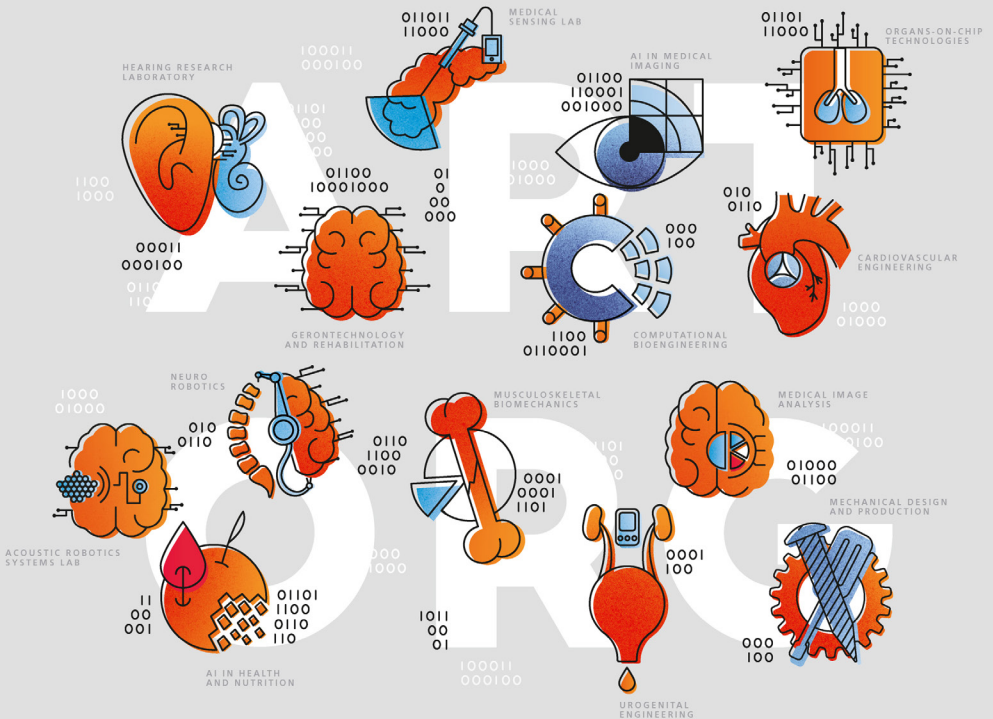


Celebrate with us!

ARTORG Day 2026

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Auditorium Ettore Rossi, Inselspital Bern, Switzerland



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ARTORG Day 2026

Event Details

When

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Where

Auditorium Ettore Rossi
Inselspital Bern
Switzerland

Abstract

Submission Deadline

April 27, 2026

Notification of Acceptance

May 09, 2026

Registration

Register here:

www.artorg.unibe.ch/artorgday

Organizing Committee

Prof. Dr. Olivier Guenat
Prof. Dr. Tobias Nef
PD Dr. Francesco Clavica

ARTORG Day is a day of celebration.

Together, we celebrate the successes of the past years, the remarkable breadth of research at the ARTORG Center, and the incredible people who have made this journey possible. We highlight outstanding projects—many of which have led to successful start-ups—contributing to the creation of numerous jobs in the Canton of Bern and beyond, and earning many prestigious awards.

This day also pays tribute to the vision behind ARTORG as a strategic center of the University of Bern, whose foresight enabled this unique translational ecosystem. We express our sincere thanks to our key partners and supporters: the Canton of Bern, the University of Bern, Bern University Hospital, our strategic advisory board, and the many dedicated clinicians. Above all, we celebrate the young researchers whose passion and hard work continue to drive new technologies for better treatments and improved patient care.

Together, we look to the future with a shared vision: advancing innovation to deliver even better care for patients.

ARTORG Day Program

08.45 Coffee and Registration

09.30 Welcome Address

Mr André Nietlisbach

General Secretary, Economic Affairs, Canton of Bern

Prof. Dr. Virginia Richter

Rector University of Bern

Prof. Dr. h.c. mult. Claudio Bassetti

Dean, Medical Faculty, University of Bern

Prof. Dr. Raphael Sznitman

Director ARTORG Center

From Research to Impact: 18 Years of Translational Success at ARTORG

10.00 Keynote Speaker

Prof. Dr. Silvia Schievano

University College London, UK

Computational modelling in congenital heart disease: challenges and opportunities for translation to medical practice

