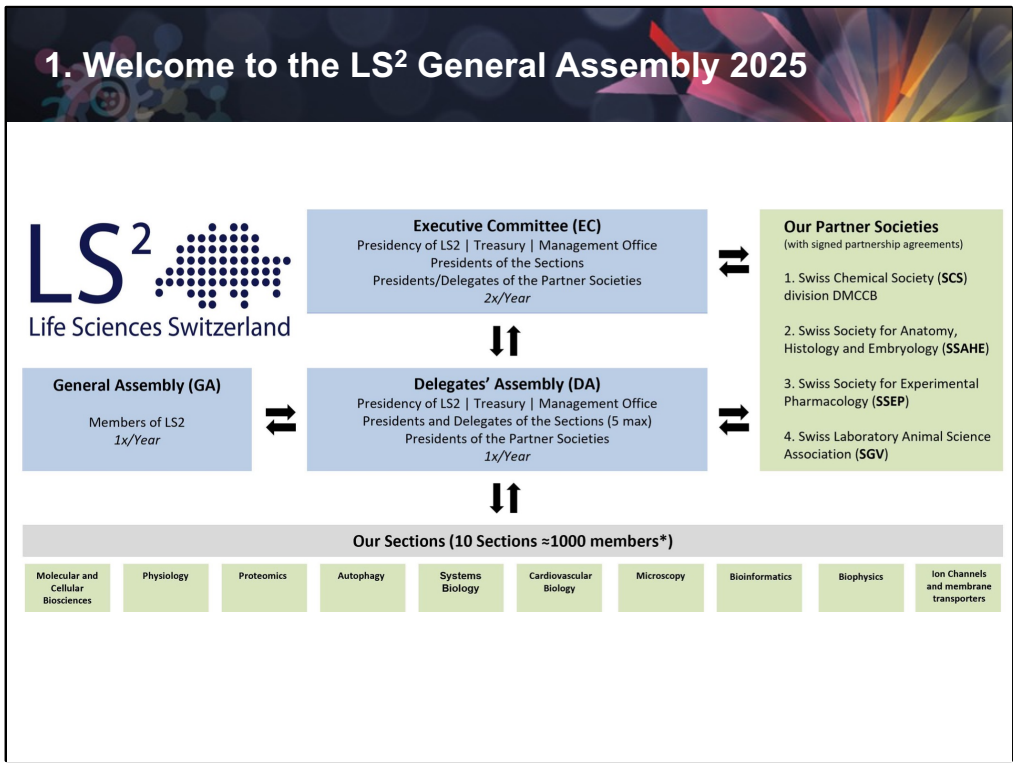
LS² General Assembly 2025

29 January 2025
Online meeting
13:30 – 15:00

Mario Tschan: Welcome to the General Assembly of 2025. Thank you all for joining. We will record the meeting to ease the preparation of the Minutes. Afterwards the recording will be deleted.



Mario Tschan: The General Assembly is the main part of LS^2, the highest level of our organization. It needs to approve and vote on all essential actions.

Mario Tschan: A reminder – the main objective of LS^2 is to promote scientific activities and establish a network in all domains of Life Sciences. Particularly through the organization of conferences, lectures, and courses. We also have a special focus on the promotion of young scientists.

Mario Tschan: We now have a new Scientific Officer – Lalita Oparija-Rogenmozere. She is replacing Adela Calvente.

2. Agenda 2025 - approval

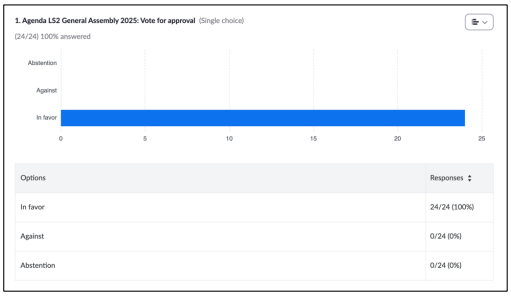
Agenda

Agenda

1. Welcome from LS² President.
2. Agenda approval - to vote.
3. Approval of minutes of General Assembly 2024 - to vote.
4. Financial report 2024 - to vote.
5. Financial forecast 2025
6. New LS² Presidency and Vice-Presidency - to vote
   - Simon Sprecher (UNIFR - LS² New - President)
   - Mario Tschan (UNIBE - LS² Past - President)
   - Status on LS² Vice-Presidency - a candidate Emi Nagoshi (UNIGE)
7. Elections of LS² board members - to vote.
8. LS² in numbers – 2024 Report.
9. LS² Annual Meeting 2026.
10. Projects and events to come.
11. Varia.
12. Questions and Requests.

