

EVA leadership changes, start-up opportunities continue

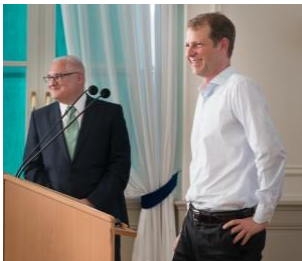


At the end of June, a good one hundred Life Sciences stakeholders gathered in the large ballroom of Hotel Merian in Basel. Peter Burckhardt welcomed Werner Enz, the new CEO of EVA and BASEL INKUBATOR, and said good-bye to Fritz Wittwer, whom he now succeeds as Chairman of the Board. All three agreed that owing to strict selection, intense coaching and continuous encouragement to improve business and marketing capabilities, the quality of start-ups has steadily increased in recent years. “We hope the well-established and active Life Sciences network in Basel will further improve its mutual collaboration to positively impact the promotion of start-ups.

This is how all players can get the very best out of investments in infrastructure and innovative projects in our region, which continue despite the current climate of economic insecurity,” they said.



In his keynote, Mark Rogers from Business Development & Licensing at Novartis emphasized that M&A activities with start-ups are likely to further increase. “It’s just not possible for ‘Big Pharma’ to come up with all these good ideas on its own,” he said. Because moreover late-stage deals are costly, and the integration in a company’s Development and Marketing operation may be difficult, he foresees good opportunities for start-ups.



Philipp Knechtle, CEO of Selmod, gave an example of the interesting turns that innovation can take. Selmod is developing a compound of a new class of antifungals to treat infections that can cause mortality rates of up to 80%. It originates from the industry, but “big Pharma” currently has no antifungal R&D programs. Selmod therefore works to fill this significant gap. The company is looking for investors. For more info please visit www.selmod.com



Surgeon Philipp Kirchhoff was concerned about a clinical complication occurring in up to 70 % of patients in the first three years after placing a bowel stoma. He developed an easily implantable elastic ring that increases patients’ quality of life and saves health care costs by preventing expensive and risky re-operations. Visit www.koring.ch to learn more about the product and the company, which currently also offers an interesting investment opportunity.