

The School of Pharmacy Geneva-Lausanne (EPGL) – The First Ten Years

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Abstract: With the creation of the School of Pharmacy Geneva-Lausanne (EPGL) in 2003, cantons Geneva and Vaud pooled their resources with the objective of reinforcing the research and teaching in the pharmaceutical sciences. Its core research units cover all aspects of fundamental pharmaceutical research and include collaborative research with the University Hospitals of Geneva and Lausanne.

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Undoubtedly, Life Sciences have a stronghold in Switzerland. Among them, Pharmaceutical Sciences are involved in the translational process of transforming scientific concepts into real drugs. A tight network of academic and industrial institutions in Switzerland forms the breeding ground for innovations in Life Sciences. The School of Pharmacy Geneva-Lausanne (EPGL) is one of these institutions.

Located in the Lake of Geneva region, the School was formally created on July 8, 2003 by signing a convention enabling the transfer of the Section of Pharmacy at the University of Lausanne to the University of Geneva. With the creation of the EPGL, the two independent cantons of Geneva and Vaud were able to pool considerable resources with the objective of reinforcing the research and teaching in the pharmaceutical sciences. The School remains a unique example of inter-cantonal cooperation in the area of higher education.

During its first decennium, with its main facilities located at the University of Geneva, the School presents itself today as an integrated research and teaching facility. Its core research units, including *Biopharmaceutics*, *Life Sciences Mass Spectrometry*, *Pharmaceutical Analytical Chemistry*, *Pharmaceutical Biochemistry*, *Pharmaceutical Technology*, *Pharmacology*, *Pharmacognosy*, *Pharmacochemistry*, *Phytochemistry* and *Bioactive Natural Products* cover all aspects of fundamental pharmaceutical research in their scientific programs. In addition, and to underline the translational character of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the School includes research units working in the areas of *Clinical Chemistry* (located at the Geneva University Hospital, HUG), *Clinical Pharmacology* (HUG),

Community Pharmacy (in Lausanne, Policlinique Médicale Universitaire, PMU) as well as *Hospital and Clinical Pharmacy* (located at HUG and the University Hospital of the Canton of Vaud, CHUV, in Lausanne). The faculty and staff of the School comprise 55 full-time equivalents today, more than 100 PhD students are enrolled in the graduate program, and about 350 students in the undergraduate program.

Concomitant with the creation of the EPGL, the reform of the study program according to the Bologna model has allowed the training in Pharmaceutical Sciences to be adapted to the needs of the 21st century. With the first year equally offered to students at the Universities of Lausanne, Fribourg and Neuchâtel, the School today offers a Bachelor of sciences in Pharmaceutical Sciences and a Master of sciences in Pharmacy, which have recently undergone a very successful accreditation process. This curriculum attracts students from within Switzerland and from other

countries, rendering the School one of the most important Pharmacy Schools in the French-speaking world. In addition, the School has created with its partners two Masters in Advanced Studies (MAS) programs, in the areas of *Hospital Pharmacy* and *Toxicology*. The latter program is organized with the participation of the Swiss Center for Applied Human Toxicology (SCAHT), another excellent example of cooperation on the regional and national level.

The next ten years will see some important changes for the School. First, it will move to its new home close to the University Hospital of Geneva, and be integrated into the infrastructure of the University Medical Center (CMU). Research and training will both benefit from a closer interaction with institutions of other medical professions. On a regional level, the School will further develop its base and enhance its research and teaching capabilities by even closer interacting with institutions in the Lake Geneva area.

Research Units at the EPGL

Biopharmaceutics

Prof. Gerrit Borchard
Dr. Olivier Jordan

Clinical pharmacology

Prof. Jules Desmeules

Clinical proteomics

Prof. Denis Hochstrasser

Community pharmacy

Prof. Olivier Bugnon

Hospital and clinical pharmacy

Prof. Pascal Bonnabry, HUG

Prof. André Pannatier, CHUV

Dr. Chantal Csajka

Life sciences mass spectrometry

Prof. Gérard Hopfgartner

Dr. Emmanuel Varesio

Pharmaceutical analysis chemistry

Prof. Jean-Luc Veuthey

Dr. Serge Rudaz

Pharmaceutical Biochemistry

Prof. Leonardo Scapozza

Dr. Yogeshvar Kalia, Dr. Remo Perozzo

Pharmaceutical Technology

Prof. Eric Allémann

Dr. Florence Delie, Dr. Norbert Lange

Pharmacology

Prof. Pierre-Alain Carrupt

Dr. Sophie Martel

Pharmacognosy

Prof. Muriel Cuendet

Dr. Philippe Christen

Phytochemistry and bioactive natural products

Prof. Jean-Luc Wolfender

Dr. Emerson Ferreira-Queiroz

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