UNIVERSITÄT BERN

HANS-SIGRIST-STIFTUNG

VOM STIFTUNGSRAT GENEHMIGT
AM 27. APRIL 2021

Tätigkeitsbericht 2020

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Inhaltsverzeichnis

Hans-Sigrist-Stiftung

Stiftungsrat

- Prof. Dr. N. Trautmann, Präsident
  Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaftliche Fakultät
- Prof. Dr. C. Rigamonti, Vizepräsident
  Rechtswissenschaftliche Fakultät
- Prof. Dr. C. Leumann, Rektor
  vertreten durch Prof. Dr. D. Candinas, Vizerektor Forschung
- Dr. C. Häsler, Erziehungsdirektorin
  vertreten durch D. Schönmann, Amt für Hochschulen
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- Prof. Dr. K. Henke
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- Prof. Dr. A. Kunz
  Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaftliche Fakultät
- Prof. Dr. A. Perren
  Medizinische Fakultät
- Prof. Dr. S. Rebenich
  Philosophisch-historische Fakultät
- Prof. Dr. S. Rottenberg
  Vetsuisse Fakultät

Tätigkeitsbericht 2020

An den beiden ordentlichen Sitzungen befasste sich der Stiftungsrat der Hans-Sigrist-Stiftung mit den folgenden Geschäften:

– Wahl der Preisträgers 2020
– Genehmigung des Tätigkeitsberichtes 2019
– Genehmigung der Jahresrechnung 2019 und des Revisionsberichtes 2019
– Genehmigung des Budgets 2021

Hinzu kamen folgende Tätigkeiten:

– Vergabe von zwei Hans-Sigrist-Zuschüssen

Den Kolleginnen und Kollegen im Stiftungsrat danke ich für Ihr Engagement und ihr konstruktives Mitwirken. Unser besonderer Dank gilt Frau Dr. A. Stockfleet, auf deren aktive, verantwortungsvolle und umsichtige Leitung der Geschäftsstelle wir uns auch während dieser beispiellosen und belastenden Pandemie stets verlassen durften.

Bern, 27. April 2021
Der Präsident des Stiftungsrates
Prof. Dr. N. Trautmann

2020 Hans Sigrist Prize
Maternal-Fetal Communication

A committee of experts, under the leadership of Professor Christiane Albrecht, Institute of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine, University of Bern, presented a list of finalists to the Board for the 2020 Hans Sigrist Prize in the field of "Maternal-Fetal Communication". On April 29, the Board selected Dr. Amanda Sferruzzi-Perri, University of Cambridge, U.K., as the 2020 Hans Sigrist Prize Winner.

Dr. Amanda Sferruzzi-Perri

Laudatio:

Dr. Amanda Sferruzzi-Perri, of the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, is recognized for her distinguished and innovative research in the area of this year's prize field "Maternal-Fetal Communication". She is awarded the 2020 Hans Sigrist Prize for her research dedicated to unravelling the epigenetic and genetic regulation of the placenta and the in utero programming of adult diseases. Through her studies showing the influence of the mother's environment, the placenta in controlling maternal-fetal resource allocation, and her original seminal work on insulin/IGF signaling and fetal growth disorders, Dr. Sferruzzi-Perri has elucidated fundamental concepts of maternal-fetal communication and the fetal origins of health and adult diseases. Her work has motivated further scientific study on the placenta and the design of placenta-targeted strategies to prevent pregnancy complications and to improve the life-long health of mothers and their offspring.

An Interview with the 2020 Hans Sigrist Prize Winner

Hans Sigrist Foundation:
Congratulations on winning the 2020 Hans Sigrist Prize. Were you surprised to find out that you had been selected as the prize winner?

Sferruzzi-Perri:
Yes, I certainly was. In a year that was quite challenging due to the Covid-19 pandemic, hearing that I had won the prize was like a ray of light out of the darkness. I not only feel very honored to be awarded such a prestigious prize, but also really pleased that the Foundation recognized this field of research.

Hans Sigrist Foundation:
We are grateful for Professor Christiane Albrecht's initiative. She responded to our call for proposals from the faculty at the University of Bern and proposed that the prize be awarded in this important and interesting field, Maternal-Fetal Communication. The Foundation can only do what we do thanks to the faculty members who make proposals for the prize field and who lead the committee through a lengthy search process.

If you look back to when you were first trying to decide what to study at the university, what sparked your interest in this particular field?

Sferruzzi-Perri:
I suppose I have always been fascinated by the sciences and by how the human body works. I completed a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Adelaide, and then I added on an honors year, where I was able to undertake different types of research in two labs. During that honors year, I spoke to a lot of people and did some reading, and I began to learn how common pregnancy complications were, that they affect about one in every five women during pregnancy. I went on to pursue a Ph.D. focused on pregnancy research, and in particular, on the role of hormones in the mother in regulating fetal growth. Through that work, I developed an interest in the placenta, which is the organ that develops during pregnancy to control nutrient and oxygen supply from the mother to the fetus. The placenta performs many other roles too, and it is absolutely fundamental to pregnancy success. If we can understand how the placenta develops and functions, hopefully, we can then fully understand the origins of these life-threatening pregnancy complications, which is now the main focus of my research at the University of Cambridge.