Mario Tschan, president of LS² will conduct the General Assembly

LS² scientific officers (Adela Calvente, Neringa Mannerheim & Lalita Oparija) will write the minutes



Options	Responses
In favor	24/24 (100%)
Against	0/24 (0%)
Abstention	0/24 (0%)

Mario Tschan: Please vote for today's agenda. Approved, 100% in favor.

Mario Tschan: Please vote on the Minutes of the 2024 General Assembly. Approved, 96% in favor, 4% abstain.

4. Financial Report 2024

Income 2024		
Mitgliederbeiträge	Fr.	99’345.00
Erlöse Section Meetings		
Proteomics	Fr.	49’009.48
Cardiovascular	Fr.	26’007.85
Physiology	Fr.	3’408.75
Autophagy	Fr.	4’316.03
ICMT	Fr.	10’640.80
Theory across Biology	Fr.	420.00
Erlös AM	Fr.	122’057.75
Finanzertrag	Fr.	30’423.41
Total netto	**Fr.**	**357’958.90**

Expenses 2024		
Aufwand Section Meetings		
Proteomics	Fr.	31’355.11
Cardiovascular	Fr.	21’802.19
Physiology	Fr.	148.30
Autophagy	Fr.	1’318.09
ICMT	Fr.	9’344.86
Theory across Biology	Fr.	-
Expenses AM	Fr.	75’582.86
Personalaufwand		
Löhne	Fr.	187’987.00
Dagmar Grafiker	Fr.	6’000.00
AHV	Fr.	18’592.10
Website (Michael Vögeli)	Fr.	7’247.16
Anwalt	Fr.	10’589.59
Steuern	Fr.	-
Treuhand	Fr.	1’225.02
Jahresbeiträge SCNAT FEBS, FEPS, EBSA	Fr.	7’969.96
Diverse Sponsoring	Fr.	1’703.12
Verwaltungsaufwand	Fr.	5’887.54
Reisespesen	Fr.	4’367.61
Bankaufwand	Fr.	3’048.36
Stripe charges (online payment)	Fr.	1’801.30
Total netto	**Fr.**	**375’502.71**

From section Meetings	
Fr.	17’654.37
Fr.	4’205.66
Fr.	3’260.45
Fr.	2’997.94
Fr.	1’295.94
Fr.	420.00
Fr.	**29’834.36**
From AM	
Fr.	**46’474.89**
From all meetings	
Fr.	**76’309.25**

Balance

- 17’543.81 CHF

Mario Tschan: Here is the financial report of 2024. Income is shown on the left side. Our main income comes from membership fees and registration fees/sponsorships of the Annual Meeting and Section meetings. We also receive SCNAT funding and profits from our assets.

Mario Tschan: In the middle column we show expenses. Apart from meeting expenses and staff costs, there are also approx. 10 500 CHF in lawyer fees (Anwalt). These are from an old lawsuit against our society by a previous employee. It took a while to settle, but now the lawsuit is closed and there will be no more costs.

Mario Tschan: On the right side you can see our balance. To remind you, we are a non-profit organization, so a “big fat zero” at the end of the year would also be good. It means that our income is reinvested into our members, our Society. Unfortunately, we are ending 2024 with a negative budget, despite profits from our investments ranging around 30 000 CHF.

Mario Tschan: Several reasons impacted our budget for 2024. For example: 1) The location of Annual Meeting 2024 had less space for exhibitors (fewer booths = lower income from sponsors); 2) Companies are not willing to increase their sponsorships; 3) Profits from Section meetings are variable; 4) Last payment for lawyers as we finalize the issues with a previous employee; 5) Overlap of LS^2 SO employment to ensure a smooth transition.

Mario Tschan: We have also decided on several actions to improve our budget in the future and bring it out of the deficit: 1) Less administrative involvement of LS^2 SO in section meeting organization, already partially implemented (thank you AM2025 Chairs!) – this allows more time for fundraising; 2)

LS^2 office is looking for new funding opportunities, as we are now a tax-exempt/non-profit organization; 3) Increase memberships and participation at LS^2 AM (Please everyone - join!!!); 4) Section meeting organizers will be responsible for their budgets, as we will no longer cover their deficit. We also encourage everyone involved in the meeting organization to fundraise! Some of these actions have already helped LS^2 Office to gain time to work on improving our organization and its budget.
Mario Tschan: We also have some investments and savings, helping to cover the negative balances in the short-term.

