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## Annual Report 2023

Dear Members of the Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics,

The year 2023 was another highly successful year for life sciences innovations. mRNA vaccines were advanced to be used in areas other than Covid-19. The first CRISPR-based gene editing therapy has been approved by the FDA and successes have been achieved in the many other fields. However, similar break-through innovations are still lacking in the field of antibiotics, even though we are confronted with the looming post-antibiotic era. To combat the increasing rates of antimicrobial resistance, intensive research and the development of new approaches will be needed. At the same time, instances of disruptions to global supply chains continued to increase. In addition to the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, natural disasters, trade conflicts and labour shortages have contributed to the shortage of medicines. In Switzerland, almost 350 active ingredients have been in short supply, with antimicrobials particularly affected. These developments confirm the continued need for missions such as the one pursued by the Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics: measures that promote the development of antimicrobial technologies and ensure their availability to safeguard the future functioning of health care systems.

We realise our mission by further working on the pull project which we started in late 2022, and by continuously raising awareness of the need for a better economic framework for research, development, and the launch of antimicrobials in more countries. Out of the total of six modules of the pull project, we have started three and completed one. In the now completed Module A, we assessed various pull incentive models considering their expected effectiveness, speed of implementation and social acceptance in a potential implementation in Switzerland. We sought input and advice by more than 50 national and international stakeholders and took a detailed look at pilot projects conducted in Sweden and England. These analyses made us conclude the subscription model with an annual revenue guarantee to be the only model that can meet the two otherwise conflicting goals of manufacturers achieving a reasonable revenue while containing product use to low levels. Such a model is flexible and can be tailored to achieve different

goals for different antibiotics at the same time: it can encourage manufacturers to seek marketing authorisation for their innovative new antibiotics and make them available in the small Swiss market, and it can be tailored to secure a dependable supply of first- and second-choice older antibiotics, for example by preventing manufacturers from withdrawing such products from the Swiss market. We have published the accompanying report in German, English, French and Italian. You may download the reports in English: <https://doi.org/10.48350/194363>, German: <https://doi.org/10.48350/192659>, French: <https://doi.org/10.48350/194389>, or Italian: <https://doi.org/10.48350/194450>. Work on Module E (Legal Advice) about the feasibility of a subscription model in Switzerland, and Module F (Communication, Stakeholder Engagement, and International Exchange), have been pursued in parallel to Module A and will continue as we proceed Module B activities in 2024. Module B will focus on defining the eligibility criteria that new antibiotics must meet to qualify for reimbursement under the subscription model and the method to determine the size of remuneration for individual antibiotics.

We have raised public awareness of the importance of innovative political frameworks through various events and other activities. In each case, we were strongly supported by our members and other stakeholders. Two events were of the utmost importance: Dr Claus Bolte gave a presentation on the topic of Marketing Authorisation of New Antibiotics - Established Pathways, "Detours" and "Short Cuts". He pointed out to our members and interested individuals the many possibilities of the measures of regulatory ease that were implemented by Swissmedic. In the context of the 2023 World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW), we organised a full-day event in Lausanne on the premises of our member Debiopharm, for our members, partners, and friends. Numerous speakers from science, the health care sector, industry, legal and regulatory advisors, and public administration contributed to the success of the event by promoting a better understanding of the various challenges antibiotics are facing along the entire pharmaceutical life cycle, and the roles of push and pull incentives in overcoming them. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all contributors once again. In addition to larger events, we have also deployed further communication activities in a fresh new design: a newsletter, poster presentations, articles in stakeholder media, and numerous one-on-one meetings with members of our ecosystem.

The increased activities compared to previous years have also been made possible by our new colleagues. In late summer, Kosta Shatrov joined us as a research assistant and Valerie Bachmann as a project associate. Together with Barbara Polek, the Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics has thus built up a powerful team. But we have not only grown at an operational level. We have also gained new members. We are pleased to welcome the following new Full Members: Lucas Böttcher (Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, and University of Florida), Oliver Zerbe (University of Zürich, Department of Chemistry), Ursula von Mandach (Swiss Academy of Perinatal Pharmacology and Schweizerische Akademie der Pharmazeutischen Wissenschaften), Martine Ruggli (Schweizerischer Apothekerverband, pharmaSuisse) and Delphine Guérin. We also welcome as new Associate Members Damien Somé and Yann Ferrisse as representatives of GARDP, Hans Gersbach (ETH Zürich/KOF), Shionogi BV (Pol Vandenbroucke), Luminance Health GmbH (Walter FÜRST) and scienceindustries (Jürg Granwehr). We warmly welcome the new members!