Hans Sigrist Foundation:
Prof. Albrecht, could you tell us a little bit about how you decided to choose this field for the prize, and what Maternal-fetal Communication means, for the lay audience?

Albrecht:
I found it absolutely amazing how processes that occur very early in the pregnancy may have such an enormous effect in adult life and in the life of the offspring. When we understand the functions of the placenta and the consequences of a dysfunction of the placenta on fetal development, then we can prevent problems later in life and even societal problems. What inspired me to propose this field for the Hans Sigrist Prize was to highlight how this research field can have a critical impact on society and on the well-being of people. Think of how devastating it is when a pregnancy is not successful, not only for the parents, but also how it impacts the health care system.

Sferruzzi-Perri:
What we and others are really interested in is what the critical environmental factors are, for example, maternal nutrition. We know that high sugar, high fat diets, or undernutrition, can predispose a woman to develop a pregnancy complication, indicating that environmental factors in the mother must determine how the placenta forms and functions. We also know that factors like high stress levels and certain disease states increase the risk of pregnancy complications. We are really interested in understanding the influence of different environmental conditions in the mother on how the placenta forms and functions, and what that means for fetal growth.

Coming back to Prof. Albrecht's important comment, it is not just about the health of the pregnancy, but about the lifelong health of the mother and the child. We know that if the placenta does not form and function properly, nutrient and oxygen supply to the very sensitive fetus, and to its individual organs, will be altered. That can lead to permanent changes in the way that they function, and in later life, we know that this increases the risk that the child will develop type 2 diabetes, heart disease, or obesity, which are some of the largest killers worldwide. So, if we can understand how the environment of the mother impacts the function and formation of the placenta, which in turn impacts fetal development and lifelong health, we may pave the way for improving lifelong health more broadly.

Hans Sigrist Foundation:
Could scientists and doctors intervene during an individual pregnancy?

Sferruzzi-Perri:
Ideally, if we can understand what determines a healthy pregnancy, we can better inform the behaviors of both already expectant parents and of those who are planning a family, encouraging them to make healthy life choices, to start that a bit earlier. Moreover, if we know what influences the formation and function of the placenta and if we know when defects may occur, there may be a way that we can improve the placental formation and function by targeting an agent or changing the mother's environment in pregnancy. We could then prevent the changes in fetal development that lead to an increased risk of disease in adult life.

Hans Sigrist Foundation:
Can the placenta influence the mother's cardiovascular and metabolic system?

Sferruzzi-Perri:
Yes, we know that the placenta is not merely a passive receiver of signals, it is also a sender of signals, including hormones that circulate in the mother and possibly also in the fetus to affect various body systems. In fact, in terms of your question about the potential influence of the placenta in regulating the mother, that is actually one key area that we are now moving into very actively in my lab. For example, placental hormones in the mother act at the level of tissues like the pancreas, to influence insulin production, and act at the level of the cardiovascular system, to promote blood flow distribution to the uterus to support oxygen and nutrient transfer to the fetus. The placenta is an absolutely remarkable organ. It has to form, to function, and to serve two individuals, the mother and the fetus, at the same time.

Hans Sigrist Foundation:
How does this start?

Sferruzzi-Perri:
As Prof. Albrecht highlighted, these processes are happening very early in development, at the level of the uterus, to allow the fetus to implant into the mother, to tap into the nutrient supply, and even preparing her, not just in terms of changing her organ systems, but also her behavior, so that she can prepare for lactation and support the baby after the pregnancy. The legacy of this communication of the placenta to the mother goes beyond just pregnancy itself. It goes even later into the life of the child and also the mother.

If a baby is exposed to a poor gestational environment, for example if a mother develops a complication like gestational diabetes, where

the mother cannot control her glucose levels, or if the mother develops preeclampsia, which is life-threatening high blood pressure during pregnancy, this is often due to failed communication of the placenta with the mother. These women are much more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes and heart disease in later motherhood. However, what we do not know is the extent to which pregnancy is a stress test, exposing a genetic vulnerability in the mother, or whether it is something about the placenta and the way that it is communicating to the organs of the mother, that may induce a permanent change that impacts the function of different systems of the mother that make her, therefore, more susceptible to disease in the years and decades after a pregnancy. So, in my lab, we are actively trying to understand the extent to which the placenta may be communicating to the mother. We are doing this by using models where we can alter the way in which the placenta secretes hormones into the mother. We are also trying to survey the complete repertoire of hormones that are released from the placenta, to see what effect they have on different organs of the mother and to see also whether they could be biomarkers of pregnancy health. As one can imagine, pregnancy is a really challenging physiological process to study, especially in humans, because of ethical challenges and considerations in conducting studies with women and children. Also, a placenta is only available for research after the delivery, so it is really challenging to understand the processes that may lead up to a pregnancy complication. So, if we can improve methods to survey the way in which the placenta is functioning in the pregnancy, say through circulating hormones that the placenta produces, then maybe that could provide an indicator of how the placenta is functioning and forming. At the moment, the pregnancy test is based on the placental hormone HCG, so we know that there are possibilities there. We just do not know all the repertoire of different hormones secreted. In addition, it may not just be about hormones, as there are other less traditional signaling molecules that others in the field are working on like metabolites, shed RNA and DNA, and exosomes that are also thought to communicate from the placenta to the mother. It is indeed a very exciting field!