Mario Tschan: Please vote on the Annual Budget. Approved, 92% in favor and 8% abstaining.

5. Financial Forecast 2025

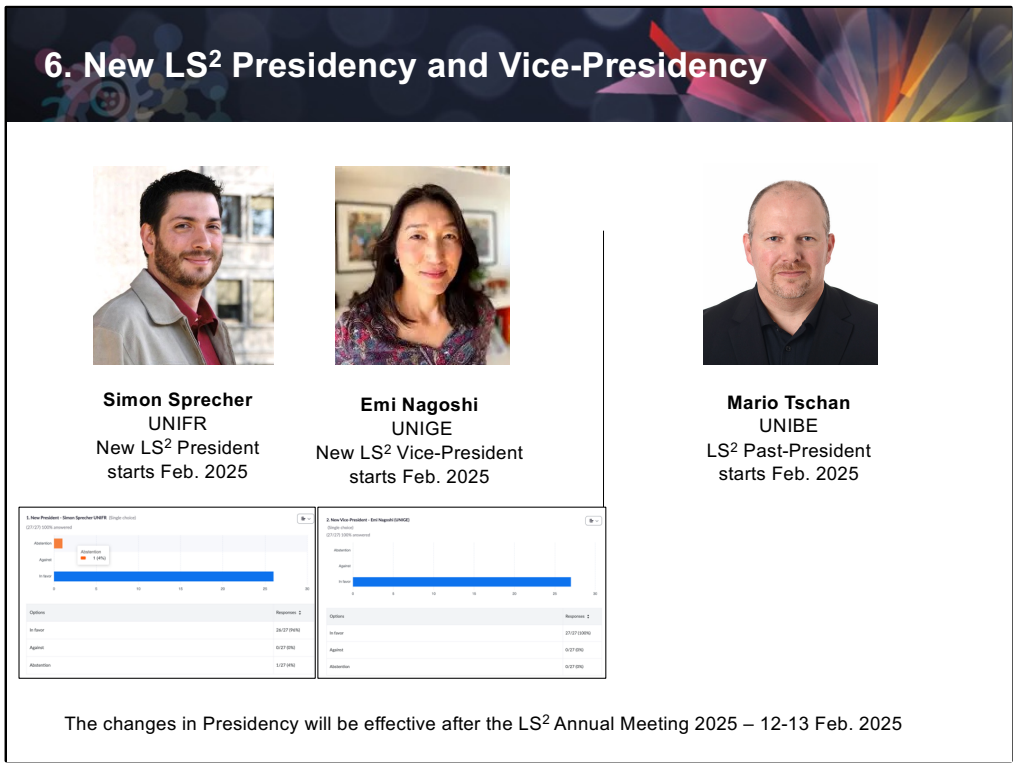
Income 2025		
Mitgliederbeiträge	Fr.	99'000.00
Erlöse Section Meetings		
Proteomics	Fr.	49'000.00
Cardiovascular	Fr.	25'000.00
Physiology	Fr.	3'400.00
Apoptosis	Fr.	4'300.00
Patenting	Fr.	24'000.00
Systems Biology	Fr.	5'000.00
Erlös AM	Fr.	132'000.00
ICMT section*	Fr.	14'867.88
Wertschriftengewinn	Fr.	25'000.00
Finanzertrag	Fr.	1'370.00
Verlustvortrag		
Total netto	**Fr.**	**382'937.88**

Expenses 2025		
Aufwand Section Meetings		
Proteomics	Fr.	30'000.00
Cardiovascular	Fr.	22'000.00
Physiology	Fr.	300.00
Apoptosis	Fr.	1'280.00
Patenting	Fr.	20'000.00
Systems Biology	Fr.	4'000.00
Expenses AM	Fr.	73'100.00
ICMT section	Fr.	14'867.88
Personalaufwand		
Löhne	Fr.	175'000.00
Dagmar Grafiker	Fr.	6'000.00
AHV	Fr.	21'000.00
Website (Michael Vögeli)	Fr.	7'250.00
Anwalt	Fr.	2'000.00
Steuern		
Treuhand	Fr.	1'225.00
Jahresbeiträge SCNAT FEBS, FEPS, EBSA	Fr.	7'970.00
Diverse Sponsoring	Fr.	1'450.00
Verwaltungsaufwand	Fr.	4'580.00
Reisespesen	Fr.	1'270.00
Wertschriftenverlust		
Bankaufwand	Fr.	2'500.00
Stripe charges (online payment)	Fr.	1'800.00
Total netto	**Fr.**	**397'592.88**

