

SWISS FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION
AND TRAINING IN SURGERY



2024

Activity
report

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Prof. Pierre Hoffmeyer
President

Together, we are ready to take on new challenges and to create a successful 2025.



Dr. Jelena Godjevac
CEO

We thank with all of our hearts our community of surgeons, OR professionals, partners, engineers, Medtechs, Startups and suppliers for their collaboration and trust.

It means the world to us.



Fanny Keller
Operations Manager

We're motivated more than ever to pursue this wonderful adventure of the SFITS!

Preface

In 2024, the SFITS embarked on a new phase of development, with the aim of becoming the reference for surgical training, research and innovation.

Academization

The SFITS works on the educational journey of students and young doctors, co-creating structured, regular and practice-oriented training paths.

We are going one step further by offering our infrastructure to research in the field of surgical training. With the aim of fulfilling this mission, we promote the creation, testing and approval of new techniques, and the establishment of rigorous and robust research models to connect training to patient outcomes. We are equally committed to creating new training tools and models, and to implementing measures to evaluate training skills and tools.

National roll-out

Recognized in our field, we regularly receive visits from professionals from Switzerland and abroad, who would like to set up a surgical training center in their hospital.

To meet the demand at national level and collaborate on the training of the next generation of surgeons, we propose to introduce SFITS training courses in public hospitals and private clinics.

- ✔ SFITS On-Demand
<https://www.sfits.ch/sfits-on-demand/>

Accelerating Innovation

We have put our attention on companies which have developed innovative surgical solutions and wish to test and validate their device, in a secure and professional environment.

This program, already in place for renowned Medtech companies, has been extended to Startups. Since October, three startups have joined the program.

Training

The SFITS team facilitated 709 training sessions and over 2,000 hours of teaching. The training courses organized for HUG residents represent the vast majority, with 499 sessions and 1,400 hours of teaching. 85% of the courses offered are hands-on.

We received around 4,000 participants and 261 educators, without counting the 800 professionals from HUG who regularly attend our face-to-face courses.

For several years now, we have been hosting optional classes for the UNIGE Faculty of Medicine and for students eager to learn surgical techniques.

Research projects

Since 2017, the SFITS has been involved in more than 20 academic projects, through ideation, hosting, facilitation, networking, fundraising, proposal writing...

We collaborate with UNIGE, HES and EPFL.

Collaboration

Let's not forget our partnership with [2nd chance](#), which enables us to create e-learning modules that are increasingly relevant for the field work in Europe and Africa.

2025 promises to be rich in development!

We sincerely thank the SFITS staff, a talented, versatile team, always available and enthusiastic about carrying out the SFITS missions, and always with a smile on their faces. Many thanks to you all!

Retrospective

396 days / courses

- Hands-on workshops, seminars, and conferences
- E-learning modules
- Live streams

61 days / courses

1st training on
September 22nd

'16 — '17 — '18 — '19 — '20

Construction

Inauguration
April 17th

301 days / courses

1 Academic project

- Online events
- SFITS Calendar
- SFITS Online platform

456 days / courses

535 days /
courses

- › Hybrid events
- › Structured training programs
- › Online library

457 days /
courses

7 Academic
projects

- › Platform to create cooperation revolving around innovation and research
- › Partner for testing, R&D and validation of new concepts



- › Platform to create synergies around innovation and research
- › Platform to test and validate concepts
- › SFITS On-Demand

'21 — '22 — '23 — '24 — '25 ►►

- › Research projects platform
- › Ecosystem of innovative partners
- › Development of new techniques and technologies

559 days /
courses

6 Academic
projects

- › Center of excellence with training standards
- › Ecosystem for innovative startups

540 days /
courses

7 Academic
projects

SFITS is a center of excellence

Recognized for:

Neutrality and independence

Wide range of tools for training

- Organic parts, inert and living
- Anatomical parts, embalming, and vascularization methods
- Synthetic parts
- Stimulators, Virtual reality, Augmented reality
- E-learning modules library (accredited)
- Instructional videos

