



Ruedi Aebersold – SystemsX.ch and ETH/Uni Zurich

Ruedi Aebersold is the Chairman of the Scientific Executive Board of SystemsX.ch and Professor at the Institute of Molecular Systems Biology of the ETH Zurich and the University of Zurich. He graduated from the University of Basel in 1979 and obtained a PhD in Cell Biology from the Biocenter of the University of Basel in 1983. After postdoctoral work at the California Institute of Technology, he joined the faculty of the University of British Columbia (Canada) in 1989 and that of the University of Washington in Seattle in 1993. In 2000, he co-founded the Institute for Systems Biology in Seattle, together with Alan Aderem and Leroy Hood, before taking up a joint professorship at ETH and University of Zurich in 2004. A pioneer in the field of proteomics, Professor Aebersold has received many prizes and awards and serves on the Scientific Advisory Committees of numerous academic and private sector research organisations.



Daniel Vonder Muehll – SystemsX.ch

Daniel Vonder Muehll, Managing Director of SystemsX.ch since 2007, is a geophysicist and holds a PhD from ETH Zurich. He has been active in mountain permafrost research since 1987, among others within the Swiss National Research Programme 31 (Climate Change and Natural Disasters), an FP4 EU project and an ETH interdisciplinary Mini-Poly project. Since 1996, he has been lecturer for glaciology and geomorphology at ETH Zurich and University of Zurich. Between 2000 and 2006 Mr Vonder Muehll was Head of Research Management at the Rectorate of the University of Basel and completed a postgraduate in University Politics and Research Management in 2002.



Robert-Jan Smits – DG Research, European Commission

Robert-Jan Smits is Director of Directorate B (European Research Area: Research programmes and capacity) at DG Research of the European Commission. His main responsibilities include the formulation and management of EU research policies for the coordination of national research programmes and for research infrastructures. He also oversees DG Research's relations with European research organisations like ESF and EUREKA. He is the EC representative on the European Strategic Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI), the ESF Governing Council and the EUREKA High Level Group (HLG). Previous assignments of Robert-Jan Smits in DG Research, European Commission included: Advisor to the Deputy Director General of DG Research, Head of Unit of "Legal Affairs", "SME Unit", "Strengthening research cooperation and Europe's science base".

Mr. Smits holds degrees from Utrecht University in the Netherlands, Institut Universitaire des Hautes Etudes Internationales in Switzerland and Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy in the Unites States of America.



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Mission of Switzerland to the European Union

SwissCore
and
the Mission of Switzerland to the European Union

kindly invite you to a

Swiss Science Briefing

on

**SystemsX.ch: Joint Programming for
Systems Biology in Switzerland**

with

Ruedi Aebersold
Chairman of the Scientific Executive Board, SystemsX.ch
Professor of Systems Biology, ETH/Uni Zurich

Daniel Vonder Muehll
Managing Director, SystemsX.ch

and

Robert-Jan Smits
Director, DG Research, European Commission

Thursday, 27 November 2008, 12:00 – 14:30

Mission of Switzerland to the EU, Place du Luxembourg 1, Brussels

SystemsX.ch is a new initiative dedicated to promote and support Systems Biology by combining Switzerland's strengths in genomics and biomedical research with its flourishing core sciences like chemistry, mathematics, physics and engineering. SystemsX.ch is a research consortium of eight universities and three research institutions. About 80 research groups devoted to Systems Biology collaborate in as yet eight peer reviewed Research-, Technology- and Development projects. With SystemsX.ch, Switzerland expects to expand its leadership in a field that represents a paradigm shift in biology, moving from a descriptive, qualitative science to a predictive, quantitative one. **Professor Ruedi Aebersold**, a pioneer in the field of Systems Biology, will present the organisation and scientific strategy of this Swiss-wide initiative to tackle tomorrow's biological and medical challenges.

SystemsX.ch is financed on a matching funds basis by the Swiss Federal State and by the budget of the Swiss Cantons going to the partnering universities and research institutes. Therefore, SystemsX.ch can be seen as the first instance of a thematic research initiative jointly developed and implemented by the Swiss Federal Government and some Swiss Cantons. The setting up of this joint initiative on Systems Biology and the way to secure all the partner's involvement will be the focus of **Daniel Vonder Mühl**'s presentation.

This example of **joint programming** at the level of a small country like Switzerland will be commented by **Robert-Jan Smits** in the light of the European Commission's recent Communication on Joint Programming at European level, an initiative that is currently being discussed in the Council of the EU.

The **panel discussion** following the presentations will allow the public to engage into the debate and to share their own national experiences with the setting up of joint programmes as well as their ideas on joint programming at European level.

Programme

Thursday, 27 November 2008, 12:00 – 14:30

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| 12:00 | Sandwich lunch |
| 12:30 | Welcome and introduction
Balz Abplanalp
Science Counsellor, Mission of Switzerland to the EU |
| 12:40 | SystemsX.ch: a new Swiss initiative to tackle tomorrow's challenges in life sciences
Ruedi Aebersold
Professor and Executive Board Chairman, SystemsX.ch |
| 13:10 | Setting up SystemsX.ch: experiences with joint programming in Switzerland
Daniel Vonder Mühl
Managing Director, SystemsX.ch |
| 13:30 | Towards joint programming in research: What can the EU gain from the Swiss experience?
Robert-Jan Smits
Director, DG Research, European Commission |
| 13:50 | Panel discussion
moderated by Thomas Marty
European Advisor, SwissCore

Coffee |
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