

PRESS RELEASE

New OR-X research and teaching center is recognized as an infrastructure of national significance.

Zurich, 20 June 2023 – The new surgical research and teaching center at Balgrist University Hospital OR-X (Operating Room X) has been included by the Swiss Federation in the list of research infrastructures of national significance.

The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) recently presented its Swiss Roadmap for Research Infrastructures 2023. The roadmap includes the OR-X surgical research and teaching center at Balgrist University Hospital. The Swiss National Fund awarded the OR-X the highest excellence level (grade A) when creating this roadmap. The inclusion in the roadmap is based on an application submitted by Balgrist with the University of Zurich as the leading house, which contained the draft of a research strategy for the OR-X that covers several years. The recognition as a national research infrastructure opens up the possibility of receiving financial support from the Swiss Federation. The funding decision is still pending. The roadmap identifies medium-term funding needs.

Mazda Farshad, Medical Director of Balgrist University Hospital, and the initiator and founder of OR-X, explained: «The inclusion of OR-X in the roadmap as a research infrastructure of national significance is an important step towards taking on a leading role in researching and applying surgical innovation based on artificial intelligence and robotics. We are proud of this recognition by the Swiss National Fund and SERI. OR-X is taking surgical training to a new level.»

The OR-X is a highly modern center for surgical research, development and teaching. At the heart of the OR-X are a fully equipped operating theater and a Skills Lab, which is the ideal environment for developing surgical innovations and training the surgeons of tomorrow. As a strategic infrastructure of University Medicine Zurich (UMZH), OR-X promotes scientific research and plays a crucial role in the further development of healthcare in the Zurich region.

The OR-X is finished and is currently in the test phase. The surgical research and teaching center will be officially opened in a ceremony on 24 August 2023.

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About Balgrist University Hospital

Balgrist University Hospital is a highly specialized center of excellence for the diagnostic work-up, treatment, and follow-up care of damage to the musculoskeletal system. Interdisciplinary services combine the fields of orthopedics, paraplegiology, rheumatology and physical medicine, sports medicine, neuro-urology, chiropractic, radiology, and anesthesiology.

The broad spectrum of interlinked medical treatment is complemented by nursing care, social, insurance-legal and psychological counselling as well as integrated measures for rehabilitation and return to work. All these activities aim to provide our patients with the best possible support.

Balgrist University Hospital and the Balgrist Campus set internationally recognized standards in orthopedic research and education.

The privately owned Balgrist University Hospital is operated by the Balgrist Association.

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