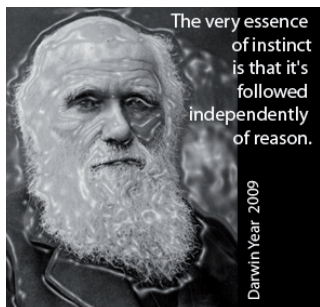


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models on the dynamics of biological systems are simply incomplete and probably wrong», concludes Aebersold.

This is why PhosphoNetX has set itself three goals. First of all, the network of 500 kinases and 150 phosphatases needs to be clearly understood. The second step concerns the actual flow of information through this network. The first step can be figuratively seen as the mapping out of Switzerland's railway network and the second as the train services that use it. Finally, the newly-won knowledge is to be applied to four areas: cell division, transport of information via the cell membrane, and the cell's response to mechanical stress, and cancer.

Changing the biology

Because these aims cannot be achieved using today's methods, the development of new technology plays a big role. One example of such a method is SRM technology: «Selected Reaction Monitoring» makes it possible, in a short space of time, to determine all kinases and phosphatases involved in a given signalized route, qualitatively as well as quantitatively. The latter is central to the modeling of biological systems. Ruedi Aebersold is optimistic, «that the technologies and data generated by PhosphoNetX will fundamentally change Systems Biology, and, therewith, biology».



«venture kick» plays midwife to promising companies



Winners of «venture kick» 2009: The founding team of InSphero, a company associated with the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich. Photo: IFJ

Daniel Vonder Mühl **Bern.** Without a doubt, the most effectual transfer of academic research into the private sector is the founding of a new company. «venture kick» also helps SystemsX.ch researchers to launch a spin-off and offers up to CHF 130,000 start-up capital.

The main prize this year of CHF 100,000 goes to «InSpehro», a company based in Zurich. «venture lab», the national program from CTI, a federal innovation promotion agency, offers a wide range of modules: from setting up a business plan to basic training in management to questions on the initial financing of a company.

«venture kick» wants to

double the number of companies founded from universities and thus boost the transformation into marketable products of as many research results as possible. Participants have only two conditions to meet: first, it must be a new company, not one that exists already, and, second, applications must come from a recognized institution of tertiary education (university, federal institute of technology, university of applied sciences). This means that all SystemsX.ch researchers are eligible.

60 Foundations

Applications can be sent in at any time. In the first round eight projects are given the

chance to be presented to a jury. The four chosen projects receive CHF 10,000 each and qualify for the next round. The two successful projects from the second round receive a further CHF 20,000 and the applicants the means to elaborate their projects. In the final round, there remains CHF 100,000 to be won.

The money – about three million Swiss francs in the last two years – is given with no strings attached. The last 100'000 francs do not go to the founders, but to the newly founded company. Of the 89 supported start-up projects so far, over 60 eventually evolved into the founding of a company.

The «venture lab» modules and, especially, «venture kick», have helped the first spin-off from SystemsX.ch, Biognosys (cf. front-page article) on its way. «venture lab» is looking forward to an abundance of participants among SystemsX.ch researchers. The Management Office (D. Vonder Mühl) or «venture lab» (B. Schillig) would be happy to answer any questions.

Further info: www.venturekick.ch/
www.venturelab.ch

SystemsX.ch promotes Industry-Cooperation

Zurich. SystemsX.ch launches two new types of project: BIP aims to raise the gross national product, ISA offers scientists from the private sector a training in academia.

In the «Bridge 2 Industry Projects» (BIP) academic and industrial researchers work together on a Systems Biology theme. The project runs for one year and will be supported by SystemsX.ch with

CHF 120,000. SEB will evaluate applications for projects four times a year. ISA (Industry Sabbatical@ Academia) invites scientists working in the private sector to a higher training program with an academic research group at a university. In economically difficult times this is an interesting opportunity to better get to know SystemsX.ch. VDM

www.systemsX.ch/BIP-ISA

Magic?

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the «life and fate of pancreatic beta-cells in the evolution of Diabetes Type 2». After three years of intense collaboration, we appreciate the mutually rewarding outcome: Novel biomarkers, drug targets imaging methods and predictive tools in bioinformatics – all of which are now up for evaluation as potentially novel tools in the diagnostics and therapeutics of Diabetes Type 2. Magic!