From section Meetings	
Fr.	19'000.00
Fr.	3'000.00
Fr.	3'100.00
Fr.	3'020.00
Fr.	4'000.00
Fr.	1'000.00
Fr.	**33'120.00**
From AM	
Fr.	**58'900.00**
From all meetings	
Fr.	**92'020.00**
	Balance
-	**14'655.00 CHF**

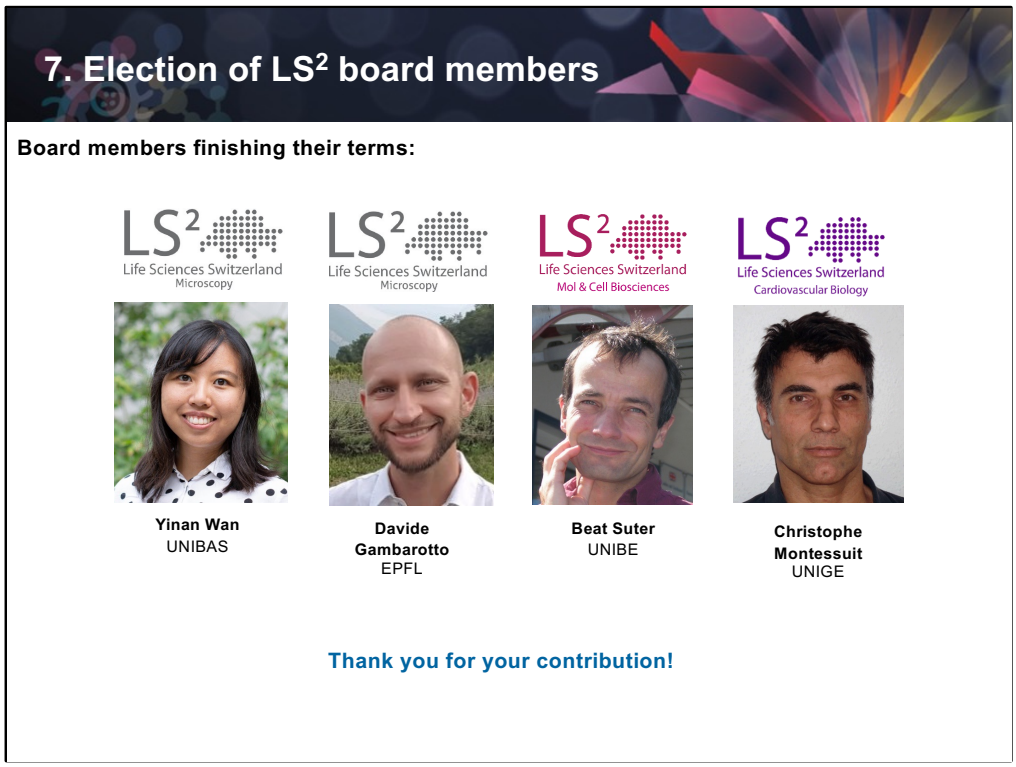
Mario Tschan: The budget forecast for 2025 depends on lots of variables. It is largely based on the income and expenses of the Annual Meeting in Fribourg. We might not end the year in profit, but we do not expect a big deficit.

Mario Tschan: Ideas on how to improve the budget are welcome, please get in touch with us.