Hans Sigrist Foundation:
Do you study and follow women and children or do you work with animal studies?

Sferruzzi-Perri:
Human studies are very challenging to do, because pregnancy and life span in humans are long. Also, actually, quite a big part of the field is focused on observational or association studies in humans. People like Prof. Albrecht have really paved the way for associations of pregnancy health and the subsequent health of the child. However, the data for humans is relatively limited, due to the challenges in collecting information that may take 50 years. So, my lab, among others, employs animal models, where pregnancy and

lifespan are much shorter, allowing us to get a greater amount of information, not just in a shorter time frame, but also to tell us about the timing of specific processes that are involved.

In my lab, for example, we use mice as a model, because we can environmentally challenge the pregnancies. There are techniques that can alter certain genes within certain compartments in the pregnancy, like the placenta, the fetus, or the mother. Then, we can follow up on the health of the mother and the child, in the months after the delivery. We have traditionally looked at offspring into adult life, but we have started to look at whether those offspring may themselves also be programmed to have complications in their pregnancy, because of an exposure to a suboptimal environment in their early development.

Albrecht:
The placenta is still a very under-investigated organ, although it has this incredible importance throughout life, not only throughout pregnancy actually. There are so many open questions, and it is still such a fascinating area of research. I just hope that dedicating the prize field and prize funds to it will increase its exposure and motivate others to join this field and to investigate further all the important processes going on throughout pregnancy, which are being linked to the placenta.

Hans Sigrist Foundation:
Speaking of the prize funds, are there types of research that you want to do that are difficult to find funding for, with which the prize money may help you?

Sferruzzi-Perri:
I think, comparatively, as Prof. Albrecht touched upon, research on the placenta and pregnancy is quite a neglected area compared to other fields that seem to be much more appealing to funding agencies, like cancer and even cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. Yet, there are so many links, especially in the cardiometabolic field, with origins that relate to the very early life exposure of an individual. By being able to attain preliminary data to make applications even stronger and more competitive, we may have a better chance of being funded. This is important especially when going up against other fields of research that tend to be focused more on treatment rather than on prevention. If people think about prevention, then they should really be thinking about the placenta and about early life exposures. This award will certainly allow us to raise greater awareness to funding agencies, demonstrating that this is an important area of research.

Hans Sigrist Foundation:
Do you foresee collaborating with Prof. Albrecht?

Sferruzzi-Perri:
Before being awarded the prize, I knew Prof. Albrecht mostly from her publication record, because she does fantastic work on the placenta and nutrient handling, in the context of fetal outcomes.

I am really grateful that the foundation would allow opportunities for me to come and to interact with people at the University of Bern, and to help to design projects to accommodate exchanges between my lab and others in Bern, so that we can maximize individual research programs. Also, to do really impactful projects, it requires a team effort. Samples, for example, that women donate, or even our animal samples, they are so precious. We cannot be experts on everything, and we are pleased to work on samples that others have collected, to maximize the outputs. Similarly, we are happy to provide samples to others to help build knowledge for the field.

Hans Sigrist Foundation:
You mentioned associational studies. Can you explain what associational studies are, in your field, for the lay person?

Sferruzzi-Perri:
We can only really get access to the placenta at the end of pregnancy. What this means is that we are looking at it at the end of a process and trying to understand how the pregnancy ended up that way, whether healthy or pathological. Prof. Albrecht does fantastic work in isolating the specialized cells, the trophoblasts, and from looking at how they behave in culture, she works to develop an understanding of why the baby or the pregnancy may not have had the healthiest of outcomes.

Albrecht:
For example, what we do, we isolate these important cells that form the barrier between the mother and the fetus in the placenta, and we look at what happens if this barrier is disturbed. Can this lead to specific phenotypes that we then see, either in the fetus or in the mother? So, we examine what has been disturbed - is it the nutrient exchange or is it the signaling? Are the very important hormones not being produced anymore? These are the kind of questions that we try to sort out - the phenotype that we see, so that we can reproduce it or nail it down to some effects on a cellular level.

Hans Sigrist Foundation:
Are you working with human samples that are donated?

Albrecht:

Dr. Sferruzzi-Perri and I have complementary approaches. In my lab in Bern, we are mostly working on human cells, isolating these, and Dr. Sferruzzi-Perri, in Cambridge, has created these wonderful mouse models. So, we have very complimentary approaches, which would allow us to design projects together. With Dr. Sferruzzi-Perri's research, we can also look at fetal development, which we cannot do in humans, for ethical reasons.

Sferruzzi-Perri:
By expanding and learning from others, you have so much more capacity and more information that pushes the field further.

Hans Sigrist Foundation:
On the topic of future development, I have asked every prize winner for the past several years, what advice they have for someone who is just starting university and who is interested in this field. What would you suggest?

Sferruzzi-Perri:
My interest in this specific field came from really amazing conversations with others. When you are young, you feel nervous to go up and speak to people whom you do not know, but if you are drawn towards a certain field, use that as your motivation to go speak to people, to go speak to the lecturers who are teaching those courses, to see whether there are opportunities, for example, to go and volunteer in a lab. People are usually happy to share knowledge, advice, and expertise. When I was quite young, I had the opportunity to work in a hospital lab over the summer for six weeks. I was amazed by being able to see this work first hand, in a culture dish, for the first time. I think I did not have a feeling for what scientific research meant until I was physically in the lab.

Albrecht:
I agree. When I was a Ph.D. student, it was a bit intimidating to approach these already very successful researchers. Just approach them, they like to share what they do.

Sferruzzi-Perri:
Yes, people do not necessarily give out advice and information unless one seeks it, so it is important to be quite active about it. Knowing which paths are available is really helpful. It does not matter which career stage one is at; we all have an opportunity to learn from one another. Indeed, I feel I am learning all the time from those around me.

HANS SIGRIST SYMPOSIUM 2020

The 2020 Hans Sigrist Symposium was postponed due to the pandemic. The Foundation looks forward to welcoming the prize winner, Amanda Sferruzzi-Perri, to Bern. Prof. Christiane Albrecht, the 2020 Prize Chair, will put together the symposium agenda and invite experts from the field to speak once pandemic conditions permit. The symposium schedule will be posted on the foundation's website, www.sigrist.unibe.ch, as soon as it is finalized. We hope to see you there!

RESEARCH FIELD FOR THE 2021 HANS SIGRIST PRIZE

On October 26, 2020, after the presentation of an engaging proposal by Prof. Dr. Sven Rottenberg, the Hans Sigrist Foundation Board chose the field "The Single Cell Revolution and Precision Medicine" as the 2021 prize field. This prize field was nominated by the Vetsuisse Faculty at the University of Bern. Prof. Dr. Rottenberg has put together a prize committee to nominate and evaluate leading candidates, and the selection of the prize winner will be made at the April 2021 board meeting.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF PRIZE WINNERS

The Hans Sigrist Prize field changes annually, based upon proposals from the faculties of the University of Bern. Each spring, the Hans Sigrist Foundation board members (who represent all faculties at the university) put out a call to their respective faculties asking for prize field proposals to be submitted in late summer. In the fall board meeting, the board votes on the proposals and determines the prize field and selects the prize search committee chair.

Once the prize search committee chair is selected, additional experts are appointed by the chair to create the prize search committee. The committee members nominate a group of candidates and then ask independent outside experts for further opinions. The prize winner is selected at the spring foundation board meeting and receives the prize at the Dies academicus (annual formal awards ceremony of the University of Bern) in December.

The goal of the foundation in awarding the prize is to select a researcher/ academic at mid-career level who still has plenty of time to make additional contributions to his or her field. It is not meant to be a lifetime achievement award, but instead, a prize to spur further research.

APPLYING FOR A SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT (ZUSCHUSS)

Hans Sigrist Supplementary Grants are meant to supplement, but not fully fund, the cost of a research visit to the University of Bern. Given the high cost of living in Bern, the Foundation offers up to CHF 1,000 per month, pro-rated weekly, to assist professors from other universities with their living costs while conducting a project in cooperation with a University of Bern faculty member. The foundation accepts applications for supplementary grants (Zuschüsse) on a rolling basis. Applications must be submitted at least six weeks before the proposed research visit, in order to allow time for consideration. However, because the foundation has a fixed annual budget for these grants, earlier applications are encouraged. The request/application for a Supplementary Grant must made by the University of Bern host professor. Full details on the application process (in English) are available on our website at www.sigrist.unibe.ch.

In 2020, the Foundation funded two Hans Sigrist Supplementary Grants for a total amount of 1,500 CHF.

