

SARMA Newsletter 1-2008

Overview

Editorial

Events

Who is who in Swiss research management

Stammtisch

Task Group Human Resources

Charta

www.sarma.ch

Secretary

Editorial

(by Rolf Steinmann)

Dear SARMA member

What SARMA started last year successfully by launching the Swiss Research Management Development Initiative, took a clear shape during 2008: The implementation of the new strategy is well in progress. While the last year was focused on getting support from almost all Swiss research top executives (a distinguished audience was also present at our kick off meeting last year in Berne), this year we focus on setting up a number of task groups.

We are very pleased that an original strength of SARMA, supporting research management by getting public as well as private research institutions to join forces, is going to be practiced again. In our task group human resources, for example, representatives of public institutions participate as well as members from companies like Roche and IBM.

With our so called "Stammtisch" SARMA also started a series of events which allows research managers to get into contact with top executives in research management and share their experiences in an open atmosphere. A first event with Ingrid Kissling-Näf was very successful and we are looking forward to welcome Daniel Höchli (Director, SNF) and Paul Herrling (Global head of corporate research, Novartis) in our upcoming Stammtisch events.

Last but not least I would like to thank you for your SARMA membership (or to encourage those who are not yet members to join us). Be assured that we will do our best to provide you with a maximum return for your investment every year – and you are always welcome to contribute!

Events

15 Oct,	18:00	Stammtisch with Dr. Daniel Höchli, Swiss National Science Foundation
13 Nov,	13:30	Annual Conference and General Assembly

Who is who in Swiss research management

Five questions to Dr. Ingrid Kissling-Näf, Vizedirektorin Bundesamt für Bildung und Technologie, Leiterin Förderagentur für Innovation KTI.



Ingrid KISSLING-NÄF (1964) is Head of the Swiss Innovation Promotion Agency CTI. She studied theology, economics and political science in Fribourg, Paris and Lausanne and did her doctorate in St Gallen. Following the completion of her studies she was Assistant Professor for Forest Resource Economics at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich and a trainee at the Workshop of Political Theory and Policy Analysis in Indiana. From 2001 to 2007, she has been Secretary General of Swiss Academy of Sciences.

1. What do the three letters "KTI/CTI" actually mean?
Kommission für Technologie und Innovation
2. "Science to Market": Where is the snag?
CTI promotes cooperation between SMEs and academic research. This accelerates the implementation of research findings in products and services, leverages the businesses ability to innovate and leads to high-quality jobs.
3. How can the independence of scientific research be preserved?
For instance by institutions like the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the self-responsibility of researchers.
4. What is the most important quality of a research manager?
Enthusiasm for their own research issues and the ability to work in a team.
5. What do you read in leisure times?
Novels

Read the summary report of the Stammtisch with Ingrid Kissling-Näf in <Past SARMA events>.

Stammtisch

(by Hans-Caspar Bodmer)

"SARMA-Stammtisch" is a tri-annual event for everybody interested in the topic of research management in Switzerland. We meet casually in different cities from 18:00 till 20:00 to informally discuss hot topics in research management.

The next "SARMA-Stammtische" will be dedicated to "who is who in Swiss research management". We get into close contact with personalities known in public life, private industry and academia who are sharing their experiences, their know-how or their visions with us and they are happy to answer your questions.

For the next "SARMA-Stammtisch" we have invited Dr. Daniel Höchli, Director of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF, <http://www.snf.ch/E/Pages/default.aspx>). Date: October 15th 2008, from 18-20h at the SNSF in Bern. An invitation will be sent end of September.

Task group Human Resources

(by Georg Spescha)

Objectives: Provide the necessary offspring of research managers for the Swiss public and private research with the required skills

The Task group Human Resources started its work with a kick-off meeting on June 20th in Zürich. On this first constitutional meeting, a core group of human resources specialists discussed the next steps to bring in line the objectives of the task group with the needs of the human resources managements. The tasks and services, as presented on a hand-out at the Annual Conference 2007, were slightly modified and endorsed. A new point was raised regarding the need of communication and awareness of the topic "management" and added to the list of services.

In a second meeting on August 22nd the group discussed the action plan and milestones to fulfil the tasks. Subgroups were established for the three main tasks and until the end of this year the first milestone "definition of job profiles" should be achieved.

The next meeting will take place in October 2008 and after that meeting the task group will inform the other SARMA members of the outcome and invite them to contribute to the ongoing work.

Charta

(by Rolf Steinmann)

Starting with the SARMA Kick off event for the Swiss Research Management Development Initiative, the board has initiated a SARMA charta, where leading Swiss research managers commit to support the SARMA initiative. A number of top Swiss research managers already has signed the SARMA charta and the board will continue to complete the supporters list.

www.sarma.ch - Version 4.0

(by Ralf Longwitz)

Since September 2000 when the first SARMA website went online, it has gone through a few changes. In October 2002 it got a new face, with our then new logo at a prominent position on an intro page. The menu structure was renewed, too. Three years later, in October 2005, Derek Poon, together with Kirsten Leufgen, gave our site a modern look and made the navigation definitely more user-friendly. Since then, SARMA changed a lot, and the old website did not quite meet our demands anymore. The technology was out of date and updating the contents or changing the structure was difficult for anyone with no experience in web design. Therefore we decided to install an up to date content management system: Website Baker.

I installed the recent version of Website Baker (2.7, April 2008, see www.websitebaker.org) and transferred design and contents to the new system. The visitor will not yet see differences at first sight: the general structure is the same, and the contents have hardly changed – yet. But have a look at the details: Banner and menu are now fixed, so they don't scroll out of sight, and the footer is new, containing links to the administration login and backend that previously confused many visitors who used to „accidentally“ click on the Administration link which was the first item on the menu.

On second sight you might notice the new forms: at the bottom of each form you now find a „Captcha“, a spam protection mechanism. Also all email addresses are now automatically spam protected by encryption. The big advantage of the new CMS is the backend that makes updating the website, adding new content, and redesigning the structure easily manageable even without an IT diploma.

So, what's in it for you, the visitor of our site? You can expect that Christoph, our new and highly motivated secretary, will enjoy putting up new content, news, events, links, and downloads regularly. Giving the site a new structure has only begun. We already have a

list of ideas for new offers on our website. The „Jobs“-section is to be revived: job offers are welcome and can be entered online for free! In addition, Website Baker allows for comfortable user management, so we might soon open a „members-only“ area on the site. If you have any ideas for our website, suggestions for improvements or for new content that you would like to see on www.sarma.ch, your input is most appreciated. We are happy to publish relevant events and information to the Swiss Research Management community.

I hope that the new site will become an active platform for everyone interested in research management and that you will enjoy your visits to www.sarma.ch!

Secretary

(by Christoph Zehntner)



Hi, I am the new SARMA Secretary. After having worked a whole life time for armasuisse – at last as Head of Business Unit Aviation and Electronics of the competence sector Science and Technology – I retired early. Eventually, I threwed a study in with the topic „How to manage research“ which established the link to SARMA. My basic formation is Dipl. El.-Ing. ETH, my hobbies are amateur radio (HB9AJP), jogging and Argentine tango. I am married and have three grown-up children. At this point I would like to say a warm thank you to our former secretary Kirsten Leufgen and her financial assistent Dominique Stücker. They made it easy for me to take over.