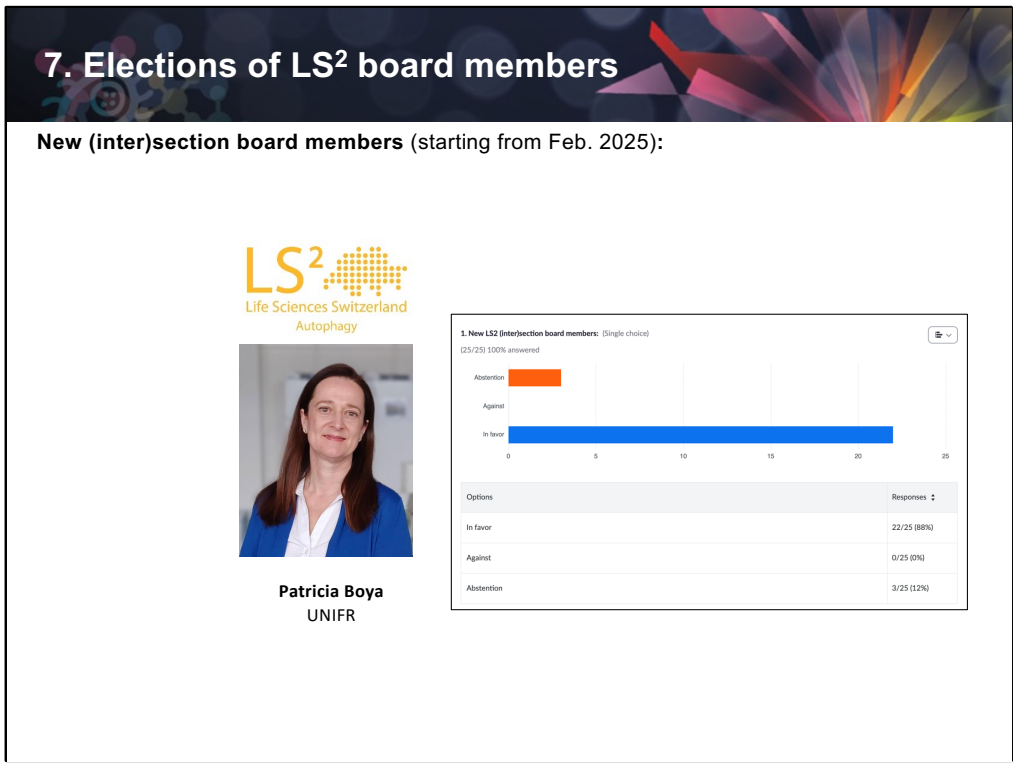


Mario Tschan: My two-year presidency will be over in February. Simon Sprecher will become the new President, and Emi Negoshi - the new Vice-President.

Mario Tschan: Vote for Simon approved, 96% in favor. Vote for Emi: 100% in favor. Congratulations, and I look forward to working with you.



Mario Tschan: We also have some Board members who are leaving. Thank you for your valuable contributions to our Society and I wish you all the best for the future!



Mario Tschan: We have one new Board member to vote in. Patricia Boya will join the Board of Section Autophagy. Please vote.
Confirmed, 88% in favor, 12% abstain. Congrats Patricia and welcome to the Board!

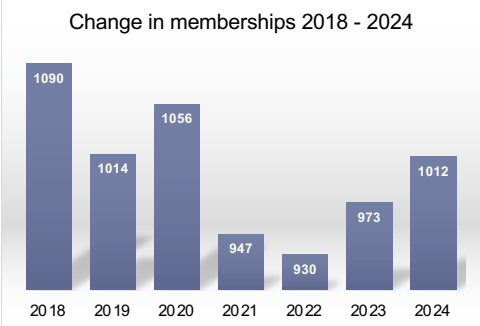
Mario Tschan: The last vote will be about the new functions within the Boards. We have Vassiliki Nikoletopoulou becoming President and Patricia Boya - Vice-President of the section Autophagy. Similar changes in the Cardiovascular Biology Section – new President (Sarah Longus) and Vice-President (Lucio Barile). Also in MCB we will have a new Vice-President (Torsten Ochsenreiter). Last but not least, in Microscopy Section we will have a new President (Arne Seitz) and Vice-President (Oliver Biehlmaier).

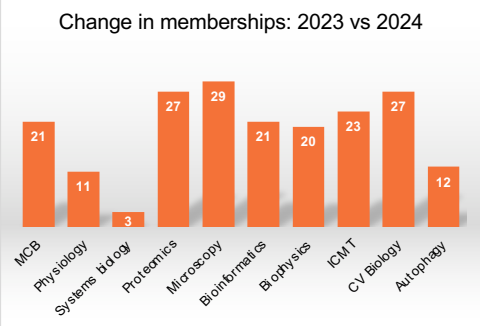
Mario Tschan: Please vote. Approved, 96% in favor, 4% abstain.

8. LS² in numbers: memberships

Number of Members in December 2024: 1012.

