

# SABV Symposium

9-10 June 2022 | Bern, Switzerland

## SEX AS A BIOLOGICAL VARIABLE IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH



We are happy to announce a 2-day symposium “**Sex as a biological variable in biomedical research: needs, challenges, and future steps**” to be held at the **University of Bern** in the main building (**Hochschulstrasse 6, Cupola room**) on **June 9-10, 2022**. The detailed program is given on the next page.

The symposium is dedicated to provide insight into the meaning of sex as a biological variable (SABV) and its importance to rodent biomedical research, and to address challenges for implementation. It will bring together national and international experts from the fields of neuroscience, reproductive and behavioral endocrinology, whose work is dedicated to better understanding how sex impacts biological processes from the molecular to the behavioral level.

In addition, experts in the fields of 3Rs, animal welfare and biostatistics will present challenges and approaches to the inclusion of SABV in animal facility management and study design. This symposium will thus provide a platform for exchange and discussion of the current state of research and future steps.

## Registration

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The number of participants is limited to 100. Please register via this link by June 6th:

**[ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM](#)**

- Registration fee (regular): CHF 80
- Registration fee (full-time students and doctoral candidates): CHF 40

## Accreditation

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The accreditation of the symposium as 1 day of continuing education for personnel performing animal experiments by the Swiss Association of Cantonal Veterinarians (VSKT) is in process.



## Program

### Thursday, 9 June 2022

8.30-9.00	Registration
9.00-9.30	<b>Ivana Jaric</b> <b>Hanno Würbel</b> <i>Animal Welfare Division, Vetsuisse, University of Bern</i> <b>Welcome address and symposium intro</b>
9.30-10.30	<b>Christina Dalla</b> <i>Department of Pharmacology, Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece</i> <b>The importance of SABV in neuroscience and neuropsychopharmacology</b>
10.30-10.50	- Coffee Break -
10.50-11.50	<b>Paola Palanza</b> <i>Neuroscience Unit, Department of Medicine, University of Parma, Italy</i> <b>Sex-biased effects of genetic, social and environmental factors: implications for translational neuroscience</b>
	- Lunch break -
13.30-14.30	<b>Jodi Pawluski</b> <i> Inserm, EHESP, Irset (Institut de Recherche en Santé, Environnement et Travail), Université de Rennes, France</i> <b>Beyond SABV: the importance of pregnancy and postpartum on the female brain</b>
14.30-15.30	<b>Günter Vollmer</b> <i>Molecular Cell Physiology and Endocrinology, Institute of Zoology, Technical University Dresden, Germany</i> <b>The female rat as an experimental model - reflections on puberty, parity status and metabolism</b>
15.30-15.50	- Coffee Break -
15.50-16.50	<b>Leena Strauss</b> <i>Research Center for Integrative Physiology and Pharmacology, University of Turku, Finland</i> <b>Sex steroid synthesis in mouse models</b>
16.50-17.00	<b>Ivana Jaric</b> <b>Hanno Würbel</b> <b>First day wrap-up</b>

### Friday, 10 June 2022

8.30-9.30	<b>Nirao Shah</b> <b>(online talk)</b> <i>Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Department of Neurobiology, Stanford University, USA</i> <b>Functional molecular and cellular compartmentalization of sexually dimorphic social behaviors</b>
9.30-10.00	- Coffee Break -
10.00-11.00	<b>Ivana Jaric</b> <i>Animal Welfare Division, Vetsuisse, University of Bern, Switzerland</i> <b>The importance of estrous cycle and factors influencing its stages</b>
11.00-12.00	<b>Thorsten Buch</b> <i>Institute of Laboratory Animal Science, University of Zurich, Switzerland</i> <b>Inclusion of female and male animals in one experiment: debunking some myths</b>
	- Lunch break -
13.45-14.15	<b>Homare Yamahachi</b> <i>The Swiss 3R Competence Centre (3RCC)</i> <b>3Rs perspective of SABV initiative</b>
14.15-15.45	A roundtable discussion
15.45-16.15	- Coffee Break -
16.15-16.30	<b>Ivana Jaric</b> <b>Hanno Würbel</b> <b>Farewell and closing remarks</b>

The Symposium is funded by

**u<sup>b</sup>**

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early career researchers

**3 R** Swiss 3R  
**C C** Competence  
Centre