Prof. Dr. Laura Rupp, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Dr. Laura Rupp, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands Prof. Dr. David Britain, Department of English in the Humanities Faculty at the University of Bern requested CHF 1000 for a one-month grant for Dr. Laura Rupp, Department of Language, Literature and Communication, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. During her scientific stay in the Department of English, Dr. Rupp worked with Prof. Britain to conduct linguistic analysis of a corpus of dialect recordings, collected by Prof. Peter Trudgill in the 1960s, from the English city of Norwich. These recordings are famous in English dialectology, because they were the first in Europe to be collected and analysed using at that time new sociolinguistic techniques. The dialect of Norwich is well-known for its variable lack of third person singular verbal marking: people will as often say ‘she run’ as ‘she runs’. Until now, however, we have not understood what factors affect the likelihood of –s marking occurring. Such marking occurs in other dialects, but occurs generally, across all subjects – in those dialects we also find ‘I runs’ and ‘they runs’ – but in Norwich (and the East Anglian region to which it belongs) marking does not operate in the same way. Dr. Rupp and Prof. Britain found that two important factors determining the likelihood of –s appearing: firstly, whether the subject of the verb was a pronoun (more –s) or a full noun phrase (less –s), but secondly, and perhaps more importantly and certainly more unusually, it was found that the animacy of the subject of the verb was a strong determinant: inanimate subjects were more likely to mark the verb with –s than human subjects. The findings are now being prepared for publication.

2020 HANS SIGRIST SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (ZUSCHÜSSE)

Prof. Graham Reynolds, University of British Columbia's Allard School of Law, Vancouver

Prof. Cyrill Rigamonti of the Center for the Law of Innovation and Competition (CLIC) at the University of Bern, requested CHF 500 for two-week grant for Prof. Graham Reynolds from the University of British Columbia's Peter A. Allard School of Law in Vancouver. During his Spring 2020 visit, Prof. Reynolds led a seminar for law students on the topic of "Intellectual Property and Human Rights". During the seminar, students at the University of Bern studied the conflict between continuously expanding intellectual property protection and equally continuously expanding human rights protection. Prof. Reynolds also met with doctoral students at the CLIC to discuss their dissertation projects and give feedback.

The Hans Sigrist Supplementary Grant helped to deepen the relationship between the two law faculties, which is also important because the University of British Columbia is a very popular exchange host school among University of Bern law students.
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Prof. Cyrill Rigamonti of the University of Bern's Center for the Law of Innovation and Competition (left) with guest, Prof. Graham Reynolds from the University of British Columbia's Peter A. Allard School of Law in Vancouver.

FORSCHUNGSAUSZEICHNUNG UND -FÖRDERUNG DURCH DIE HANS-SIGRIST-STIFTUNG

Die Hans-Sigrist-Stiftung hat seit ihrer Gründung zahlreiche Persönlichkeiten aus Bern, aus der Schweiz sowie aus dem Ausland auszeichnen und unterstützen können. Nachstehend werden alle Preis- und Stipendiumsempfänger und -empfängerinnen aufgeführt. Zu erwähnen ist, dass zahlreiche dieser Persönlichkeiten nach der Auszeichnung durch die Hans-Sigrist-Stiftung ihre wissenschaftliche Laufbahn mit grösstem Erfolg fortgesetzt haben, was u.a. auch auf den innovativen Charakter der Hans Sigrist Unterstützung schliessen lässt. So erhielt Robert Horvitz, unser erster Preisträger 1994, acht Jahre später den Nobelpreis, und 2009 wurde der frühere Hans Sigrist Preisträger (Preis 1997), Prof. Jack W. Szostack, zusammen mit Elisabeth Blackburn und Carol Greider mit dem Nobelpreis für Medizin ausgezeichnet.

BISHERIGE TRÄGERINNEN UND TRÄGER DES HANS SIGRIST PREISES

1994 Prof. H. Robert Horvitz, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
Apoptosis – Der programmierte Zelltod

1995 Prof. Joseph P. Newhouse, Harvard University, USA
Gesundheitsökonomie

1996 Prof. Frantisek Smahel, Karls-Universität Prag, Tschechien
Geschichtliche Erforschung von Ostmitteleuropa

1997 Prof. Gerald F. Joyce, Scripps Research Institut, USA, und
Prof. Jack W. Szostak, Harvard Medical School, USA
RNA – Schlüsselmolekül zur Entstehung von Leben

1998 Dr. Michel Orrit, Centre de Physique Moléculaire Optique et Hertzienne, Université de Bordeaux, Frankreich
Chemische Grundlagen neuartiger Materialien

1999 Prof. Joan W. Scott
Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, USA
Neue Erkenntnisse in der Geschlechterforschung

2000 Prof. Elsa Tamez, Universidad Biblica Latinoamericana, Costa Rica
Kontextuelle Bibelhermeneutik

2001 Prof. Jan Johansson, Karolinska Institutet, Schweden
Biologische Grenzflächen: Die innere Lungenoberfläche

2002 Dr. Jorge Galàn, Yale University, USA
Pathogen-Wirt-Interaktion

2003 Prof. Dr. Emilio Gentile, Università «La Sapienza», Rom, Italien
Politische Religionen als Merkmal des 20. Jahrhunderts