All sections have **increased** their total membership numbers in 2024



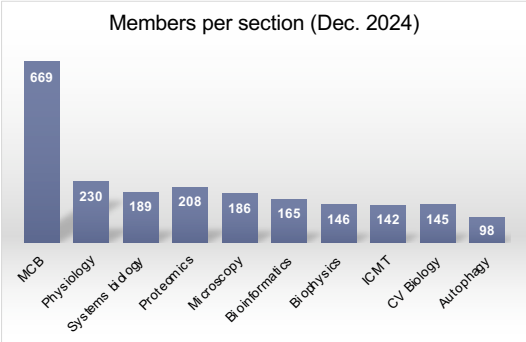


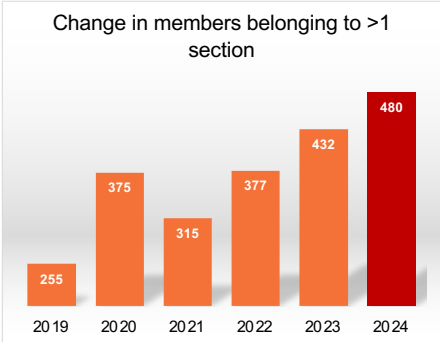
Lalita Oparija: The membership statistics are based on the member count at the end of December 2024. We had 1012 members in 2024, almost reaching pre-Covid numbers, which is an excellent development. All Sections were able to increase their member count in 2024.

8. LS² in numbers: memberships

However, this growth comes not only from increase in total memberships, but also from **the increasing number of members belonging to more than 1 Section**!

Benefit: higher intersectionality. **Drawback**: less income from membership fees





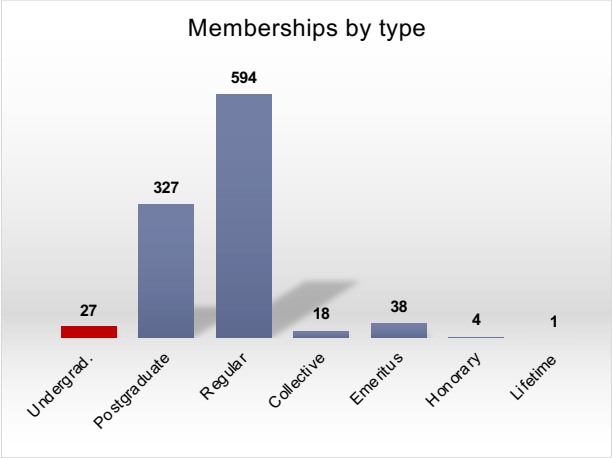
Lalita Oparija: Our largest section is still MCB. We also observe a stable increase in members belonging to more than one section, reaching 480 in 2024. This reflects the increase in interdisciplinary research and intersectionality. The benefit is that we could organize more double/multi-section meetings in the future. We have the data of overlapping members between Sections.

Lalita Oparija: However, members adding more sections to their profile also obscures the actual growth of each Section. These are not only new people joining, but also people adding more Sections to their profile.

