



Prof. Dr. Rudolf Blankart
President
Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics
Freiburgstrasse 3
CH-3010 Bern

+41 31 666 44 30
president@roundtableantibiotics.ch
www.roundtableantibiotics.ch

Bern, 04 April 2026

Annual Report 2025

Dear members of the Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics,

The year 2025 has been a landmark year for the Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics (RTA). On 20 August 2025, the Federal Council submitted its message on the partial revision of the Epidemics Act (EpidA) to Parliament, together with a four-year commitment credit for financial contributions to the development of and Swiss access to antimicrobial substances. Articles 50a and 51a, the twin instruments that authorise the Federal Council to fund antibiotic research and development (push) and to remunerate selected antibiotics through a Swiss revenue-guarantee or subscription model (pull), form the legal backbone of our Association's decade-long advocacy. Their formal introduction into the parliamentary process marks the transition from conceptual groundwork to implementation.

Internationally, momentum for pull incentives continues to grow. The United Kingdom's permanently adopted subscription model, Italy's incentive model which absorbs the clawback for selected antibiotics up to 100 million - annually, and HERA's first attempt at a Pan-EU/EEA pilot of a revenue-guarantee scheme all illustrate a growing international consensus: that conventional pricing mechanisms cannot, on their own, sustain a pipeline of effective antibiotics. Switzerland's Articles 50a and 51a position our country among the early followers, provided the legislation is adopted by Parliament and successfully defended against a potential referendum.

Against this backdrop, the Association has used 2025 to deliver its central project commitment to the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), to strengthen its institutional base through a revised statutory framework and the introduction of membership fees, and to prepare for the political and operational challenges of the next phase.

Political developments in Switzerland

The publication of the Federal Council's message on 20 August 2025 opened the parliamentary phase of the revision of the EpidA. The message includes the draft revision itself, as well as a draft federal decree on a four-year commitment credit for financial contributions to the development of antimicrobial substances and Swiss access to such substances. On the same day, the FOPH circulated its draft

implementation plan, which the Association discussed with representatives of the FOPH on 19 December 2025.

Two elements of the Federal Council's approach deserve particular mention. First, the Federal Council has proposed to proceed directly to an operational subscription model for Article 51a, without a separate pilot phase (the former Module C of the Pull Project). This pragmatic approach may shorten the timeline but raises the bar for the quality of the preparatory work. Second, Articles 50a and 51a are presented as "twin articles", each accompanied by its own financial plan. This framing reflects the complementarity of push and pull instruments that the Association considers essential for the coherence of the overall approach.

On 17 November 2025, the Association was heard by the Commission for Social Security and Health of the Council of States (SGK-S) in the context of the committee's entry-into-matter debate (Eintretensdebatte). The hearing offered the Association the opportunity to explain the rationale for Articles 50a and 51a, to respond to questions on the design of the subscription model, and to situate the Swiss instrument in the international policy landscape.

Switzerland's pull-incentive work gained international visibility during 2025: the Global AMR R&D Hub's Dashboard now showcases Switzerland's activities, including a link to the Association's White Paper and information on the critical gaps in the Swiss antibiotic arsenal.

Pull Project update 2025

The Pull Project advanced significantly in 2025. Work on Module B, focusing on the eligibility criteria that antibiotics must meet to qualify for remuneration under a future subscription model, was brought to completion: In December 2025, the Swiss Bacterial Priority Pathogens List (Swiss BPPL), proposed by a team of scientists and clinical experts, was delivered to the FOPH, and the final report was published on 04 May 2026. The Swiss BPPL identifies the priority pathogens against which new antibiotics should be effective in order to qualify for subscription-based remuneration.

Earlier in the year, the Association conducted a survey among eleven major Swiss hospitals, including the five Swiss university hospitals, on their imports in 2023 and 2024 under special provisions (Art. 20 HMG and Art. 49 AMBV) of antibiotics not authorised in Switzerland. The expenditures for the reported imports exceeded CHF 1 million per year, with Cefiderocol's share being by far the highest, reflecting its import by the largest number of hospital pharmacies involved in the survey. Preliminary survey results were published in the April 2025 newsletter. The final report was published on 04 May 2026 and covers an extended scope of the survey. It also provides a proposed shortlist of antibiotics whose permanent presence in Switzerland under a Swissmedic marketing authorisation would be particularly valuable.