10.45 Coffee Break

11.00 Presentations from Researchers 6 Presentation à 15 min

12.30 Small Lunch Sandwiches and Drinks

13.30 Moderated Poster Viewing Two Parallel Sessions

14.45 Coffee Break

15.00 Keynote Speaker

Prof. Dr. Pascal Verdonck

University of Ghent, Member SAB* ARTORG

Disruptive innovation is transforming our healthcare: an engineering perspective

15.40 Presentations of Selected Start-Ups 3 Start-Ups à 10 min

16.10 ARTORG Awards Best Presentation and Best Poster

16.30 ARTORG Day Apéro

Keynote Speakers

Prof. Dr. Silvia Schievano

University College London, UK

Computational modelling in congenital heart disease: challenges and opportunities for translation to clinical practice

Children born with congenital heart disease, compared to adult patients with acquired cardiovascular diseases, typically present with a wide range of anatomies and conditions that are often unique and complex, and that change as the child grows. However, the development of devices and tools designed for children lags decades behind those for adults, due to the far smaller market, which makes it difficult for companies to invest in such devices because it is not sustainable for them to develop in-vitro/in-vivo tests for the range of variations and conditions encountered in the paediatric population, both in terms of time and cost.

Computational modelling and in-silico clinical trials, built on personalised computer simulations, could be a powerful resource to aid biomedical device development and design optimisation. Indeed, these methodologies are gaining interest from the FDA and European Regulatory Agencies, as they could shorten the bench-to-patient pathway. This technology represents the most promising and strategic approach to revolutionise device development and treatment in children and/or young adults with congenital heart disease, enabling personalised care and improving outcomes.

Silvia Schievano is Professor of Biomedical Engineering at UCL Institute of Cardiovascular Science, GOS Institute of Child Health, and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. She graduated in Biomedical Engineering at Politecnico Milano, and pursued her PhD degree in the Cardiorespiratory Unit of Great Ormond Street Hospital funded by the British Heart Foundation. She was awarded a Royal Academy of Engineering/ EPSRC Research Fellowship, an EPSRC Healthcare Technologies Challenge Award and an ERC Starting Grant.

Since 2011, she has established and been leading the Centre for Clinical Cardiovascular Engineering at UCL Institute of Cardiovascular Science, and, since 2013, together with two clinical colleagues, the Facevalue Craniofacial Research Unit at GOS Institute of Child Health.

Her main research interest focuses on translation of engineering technologies into clinical practice, in particular patient specific simulations of complex congenital disease cases, statistical shape modelling and population analyses, design and modelling of new medical devices and clinical treatments, and development of visualisation tools to enhance clinical planning and teaching & training in congenital diseases.

Prof. Dr. Pascal Verdonck

University of Ghent, Belgium

Disruptive innovation is transforming our healthcare: *an engineering perspective*

The global healthcare sector is facing challenges due to a rapidly aging population (the «double aging effect»), significant financial pressures, and widespread staff shortages. A sustainable solution lies in a fundamental overhaul of the system through disruptive innovation—specifically, the integration of health technology across the entire care continuum. The overall goal of medical devices, a component of health technologies, in this regard is to improve diagnosis and treatment or to provide better patient conditions, and ultimately to save lives.

Transforming healthcare requires more than isolated innovation initiatives—it requires a global ecosystem in which healthcare institutions such as hospitals become engines of entrepreneurship, developing solutions from within while simultaneously collaborating across borders to increase impact and achieve financial sustainability. The question arises as to how collaboration between knowledge institutions, companies, and startups, together with the government and the healthcare sector, can play a pioneering role in this competitive international sector by actually bringing innovations to citizens/patients, on the road to «value-driven healthcare.»

Prof. Pascal Verdonck was born in 1963 in Ghent, Belgium. He graduated in 1986 as Master of Science Civil Engineering at Ghent University. He obtained his Masters of Business Administration (1989), Master of Science Biomedical Engineering (1993) and PhD (1993) at Ghent University.

For twenty years he was at Ghent University with visiting professorships at Imperial College London, University of Paris XII, and University of Groningen. He took an eight-year sabbatical as CEO of the hospital Maria Middelares in Ghent.

He is now full professor of medical technology at Ghent University and visiting professor at the KULeuven & Vlerick Business School. He is member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Sciences and Arts. He is chairman of the board of directors of the University College of applied sciences Artevelde, chairman of the board of AZ Maria Middelares Hospital, and the vice president of the Belgian Association of Hospital Managers. He is an advisor to several MedTech Companies.

KNOWLEDGE
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