August 2018

Dear friends and colleagues

I look forward to meet you in Interlaken for the annual meeting September 13 & 14, 2018, in Interlaken. It has been a busy year for our society. In this letter, I would like to highlight some of the past and current activities of the SSI.

Strategy on antibiotic resistance (StAR)
Many of us have been very involved in many different aspects of the federal program on antibiotic resistance. Swissnososo, with its president Andreas Widmer, has been instrumental in implementing key measures of the strategy, such as monitoring and early detection of outbreaks and prevention of nosocomial infections. Pietro Vernazza has been coordinating, with the help of many of you, the production of prescription guidelines within the human part of the StAR-Project.

Postgraduate and Continuous Education, Accreditation
Under the lead of Christian van Delden we have been able to successfully pass the accreditation of our “Weiterbildungsprogramm/Programme de formation postgraduée”. This accreditation was based on the revised postgraduate education program, which was accepted by the SIWF board with minor changes on June 21st, 2018, as communicated earlier. We will inform as soon as we have the final version.

Formation approfondie/Schwerpunkt “Infection control”
A major achievement for our society was the acceptance of this new sub-specialty by the SIWF board on June 21st, 2018. This would not have been possible without the continuous initiative of Andreas Widmer. We truly believe that by creating this sub-specialty in infection prevention in health care, we will keep the momentum in the hands of the medical community. Some final formal adjustments are being made by SIWF, and then the implementation will be an important task.

Governance of the SSI
To clarify the structures in the SSI Board we worked on a new Governance structure, which details the different responsibilities and tasks of the various members of the board, and highlights the committees, which are crucial for the functioning of our society. This new governance will help to better and more efficiently do our work for the benefit of our members. I would like to thank Manuel Battegay for the initiative to start this project and bring it to a good end. The board will propose some minor adoptions of the statutes to make them reflect “reality”.

Tarmed
Due to the installment of the new Tarmed it was again a very busy year for Claude Scheidegger, our representative for all issues related to the Tarmed. Together with the help of Madeleine Rothen and Barbara Hasse they created a small FAQ list distributed to all members, and such, the implementation of the new Tarmed structure was made easier.
Meetings
Our 2018 meeting is a traditional one together with our three partner societies, the Swiss Society for Hospital Hygiene, the Swiss Society for Tropical Medicine and Parasitology and the Swiss Society for Tropical and Travel Medicine. In a consensus document, we discussed the future of our common meeting among the presidents and could agree on a framework for the future.

2019 will be together with the Swiss Society of Intensive Care Medicine in Lausanne and we are looking forward very much to an interesting interaction with our colleagues from intensive care.

All these activities and achievements would not have been possible without the continuous support of all of you, and in particular the members of the board. I have been fortunate to work with very dedicated individuals who indeed invest much time to the causes of our society, in an ever changing and challenging environment.

I am looking forward to go into my second year, and wish all of you fulfillment in your professional activities.

Regards

Nicolas Mueller

President
Swiss Society for Infectious Diseases