Digital community for managing training activities

- Publication of courses, registration, hosting, evaluation
- Logbook of courses taught, centralized for faculties
- Logbook of training activities for participants
- Certificates

State-of-the-art infrastructure: modern and flexible

- Very well connected
- Luminous, spacious and comfortable
- State-of-the-art equipment, modern training rooms

Audiovisual services

- Live streams, hybrid events
- Filming, editing of instructional videos
- E-learning modules
- Original anatomical illustrations

Ethics and excellence

- Ethical management of anatomical specimens
- Flexibility to organize customized workshops
- Specific expertise and flexibility
- Process quality management, continuous improvement

Professional services for the trainings

- Project management of events from A to Z
- Creation of custom-made courses
- Sponsor management
- Communication and accreditation
- Financial and administrative management
- Complete logistic management

Facilitation of academic research projects

- Specific know-how
- Community of experts, networking
- Technical platform, equipped for research
- Proposal writing
- Reporting
- Fundraising

Comprehensive services in innovation acceleration

- Specific and unique know-how
- Community of experts, networking
- Technical platform for device testing and validation, as close to clinical conditions as possible



Followers on
LinkedIn

2771



Followers on
Instagram

782



Followers on
Youtube

402

50

sponsors in **Medtech** and **Pharma**

In 2024, 540 hands-on and theoretic training sessions



HUG and other institutions

420

Medical associations

9

Medtech

75

Startup Accelerator
Program

6

External courses

11

Academic projects

21

UNIGE

6

Immersive tours

43

27 of which were for the HUG

2000

Teaching
hours



4000

Attendance



261

Faculty members

6024

Number of
participants
(total)

709

Training
sessions



977

E-learning
completion
certificates

4000

Users of the
SFITS calendar

2959

Subscribers to
our e-learning
modules



14

New
e-learning
modules

SWISS
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AND TRAINING
IN SURGERY



Feedback

Results of satisfaction questionnaire sent to:

Participants

	SCORE
Overall satisfaction with the course	3.87 / 4.0
Quality of team services	3.88 / 4.0
Quality of reception services	3.64 / 4.0
Quality of infrastructure	3.87 / 4.0
Quality of teaching material	3.86 / 4.0
Quality of course program	3.83 / 4.0
Quality of faculty teaching	3.86 / 4.0
Quality of catering services	3.65 / 4.0
How well did the course meet your expectations?	3.85 / 4.0
Would you recommend the SFITS?	9.63 / 10

~400
answers



Faculty

	SCORE
Overall satisfaction with course	3.92 / 4.0
Quality of team services	3.92 / 4.0
Quality of organization and preparation	3.86 / 4.0
Quality of infrastructure	3.91 / 4.0
Quality of teaching material	3.84 / 4.0
Quality of equipment	3.80 / 4.0
Quality of catering services	3.75 / 4.0

~45
answers

Clients

	SCORE
Overall satisfaction with the course	3.83 / 4.0
Quality of team services	3.68 / 4.0
Quality of reception services	3.83 / 4.0
Quality of infrastructure	3.83 / 4.0
Quality of teaching material	3.22 / 4.0
Quality of equipment	3.68 / 4.0
Quality of catering services	3.15 / 4.0
How well did the course meet your expectations?	3.68 / 4.0

6
clients

What our PARTICIPANTS say about us

“

I loved the sutures class.

It was actually very far ahead from my expectations! So amazing! Thanks a lot.

My hospital doesn't have a robot. It was a great opportunity to become familiar with it and get a good insight into surgical procedures.

We learned how to make sutures.

I learned how to make intracorporeal knots in laparoscopy and improved my technique using the optical camera.

The course is very interesting and relevant, and gives us access to training for skills that we don't often have the opportunity to practice.

Best course of my life!

The anatomical dissection allows us to see the relationships between structures. Interesting to integrate for the achievement of gesture.

Thank you so much for organizing this course with material for practice.