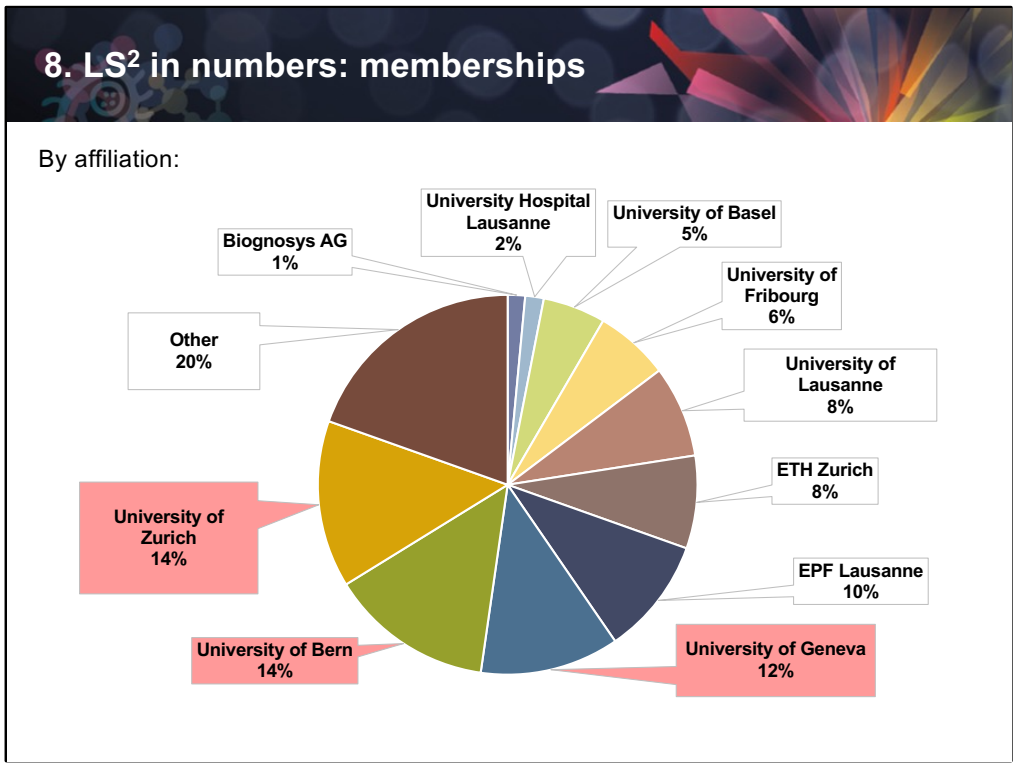
8. LS² in numbers: memberships

Most of our members are **Regular** or **Postgraduate** members

Undergraduates (BSc, MSc) are underrepresented



Lalita Oparija: If we look at memberships by type, the majority of our members are Regular members, meaning postdocs and higher academic positions or company staff. Another large group is Postgraduates; these are PhD students. One section that is quite underrepresented, compared to their presence in academia, is Undergraduates. These are Bachelor's and Master's students. Despite the low membership fees for this member type and the majority of our events being free for students, we fail to recruit from this demographic. We need to think about how to make LS² and our events more interesting for them.



Lalita Oparija: If we look at where our members come from, it's mainly 3 Universities: the University of Zurich, the University of Bern, and the University of Geneva. There are still plenty of Universities, from which we could increase our member pool.

8. LS² in numbers: 2024 activities

- ✓ **11** scientific meetings (co-)organized by LS² (inter)sections
- ✓ **Annual Meeting** and **Young Scientits' Satellite** in Lausanne
- ✓ **1** Workshop
- ✓ **1** Social event
- ✓ **14** LS² (co-)organized events promoted young scientists
- ✓ **2** National prizes: Friedrich Miescher Award and Lelio Orci Award
- ✓ **55** prizes distributed or sponsored by LS² (**53** for young scientists):

  13.776 CHF distributed in prizes
- ✓ **18** travel grants for PhD students
- ✓ **8** representations at international meetings and assemblies of international partners
- ✓ **72** volunteers working in the boards of sections and intersections

LS² Life Sciences Switzerland

Mario Tschan: We are a very active Society. In 2024 we co-organized 11 meetings, one workshop, and one social event. Importantly, we distributed 55 prizes to young researchers, totaling over 13 thousand CHF. We also awarded 18 travel grants funded by SCNAT. These actions not only align with the main LS² objectives but also motivate young scientists to participate in our events.

Mario Tschan: Of course, there is a lot of volunteer work involved in all these events, which we highly appreciate. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped!

9. LS^2 Annual Meeting 2026

LS^2 Annual Meeting 2026 and YSS 2026: University of Zurich, 10 & 11-12 February 2026

Theme "Fueling life across scales"

Chair **Prof. Tatjana Kleele** (ETH Zurich, Department of Biology), co-chair **Prof. Alexis Jourdain** (UNIL, Department of Immunobiology)

We are looking for chairs for YSS and PIOT session!

Confirmed speakers:

- ✓ **Dr. Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz** (Howard Hughes Medical Institute,US)
- ✓ **Prof. Sarah-Maria Fendt** (KU Leuven, Belgium)
- ✓ **Dr. Heidi McBride** (McGill University, Canada)

Mario Tschan: Update on our Annual Meeting 2026. We are happy to have Tatjana Kleele and Alexis Jourdain as Chairs. We have also confirmed all keynotes already. The theme will be "Fueling life across scales". Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the organization so far!

Mario Tschan: Outlook of 2025 events. Some of these have already taken place, for example, Cardiovascular Meeting and Cytomeet. Soon the Annual Meeting will take place. And afterwards, we have eight more LS^2 Section- or LS^2-supported events. Thank you to everyone who supported and helped to organize these events. We appreciate it!

11. Varia

1. We did not receive any nominations for Honorary Membership 2025

2. LS^2 will help co-organize meeting Arolla 2025 – 25-29 August 2025

Main organizers:
- Andy Oates (EPFL Lausanne)
- Charlotte Aumeier & Olivier Schaad (University of Geneva)
- Katharina Sonnen (Hubrecht Institute, The Netherlands)
- Iva Tolić (Ruđer Bošković Institute, Croatia)

Title: BioMatter: From Cytoskeleton to Embryos

Mario Tschan: We had no honorary membership nominations for 2025. I would encourage you to suggest honorary membership nominations for 2026. It is a nice recognition of LS^2 members, that have contributed a lot to our organization.

