

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015, a symposium was held at the University Hospital Zurich to celebrate 30 years of the Swiss National Center for Retroviruses (SNCR) and to honor its director, Jörg Schüpbach, who will retire this May.

Jörg Schüpbach entered the field of HIV/AIDS as postdoctoral fellow in Robert Gallo's Lab at the National Institute of Health, USA in the early 80s when HIV (initially called HTLV-III) was first successfully isolated from AIDS patients. A seminal contribution of Jörg Schüpbach in these early days was linking this newly discovered virus with the disease by demonstrating the presence of specific antiviral antibodies in AIDS patients. The Western blot technique he used in these initial studies became subsequently the method of choice for confirmation of the HIV diagnosis.

Jörg Schüpbach returned to Switzerland in 1986 to head the newly founded SNCR, a position he held since then. Over the past decades Jörg Schüpbach and with him the SNCR were driving forces behind the Swiss HIV test concept contributing to its establishment and continuing development.

Jörg Schüpbach had and has close links with the SHCS. He joined the SHCS in 1997 and served as a member of the Scientific Board and the MoCHiV Scientific Board until 2004. He still serves today as member of the MoCHiV Board.

The SHCS joins the many colleagues who participated at the symposium to thank Jörg Schüpbach for his dedication to shape the diagnostic landscape for retroviruses in Switzerland, his scientific input and his manifold contributions to the SHCS.

**Enjoy the celebrations and  
then the big cycling tour, Jörg!**