Perfect for a first overview of the clinic, I can't wait to learn more.

Interesting to practice and learn how to do things, you finally get to do something concrete.

The suture course with surgeons gave us lots of tips acquired from their experience that don't appear in a book.

It improved my interest in surgery so it will probably have a positive impact in my specialty choice.

What our participants have to say about our E-LEARNING modules

The module is well organized with a nice content.

Excellent content combining both a good quantity of information and a simplicity of concepts.

Maybe facultative complex situations (jihova, refusal of surgery from parents despite good prognosis, PAFA) but may result in a too long e-learning session.

Frankly, super ergonomic, the videos are good, the topics interesting.

Very well illustrated with videos and supplements (in particular ECG guidance).



What our PARTNERS have to say

Everything
was perfect.
Workstations
well prepared
and equipment
OK.

Good organization, fast reply
and adaptability.

I enjoy the welcoming
atmosphere and the motivated
team that makes everything
happen so easily. Thank you!

It was a fine pleasant
time spent with students.
Everything worked just great.
The SFITS team and support
was fantastic!

Thank you for being so flexible
with specimen preparation and
instrument organization. This
course is a huge opportunity
for our team!

The organization of our
workshop was, as always,
excellent. Thank you very
much for your efforts and
hospitality. All the participants
were thrilled. We would love to
continue our collaboration.



”





SFITS

Highlights

Highlights – Training

Digital training

Number of people using the [SFITS Calendar](#)

4000

Number of e-learning modules available on [our online library](#)
(14 published in 2024)

58

Number of completion certificates sent

977

Of these 977, 272 were issued for the e-learning module “Basic sutures”

272



2024 Key training courses



Masterclass on Genital Mutilation

In February 2024, we hosted the first [Masterclass on genital mutilation](#).

Directed by Prof. Jasmine Abdulcadir, Assistant Doctor and head of the HUG's gynecology and obstetrics emergency unit, the event aimed to provide an in-depth anatomical understanding of the vulva after female genital mutilation (or FGM). A 2-day emotional and instructive event made of numerous presentations and testimonials.

[A special report published on heidi.news](#) deals with the subject.



Lunch & Learn

A one-hour presentation on a specific topic in orthopedics septic.

Set up by Dr. Domizio Suva, Associate Physician in the department of orthopedic surgery and traumatology of the motor apparatus at the HUG, this course takes place over a lunch offered by the SFITS, on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. Participants can attend in person or online.



Highlights - training

Focus on some of our training courses



Hip course

The Hip Surgery Course, set up in 2024 by Prof. Didier Hannouche, Physician in charge of the orthopedic surgery department at the HUG, comprises 3 modules spread between March and September.

The aim of these sessions is to provide an introduction to techniques for first-intention hip arthroplasty, the revision of hip prostheses and hip arthroscopy.



Lasers in ENT

The very first edition of the Lasers in ENT and cervicofacial surgery courses inaugurated the SFITS in 2017 and since then, two other courses took place, in 2019 and 2024.

This training day enables participants to discover and handle different lasers offered by our partner companies, and to exchange and network.