2004 Prof. Dr. Christopher Pollitt, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Niederlande
Public Governance

2005 Prof. Dr. Stephen Elledge, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA
Qualitätskontrolle in lebenden Zellen

2006 Prof. Dr. David M. Richardson, Stellenbosch University, Südafrika
Biological Invasions

2008 Prof. Dr. Andreas Feldtkeller, Humboldt-Universität, Berlin, Deutschland
Religionen – Wahrheitsansprüche – Konflikte – Theologien:
Theoretische Perspektiven

2009 Prof. Dr. Patrik Vuilleumier, Universität Genf, Schweiz
Kognitive Neurowissenschaft

2011 Prof. Dr. Nicola Lacey, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
Rechtsstaat und Spätmoderne

2012 Prof. Dr. Stephen A. Boppart, University of Illinois, USA
Diagnostische Lasermedizin

2013 Prof. Dr. Yoshiki Sasai, RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology, Kobe, Japan
Stem Cells in Regenerative Medicine

2014 Prof. Dr. Jennifer Klein, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA
Women and Precarity: Historical Perspectives

2015 Prof. Dr. Luciano Marraffini, The Rockefeller University, New York, NY, USA
Combatting Antibiotic Resistance: Novel Antibacterial Strategies

2016 Prof. Dr. Gabriele Hegerl, University of Edinburgh, Scotland
The Human Fingerprint on the Earth System

2017 Prof. Dr. Heleen Muree-van den Berg, Radboud University, The Netherlands,
Historical Research in Eastern Christianity

2018 Prof. Dr. Marina von Keyserlingk, The University of British Columbia, Canada,
Sustainably Produced Food of Animal Origin

2019 Prof. Dr. Ignas Snellen, Leiden University, The Netherlands
Exoplanets: Worlds Beyond Our Solar System

2020 Dr. Amanda Sferruzzi-Perri, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
Maternal-Fetal Communication

BISHERIGE EMPFÄNGERINNEN UND EMPFÄNGER VON HANS SIGRIST STIPENDIEN

1994 Dr. Michael Gerfin
Rechts- und Wirtschaftswissenschaften

1996 Dr. Petra S. Hüppi
Klinische Forschung

1997 Dr. Alberto Achermann und Dr. Andreas Lienhard
Rechtswissenschaft

1998 Dr. Eliane Marti
Forschung mit dem Tier – Forschung für das Tier

1999 Dr. Werner Eugster
Einfluss der Juragewässerkorrektionen auf das lokale und regionale Klima

2000 Dr. Lorenz E. Baumer
Kultureller Austausch - Classical Archaeology

2001 Dr. Ohad S. Parnes
Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften, Mathematik oder Logik des 19. und 20. Jahrhunderts

2002 Dr. Erik Vassella
Erreger-Wirt-Wechselwirkung auf molekularer Ebene

2003 Dr. Claudia Spadavecchia
Schmerzerkennung und Behandlung beim Tier

2004 Dr. Sacha Zala
Historische Politologie: politische Geschichte im Spannungsfeld von Anthropologie, «politischer Theologie», Sozial- und Politikwissenschaften (18.–20. Jahrhundert)

2005 Dr. Georg Lutz
Entwicklung politischer Institutionen zur Förderung guter Regierungsführung

2007 Dr. Friederike Zeeh
Studien im Rahmen der «Veterinary Public Health»: Neue Nachweismethoden für aktuelle Erkrankungen des Verdauungs- und des Atmungsapparates und Untersuchungen zur Entstehung von Lahmheiten bei Schweinen

2008 Dr. Oliver Bossdorf
Evolutionary Ecology of Plant Invasion

2009 Dr. Johannes Klein
Schwurverhalten im Alten Testament

2010 Dr. David Weibel
Die Rolle von Avataren bei der Identitätskonstruktion in virtuellen Welten

Dr. Bartholomäus Wissmath
Immersion in Virtual Realities

2011 Dr. Anna Coninx
Risikoprävention und Gefahrenabwehr im Strafrecht und Polizeirecht

2012 Kai Gerrit Held
Biomedical Photonics, Optoacoustic Imaging

2013 William Hariton
Cell-Cell Adhesion-mediated Signaling in Epidermal Stem Cells

2014 Matthieu Lavoyer (2014 - 2015); Lisia Buergi (2017 - 2019)
Women and Precarity: Historical Perspectives

2015 Odette Bernasconi
Combatting Antibiotic Resistance: Novel Antibacterial Strategies

2016 Stamatina Makri
The Human Fingerprint on the Earth System

2017 Rahel Schär
Historical Research in Eastern Christianity

2018 Janine Braun
Sustainably Produced Food of Animal Origin

2019 Kathryn Jones
Exoplanets: Worlds Beyond Our Solar System

2020 Stipend not yet begun due to the pandemic

An den Stiftungsrat der
Hans-Sigrist-Stiftung, Bern

GFELLER + PARTNER AG

Bericht der Revisionsstelle zur eingeschränkten Revision

Als Revisionsstelle haben wir die Jahresrechnung (Bilanz, Erfolgsrechnung und Anhang) der Hans-Sigrist-Stiftung für das am 31. Dezember 2020 abgeschlossene Geschäftsjahr geprüft.

