



Institute of Evolutionary Medicine (IEM)

Annual Report 2019 – Management Summary (English Version)

The Institute for Evolutionary Medicine (IEM) further strengthened its position as an internationally unique institution in the year under review. This was achieved in particular through the IEM's steadily increasing integration into the medical and other UZH faculties and through numerous local and international research and teaching collaborations.

In 2019 more than 40 scientific papers could be published, for example in PNAS, Nature, Molecular Evolution and Biology, Obesity Reviews, Scientific Reports, Evolution, Medicine & Public Health, Lancet Diabetes Endocrinology, Science Advances, etc.

It was again possible to successfully raise third-party funds and several projects supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation were running. Furthermore, the support from additional donors (e.g. the extremely generous Mäxi Foundation) is essential for the IEM. In the year under review, the student qualification work at the IEM increased. A highlight in the year under review was the organization and hosting of the 5th Annual Meeting of the International Society for Evolution, Medicine, and Public Health by the IEM in Zürich. Also, a further habilitation project was completed.

Important for the future development of the IEM continues to be a better allocation of office and lab space at the core location of Irchel Campus, the ongoing establishment of the two now active assistant professorships, as well as the further acquisition of third-party funds.

In the field of teaching, the scope of last year's diverse commitments was maintained, and teaching was predominantly rated as very good by the students.

In total, the IEM has more than three dozens of employees thanks to successful third-party funding. The internal institute organization continues to be successful. The director of the institute was able to spend a research semester away from the institute. The institute structure was adapted so that all habilitated employees now lead their own research groups. The objects of the Medical Collection were further inventoried and remain available for research and teaching.

The promotion of women and young scientists is an explicit goal at the IEM. Finally, the IEM staff was involved in numerous scientific and non-academic committees and services, which is important for the positive outreach of the institute.

The IEM attracted worldwide media attention (e.g. two IEM press releases were among the top ten of the entire UZH in the year under review).