



## **Institute of Evolutionary Medicine (IEM)**

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### **Annual Report 2015 – Management Summary (English Version)**

The Institute of Evolutionary Medicine (IEM, [www.iem.uzh.ch](http://www.iem.uzh.ch)) completed its first full calendar year in 2015. It was founded in September 2014 as part of the Medical Faculty. The IEM is a research, teaching and service institute in the field of evolutionary medicine and related areas. Using state-of-the-art infrastructure and methods, the study of historical remains and records provides insight into the causes and developments of diseases that are still relevant today.

In the year under review IEM achieved the essential objectives set in the previous year and further established itself as a leading research and teaching institute in its field. New employees were recruited, additional office and storage space was acquired and international research cooperations were increasingly established. The organisation of the institute was completed, including the approval and publication of the IEM Institutsordnung (Institute Rules).

On the whole, the IEM can look back on a very successful year (attraction of external funds, expansion of teaching, scientific publications). An internal evaluation revealed a very high level of satisfaction among employees.

In the year under review the responsibility for the new Museum of Medicine that is to be established was officially handed over to the IEM; here the IEM worked closely and very satisfactorily with the "Transition Team ex-MHIZ" (led by Prof. F. Althaus, the university management's delegate for museums). In the year under review a lot of preparatory work went into the relaunch of the museum as the "Museum of Medicine". Among other things, an extensive concept was presented to the university management. Further steps are now dependent on the decisions of superiors. The management of the IEM remains embedded in the University of Zurich's "Conference of Institutes for Collection and Museums". Numerous wet and dry human preparations were handed over in the year under review, the rest of the former History of Medicine collection will be handed over to the IEM in 2016.

The three main research groups have experienced minor organisational changes, but still comprise the main fields of molecular, morphological and paleopathological/mummy research. A total of around 40 publications and scientific papers were published. These and other activities in the IEM were reported extensively in the media with great interest from the public in general. The IEM cooperates with other institutes of the UZH and ETH as well as other organisations in Switzerland and abroad. The first European Conference for Evolutionary Medicine organised by the IEM helped establish the institute worldwide as a unique research and teaching institute.

The IEM has been particularly successful in acquiring external funds: in the year under review in addition to a renewal proposal from the German Research Foundation (DFG), three extensive projects of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) were acquired. The IEM was also able to count again on the generous support of other donors, such as the Mäxi Foundation for whose support the IEM is particularly grateful.



The development of the next generation and gender equality were this year again an important part of the activities of the IEM, in which the necessary conditions for this were created.

The acquisition of further external funds, the continuous expansion of international cooperations and the further establishment of the subject area inside and outside of the Medical Faculty are the key challenges and goals for the next few years. With further growth predicted, the limited space is cause for concern for the future, as is the relatively poor headcount allocation bearing in mind the work to be done in the future, particularly on the museum and collection front.