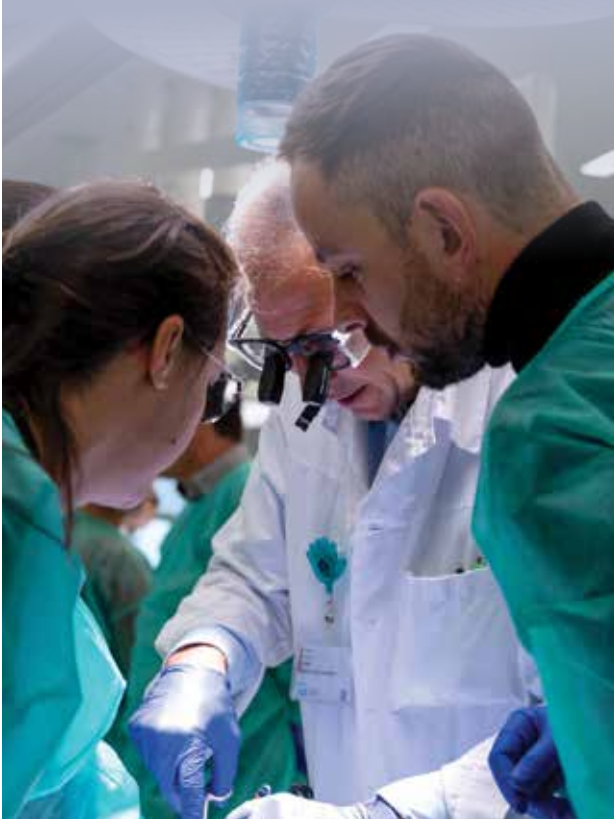




Interprofessional training day in cardiac surgery

In response to the participants' enthusiasm, this interprofessional education day continues. Initiated in 2023, it was organized again in November 2024.

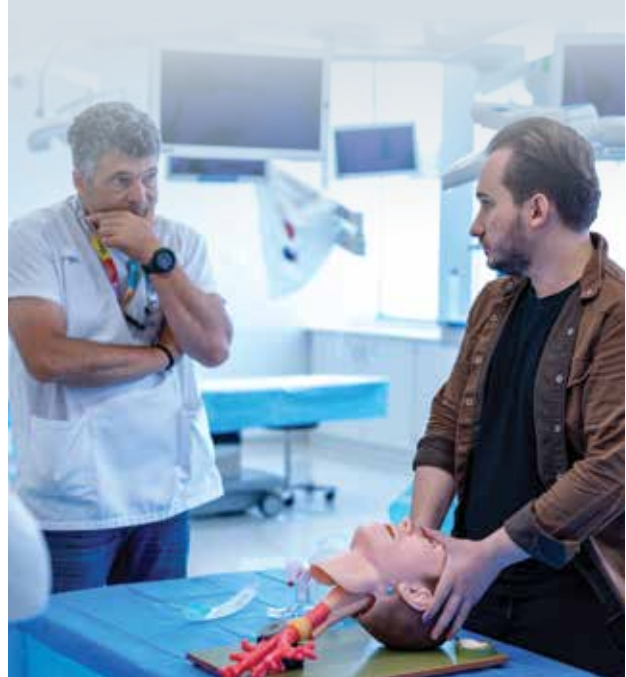
This course, led by Prof. Christoph Huber, Physician-in-Chief of the cardiovascular surgery department at the HUG, and dedicated to cardiac surgery surgeons, scrub nurses and cardiac-perfusionists, aims to develop skills and expertise in the field of cardiac and vascular surgery, and to foster interprofessional exchange.



Practical workshop for anaesthetists from Latin Switzerland

Organized by the *Commission Latine pour la Formation en Anesthésie* (COLAFA), this training course takes place over 3 days.

It features practical, interactive workshops on (neuraxial) anesthesia, vascular access and cardiac and respiratory complications. It also includes theoretical sections on anesthesia safety and mechanical ventilation.



Highlights - training

Training of HUG residents

Cours sur lambeaux et
dissections anatomiques



Ateliers de sutures pour le
Service des Urgences



Dissections en chirurgie de la
main



Drainage thoracique sur simulateur



Cours de suture en urologie



Parcours trauma général



Masterclass en neurochirurgie



Ateliers Hands-on pour le Service CCV des HUG



Journées scientifiques du Service de neurochirurgie



Workshop Airway management



Voies d'abord en urgences maxillo-faciales



Enseignement structuré du genou



Highlights - training

Internal training at the HUG, open to external participants

Options thérapeutiques pour fractures vertébrales ostéoporotiques



Cours de perfectionnement sur les sutures gynobs



Parcours de laparoscopie en gynécologique



Formation avancée en hystérocopie opératoire



Arthroscopie du genou (basique & avancé)



Arthroscopie du poignet



Prise en charge des enfants avec fente labio-maxillo-palatine



Proctology and Pelvic Floor Disorder Symposium



Parcours de microchirurgie basique



Parcours de microchirurgie avancé



Temporal Bone Beginner Course



Parcours Epaule et Coude



Parcours autour de l'arthrose du genou



Paediatric Minimally Invasive Surgery and Urology Course







Innovation

Highlights - Innovation

SFITS Innovation



SFITS Innovation Program

The SFITS has launched its Innovation program, in 2024, and is leading two initiatives to support and accelerate the emergence and development of new techniques and interventional and surgical technologies.



