

Press release

Basel, November 14th 2023

A dinosaur for the new museum

Novartis loans an impressive dinosaur skeleton to the Natural History Museum Basel

The skeleton of an *Allosaurus fragilis*, which has been on display at the Novartis Campus since 2015, is to be exhibited in the new building of the Natural History Museum Basel in St. Johann. This will bring the skeleton more into the public domain and make it more accessible for scientific research. Until such a time, the skeleton will remain in its current location at the Novartis Campus. Novartis permanently loans the impressive dinosaur skeleton to the museum.

There are new opportunities for collaborative work with the opening of the Novartis Campus and the construction of the new Natural History Museum in the immediate vicinity of Novartis on Vogesenplatz. This will be a striking addition for the museum: The *Allosaurus fragilis*, a kind of pop star among dinosaurs that has been owned by Novartis for over a decade, is given a new home and moves into the Natural History Museum Basel. In doing so, Novartis makes this rare skeleton more accessible to the world of science and the general public. Novartis is donating the piece to the museum on the basis of a permanent loan. The "relocation" of the skeleton will take place as soon as the new museum is completed and ready for occupancy. Until then, the *Allosaurus* will remain at the Novartis Campus where it cannot be viewed the public.

A special skeleton

The approximately ten metres long and 2.8 metres high skeleton of an *Allosaurus fragilis* was found in Wyoming, USA, where it was embedded for millions of years in the well-known Morrison Formation comprising mainly of sandstone. It was discovered near the site where the long-necked dinosaur was excavated, which was acquired by the Natural History Museum Basel in 2019.

The *Allosaurus* skeleton, presumed to be a female, is around 150 million years old and up to 70% complete.

Predators from the Jurassic period

150 million years ago, 75 million years before the *T. rex* dinosaur species came on the scene, the *Allosaurs* were the top of their food chain, the most feared predators. *Stegosaurus*, young *Diplodocids* or other dinosaurs were among their favourite prey. The *Allosaurus* lived in dry, warm climates, often in swampy areas with floodplain forests.

More information

Press contact

Yvonne Barmettler, Head of Mediation & Communication

yvonne.barmettler@bs.ch

Tel +41 61 266 55 32