

English translation of our article in the “Bündner Woche”, February 26, 2020

Research in Graubünden

Everything under one roof

Medical campus combines research and practice

Last year, an elegant building was completed in Davos Wolfgang. Located next to the cantonal road, it blends into the landscape. The building is directly connected to the Hochgebirgsklinik Davos via a corridor. It has state-of-the-art research laboratories and offers space for sixty employees. The ceremonial opening of the new building in September 2019 also marked the start of a pioneering project on the site of the Hochgebirgsklinik, namely the Davos Medical Campus (Medizincampus Davos). Under this name, the three partners Hochgebirgsklinik Davos, CK-CARE and SIAF are establishing a centre in the field of allergies that offers a unique approach worldwide. Here, protagonists from research, therapy and education will not only work together to improve knowledge about certain diseases, but they will also work under the same roof.



Marie-Charlotte Brüggen on the grounds of the Davos Medical Campus. On the right in the picture the new campus building. Image: Adrian Vieli, HGK

The Swiss Institute for Allergy and Asthma Research SIAF has been based in Davos for decades and is affiliated with the University of Zurich. It is internationally recognized for its basic research on allergies and asthma. Last summer, the forty researchers of the SIAF moved from Davos Platz to the new campus building and since then have been using the excellent research infrastructure. The CK-CARE Christine Kühne Center for Allergy Research and Education has been supporting highly qualified research in the field of allergies since 2009. It specializes in the training of medical professionals. Four

seminar rooms are available in the new building, which can be used for training courses. Besides its Davos location, CK-CARE also supports research projects at university locations in Switzerland and Germany. The medical offer of the Hochgebirgsklinik Davos includes the treatment of children, adolescents and adults with allergies, diseases of the respiratory tract, lungs, skin, and the heart. Most patients visit the Hochgebirgsklinik for a longer rehabilitation stay.

The example of Marie-Charlotte Brüggen shows how well the institutional networking within the Medicine Campus already works. The Basel native was appointed to a six-year professorship in allergy research, financed by the Kühne Foundation, in August 2019. Work locations: Davos and Zurich. Brüggen had initially planned to continue her professional career in the USA after completing her specialist training in Zurich and stations in Geneva and Vienna. However, the interesting and multifaceted job profile fully corresponded with

the vision of the dynamic 33-year-old physician and scientist: “I find it fascinating to work at the interface between medical practice and research. I am interested in what benefits patients and where there are knowledge gaps.”

On four days a week Brüggen works at the medical campus in Davos. At her workplace in the new campus building, she researches hypersensitivities to drugs, which in rare cases can lead to life-threatening skin reactions or even skin detachment. When she is not engaged in her research, the specialist for skin diseases treats outpatients in the Hochgebirgsklinik. She also works one weekday as a senior physician at the Dermatological Clinic of the University Hospital Zurich. In addition to Brüggen, there are other people who work across institutes on the Davos Medical Campus. A regular, personal exchange between physicians and researchers on current research topics and therapies takes place when they meet in the monthly “Journal Club” as well as within the context of joint projects.

Find out more about research in Graubünden: www.academiaeraetica.ch, www.graduateschool.ch.

The author



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