

**Press release**

Basel, 30 January 2018

**BaseLaunch up to a solid Phase II start**

**BaseLaunch has officially started Phase II of its accelerator program, and four startups are receiving grants ranging from 120,000 to 250,000 Swiss francs. This non-dilutive funding will help them to reach key value inflection milestones to advance their scientific hypothesis and further build their ventures, while learning and benefiting from the Basel life sciences ecosystem. Furthermore, two startups will gain access to the ready-to-use laboratory and office space, both free of charge, at the Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area.**

BaseLaunch successfully ran its first acceleration phase from September to November 2017. During these three months, 11 healthcare ventures worked together with experienced advisors to further define and advance their projects. Activities included firming up their respective business opportunities, ensuring focus on the essential tasks to bring forward their ventures, but also identifying key risks and corresponding actions to address them. Furthermore, the projects benefited from accessing valuable industry knowledge and market know-how from seasoned professionals representing the BaseLaunch healthcare partners: Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Novartis Venture Fund, Pfizer, Roche and Roivant Sciences.

Trudi Haemmerli, who presides over the selection committee of BaseLaunch, explains which parameters were prioritized: “We focused on innovation, the quality of the people and the scientific evidence that was presented so far. Also we took in consideration if and how the project could benefit from the Basel life sciences cluster.” The selected projects are strongly committed to explore the Basel region and the talent the ecosystem has to offer, by having operations in the region.

BaseLaunch will support six projects in Phase II of the program: Anaveon, Tepthera, TheraNASH and T3 Pharmaceuticals will receive grants ranging from 120,000 to 250,000 Swiss francs. Furthermore, Polyneuron Pharmaceuticals and Versameb will gain access to the ready-to-use laboratory and office space, both free of charge, at the Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area.

BaseLaunch started in 2017 to accelerate the development of promising and innovative healthcare startups benefiting from the dynamic life sciences cluster of the Basel region. During the first cycle, more than 100 projects from more than 30 countries applied, reaffirming the strong unmet need that BaseLaunch addresses. The healthcare partners played an active role by giving key strategic feedback to the projects. “We provided a highly customized program making the needs of the entrepreneurs and their ventures our key priorities,” says Alethia de León, Managing Director of BaseLaunch. “Now we are looking forward to helping the selected companies to move further in the venture creation process and to attract further investments.”

Applications for the BaseLaunch cycle of 2018 are now open. For more information on companies selected for Phase II and the application process, visit [www.baselaunch.ch](http://www.baselaunch.ch)

**BaseLaunch**

The mission of BaseLaunch is to support healthcare entrepreneurs and integrate them into one of the most dynamic biotech and pharma ecosystems in Europe. The entrepreneurial-centric healthcare accelerator program offers non-dilutive funding, industry access, expert knowledge and infrastructure. Over the course of 15 months, participating startups work with the BaseLaunch team and a network of seasoned professionals with the right knowledge and expertise to solidify strategy, R&D plans and operations. BaseLaunch enjoys the backing of leading industry players Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Novartis Venture Fund, Pfizer, Roche and Roivant Sciences, as well as other public and private partners such as KPMG. Projects are reviewed by a selection committee with profound experience and knowledge in the area of healthcare and entrepreneurship, which includes the following members: Sascha Bucher, VP and Head of Global Transactions, Roivant Sciences; Dr. Fabian Buller, Director of New Ventures, Johnson & Johnson Innovation; Dr. Jakob Busch-Petersen, Intrapreneur, External Innovation, Therapeutic Modalities, Roche; Dr. Phillippe Dro, CEO, NeMoDevices and serial entrepreneur; Trudi Haemmerli, CEO and Director, PerioC Ltd, Managing Director, TruStep Consulting GmbH; Dr. Anja König, Global Head Novartis Venture Fund; Dr. Alex Mayweg, Partner, Versant Ventures; and Dr. Nathalie ter Wengel MD, European Head of External Science and Innovation, Pfizer. BaseLaunch is initiated and operated by BaselArea.swiss.

[www.basellaunch.ch](http://www.basellaunch.ch)

**BaselArea.swiss**

BaselArea.swiss is the office for promoting innovation and inward investment for the northwest cantons of Basel-Stadt, Basel-Landschaft and Jura. BaselArea.swiss currently employs 18 people and has an annual budget of 3.6 million francs, provided by the three cantons and by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). The core function of BaselArea.swiss is to promote the strengths of northwest Switzerland as a center for business and to help both Swiss and foreign entrepreneurs and companies implement their innovation and business projects in the region. With its extensive information platform and regular innovation reports, BaselArea.swiss contributes to the sustainable positioning of the Basel region as a leading center for innovation and commerce.

[www.baselarea.swiss](http://www.baselarea.swiss)

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