Annual Report 2018

Shaping the future together.
Through research.
Dear Donors and Partners

Climate change, heart failure – which affects some 26 million people worldwide, protection of our data and IT systems: many issues being addressed by researchers at ETH Zurich are urgent. Unless they are resolved in the short rather than the long term, the consequences – whether at global or individual level – may be dramatic.

Your donations and legacies open up resources for brilliant researchers, and help fund special programmes to support the most talented students at ETH. They unlock opportunities for entrepreneurial minds seeking to commercialise innovations rapidly. They enable ETH to exploit its potential in shaping our future in positive ways.

This strengthening of ETH’s power to shape the future is what makes your donations and legacies so precious. Thank you for the trust you are placing in our mission.
Dear Friends of ETH Zurich

ETH Zurich is pursuing ambitious goals: it seeks to secure its position as a leading university worldwide and to explore new, unconventional approaches in research and teaching, so as to create benefits for Switzerland and at the same time develop solutions for global challenges.

This calls for commitment from our students, researchers and staff. It also requires a network of funding partners, donors and benefactors. Such a network is crucial – for it is only by joining forces that we can realise exceptional projects.

Technological innovation is progressing faster than ever, and an institution like ETH cannot afford to ignore these developments. But just as important for a knowledge society like Switzerland is taking the longer view. Basic research is essential here, as is an education that equips students for the employment market beyond short-lived tech trends.

In 2019, we will be intensifying our endeavour in fields such as data science, mobility research, rehabilitation engineering and cyber security – as well as in education and training.

It is a privilege to have you with us on this fascinating journey into the future. I would like to thank you most sincerely for all you have done and continue doing for ETH. Together we are taking ETH to new heights.

Professor Joël Mesot
President of ETH Zurich
Thanks to your support in 2018, ETH Zurich was able to establish important new professorships and initiate groundbreaking projects – some of which are described on the following pages. The numerous rewarding contacts with you, our donors, were also highlights of the past year.
Fresh boost for Student Project House

For two years, the Student Project House has enabled students of all levels and disciplines to develop ideas, plan projects, as well as build and showcase prototypes. This creative workshop is now a hive of interdisciplinary activity, where contacts are made, creativity and team skills are strengthened and theoretical knowledge is applied in practical ways.

At a ceremony held to mark the end of the pilot phase in December 2018, the then ETH President Lino Guzzella and Rector Sarah M. Springman launched the next phase: additional programmes are now to be developed, with coaching being offered to students producing prototypes. This project was made possible by generous donations from Michael Pieper and Franke Holding AG, as well as Plastic Omnium and several foundations: the Ernst Göhner Stiftung, Baugarten Stiftung, Schwyzter-Winiker-Stiftung and Huber-Kudlich-Stiftung.

Excellence Scholars visit Clariant

In December 2018, a group of Excellence Scholars was invited by the specialty chemical maker Clariant – a long-standing supporter of the Excellence Scholarship programme – to visit its Innovation Center in Frankfurt-Höchst. Clariant executives took time out to give the young scientists insights into the company’s new global research hub. Excursions like this are an important element of this programme, which not only provides financial support but also promotes personal contacts between beneficiaries and benefactors.
Farewell lecture of a committed energy researcher and benefactor

In spring 2018, Professor Alexander Wokaun gave his farewell lecture entitled “Hydrogen – a journey through time” to an enthusiastic audience. Professor Alexander Wokaun has been an influential figure in Swiss energy research for almost 25 years. He was also an exceptionally committed teacher, supervising around 200 doctoral students during his time as a professor. In addition, he served on important committees devoted to sustainability and climate issues and personally supported energy research through donations to the ETH Foundation.

After his retirement, Professor Wokaun will continue to serve ETH Zurich – for example, in his capacity as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Heidi Ras Stiftung. We thank him for his deep commitment to ETH.

Improving child and adolescent health

Every day, thousands of children around the world die from diseases which could be readily prevented or treated. Changing this is the goal of the Botnar Research Centre for Child Health (BRCCH), established in Basel in 2018. The new centre, operated by ETH Zurich and Basel University, is funded by a CHF 100 million donation from Fondation Botnar.

Research will focus on the opportunities offered by digital and mobile technologies, and cell-based therapies. According to former ETH President Lino Guzzella, “The goal of our new centre is to develop pioneering digital solutions for child and adolescent health.”

The Vice Director of the BRCCH is Professor Sai Reddy, whose Chair of Biomolecular Engineering at the ETH Department of Biosystems Science & Engineering in Basel was funded by the Misrock Foundation.
New Genome Biology professorship

Will gene therapy one day make incurable hereditary diseases a thing of the past? We are not there yet, but enormous progress is being made in this field by researchers such as Jacob Corn, who was appointed as Full Professor of Genome Biology at ETH Zurich in 2018. Jacob Corn investigates how damage to genetic material can be identified and repaired by editing, replacing or switching on or off individual genes. At present, this is basic research, but the long-term goal is to develop effective and efficient therapies.

Jacob Corn’s professorship is largely funded by the Lotte und Adolf Hotz-Sprenger Stiftung and the NOMIS Foundation.

Big data for medicine

As part of ETH Zurich’s Rehab Initiative, the Wilhelm Schulthess-Stiftung is funding a professorship in Data Science for Personalised Health. The Rehab Initiative, by promoting advances in rehabilitation technology, aims to give people with disabilities greater independence and autonomy in their daily lives. The new professorship will develop methods for processing the vast quantities of medical data now available. The insights gained here will be fed back into clinical practice to improve diagnosis and treatment.

Optimising safety and efficacy

Responses to medicines vary from one patient to another: one and the same treatment can be more or less effective, or even produce mainly adverse effects. Particularly in chronic diseases, optimised pharmacotherapy is of crucial importance. But how can the most promising treatment be selected as quickly and simply as possible in a particular case? These questions are investigated by Andrea Burden, who was appointed as Assistant Professor of Pharmacoeconomics in the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences at ETH Zurich in May 2018. This new assistant professorship was established with the support of the Swiss Pharmacists’ Association (pharmaSuisse).
A new era in biochemistry

Proteins have long been known to play a key role in the continuous series of biochemical reactions occurring in living cells. But only recently, with the advent of cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM), has it become possible to determine three-dimensional protein structures at near-atomic resolution. This method thus opens up unprecedented possibilities for the life sciences.

ETH Zurich’s position at the forefront of this important field is due not least to generous donations (totaling CHF 13 million) from four partners, which have made it possible to purchase a state-of-the-art cryo-EM system, to upgrade an existing system and have made it possible to purchase a state-of-the-art cryo-EM system, to upgrade an existing system and to establish a new professorship.

Our gratitude for this support goes to the family of August von Finck Jr, the NOMIS Foundation, the Monique Dornonville de la Cour-Stiftung and the Baugarten Stiftung.

Foundations & Organisations

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A list of donors can also be found at: www.ethz-foundation.ch/en
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or estate, have made it
possible to support
exceptional projects and
outstanding talents.

Matthew Eugen Vogel
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Thomas Volz
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Volker Vollmar
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Marvin Vollmer
Diana Vollmar
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Andreas Vollmar
V. Vollmar
V. Vollmer
V. Vollmert
V. Vollert
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V. Vollmar
V. Vollmar
V. Vollmar
V. Vollmer
V. Vollmert
V. Vollert
V. Vollmer
V. Vollmar
Committed to teaching and research

Support for teaching, research and talents pays off – as demonstrated by the technological innovations developed by scientists at ETH Zurich. On the following pages you will get a glimpse of what researchers are working on today – and what visions they have for the future.
A work of wonder

An artificial heart mimicking the human heart so closely that it can one day be implanted instead of a donor organ – this is the shared vision being pursued by Professors Wendelin Stark, Dimos Poulikakos and Edoardo Mazza.

In the future, a fully implantable artificial heart could save countless lives, since donor organs are rare, and 26 million people worldwide now suffer from heart failure.

In the University Medicine Zurich flagship project “Zurich Heart”, nearly 20 medical and engineering research groups led by Professor Volkmar Falk are working on new artificial heart technologies. Wendelin Stark’s subproject is funded by an unrestricted legacy gift.

“Zurich Heart” has been made possible by contributions from donors including: Baugarten Stiftung, Georg und Bertha Schwyzer-Winkler-Stiftung, IMG Stiftung, Maxi-Stiftung, Stiftung Propter Homines, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Uniscientia Stiftung.
Outstanding talents, bright ideas

Whether by supporting the most gifted Master’s students through an Excellence Scholarship or enabling budding entrepreneurs to commercialise their products with the aid of a Pioneer Fellowship – your donations allow the most promising talents at ETH Zurich to flourish, developing solutions for a better future.

Further information: www.ethz-foundation.ch/en/talents

MicroPow restores the full flavour

Vanilla-flavoured ice cream or peppermint-tasting gum – flavourings can make all the difference to what we eat. However, many aroma and flavour compounds lose their intensity when food products are transported and stored. MicroPow – a microfoamed natural fat powder which serves as a delivery system for aromas, encapsulating them in a protective layer – is designed to restore the full flavour. The powder ensures that aromas are preserved even during prolonged storage. When the product is consumed, the powder is broken down, releasing the enclosed compounds. As a result, while manufacturers require smaller amounts of aromas, consumers enjoy more intense flavours.

MicroPow was developed by Dr Lea Pokorny and Dr Pascal Guillet, thanks not least to the Pioneer Fellowship they received. Under this programme, ETH Zurich provides start-up funding and mentoring for up to 15 budding entrepreneurs or two-person teams each year. Pioneer Fellowships are largely funded by donations. To allow even more business ideas to take off, ETH would like to increase the number of Fellowships awarded to 20 a year.

Pioneer Fellows Dr Pascal Guillet and Dr Lea Pokorny manufacturing their microPow product.
Decentralised car sharing

MobChain is a car-sharing app jointly developed by Master’s students Jérôme Sieber and Simon Muntwiler, together with other students. The app, based on blockchain technology, is designed to enable decentralised car sharing among private individuals: car owners can rent out their vehicles when they are not using them. MobChain could encourage many people to reconsider their approach to personal mobility and promote more efficient car use.

Jérôme Sieber and Simon Muntwiler were among the roughly 50 young people from all over the world who, each year, receive an Excellence Scholarship from ETH Zurich. This programme – funded solely through private donations – gives the most gifted Master’s students the freedom to pursue their studies and personal research projects. Particularly gratifying is the fact that around 40 former scholarship holders now support the Excellence Scholarship themselves, thus helping to ensure that young talents can continue to benefit from the funding programme.
Big data and science

Robots assisting customers in stores; computers diagnosing newly admitted patients: is this the shape of things to come? Certainly, we are on the cusp of fundamental technological breakthroughs that need to be carefully managed. ETH Zurich is deploying new approaches in the fields of robotics, data science and machine learning to develop solutions for Switzerland and the rest of the world.


Everyone can contribute to research

Personal data is a valuable resource for medical research, but it is often held at different sites – by patients, physicians or hospitals. This problem is being addressed by an IT platform known as MIDATA, which allows interested individuals to store their health data in a personal account and make it accessible for purposes which they specify. As "citizen scientists", users contribute directly to medical research and ultimately benefit from improved methods of prevention and treatment.

Start-ups, IT companies or research groups, for their part, can offer apps on the platform – e.g. for the management of chronic conditions.

The MIDATA platform welcomes further partners interested in promoting medical research by facilitating controlled, secure integration of personal data.

MIDATA was developed by ETH Zurich and Bern University of Applied Sciences and is partly funded by the Monique Dornonville de la Cour-Stiftung.

Strengthening robotics at ETH Zurich

Networked devices and process automation are changing our daily lives dramatically. ETH Zurich is at the forefront of these research areas. It connects a variety of disciplines, ranging from nanodevices for biomedicine to systems for rehabilitation and autonomous aerial vehicles.

With a donation of CHF 7 million to establish an additional professorship in robotics, Credit Suisse is promoting technological progress – and will gain valuable insights into a field relevant for investment decisions.
Earth and humankind

Developing new approaches for sustainable management of the environment is one of the greatest challenges of today’s world. Your support will help to strengthen research at ETH Zurich in the areas of energy, climate, nutrition and mobility.

Further information: www.ethz-foundation.ch/en/earth-humankind

Setting a course for the future

Looking into the future of mobility, we may imagine self-driving cars or hyperloop systems, with passengers hurtling through tubes in maglev trains. But just as important as the development of revolutionary new transport solutions is the optimisation of existing systems, which are already stretched to breaking point. As further increases in traffic are forecast, there is an urgent need for creative, technology-based solutions.

ETH Zurich aims to develop marketable innovations in partnership with industry. To this end, it has launched the ETH Mobility Initiative together with SBB as the first funding partner. Initial research projects are already under way. With Siemens Mobility as a new partner, the initiative can now be further expanded. We look forward to finding further partners interested in supporting additional projects and new professorships.
Technology for human health

ETH Zurich is helping to advance research at the interface between medicine, engineering and science. New approaches are opening up novel ways of identifying diseases at an early stage and improving the quality of life for many people.

Further information: www.ethz-foundation.ch/en/technology-health

Working on miracles – with science

For people with physical disabilities or patients with neuromuscular injuries, the everyday activities many of us take for granted can pose major challenges. However, existing medical, technical and social scientific expertise provides a promising basis for increasing the independence and autonomy of those concerned.

The Rehab Initiative was launched by ETH Zurich with the aim of integrating and advancing research in the field of rehabilitation technology: up to eight new professorships are to be established to expand existing expertise, together with a rehabilitation centre and a new Master’s programme. Your support will be essential in realising this initiative, which takes an interdisciplinary and holistic approach to rehabilitation.

CYBATHLON @school

A person with a disability and a coach from ETH Zurich visit schools to talk about living with disabilities and show students what it is like to walk with prosthetic legs or use a wheelchair – this is CYBATHLON @school. As well as explaining the technical and scientific background, the programme aims to raise students’ awareness of the challenges confronting people with disabilities, demonstrate examples of applied research at ETH and inspire enthusiasm for STEM subjects. To date, hundreds of young people have been involved in the pilot phase of the CYBATHLON @school programme.

We are now seeking further funding partners to help ETH roll out this exciting educational programme across Switzerland.

CYBATHLON is partly funded by EKZ, maxon motors and the MBF Foundation. The MBF Foundation also funds CYBATHLON @school.
Rössler Prize

Since 2009, the Rössler Prize has been awarded annually to outstanding young ETH professors who are building their research careers. The Prize – worth CHF 200,000 – is the most valuable research award at ETH Zurich and was made possible by a donation from ETH alumnus Dr Max Rössler.

Pushing the boundaries of structural design

Intelligent forms rather than wasteful use of materials – this is how Philippe Block, Professor of Architecture and Structure at ETH Zurich, conceives the future of construction. Philippe Block is always seeking to push the boundaries of structural design – and as he has succeeded not only in theory but also in practice, he was awarded the 2018 Rössler Prize.

Philippe Block studied architecture and structural engineering in Brussels, before earning his PhD at MIT. Along with design and construction technologies, his research group focuses on a third area – computational methods. Specially developed algorithms are used to find structures which can bear heavy loads with little material. One example of this work is a floor system that does not require steel reinforcement and is 70 per cent lighter than conventional concrete floors. Block’s innovative flooring slabs are now being tested in practice for the first time – at the NEST experimental building of EMPA in Dübendorf.

ETH Professor Philippe Block discussing his floor prototype with Dr Max Rössler.
Many people wish to leave something lasting behind. With a legacy or a bequest to the ETH Foundation, you can support values or topics close to your heart. Through personal discussion, we can establish which ETH Zurich funding priority best reflects your wishes – perhaps fostering outstanding talents, or supporting a thematic focus. A further option is an unrestricted legacy, which gives the ETH President the freedom to turn grand visions into reality.

Further information: www.ethz-foundation.ch/en/legacy

When is the right time to consider what one would like to bequeath? For some people, the time is ripe when they look back over a long life. Others choose to include the ETH Foundation in their will during their career. Whenever the right moment, and whatever your individual motives, expressing your wishes in a will means you can specify during your lifetime what is important to you for the future. We would be happy to talk to you about the various ways of including ETH Foundation in your personal estate planning.
Promoting teaching and research

ETH Zurich brings together talented scientists from Switzerland and around the world to develop innovative solutions to complex questions. Thanks to your support, ETH can advance research more rapidly and foster the brightest minds. There are various ways in which you can provide support:

What is particularly important to you?

There are many ways in which you, as a donor, can strengthen teaching and research at ETH Zurich: for example, you can foster the most promising young talents, help to establish a new professorship, or contribute seed money for infrastructure.

Unrestricted donations

All unrestricted donations are assigned to the ETH Foundation Poly Fund, which allows important strategic priorities and visionary ideas at ETH Zurich to be realised rapidly, flexibly and unbureaucratically. On request, an unrestricted named fund can also be established within the Poly Fund (e.g. the “John Smith Fund”).

Earmarked donations

Earmarked donations can be assigned to a purpose already defined as a funding priority by ETH (e.g. the Excellence Scholarship & Opportunity Programme). It is also possible to assign a donation to a named fund with a specific purpose – for example, the “John Smith Fund to support the Rehab Initiative”. The ETH Foundation will of course also be glad to help set up a new themed fund, if a donor wishes to support research in a particular field at ETH.

Facts and Figures 2018

- 2133 donations
- 304 new donors
- 22 countries of origin of donors

- Outstanding talents, bright ideas
  - Swiss School of Public Governance
  - Student Project House
  - Excellence Scholarship
  - Pioneer Fellowship
  - Career Seed Grants

- Big data and science
  - Data science
  - Media technology
  - Information security
  - MIDATA
  - Risk research
  - Quantum engineering

- Earth and humankind
  - Mobility
  - Global food systems
  - Energy and climate
  - Sustainable construction
  - focusTerra

- Technology for human health
  - Rehabilitation
  - CYBATHLON and CYBATHLON @school
  - Zurich Heart
  - Sleep research
  - Skin research
  - Precision medicine
  - Medtech
  - Alzheimer’s, cancer, cardiovascular disease research
Many thanks to Professor Lino Guzzella for all that he has contributed as President of ETH Zurich and as Vice President of the Board of Trustees of ETH Foundation over the period 2015–2018.
## Balance Sheet Consolidated

### Assets

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<td>Securities</td>
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<td>Total non-current assets</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>489'565'166</td>
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### Liabilities

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<td>Short-term liabilities from allocations</td>
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<td>Current liabilities</td>
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<td>Deferred income</td>
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<td>Total current liabilities</td>
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<td>Total non-current liabilities</td>
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<td>Non-interest-bearing fund capital</td>
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<td>incl. earmarked fund capital</td>
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### Equity

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<td>Statutory reserves</td>
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<td>Internally generated unrestricted capital</td>
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<td>Annual Result</td>
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<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
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**Total Liabilities** | 489'565'166 | 424'294'275 |

## Income Statement Consolidated

### Income

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<td>Financial contributions, earmarked</td>
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<td>Financial contributions</td>
<td>130'099'276</td>
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<td>Cancellation of donations/Repayment of donations</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total financial contributions</strong></td>
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<td>54'937'946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net proceeds from renting</td>
<td>1'387'000</td>
<td>1'387'000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total real estate income</strong></td>
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<td>1'387'000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>130'992'580</td>
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### Expenses

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<th>Headline</th>
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<td>Allocations, earmarked</td>
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<td>Cancellation/Repayment of allocations</td>
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<td>-5'581'854</td>
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<td><strong>Total allocations</strong></td>
<td>52'439'317</td>
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<td>Insurance expenses</td>
<td>7'999</td>
<td>8'370</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leasehold fees</td>
<td>128'000</td>
<td>128'000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total property expenses</strong></td>
<td>135'999</td>
<td>136'370</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel expenses</td>
<td>2'411'993</td>
<td>2'028'194</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facility expenses (incl. other operating expenses)</td>
<td>148'132</td>
<td>161'805</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative expenses (IT, accounting, mailings)</td>
<td>691'361</td>
<td>468'269</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public relations (annual report, events, website)</td>
<td>359'988</td>
<td>184'721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality expenses</td>
<td>77'470</td>
<td>79'478</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Trustees, auditors and supervisory authority</td>
<td>34'966</td>
<td>36'910</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total property expenses excl. amortisation</strong></td>
<td>3'723'910</td>
<td>2'959'377</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amortisation of fixed assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total operating expenses incl. amortisation</strong></td>
<td>4'466'576</td>
<td>3'702'043</td>
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### Operating results

<table>
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<th>Headline</th>
<th>2018 in CHF</th>
<th>2017 in CHF</th>
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<tr>
<td>Financial income</td>
<td>5'781'988</td>
<td>16'135'889</td>
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<td>Financial expenses</td>
<td>-13'292'621</td>
<td>-6'118'436</td>
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<td><strong>Results before change in fund capital</strong></td>
<td>66'440'056</td>
<td>14'489'852</td>
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<td>Funds increment</td>
<td>-128'860'770</td>
<td>-53'322'349</td>
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<td>Funds decrease</td>
<td>52'042'022</td>
<td>52'189'088</td>
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<td>Interest fund capital</td>
<td>1'342'974</td>
<td>-1'740'041</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fund result (earmarked fund)</strong></td>
<td>-76'495'774</td>
<td>-2'882'302</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Annual result</strong></td>
<td>-8'055'719</td>
<td>11'607'550</td>
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</table>
Would you like to support research or the training of talented young scientists, or do you wish to receive further information? Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Our guidelines for partnerships (Code of Conduct) can be consulted online at www.ethz-foundation.ch/en/code-of-conduct

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Origin of funds 2003–2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>130.1</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>91.0</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>32.5</td>
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30% Private donors
34% Companies
36% Foundations / Organisations

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Board of Directors:
Dr Donald Tillman (Chairman)
Reinhard Giger (member)
Dr Thomas Wetzel (member)

The consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER guidelines. In our capacity as auditors of the ETH Zurich Foundation, we confirm that the figures reported can be derived from the 2018 consolidated financial statements, which we have audited and certified without qualification on 14 March 2019.

PricewaterhouseCoopers AG

Gerhard Siegrist
René Jenni

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EUR IBAN CH47 0483 5027 0482 3201 1
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On behalf of the entire ETH Foundation team, we thank you for supporting ETH and engaging in a dialogue with us.