Corporate R&D Program

The R&D program supports Medtech companies and R&D departments wishing to further develop innovative solutions, test and improve them in the clinical setting provided by the SFITS infrastructure and its specific services.



Startup Acceleration Program

The startups' acceleration program aims to bring together the entrepreneurial, medical, industrial and financial communities, creating a dynamic ecosystem where innovation can thrive. It represents a major opportunity for startups in the surgical and interventional technologies sector, by providing them with the resources, connection and expertise needed to bring innovative solutions to market.

Let's bring your innovation to the next level!

Three startups have joined this first pilot phase:

evidone



Startup specializing in the development of AI-based solutions to improve the efficiency and precision of hospital operations, it aims to improve smoothness of operations in the OR through the use of advanced sensor and artificial intelligence technologies.

The collaboration with the SFITS enables the implementation of their technology in a clinical environment:

- Testing and deployment in real-life conditions, during surgical training courses
- Connection to Subject-Matter Experts and Medtech companies

AUGMEDI



Founded in August 2023, Augmedi develops medical learning applications for students and doctors. Offering photorealistic 3D anatomical models, highly detailed 3D scans of orthopedic approaches, and an AI learning engine that adapts content to each individual user.

Collaboration with the SFITS has enabled the use of this technology during training courses of:

- Connection with Subject-Matter Experts, interns, and faculty
- Tests of their solution in real-life conditions, as part of training courses surgery

REGENOSCA



Regenosca provides a technology for regenerative medicine that enables the permanent regrowth of its own native tissues on a self-absorbing mesh, thus ensuring seamless healing of soft tissue defects and surgical wounds.

Although not a living tissue, Regenosca's TissueSpan is designed to actively attract and organize the patient's own cells during implantation, triggering the body's natural regenerative processes. Fully absorbable and ready to use, TissueSpan ensures easy clinical translation and compatibility with current surgical techniques.

Through their collaboration with SFITS, the Regenosca team can test and receive concrete feedback by:

- Connection with Subject-Matter Experts
- Connection to the SFITS community and network (regulatory affairs, partners...)





Research

Highlights - Research

Research

Three Masters projects were carried out at the SFITS in 2024.

In collaboration with *l'École d'ingénieurs de Compiègne* and the B-Lab of the UNIGE, Jeanne Maillard completed a Master's thesis on a method for defining the position of the anatomical parts required for the application of movements by a robotic arm as part of the Robohip project.

In collaboration with *HES Arc de Neuchâtel* and the orthopedic department of the HUG, Sofia Rodriguez carried out a project on vision 3D+2D tools for the evaluation of fracture training for surgeons.

A project that could have promising applications for our learners and our patients!

In collaboration with the EPFL and the HUG's biomedical department, Bryan Kheirallah produced an analysis of surgical robotics, in the form of a comprehensive, resourceful website:

<https://robots.sfits.ch>.