Für die Jahresrechnung ist der Stiftungsrat verantwortlich, während unsere Aufgabe darin besteht, die Jahresrechnung zu prüfen. Wir bestätigen, dass wir die gesetzlichen Anforderungen hinsichtlich Zulassung und Unabhängigkeit erfüllen.

Unsere Revision erfolgte nach dem Schweizer Standard zur Eingeschränkten Revision. Danach ist diese Revision so zu planen und durchzuführen, dass wesentliche Fehlaussagen in der Jahresrechnung erkannt werden. Eine Eingeschränkte Revision umfasst hauptsächlich Befragungen und analytische Prüfungshandlungen sowie den Umständen angemessene Detailprüfungen der beim geprüften Unternehmen vorhandenen Unterlagen. Dagegen sind Prüfungen der betrieblichen Abläufe und des internen Kontrollsystems sowie Befragungen und weitere Prüfungshandlungen zur Aufdeckung deliktischer Handlungen oder anderer Gesetzesverstösse nicht Bestandteil dieser Revision.

Bei unserer Revision sind wir nicht auf Sachverhalte gestossen, aus denen wir schliessen müssten, dass die Jahresrechnung nicht Gesetz und Stiftungsurkunde entspricht.

Bern, 13. April 2021
CZ/digital signiert

GFELLER + PARTNER AG

Christian Zwahlen
Dipl. Wirtschaftsprüfer
Zugelassener Revisionsexperte
(Leitender Revisor)

Salvatore Fasciana
Dipl. Treuhandexperte
Zugelassener Revisionsexperte

Beilagen:
- Jahresrechnung (Bilanz, Erfolgsrechnung und Anhang)

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Hans - Sigrist - Stiftung, Bern

Bilanz

	31.12.2020	31.12.2019	Abweichung
	CHF	CHF	CHF
AKTIVEN			
Umlaufvermögen			
Flüssige Mittel	393'445.07	498'591.47	-105'146.40
Übrige kurzfristige Forderungen	27'236.95	30'370.80	-3'133.85
Verrechnungssteuer	27'236.95	30'370.80	
Aktive Rechnungsabgrenzungen	0.00	0.00	0.00
Anlagevermögen			
Finanzanlagen	4'702'275.74	4'698'194.34	4'081.40
Total AKTIVEN	**5'122'957.76**	**5'227'156.61**	**-104'198.85**
PASSIVEN			
Kurzfristiges Fremdkapital			
Passive Rechnungsabgrenzungen	12'012.15	5'214.50	6'797.65
Dritte	9'858.15	3'060.50	
Organe	2'154.00	2'154.00	
Eigenkapital			
Stiftungskapital	7'431'908.10	7'431'908.10	0.00
Verlustvortrag	-2'209'965.99	-2'393'489.55	183'523.56
Jahresergebnis	-110'996.50	183'523.56	-294'520.06
Total	**5'110'945.61**	**5'221'942.11**	**-110'996.50**
Total PASSIVEN	**5'122'957.76**	**5'227'156.61**	**-104'198.85**

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Erfolgsrechnung

	2020	2019	Abweichung
	CHF	CHF	CHF
Wertschriftenertrag			
Dividenden-und Zinsertrag Finanzanlagen	77'990.15	87'109.70	-9'119.55
Fremdwährungsgewinne	525.43	4'194.37	-3'668.94
Realisierte Kursgewinne Finanzanlagen	11'605.00	74'391.36	-62'786.36
Nicht realisierte Kursgewinne Finanzanlagen	183'413.08	366'476.58	-183'063.50
Total Nettoerlös aus Leistungen	**273'533.66**	**532'172.01**	**-258'638.35**
Wertschriftenaufwand			
Bankspesen	61.63	160.00	-98.37
Spesen Finanzanlagen	381.15	460.35	-79.20
Fremdwährungsverluste	3'281.84	1'085.70	2'196.14
Realisierte Kursverluste Finanzanlagen	10'236.57	80.90	10'155.67
Nicht realisierte Kursverluste Finanzanlagen	57'338.62	8'054.14	49'284.48
Wertschriftenverwaltung	16'884.20	17'353.65	-469.45
Total Aufwand	**88'184.01**	**27'194.74**	**60'989.27**
Bruttoergebnis	**185'349.65**	**504'977.27**	**-319'627.62**
Personalaufwand			
Saläre	46'814.45	46'261.20	553.25
Sozialleistungen	10'761.00	9'385.80	1'375.20
Total	**57'575.45**	**55'647.00**	**1'928.45**
Übriger betrieblicher Aufwand			
Verwaltungsaufwand	3'729.80	3'555.47	174.33
Buchführung	969.30	969.30	0.00
Revision	2'154.00	2'154.00	0.00
Aufwand Stiftungsrat	51.60	473.30	-421.70
Total	**6'904.70**	**7'152.07**	**-247.37**
Ergebnis vor Verwendungen gemäss Stiftungszweck	**120'869.50**	**442'178.20**	**-321'308.70**

