Cluster for Lung Development, Regeneration and Respiratory Diseases

1. BACKGROUND
The history of lung research in Bern dates back to the early 1960’s beginning with the pioneering work of Ewald Weibel, a prominent Swiss lung morphologist and biomedical researcher. Weibel’s seminal work elucidating the relationship between lung microstructure and function built the foundation for an expanded network of research groups presently at the University of Bern dedicated to respiratory research. Current research interests, spanning across several multidisciplinary groups, are diverse and range from lung development and regeneration, lung immunity to the use of microfluidic devices in personalized medicine. Moreover, a major focus is the clinical and translational research being conducted at the Inselspital University Hospital on chronic respiratory diseases, e.g. pulmonary fibrosis, emphysema and lung cancer. The shared interest in the lung is the common denominator thereby intrinsically connecting the individual research projects.

2. AIMS
The formation of the research cluster has two specific aims: First, is to foster collaborations among the Bernese lung research groups on both a technical and personal level thereby sustaining an interlocking research community. From this first aim, the cluster provides a platform for interaction of specialists ranging from engineers to molecular biologists and clinicians. Second, the cluster will provide a framework for attracting and training graduate students providing an environment that will foster a fruitful exchange of ideas during their studies.

3. ACTIVITIES
Bi-annual symposium of partner groups

4. CONTACT
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Focus on COPD, Emphysema, Lung infections, Cigarette smoke, Mouse models, Proteases, Serpins

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