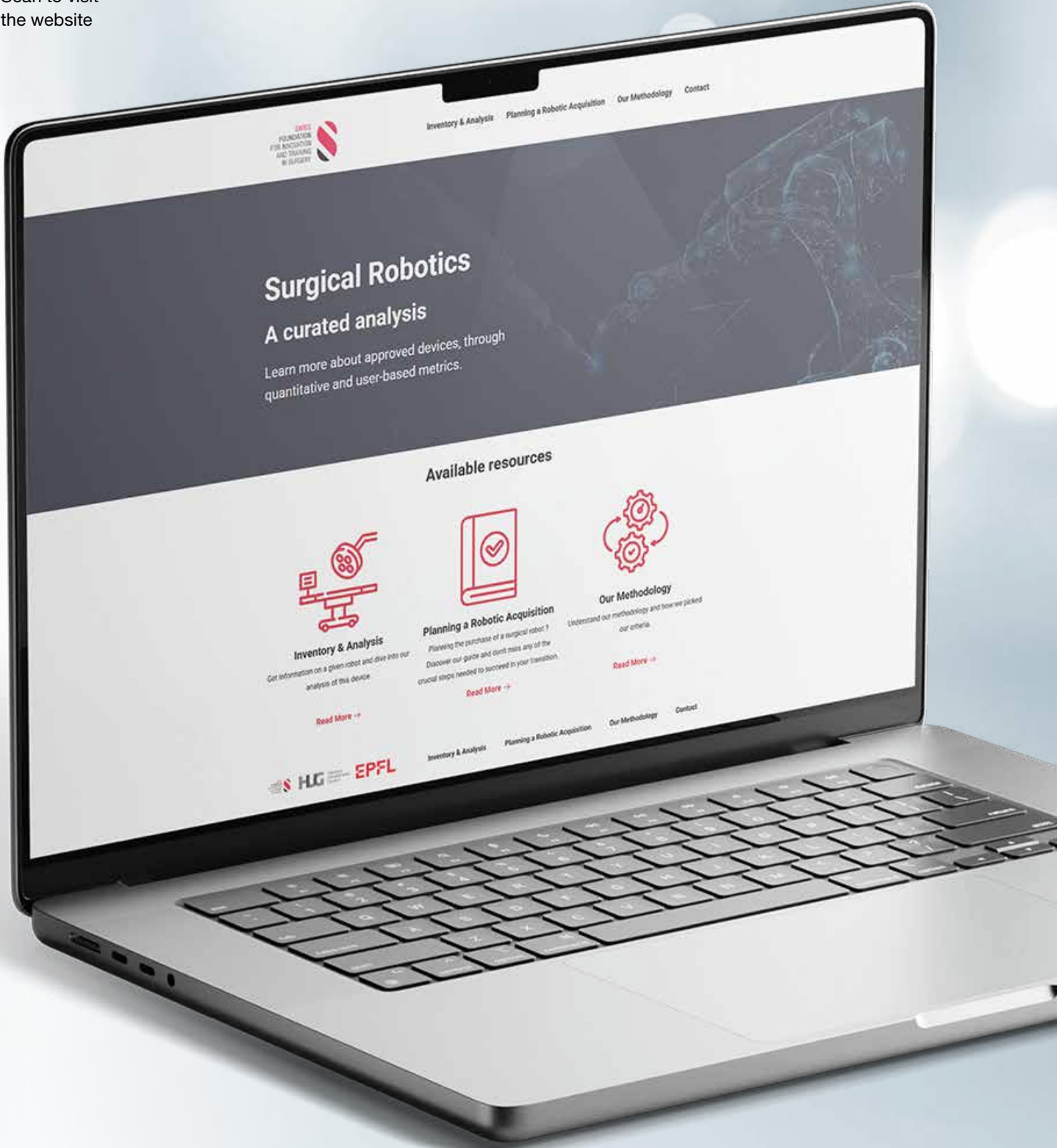
We continue to receive requests from companies to list their robots on this website.



Scan to visit
the website



SWISS FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION
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A photograph of four healthcare professionals, three women and one man, standing in a modern hospital hallway. They are all wearing blue V-neck scrubs and smiling at the camera. The hallway has large windows on the left side, showing a view of a city building. A red vertical bar is on the right side of the image, and a dark red, textured graphic is in the bottom right corner. The text "Expertise and Creativity" is overlaid in white on a semi-transparent blue rectangle in the lower center.