Hans - Sigrist - Stiftung, Bern

Erfolgsrechnung

	2020	2019	Abweichung
	CHF	CHF	CHF
Ergebnis vor Verwendung gemäss Stiftungszweck	**120'869.50**	**442'178.20**	**-321'308.70**
Verwendung gemäss Stiftungszweck			
Hans Sigrist-Stiftung Preis	-100'000.00	-100'000.00	0.00
Spesen i.S. Hans Sigrist-Stiftung Preis	-7'000.00	-6'188.14	-811.86
Stipendien	-123'366.00	-135'466.50	12'100.50
Wissenschaftliche Massnahmen	-1'500.00	-17'000.00	15'500.00
Total	**-231'866.00**	**-258'654.64**	26'788.64
Jahresergebnis	***-110'996.50***	***183'523.56***	***-294'520.06***

Hans - Sigrist - Stiftung, Bern

Anhang

A. Bewertungsgrundsätze

Die vorliegende Jahresrechnung wurde gemäss den Vorschriften des Schweizer Gesetzes, insbesondere der Artikel über die kaufmännische Buchführung und Rechnungslegung des Obligationenrechts (Art. 957 bis 962 OR) erstellt. Die wesentlichen Abschlusspositionen sind wie nachstehend bilanziert:

Finanzanlagen
Die Wertschriften des Anlagevermögens werden zum Stichtagskurs am Bilanzstichtag, also zum Marktwert bewertet.

B. Erläuterungen zur Jahresrechnung

	31.12.2020 CHF	31.12.2019 CHF
Finanzanlagen		
Aktien Schweiz	843'346.30	805'371.45
Immobilen-Fonds	832'251.50	809'585.85
Obligationen Schweiz CHF	2'030'195.86	2'049'282.90
Obligationen Ausland FW	414'211.58	505'542.40
Aktien Welt	582'270.50	528'411.74
Total	**4'702'275.74**	**4'698'194.34**

C. Übrige im Gesetz vorgesehene Angaben

1.1 Rechtsform, Zweck

Die Hans Sigrist-Stiftung ist eine gemäss öffentlicher Urkunde vom 12. August 1993 (Urschrift 1755) errichtete Stiftung im Sinne der Art. 80ff ZGB mit Sitz in Bern. Domizil der Stiftung ist Schanzeneckstrasse 1, 3012 Bern.

Gemäss den Statuten vom 21. Januar 1997 hat die Stiftung zum Zweck: die Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung und Honorierung hervorragender wissenschaftlicher Leistungen, gleichgültig in welchem Fachgebiet gemäss Reglement vom 29. Oktober 1996, Datum des Erlasses vom 27. Januar 2014.

1.2 Personelle Zusammensetzung des Stiftungsrates

Trautmann Norbert, Prof. Dr., Bern	Präsident
Rigamonti Cyrill, Prof. Dr., Bern	Vizepräsident
Brönnimann Stefan, Prof. Dr., Zollikofen	Mitglied
Henke Katharina, Prof. Dr., Mont-Vully (FR)	Mitglied
Kunz Alexis, Prof. Dr., Riaz	Mitglied
Leumann Christian, Prof. Dr., Bern	Mitglied
Häsler Christine, Burglauenen	Mitglied
Bloch René Sigmund, Prof. Dr., Bern	Mitglied
Perren Aurel, Prof. Dr., Bern	Mitglied
Rebenich Stefan, Prof. Dr., Kandersteg	Mitglied
Rottenberg Sven, Prof. Dr., Bern	Mitglied

1.3 Entschädigungen an die Stiftungsräte werden keine ausgerichtet.

1.4 Zeichnungsberechtigung

Der Präsident und der Vizepräsident des Stiftungsrates
führen Kollektivunterschrift zu zweien.

1.5 Revisionsstelle

Gfeller + Partner AG
Amthausgasse 6
3000 Bern 7

1.6 Erklärung, ob Anzahl Vollzeitstellen im Jahresdurchschnitt nicht über 10, 50 oder 250 liegt

Die Anzahl Vollzeitstellen liegt im Jahresdurchschnitt nicht über 10 Mitarbeitenden.

1.7 Wesentliche Ereignisse nach dem Bilanzstichtag

Nach dem Bilanzstichtag sind keine wesentlichen Ereignisse eingetreten, welche die Aussagefähigkeit der Jahresrechnung (2020) beeinträchtigen könnten bzw. an dieser Stelle offengelegt werden müssten.

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