We would like to express our gratitude for the financial donations received in 2023 from Debiopharm (CHF 5,000) and two private donors (total of CHF 700). We also thank for grants and sponsoring of our pull project by MSD Schweiz AG (CHF 40,000), AMR Action Fund (USD 5,000), Menarini (CHF 2,000), Däster Schild Stiftung (CHF 50,000), the Federal Office of Public Health (40'000 CHF), and the Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious Diseases of the University of Bern (CHF 2,500). In addition, we obtained fees or sponsorship for our workshop held at University of

Basel by Menarini (CHF 800), Basilea (CHF 1,000), Roche (CHF 800), Bioversys (CHF 800), Spexis (CHF 800), GARDP (CHF 800), and Micros (CHF 1,600).

The income statement (see Table 1) and the balance sheet (see Table 2) relate to the activities of the association which are financially compensated, i.e., they do not reflect the significant in-kind contributions. With income totalling 123,800 CHF, we were able to generate a small profit of CHF 213.99. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our responsible for finance & accounting, Barbara Leib, for setting up the financial report, and our auditor, Achim Kaufhold, who audited the accounts this year (see Figure 1).

*Table 1: Income statement*

<b>EXPENSES</b>		<b>2023</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2022</b>
4000	PULL Projects	38'413.64	31.1%	7'539.00
4100	Workshops/Events	3'029.05	2.5%	-.-
5000	Salaries	32'056.70	25.9%	3'896.30
5700	Social securities	8'985.10	7.3%	1'251.20
5800	other personnel expenses	1'054.05	0.9%	-.-
6500	Office Supplies	66.50	0.1%	299.00
6550	Office Rental Cleaning Insurance	1'629.93	1.3%	-.-
6530	Accounting, Administration	6'225.00	5.0%	2'900.00
6540	Expenses Board /General Assembly	2'623.00	2.1%	376.00
6570	Website & IT	12'545.94	10.2%	11'501.28
6600	Marketing & Communication	16'847.10	13.6%	590.75
6900	Financial costs	110.00	0.1%	90.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>123'586.01</b>		<b>28'443.53</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>		<b>2023</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2022</b>
3300	Fee Workshops	6'600.00	5.3%	-.-
3500	Sponsoring	116'500.00	94.1%	-.-
3600	Donations	700.00	0.6%	28'537.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>123'800.00</b>		<b>28'537.00</b>
Profit		213.99	0.2%	93.47

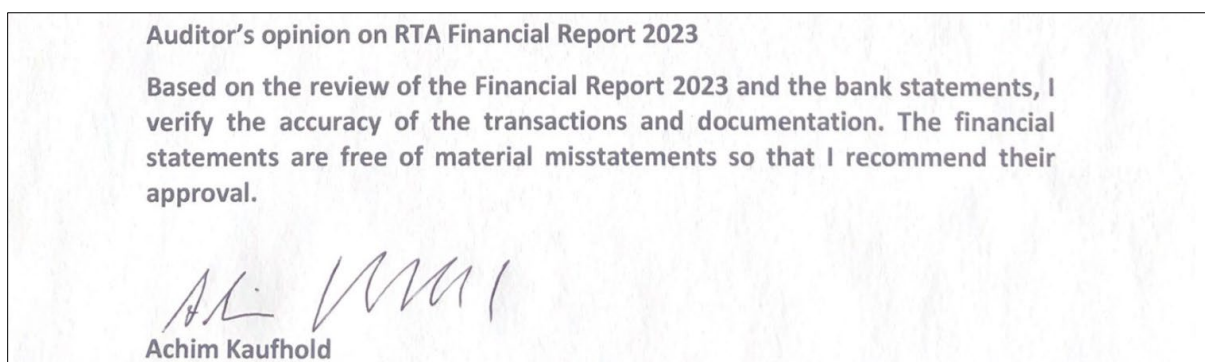
Table 2: Balance sheet

<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>31.12.23</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>31.12.22</b>
1020	Postfinance account	46'413.04	97.5%	23'042.67
1100	Due from Sponsors or Debtors	977.75	2.1%	44'567.00
1300	Prepaid expenses	215.27	0.5%	-.-
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>47'606.06</b>		<b>67'609.67</b>

<b>LIABILITIES</b>		<b>31.12.23</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>31.12.22</b>
2300	Transitory liabilities open bills	6'318.60	13.3%	9'536.20
2600	Provisions	38'000.00	79.8%	55'000.00
2800	Foundation Capital	2'000.00	4.2%	2'000.00
2970	Profit (Loss) carried forward	1'073.47	2.3%	980.00
	Profit	213.99	0.4%	93.47
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>47'606.06</b>		<b>67'609.67</b>

Figure 1: Auditor's opinion



The successes in 2023 motivate us to tackle the challenges perceived in 2024. The launch and implementation of Module B of the Pull project will demand a great deal of commitment and efforts. It will be crucial that we can offer the current well-functioning team a long-term perspective. To this end further substantial financial and in-kind contributions from members and third parties will be needed, enabling the association to drive the project forward. I am convinced that we can make it happen together!

*Rudolf Blankart*

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President of the Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics