interactive workshops and case-based discussions. For further information and registration please visit www.ibdnet.ch/education/medical

IBD SUMMER SCHOOL 2027

Save-the-date for the 7th IBD Summer School on 26–27 August 2027, held in Thun on a biennial basis as interactive two-day workshop with emphasis on highest relevance for daily clinical practice. For further information please visit www.ibdnet.ch/education/medical

10TH IBDnet TALKS 2027

Based on the positive resonance, IBDnet TALKS will be continued with four modules throughout 2025. For further information and registration please visit www.ibdnet.ch/education/medical

IBD Forum 2027

The well-attended and interactive IBD Forum, distinguished by the high scientific quality of its renowned guest speakers, will continue in 2027 with two further sessions in a hybrid format. For further information please visit www.ibdnet.ch/education/medical

NURSE EDUCATION

Prof. 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 fifteen years.

Nurse Workshops 2025



The Nurse Workshop 2025 was dedicated to the topic of «The IBD Nurse as the First Point of Contact for Patients: Recognizing Problems and Taking Action». The Nurse Workshop 2025 was attended by overall 78 participants in Zurich (52) and Lausanne (26), respectively.

Nurse Webinars 2026



The Nurse Webinar series was launched as a complementary continuing education format and was met with strong interest in its initial phase after the Corona pandemic. As participation decreased over time, the program was re-evaluated and will be resized to Romandie from the following year, allowing IBDnet to focus its educational efforts on formats that best meet current needs. In 2026, the program was attended by 35 unique participants.

PLANNED NURSE EVENTS 2026-2027

NURSE WORKSHOPS 2026

In 2026, the workshops will be held on 29 October in Zurich, and 5 November in Lausanne, respectively. Thematically, this year's workshop will focus on novel therapies in IBD and administration of medication. For further information and registration please visit www.ibdnet.ch/education/nurse

NURSE WEBINAR ROMANDIE 2027

In 2027, the Nurse Webinar will be limited to two French-language sessions in Romandie. For further information please visit www.ibdnet.ch/education/nurse

PRACTICAL GUIDELINES

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

From Experts to Practice: Consensus-Based Recommendations.

In line with IBDnet's strategic priorities, clinically relevant topics are identified and addressed through developed expert recommendations. These guidelines are created using the structured Delphi process, ensuring a broad consensus among specialists. They provide practice-oriented guidance to support the highest standards of patient care.

ONGOING PROJECTS 2025–2026

TREATMENT ALGORITHM FOR ULCERATIVE COLITIS – USER GUIDE FOR DAILY PRACTICE

The range of therapeutic options for the treatment of UC has expanded significantly over the past two years. To support clinicians in navigating these choices, we plan to develop a pocket guide that provides practical guidance for everyday clinical practice.

FATIGUE IN IBD

Fatigue in IBD is a difficult-to-define symptom that affects the quality of life of many patients living with the disease.

MANAGEMENT OF PSC IN IBD

Primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC) is a chronic, progressive liver disease that can occur in patients with IBD, most commonly ulcerative colitis, and is associated with an increased risk of colorectal and bile duct cancer.

PATIENT RELATIONS

Prof. Dr. med. Frank Seibold

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

Information events for patients 2024–2025

In collaboration with the patient organization Crohn Colitis Switzerland a series of patient information 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.

PLANNED PROJECTS 2026–2027

In collaboration with Crohn Colitis Switzerland the IBDnet will develop fokus / accent guidebooks on fatigue in IBD. An update on current therapies will be released in due time.

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)



Social insurances and IBD



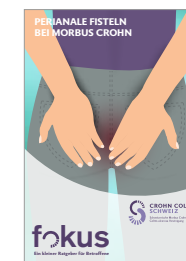
Intimacy in IBD



Steroids for the treatment of IBD flares



Extraintestinal Manifestations in IBD



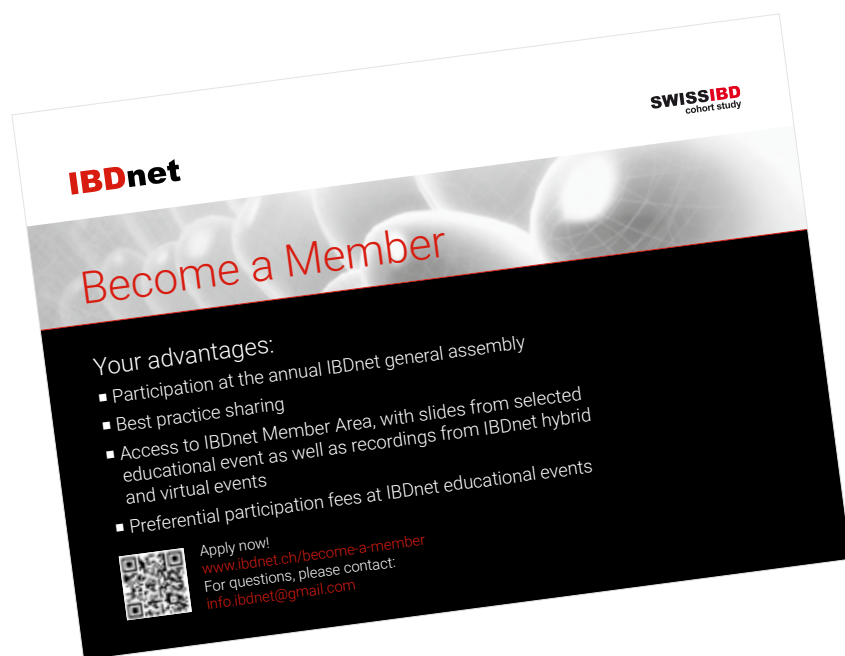
Perianal fistulas in Crohn's disease



Bowel Preparation in IBD

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.ch

Acknowledgement

We thank our sponsors for their long standing financial support:

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