Postgraduate and continuing medical education in surgery in Switzerland

Brigitte Muff MD, committee SIME
(Swiss institute for medical education)
PGT legal basis: Medical Professions Act

- Regulations governing undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing training in the 5 university medical professions (human medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmaceutics and chiropractic)
- Federal examinations at the end of medical studies
- Accreditation as a means of constantly improving basic and postgraduate training procedures
- ONE organisation responsible for regulating postgraduate training (FMH/SIME)
- Reciprocal recognition of diplomas (EU Guideline 93/16)
Organization of SIME
Management (n=4)
President, 2 vice-presidents, executive director

SIME Committee (n=19)
Delegates representing major societies, universities, the government, etc.; guests
Decides on the majority of topics

Plenary (n=56)
Delegates representing all medical specialty societies, government, etc.; guests
Right of referendum, minority of direct decisions
**SIME**

- **President SIME**
- **Management SIME** (4 members)
- **Committee SIME** (19 members, 9 permanent guests)
- **Plenary session SIME** (56 members, 35 permanent guests)

**FMH**

- **President FMH**
- **Presidency** (3 members)
- **Central Committee** (7 - 9 members)
- **Medical Chamber** (200 members)

**Public Institutions**
- BAG, GDK, etc.

**Med. Faculties** (5)

**Specialist Societies** (45)

**VSAO** (Base Organisation)

**VLSS** (Base Organisation)

**Umbrella org.** (7)

**Cantonal medical societies** (24 Base Organisations)

**Physicians / FMH members / General Vote**
43 specialist titles

- Designed by doctors – for doctors (SIME/FMH) mandated through the federal department.

- The Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) must approve relevant changes (e.g. creation of new specialist titles, relevant changes to specialist programs).

- The 43 specialist titles must be accredited every seven years by the Federal Office of Public Health FOPH.
Specialist training programs

- Defines what kind of specialist training has to be completed to obtain a specialist title

- All titles organized in a standard way using the master medical specialist program (template)
Creation of a new specialist title

- Proposal submitted by specialist society based on master medical specialist training program (template)
- Details of program worked out by SIME Management
- Approval by the SIME Committee; referendum option
  → SIME Plenary
- Submitted to the Medical Chamber (FMH)
- Submitted to the Federal Office of Public Health
PGT: Programs and Structures

- 43 federal specialist programs 
  and 1 private specialist program (hand surgery) 
  5 - 6 years

- 32 private subspecialist programs (FMH) 
  2 - 3 years

- 2'000 training sites (hospitals, institutions)

- Approx. 1'000 private offices

- 10'000 trainees

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federal surgical specialist programs

- Surgery
- Cardiac and Thoracic vascular Surgery
- Plastic-, Reconstructive- and Aesthetic Surgery
- Paediatric Surgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology
private surgical specialist program

Handsurgery
private surgical subspecialist programs

Surgery:
- General Surgery and Traumatology
- Vascular Surgery
- Thoracic Surgery
- Visceral Surgery

Cardiac and thoracic vascular Surgery
- Vascular Surgery
- Thoracic Surgery
Requirements for Specialization in Surgery

- Total duration: 6 years
- At least 4 years of general surgery (2 years in University Hospitals or “A“ years, 1 year in smaller hospitals)
- Maximum of 2 years of special surgical disciplines
- Maximum of 2 years of research
- Logbook (defined number of surgical interventions)
- Basic Examination: written (after 1-2 years)
- Final Examination: oral

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Requirements for Sub-Specialization in Surgery

- Two additional years of training in the according discipline

- Logbook (defined number of surgical interventions, additionally to the basic education logbook)

- Special requirements like a management course for general surgery and traumatology for example

- A practical and oral examination and also a presentation at the end of the education
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Davon: Block A: 125, Block B: 290, Block C: 130</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kopf und Hals</strong></td>
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<td>Strumaresektionen (C)</td>
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<td>Op von Zysten (B) und/oder Divertikel (C)</td>
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<td>Tracheotomie und/oder percutane Tracheotomie (B)</td>
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<td>Lymphknotenexcision (A)</td>
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<td><strong>Brust</strong></td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Einfache Mastektomie (A) und axilläre Ausräumung (C)</td>
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<td>Brusterhaltende Operationen (B)</td>
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<td><strong>Thorax</strong></td>
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<td>Bülaudrainagen (A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Einfache Thoraxchirurgie, Pleurektomie (B), Lungenresektion (C), Thorakotomie (B)</td>
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<td><strong>Abdomen</strong></td>
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</table>
| Chirurgische Zugänge bei unklarem Abdomen:  
  1. diagnostische Laparoskopie (B) | 10  | 20  | 15  |
| 2. explorative Laparotomie (B)     | 10  | 20  | 15  |
| Appendektomie (offen und laparoskopisch) (B) | 20  | 60  | 40  |
| Cholezystektomie (offen und laparoskopisch) (B) | 15  | 45  | 30  |
| Hernien konventionell (A), videotechnisch (C) | 25  | 55  | 40  |
| Dünndarmeingriffe, Stomata (B)     | 15  | 45  | 30  |
| Mageneingriffe (C)                  | 5   | 15  | 10  |
| Colon / Rectum (C)                  | 5   | 25  | 15  |
| Operationen an der Milz / Leber / Pankreas / Gallenwege (C) | 5   | 15  | 10  |

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<th><strong>Proktologische Eingriffe</strong></th>
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<td>Hämorrhoiden (B), Perianalabscesse, Pilonidalsinus etc. (A)</td>
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<td><strong>Extremitäten</strong></td>
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<td>Metallentfernungen (A), Spickungen (A)</td>
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<td>60</td>
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<td>Reposition an der oberen und unteren Extremität + Extension oder Ruhigstellung im Gips (B)</td>
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<td>Amputationen kleine (A) mittlere z.B Vorfuss (B) Große z.B. Unterschenkel (C)</td>
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<td>Operative Versorgung von Frakturen exklusive Spickungen (C)</td>
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<td>60</td>
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<td>Operationen an Sehnen und Ligamenten (B), Arthroskopien (B), Operationen an Nerven (C)</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td><strong>Gefässchirurgie</strong></td>
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<td>Eingriffe an grossen Gefässen und peripheren Arterien Embolektomien (C)</td>
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<td>Varizenoperationen / andere Venenoperationen (B)</td>
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<td><strong>Handchirurgie</strong></td>
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<td>Versorgung von Handverletzungen exklusive einfache Wundversorgung (B/C)</td>
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<td>Urogenitaltrakt</td>
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<td>Op bei Hodentorsion (B), Hydrocele (B), Kryptorchismus (C), Phimose (A), Paraphimose (A), Cystostomie (A)etc.</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Creation of a new specialist title

In terms of European compatibility, two new specialist programs are to be created in Switzerland:

- Thoracic Surgery
- Vascular Surgery
Quality assurance

🔎 Annual Survey of trainees

- 88 items questionnaire (paper & pencil)
- Response rate: 65-68%
- Mandate to Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich (Prof. Michael Siegrist, PhD)

📍 Site visits

- Expert team (Specialist, Independent, Trainee)
- 70-80 sites/year, in all hospitals, for all disciplines

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