Security of supply

In October 2025, the Association submitted its comments on the Federal Council's direct counter-proposal to the popular initiative "Ja zur medizinischen Versorgungssicherheit". The submission focused on those elements of supply security that are most relevant to antibiotics and on the interplay between supply-security instruments and the incentive mechanisms foreseen under the revised EpidA.

On 9-10 September 2025, a group of RTA members, Barbara Polek, Silvio Inderbitzin and Martine Ruggli, joined a visit of Sandoz' manufacturing site in Kundl (Austria), the last fully integrated penicillin production site in the Western world. In recent decades, many European manufacturing plants for penicillins have closed; the Kundl site was preserved thanks to a EUR 200 million investment supported by the Austrian federal government and the Tyrolean Land authority. With 90% of amoxicillin consumed in Switzerland originating from Kundl, the visit provided valuable insight into the economic and political conditions required to sustain antibiotic manufacturing in Europe, and into the pressures created by Asian competition. A second visit on 6-7 November 2025 allowed further RTA members, Andreas Widmer, Stefan Mühlebach, Jean-Claude Piffaretti and Ramiro Dip, to deepen the exchange.

Outreach activities and stakeholder engagement

The Association maintained a dense programme of outreach activities in 2025. Three newsletters (April, September and December) kept members and stakeholders informed of the Association's work and of relevant developments in Switzerland and abroad.

In early April 2025, the INTERFINITY performance "Superbugs - a dance to resist", co-developed with the NCCR Antiresist, went on stage. It combined music and dance with scientific content to raise public awareness of antimicrobial resistance. At the event, members of the Association's board shared their expertise in direct interactions with the audience.

From 27 April to 2 May 2025, several members of the RTA participated in the Indo-Swiss AMR Innovation Dialogue, a follow-up to the event held in Bengaluru in 2023. Board member Markus Seeger served on the Scientific Committee and was among the main organizers. President Rudolf Blankart and board member Stephen Leib organized a day of the high-level AMR programme in Bern, which allowed for a deep dive into AMR policy and regulation.

In June 2025, the Association attended the 9th AMR Conference and followed in particular the panel discussion of parties involved in HERA's first offer of a Pan-EU/EEA revenue-guarantee pilot scheme. This European development has direct relevance for the Swiss subscription model as it highlighted the importance of adequate funding and trustful cooperation between the authorities and industry applicants.

On 26 November 2025, the Swiss Society of Pharmaceutical Medicine (SGPM), the RTA, and the European Center of Pharmaceutical Medicine (ECPM) co-organized the 30th Annual Swiss Symposium in Pharmaceutical Medicine that was held under the title "Racing against Resistance: The Future of Antimicrobials". The Association contributed to shaping the agenda and the identification of speakers. Several RTA-members attended the event as speakers or contributors to the discussions.

Developments of the Association

2025 was a year of institutional consolidation. At the General Assembly of 4 June 2025 the board presented a revised version of the Association's statutes which, further to minor adaptations, accommodated requirements of the tax authorities following the Association's application for tax exemption due to its charitable aims. In the open part a structured workshop was held on the Association's strengths, weaknesses and future priorities.

At an Extraordinary General Assembly on 21 November 2025 the attending members approved a further revised version of the statutes. The revision explicitly authorises the board to levy membership fees (revised Article 5) and sets out transitional provisions for the conversion of natural persons who had previously been associate members into ordinary members (new Article 22). Members were informed in writing of the new fee structure and had 60 days to resign without being required to pay the 2026 fee.

The membership-fee structure decided by the board is as follows: ordinary (full) members pay CHF 250 per year, associate members CHF 2,500 per year. Fees for 2026 fall due on 31 March 2026. These fees establish, for the first time, a predictable baseline of own income that complements project-specific grants and unrestricted financial contributions from members and non-members.

Membership update

In 2025, the Association welcomed several new members who reinforce its multidisciplinary expertise. New full members include Valérie Bachmann (Kantonsspital Thurgau), Frank Otto Gombert (CEO, Selmod), Philipp Patrick Kohler (HOCH Health Ostschweiz), Ruedi Schneebeli (A. Menarini GmbH), and Kosta Shatrov (Conference of the Cantonal Health Directors, GDK). Furthermore, CARB-X acquired another associate membership represented by Louise Northon Smith, and the Association could welcome Germion Therapeutics, represented by Jan Romano de Gea. In addition, three changes in membership status took effect during the year, reflecting evolving institutional roles.

