

Press release – July 2nd, 2013

## **Benoît Dubuis will be in charge of the development of the Biotech Campus Geneva project.**

**The academic partners of the Biotech Campus Geneva project have just appointed Benoît Dubuis to be the person in charge of the operational management for the development of the *Wyss Center for Bio and Neuroengineering*.**

The former Merck Serono headquarters in Geneva-Secheron are now officially committed to academic research as the building has just been sold. From 1st July 2013 onwards, EPFL and the University of Geneva are in possession of 17,000 square meters of office and laboratory space to be shared between the *Wyss Center for Bio and Neuroengineering* (8000 m<sup>2</sup>) and research groups coming from both institutions within the framework of the *EPFL-Unige Biomedical Center* (9000m<sup>2</sup>). The takeover of the newly acquired premises as well as the setting up of the Wyss Center will be executed under the guidance of Benoît Dubuis, founder and director of Eclosion, a renowned life sciences incubator. Today, the project's stakeholders have announced his appointment as the project's COO. He will personally carry out this task as part of a mandate entrusted to Eclosion which, for its part, looks forward to contributing to the dynamics of the Biotech Campus as both of them share the same innovation goals.

Benoît Dubuis holds a chemistry degree from EPFL, a PhD in technical sciences from ETHZ, and an MTE (Mastering Technology Enterprise) from IMD. In 2000 he was entrusted with the development of the new Faculty of Life Sciences at EPFL, being its first dean. In 2004 he co-founded the Eclosion incubator, where he currently works as its scientific director. He is also the Chairman of Bioalps, the Life Sciences cluster of Western Switzerland. His objective will be, as part the Wyss Center assignment, to configure the center's organization by tackling both the setting up of the center's infrastructure as well as the establishment of scientific and industrial collaborations.

### **About the Biotechnology Campus Geneva project**

Organized as a consortium, Ernesto Bertarelli, Hansjörg Wyss, EPFL and the University of Geneva (Unige) have purchased the former Serono headquarters in Geneva-Secheron.

This biotechnology campus will be divided as follows:

- 8'000 m<sup>2</sup> will be dedicated to a new Wyss Center for Bio and Neuroengineering, modeled on the Wyss Institute at Harvard and subsidized by the Wyss Foundation.
- 9'000 m<sup>2</sup> will be occupied by the EPFL-Unige Biomedical Center, which will host several chairs and research groups from both institutions.
- 12'000m<sup>2</sup> will be dedicated to the *Biotech innovation square*, with locals available for rent by biotechnology startups and whose management will remain under their owners' control: Hansjörg Wyss and Ernesto Bertarelli.

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