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The Swiss Federation of Clinical Neuro-Societies and Young Clinical Neuroscientists Network

The Swiss Federation of Clinical Neuro-Societies (SFCNS) was founded in 2009 and currently unites 14 clinical neuroscience associations. Its primary goals are the promotion of clinical, scientific, and educational interdisciplinary collaboration, as well as to establish a united voice towards other organisations, policy makers, and society.¹ The SFCNS has received a mandate from the Swiss public health authorities to coordinate the implementation of highly specialised medicine in clinical neuroscience. Similar to the German *Neurowoche*,² the

SFCNS organises an interdisciplinary congress every 3 years (the next taking place in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Oct 23–25, 2019). This congress and our annual SFCNS Summer School promote education and discussion in clinical neuroscience. Last year, the SFCNS launched the journal *Clinical and Translational Neuroscience*, as successor of the *Swiss Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry*, founded by Constantin von Monakow about a century ago.³

In 2016, the SFCNS endorsed the creation of the Young Clinical Neuroscientists Network (YouCliN). The need and advantages of encouraging and engaging junior minds are increasingly recognised.⁴ The mission of YouCliN includes to represent the interests of junior clinicians with respect to current issues and future development of Swiss clinical neuroscience and the promotion of interdisciplinary training. These goals are enacted by a steering committee composed of 14 delegates at an intermediate career stage from across the country, reflecting the clinical neuroscience specialties represented within the SFCNS. Other aims are the integration of care providers and researchers from non-medical disciplines, and the rapprochement of neurology and psychiatry.⁵ YouCliN will also elaborate on strategies for equal gender opportunities.

To the best of our knowledge, the SFCNS appears to be the only national association of professionals from different clinical neuroscience disciplines in Europe. Development of the SFCNS might have been favoured by the circumscribed Swiss clinical neuroscience landscape, where most colleagues know each other well, despite working in three different linguistic zones, but certainly also by a strong tradition of dialogue and consensus. This small world striving for excellence and its enthusiasm towards innovative biomedical research, regenerative cell therapy, genomics, and neurotechnology provide an ideal

environment for synergy and progress in clinical neuroscience.

At a global level, interdisciplinary cooperation has already become indispensable in the management of patients with stroke, CNS tumours, dementia, or sleep disorders.⁶ Functional restoration and neuromodulation represent imminent challenges for clinical neuroscience, requiring specific skills in translational research, neuroradiology, and intensive care. State-of-the-art clinical neuroscience will also depend on the implementation of integrative clinical pathways from the emergency room to neurorehabilitation, for patients of different ages. These challenges require united and determined action.

We declare no competing interests. CB served as founding and first president of the SFCNS from 2009 to 2013, AV was the second SFCNS president from 2013 to 2017, KS is the third and current SFCNS president and AAS serves as founding YouCliN chair. We thank Renaud Du Pasquier and Philippe Ryvlin for valuable discussion. AAS reports fellowships from the Baasch-Medicus Foundation and the Leenaards Foundation.

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