By year-end 2025, the Association counted 90 members, of which 66 full and 24 associate members. The introduction of membership fees has, as expected, led to a number of resignations. While they imply a significant reduction of the nominal membership base, they also provide clarity on the composition of the paying membership going forward.

The Association thanks all resigning members for their past engagement and looks forward to continuing to work with those who have chosen to commit to the Association's next phase.

Financial support and sponsorship

The Association gratefully acknowledges the financial contributions received in 2025, which have been instrumental in advancing its work. In addition to the amounts listed in Table 1 below, the Association earned a fee of CHF 1,125 for advisory-board participation (Shionogi, antifungals).

Table 1: Financial support received in 2025

Donor	Amount (CHF)
Federal Office of Public Health (subsidy for Swiss BPPL project)	75,000
Sandoz AG (unrestricted grant)	10,000
Roche Pharma (Schweiz) AG (grant for Pull project)	7,500
Donations in memory of a deceased person	3,335
sitem-insel (unrestricted grant)	2,500
Total	98,335

As in previous years, the financial statements reflect only those activities of the Association that are financially compensated and do not capture the very substantial in-kind contributions by members, experts and partner organisations.

Financial statement

With total income of CHF 99,460 and total expenses of CHF 79,538, the Association closed the financial year 2025 with a profit of CHF 19,921, compared with a small loss of CHF 243 in 2024. By 31 December 2025 total assets amounted to CHF 58,117, of which CHF 57,901 held on the Postfinance account; provisions of CHF 35,000 were maintained, and the foundation capital stands at CHF 2,000.

The reduction in operating expenses compared with 2024, from CHF 135,615 to CHF 79,538, reflects primarily lower personnel costs. The balance sheet (Table 2) and the income statement (Table 3) are reproduced below.

The Association thanks the person responsible for finance and accounting, Barbara Leib, for setting up the financial report, and its auditor, Nicolas Müller, for auditing the accounts.

