

Media release

September 15, 2021

Bern Medical Hub

Opening of NeuroTec research platform

Insel Gruppe opened the NeuroTec research facility, together with the University of Bern and sitem-insel, on the Insel Campus in Bern on Tuesday, September 14. NeuroTec pools the clinical knowledge of Inselspital, University Hospital Bern, and the expertise in medical technology of the University of Bern, while further expanding Bern's leading position in neurology pioneered by Prof. Dr. Claudio Bassetti and his team.

After almost two years of development, the NeuroTec research facility opened on September 14, 2021. The long-awaited launch was a success. Prominent speakers and participants from science, industry and politics contributed to a remarkable opening ceremony for the invited guests, which included a science session and a roundtable discussion. As part of its translational research activities, NeuroTec explores the use of modern medical technology to improve the treatment of neurological diseases with the aim of increasingly shifting diagnosis and therapy from the hospital to the home.

Prominent figures from research, politics, and industry at the opening ceremony

The guests were welcomed by Pierre Alain Schnegg, member of the governing council and Director of, Health, Social Affairs and Integration Department of the canton of Bern, and by Prof. Dr. Bernhard Pulver, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Insel Gruppe. Participating in a roundtable discussion were Prof. Dr. Claudio Bassetti, Chairman and Chief Physician of the Department of Neurology and Dean of the Medical Faculty of the University of Bern; Councilor Christoph Ammann, Head of the Economic, Energy and Environment Department of the canton of Bern; and Dr. Uwe Jocham, General Manager of Insel Gruppe, along with other key representatives from science and education. The importance of research facilities such as NeuroTec for the Bern medical center was one of the many topics of discussion.

Insel Gruppe invests in translational research in the sitem-insel network

Insel Gruppe secures the investment and medical support for NeuroTec. Representatives of Insel Gruppe underscored the importance of translational research and development for the medicine of the future and assured the young research center crucial support in the start-up phase.

Numerous innovative projects under way

Many stakeholders rely on a research platform in the field of neurology of the kind of NeuroTec. This is demonstrated by the excellent utilization of the facilities even in the earliest start-up phase and the numerous projects that have already been initiated.

Here the close ties to the University of Bern is of particular importance, namely with the ARTORG Center for Biomedical Engineering Research, which primarily provides the technical expertise, and with the Center for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine (CAIM), which uses AI to evaluate the extensive amounts of collected data.

sitem-insel facilitates auspicious networking

A particularly valuable partner for NeuroTec is sitem-insel, the Swiss Institute for Translational and Entrepreneurial Medicine. The facilities at sitem-insel enable an active exchange with researchers in the field. In addition, sitem-insel facilitates national and international networking for the research center through numerous activities.

NeuroTec Loft, a unique research environment

Apart from the numerous projects, the NeuroTec Loft must be mentioned here as an example. At first glance, it appears to be a normal two-room apartment discreetly furnished with everything needed in everyday life. However, the NeuroTec Loft is also equipped with a number of highly sensitive measuring devices such as video cameras, radar systems, lidar sensors, seismographs, flow meters, etc. In the loft, it is possible to monitor patients' activities in everyday life and to detect any neurodegenerative diseases at an early stage or to indicate a sudden deterioration in health. Furthermore, devices for long-term measurements can be developed and tested here. By recording, for example, a Parkinson's patient or an epilepsy patient in the course of the day they provide important building blocks for better research into these diseases and their treatment options.

Expansion of collaborations, worldwide networks

The opening of NeuroTec marks the formal launch of the new research facility. The founders and partner organizations, the companies involved, and the political community would like to wish Managing Director Prof. Dr. Dr. Kaspar Schindler, Deputy Director Prof. Dr. Tobias Nef and their team much success and look forward to learning more about upcoming developments from NeuroTec.

Experts:

- Prof. Dr. Bernhard Pulver, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Insel Gruppe, Bern
- Dr. h.c. Uwe E. Jocham, General Manager, Insel Gruppe, Bern
- Prof. Dr. Claudio Bassetti, Chairman and Chief Physician, Department of Neurology, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital

- Prof. Dr. Dr. Kaspar Schindler, Managing Director, NeuroTec, Deputy Physician-in-Chief and Managing Director, Sleep-Wake-Epilepsy-Center (SWEZ), Inselspital, Bern University Hospital
- Prof. Dr. Tobias Nef, Deputy Director, NeuroTec, ARTORG Center for Biomedical Engineering Research, Gerontechnology & Rehabilitation, University of Bern
- Dr. Simon Rothen, CEO, sitem-insel AG, Bern

Links:

- [Forschungsplattform NeuroTec](#)
- Gründung:
 - o [Insel Gruppe AG](#)
- Partner organisations:
 - o [Universität Bern](#)
 - o [ARTORG Center for Biomedical Engineering Research \(unibe.ch\)](#)
 - o CAIM [Center for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine \(unibe.ch\)](#)
- Vernetzungspartner:
 - o [sitem-insel AG](#)

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Insel Gruppe is Switzerland's leading group of hospitals for university and integrated medicine. It offers comprehensive health care based on groundbreaking quality, research, innovation and education: in all stages of life, around the clock and in the right place. The six hospitals comprising Insel Gruppe (Inselspital, Aarberg, Belp, Münsingen, Riggisberg and Tiefenau) carry out over 800,000 outpatient consultations and treat about 60,000 in-patients using the latest therapy methods. It provides training for a large number of professions and is an important institution for the further training of young physicians. Insel Gruppe employs a staff of over 1, 000 (including students).

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