Mario Tschan: Our office will be involved in Arolla meeting organization – this is a former EMBO meeting. It will not take a lot of time, the Office will help only with the website, registration, and payment system. In return, they will be able to see how other events are organized and maybe learn and implement a few things in our future meetings.

Mario Tschan: Thank you everyone for joining! And again, congratulations to all new Board Members or to existing members on their new roles!

Registration Report

Report Generated: 29.01.2025 15:27

Topic	ID	Scheduled Time	Duration (minutes)	# Registered	# Cancelled	# Approved	# Denied
LS2 General Assembly 2025	853 3582 3487	29.01.2025 13:30	90	31	0	31	0

Attendee Details

First Name	Last Name	Email	Registration Time	Approval Status	Organization
Neringa	Mannerheim	neringa.mannerheim@ls2.ch	07.01.2025 11:37	approved	LS2
Lalita	Oparija	lalita.oparija@ls2.ch	07.01.2025 11:48	approved	LS2
Michal	Bassani-Sternberg	Michal.bassani@chuv.ch	29.01.2025 10:24	approved	Chuv
François	KARCH	francois.karch@unige.ch	29.01.2025 12:23	approved	University of Geneva
Mark	Ambühl	mark.ambuehl@rd.nestle.com	29.01.2025 13:01	approved	Société des Produits Nestlé SA
Vassiliki	Nikoletopoulou	vassiliki.nikoletopoulou@unil.ch	29.01.2025 13:12	approved	UNIL
Temitope Akhigbe	Etibor	topetibor@gmail.com	29.01.2025 13:12	approved	ETH Zurich
Anna	Jazwinska	anna.jazwinska@unifr.ch	29.01.2025 13:15	approved	University of Fribourg
Horst	Vogel	horst.vogel@epfl.ch	29.01.2025 13:19	approved	EPFL
Alexis	Jourdain	alexis.jourdain@unil.ch	29.01.2025 13:22	approved	University of Lausanne
Julien	Puyal	JulienPierre.Puyal@unil.ch	29.01.2025 13:23	approved	University of Lausanne
Mario	Tschan	mario.tschan@unibe.ch	29.01.2025 13:24	approved	University of Bern
Gaelle	Lentini	gaelle.lentini@unibe.ch	29.01.2025 13:25	approved	University of Bern
Muriel	Cuendet	muriel.cuendet@unige.ch	29.01.2025 13:26	approved	Université de Genève
Simon	Sprecher	simon.sprecher@unifr.ch	29.01.2025 13:29	approved	University of Fribourg
Marcus	Thelen	marcus.thelen@irb.usi.ch	29.01.2025 13:29	approved	IRB
Christoph	Bauer	Christoph.Bauer@unige.ch	29.01.2025 13:29	approved	University of Geneva
Tatjana	Kleele	tatjana.kleele@biol.ethz.ch	29.01.2025 13:29	approved	ETH Zürich
Miriam	Stoeber	miriam.stoeber@unige.ch	29.01.2025 13:29	approved	University of Geneva
Lubor	Borsig	lborsig@access.uzh.ch	29.01.2025 13:30	approved	Univeristy of Zurich
Hegi	Monika	monika.hegi@chuv.ch	29.01.2025 13:31	approved	CHUV-UNIL
Marie-Luce	Piallat	marie-luce.piallat@unige.ch	29.01.2025 13:31	approved	University of Geneva
Pascal	Lorentz	pascal.lorentz@unibas.ch	29.01.2025 13:31	approved	University of Basel
Oliver	Biehlmaier	oliver.biehlmaier@unibas.ch	29.01.2025 13:33	approved	Imaging Core Facility, Biozentrum, uni Basel
Sara	Roig	sara.roig@unibas.ch	29.01.2025 13:33	approved	DBM, University of Basel
Paolo	Nanni	paolo.nanni@fgcz.uzh.ch	29.01.2025 13:34	approved	UZH/ETHZ
Alex	Schmidt	alex.schmidt@unibas.ch	29.01.2025 13:35	approved	Uni Basel
Marco	Osterwalder	marco.osterwalder@unibe.ch	29.01.2025 13:44	approved	University of Bern
Olivier	Sorg	olivier.sorg@unige.ch	29.01.2025 13:50	approved	University of Geneva
Hadja	SIMBORO	hadja.simboro@unifr.ch	29.01.2025 13:55	approved	University of Fribourg
Ruyan	Zhou	ruyan_zhou@yeah.net	29.01.2025 14:56	approved	UNIL