



## **Institute of Evolutionary Medicine (IEM)**

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### **Annual Report 2021 – Management Summary (English Version)**

In the year under review, the Institute of Evolutionary Medicine (IEM) further strengthened its position as an internationally unique institution with its approximately 40 employees. This was achieved in particular through the numerous local and international research and teaching cooperations.

This reporting year is also exceptional due to the COVID-19 pandemic (institute-specific crisis management and safety concepts, home office periods, conversion of institute events to virtual or hybrid format, postponement of travel in particular field research, research partly on the pandemic topic, etc.). In the internal anonymised staff evaluation, the IEM crisis management was again rated as "very good". Taking care of the staff (regular information from the Directorate, close virtual contacts) was also a top priority in 2021.

In 2021, more than 60 scientific papers were published, for example in *Science*, *Nature*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Scientific Reports*, *Elife*, *Journal of Human Evolution*, *Nutrition Reviews*, *International Journal of Obesity*, *Anatomical Record*, etc. The number of publications was also very high.

Third-party funding was also successfully obtained again and several SNSF-funded projects were ongoing. In 2021, the number of student qualification thesis projects at the IEM increased again. Highlights were, for example, the conversion of the previous ancient DNA laboratory into a new state-of-the-art ancient proteomics laboratory, the election of the Institute Director as Dean of the Medical Faculty, the appointment of Prof. Schünemann to a tenured professorship at the University of Vienna and, once again, the Institute's research activities, which have received enormous attention worldwide. In the year under review, the Institute Director also co-founded the first competence centre at the UZH to encompass all faculties, the UZH Centre for Crisis Competence, and took over the presidency of the world's leading professional society in Evolutionary Medicine, the International Society for Evolution, Medicine and Public Health.

Important for the future development of the IEM continues to be a better allocation of office and laboratory space at the essential Irchel location, the desired continuation of the assistant professorships and the further acquisition of third-party funding.

In the teaching area, the scope was maintained and teaching was again predominantly rated as very good by the students.

The medical object collection was further inventoried and is available for research and teaching. The promotion of women and young scientists is an explicit goal at the IEM. Finally, the staff of the IEM were involved in numerous scientific and non-university committees and services, which is important for the positive outreach of the institute.