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Seven goals for Clinical Research in Switzerland

White paper and new coordination platform

What does clinical research need to increase its benefit for patients and society? What changes are necessary? The Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS) is publishing a white paper that formulates seven goals, including the creation of a national coordination platform, to bring together the actors around a shared vision and to strengthen the impact of clinical research in Switzerland.

Patient-oriented clinical research has improved thanks to public investments in several initiatives, data infrastructures, and support instruments. These efforts have however also led to a fragmentation of activities and to redundancies. Mandated by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and in collaboration with experts from various backgrounds, the SAMS elaborated the «White Paper Clinical Research».

The document presents a concerted vision for the future of clinical research. It suggests ways on how to use resources more efficiently, align efforts on common priorities and, more generally, address the current challenges to make Switzerland an international leader in patient-centered clinical research.

The white paper action plan outlines the following seven goals:

1. Create a national platform to coordinate publicly funded stakeholders in clinical research
2. Establish strong partnerships with society, citizens, and patients
3. Promote a healthcare system that systematically integrates clinical research: good care comes with – and from – good science
4. Invest in the development of innovative and dynamic clinical research approaches, designs, and technologies enabled by digital tools
5. Strengthen translational, multidisciplinary, and integrated clinical research teams
6. Ensure an environment that is attractive to clinical and health researchers and support them at all career levels
7. Increase the efficiency and accelerate the delivery of clinical research by reducing the complexity of regulatory and data-related processes

The SERI has recognized the importance of strengthening the interaction between the public actors of clinical research, integrating the perspective of public health. It has mandated the SAMS, as an independent institution, to set up and manage a national coordination platform for clinical research for the ERI period 2021–2024.

The platform will not be a supervisory authority nor a regulatory body. It must allow concerned institutions to define priority action areas together and distribute tasks and responsibilities more efficiently among themselves.

The white paper, written in English with a summary in German and French, can be downloaded or ordered free of charge on the SAMS website, where you will also find more information on the coordination platform: sams.ch/clinical-research

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