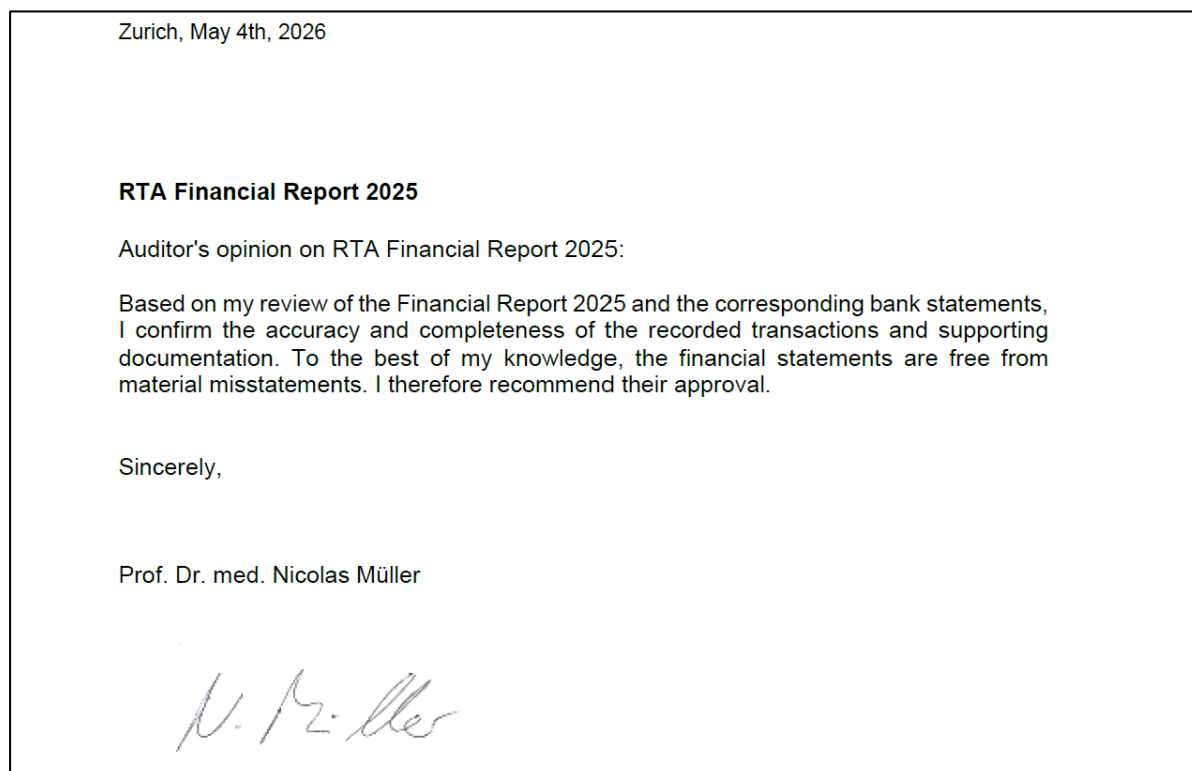
Table 2: Balance sheet

ASSETS		31.12.25	31.12.24
1020	Postfinance account	57'901.32	51'753.01
1300	Prepaid expenses	215.25	432.40
TOTAL ASSETS		58'116.57	52'185.41
LIABILITIES		31.12.25	31.12.24
2300	Transitory liabilities open bills	151.05	14'141.19
2600	Provisions	35'000.00	35'000.00
2800	Foundation Capital	2'000.00	2'000.00
2970	Profit (Loss) carried forward	1'044.22	1'287.56
Profit and Loss		19'921.30	-243.34
TOTAL LIABILITIES		58'116.57	52'185.41

Table 3: Income statement

EXPENSES		2025	2024
4000	Projects	1'069.55	7'632.50
4100	Workshops/Events/Communication	10'000.00	4'206.72
4200	LMIC Project	15'408.00	2'064.98
5000	Salaries	25'265.70	74'463.80
5700	Social securities	7'364.45	20'110.20
5800	other personnel expenses	1'047.50	1'536.05
6500	Office Supplies	-.	104.20
6530	Accounting, Administration	2'950.00	5'325.00
6540	Expenses Board /General Assembly	4'266.05	2'062.95
6550	Office Rental Cleaning Insurance	6'939.95	6'670.77
6570	Website & IT	4'967.25	9'932.47
6600	Marketing & Communication	-.	60.00
6700	Mandatees & Consulting	200.00	1'383.70
6900	Financial costs	60.00	62.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		79'538.45	135'615.34
REVENUES		2025	2024
3400	Other revenue	1'125.00	-.
3500	Grants, Sponsoring	85'000.00	135'372.00
3600	Donations	13'334.75	-.
TOTAL REVENUE		99'459.75	135'372.00
Profit and Loss		19'921.30	-243.34

Figure 1: Auditor's opinion



Outlook

Looking ahead, the Association has defined five main goals for its activities over the coming three years:

- First, to ensure that the twin Articles 50a (push) and 51a (pull) of the revised Epidemics Act, together with their associated financial plans, remain unchanged through to adoption by Parliament.
- Second, to convince the general public of the importance of Articles 50a and 51a and of the associated public funding in the event of a referendum in 2028/2029.
- Third, to support the operationalisation of the Swiss revenue-guarantee model and the availability of the required ordinance by the end of 2028, so that pharmaceutical applications can be received from early 2029.
- Fourth, to establish a sustainable financial basis through membership fees and further contributions by Funding Members, enabling paid employment of the Managing Director role and continued support of public-affairs activities, with a focus on the national Parliament.
- Fifth, to continue project work as selected with members' support, depending on the availability of funding and in-kind contributions.

Collectively, these goals define a demanding but clearly structured agenda. Their successful pursuit will require the continued engagement of the Association's members, the support of partner organisations, and a constructive dialogue with the federal administration and Parliament.

Acknowledgement

The progress achieved in 2025 would not have been possible without the insights, experience, advice, constructive feedback and work contributions of numerous members and external stakeholders from across health care, industry, academia and government. Their collaborative spirit embodies the multi-disciplinary approach that is essential to addressing the complex challenge of antimicrobial resistance.

In particular, the Association thanks the clinical experts, scientists, and the stakeholders who responded to the consultation for their generous voluntary contributions to the work on Swiss unmet medical needs and the Swiss BPPL; the members and further individuals and organisations who contributed to the Association's advocacy and outreach activities as moderators, speakers and panellists; the Commission for Social Security and Health of the Council of States for the opportunity to present the Association's expertise at the hearing of 17 November 2025; and the Federal Office of Public Health and its parliamentary partners for their continued dialogue and consideration of innovative approaches to ensure the long-term availability of effective antibiotics for the Swiss health care system.

The Association extends its sincere thanks to Stefan Felder, who will step down from the Board at the 2026 General Assembly after many years of service. His economic expertise has enriched our discussions throughout the crucial formative phase of the Association's work on pull incentives.

Yours sincerely,



Rudolf Blankart

President of the Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics