



## Dear Swiss-AF Study Teams

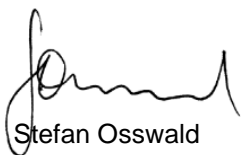
During the last months, our Swiss-AF project reached some key milestones. The first main Swiss-AF paper was published ('Relationships of Overt and Silent Brain Lesions with Cognitive Function in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation'. JACC, 2019;73(9): 989-99. DOI: 10.1016/j.jacc. 2018.12.039). It showed that the prevalence of clinically silent brain lesions was unexpectedly high in patients with AF. Furthermore, prevalence and volume of lesions correlated with cognitive decline (assessed by the MoCA test). Overall, these findings suggest that even subclinical brain lesions should be considered in this patient population.

The paper was elected by JACC and the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS) for presentation at the AF Summit Session "Highlights from the Journal Editors: Top Publications Impacting AF Management in 2019".

We would like to thank everybody again for making this excellent research outcome possible!

We are looking forward to further Swiss-AF results to come!

Best wishes



Stefan Osswald



Michael Kühne



David Conen

**Long-term collection of data** is the key for assessing cognitive functions over time.

Ensuring this, and keeping the **drop-out-rate as low as possible**, is thus crucial for the scientific success of the Swiss-AF project and for gathering new funding.

We would therefore like to encourage all of you to mobilize all resources for completing the FU visits needed. Thank you!

## Swiss-AF presentations at the SGK conference (19-21 June 2019, Interlaken)

- Frailty to predict unplanned hospitalizations, stroke, bleeding and death in atrial fibrillation (*Meyre et al.*)
- Prevalence and risk of inappropriate dosing of direct anticoagulants in atrial fibrillation - a sub-analysis of the Swiss-AF and BEAT-AF registries (*Montrasio et al.*)
- The omega-3 fatty acid eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) is inversely associated with ischemic brain infarcts in elderly patients with atrial fibrillation (*Reiner et al.*)
- Symptoms and quality of life in patients with coexistent atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter (*Stempfel et al.*)

## Things to come ....

- **22 Small Nested Projects** are approved (work in progress). Further submissions welcome:  
<http://www.swissaf.ch/collaborate.htm>
- Comparison of bMRI investigations to healthy control subjects of the Hamburg City Cohort - in progress
- Time-course analyses (including Baseline / FU-1 / FU-2) - in preparation
- Next Swiss-AF Investigators Meeting: 20 June 2019, at Interlaken.

## Study Termination, Drop-out

- Study termination ("Withdrawal") should only be indicated if the patient actively and forever forbids all types of further data collection.
- If the patient allows FUs via phone, GP, clinical documents or other sources, he/she is **not** a drop-out.
- Please do everything you can to make FU data collection possible!
- Long-term participation makes a big contribution to understanding the long-term effects of AF and to improving **prevention of dementia** at a later stage of life.

## Research Project "AF Burden" (ongoing):

- Activated centres so far: 2
- Patients included into baseline: 59
- Loop recorder implantation performed: 12
- Patients with completed follow-up: 20

## Swiss-AF Team Profiles

In each newsletter, we introduce a team of our participating sites or collaboration partners. Here, we are pleased to introduce the team of the **MIAC AG Basel** (MRI Core Lab, located close to the University Hospital Basel).

«As your imaging CRO in the Swiss-AF study we are proud not only to receive, store and organize your MRI data, but to offer extensive and advanced quantitative image analyses in close collaborations with you.

We are enthusiastic about our initial results on regional and global atrophy patterns, and very excited for the analyses on lesion distributions, brain perfusion, iron deposits and other ongoing subprojects!»

(MIAC MRI Core Lab Team Basel, March 2019)



From left to right: **Dr. Michael Amann** (Physicist), **Dr. Tim Sinnecker** (Neurologist), **Dr. Jens Würfel** (CEO MIAC AG, PI qbig/DBE), **Petra Huber** (Image Analyst), **Vanessa Zuber** (Image Analyst), **Alain Thoeni** (MRI Technician, Quality Assessment), **Dr. Esther Ruberte** (Image Analyst), **Alexandra Palatini** (Finance Manager, Administration), **Dr. Silje Hallan-Nickell** (Radiologist).  
Not on the photo: **Dr. Anna Altermatt** (Biomedical Engineer).

### Notes

- Do not indicate “0” in SecuTrial if a variable could not be measured and is not available (e.g., blood pressure or a cognitive test score). Thank you!
- Try to keep the number of extremely overdue visits low. We know that this is often a lot of work and we appreciate your efforts very much!
- The next **Health Economic data transfer** is due on 3 Sept. 2019. Each site will be asked to indicate patients who withdraw their informed consent (so that they are not included in the transfer anymore).
- FU-1: completed. FU-2: will be finished presumably in August. FU-3 and FU-4: ongoing. FU-5: just started.
- All **FU-up visits** that are due until 31 March 2020 should be completed as usual. Financial compensation is ensured.
- Swiss-AF will be continued even after the current funding period (until March 2020). We are currently working on getting further funding. We will do our best to inform you as soon as possible about the future conditions and contents of the Follow-ups. Proposals for additional funding possibilities are greatly welcome!