Expertise and Creativity

Highlights - Expertise and Creativity

SFITS Team



THANK YOU to our SFITS team

A joy of living, availability, excellence, all ingredients that make the SFITS shine.

We are proud and grateful to be able to count on a dedicated and passionate team, flexible and always smiling.

Not forgetting our Pools of medical students, MRTs, videographers, illustrators, translators... who make our lives so much easier.

”

Excellence is an art won by training and habituation... We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.

Aristotle

Audio-visual creativity

The SFITS is also



Christmas eve
at the SFITS
(Video)



By the way,
it is SFITS!
(Video)



Exercise your
back... Work...
Sleep...



Instructional videos

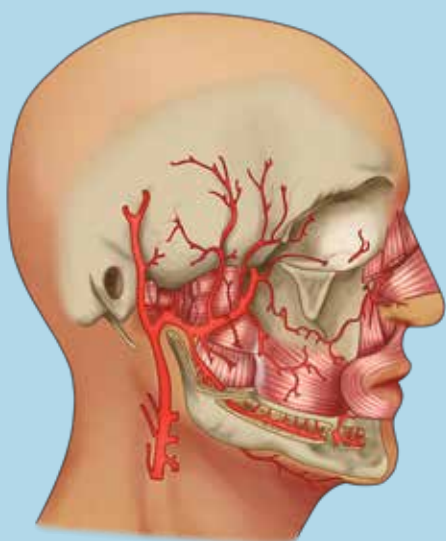
Thanks to our Pool of videographers for
shooting and editing our videos.



Expertise and Creativity

Original anatomical illustrations

We would like to thank our illustrator, **Jessica Sarceno**, for her highly-accurate, real-life illustrations.



Comprehensive and didactic e-learning modules



Photos of our training sessions

We would like to thank our talented engineer, project manager and photographer, **Julien Busset**.

MaxNova

A huge **HVALA** to our creative agency with whom we've been collaborating on all our graphic projects since 2018.

Creativity and Excellence, at their best!



To their
portfolio



To their
website







Governance

Governance



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Scientific committee





Our
network

A big THANK YOU to our partners

for their confidence and loyalty



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Universitaires
Genève



WYSS CENTER



UNIVERSITÉ
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Centre
Universitaire
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University of
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Genève





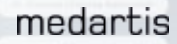
MEDCEL



Cordis



DANKLIN
Excellence in Endoscopic Solutions



medartis



BLACK FOREST
MEDICAL GROUP



TRB
Your experience
Your expertise
Your expectations



BRAINLAB



ProMedics



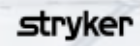
Medtronic



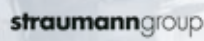
Curmed
CURVED FUSION



Johnson & Johnson
MedTech



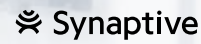
stryker



straumann group



Codman
SPECIALTY SURGICAL



Synaptive



Medeco-ch



Théa
let's open our eyes



ORama



Medacta
International



ico|cet



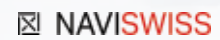
flava
FONDANT DEN LATTIN
DES VOIES AERIANES



Distalmotion



Lima Corporate
Orthopaedic motion



NAVISWISS



DePuySynthes
a division of Johnson & Johnson



CENTRE ASSAL
DE MEDICINE
ET DE CHIRURGIE
DU RIED



Biover



ZIMMER BIOMET



pixee
medical



CapeReal



Neo
BEYOND THE EXPECTED



ONEORTHO
MEDICAL



Pierre Fabre



SPINEVISION



TEOXANE



FASTER



Sutter



SPINEART



SMAiO



Cochlear



GLOBUS
MEDICAL



Edwards



DACH
medical group
a member of AdLife Group



ZEISS



STORZ
KARL STORZ - ENDOSKOPE



bioLITEC



Heraeus



lasermed
INNOVATING MEDICINE



Bien Air
Surgery



Stöckli Medical
Persönlich. Kompetent. Innovativ.



erbe
power your performance.



bonebridge
reducing complexity







DO ONE



SEE ONE



TEACH ONE



SFITS ONE



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