

Press release

Swiss 3R Competence Centre appoints Dr. Homare Yamahachi as new Executive Board Chair

The Swiss 3R Competence Centre (3RCC) has appointed former Vice Chair, Dr. Homare Yamahachi from the University of Bern as the new Executive Board Chair, effective 2025. He succeeds PD Dr. Paulin Jirkof, who served as Chair from April 2019 to December 2024. The Vice-Chair will be held by Executive Board member Alexandre Widmer (EPFL Lausanne).



Homare Yamahachi is a neuroscientist with a strong background in sensory processing, spatial navigation, and animal welfare. He has conducted research at leading institutions, including The Rockefeller University, the Moser Lab in Norway, and ETH Zurich. In his current role, he coordinates the 3Rs principle (Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement) of animal experimentation at the University of Bern and across Swiss higher research institutions, promoting responsible and innovative research practices.

Dr. Yamahachi stated: "I am honored to assume the role of Chair of the Executive Board at the Swiss 3R Competence Centre. It has been a privilege to serve alongside Dr. Paulin Jirkof as Vice-Chair over the past years. I look forward to continuing our efforts to embed the 3Rs into research and education across our member institutions. Through collaboration and innovative, evidence-based approaches, we will further advance animal welfare and scientific excellence. I am excited to work together with our dedicated community to deliver meaningful and lasting progress."

We express our gratitude to the outgoing chair, PD Dr. Paulin Jirkof, for her dedication and commitment serving as chair. "Serving as Vice-Chair and Chair of the 3RCC Executive Board for six years, I had the privilege of supporting the center through its early steps and challenges, witnessing its growth firsthand. Today, the 3RCC has established itself as the organization for 3Rs in Switzerland, and I am convinced it will continue to drive the effective implementation of the 3Rs principle—promoting better science while reducing reliance on animal use in research, testing and education. Looking ahead, I envision the 3RCC evolving even more into a national center fostering 3Rs innovation, effective collaboration, and policy development to further embed the 3Rs into Swiss research culture."



About the Swiss 3R Competence Centre (3RCC)

The Swiss 3R Competence Centre (3RCC) is a scientific centre of national importance. It promotes the replacement, reduction and refinement of animal experiments (3R principle) through research, education and communication. The 3RCC is a joint initiative of science, industry, authorities and the largest animal welfare organisation in Switzerland.

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