



## **The Lake of Geneva Innovation Society addresses the nuts and bolts of successful partnering between academic and industry partners in Life Sciences**

The Lake of Geneva Innovation Society for its 8th annual meeting has partnered with the Swiss Health Licensing Group (Swiss-HLG). The event took place in Geneva on 14th May. Its title was "Forging bridges between Swiss Healthcare Licensing Group and Academic institutions in Western Switzerland".

This event supports the Lake Geneva Innovation Society's mission to provide an opportunity for key leaders from academia and industry to discuss and exchange on a common topic of interest.

Dr. Jean-Luc Veuthey, Vice-rector UNIGE opened the conference and gave his appreciation of the initiative to maintain and develop collaboration between the University and the Industry. Kim Bill, Swiss HLG President expressed also the association interest to promote such meetings and explore collaboration and Rachid Benhamza, Swiss HLG board member and co-organizer of the conference introduced the Swiss HLG mission and objectives with an overview of the activities and achievements.

Case studies from the industry, with the three recent start-ups cases from Merck Serono, have been presented with an introduction by **Merck Serono Ventures** by Jasper Bos, Director followed by the presentations of **Prexton Therapeutics** by Francois Conquet, CEO and Founder; **Calypso Biotech** by Dr Alain Vicari, VP R&D & Founder and **Asceneuron** by Dr Dirk Beher, CSO and Founder. A contribution from **Debiopharm** by Dr Andrès McAllistair, Chief Scientific Officer, could give a wide overview of the Pharma Industry today with its trends and challenges.

From the Academia side, a case study was presented by Dr. Raluca Flükiger Licensing Officer Unitec and Vincent Lenaerts, CEO of **Apidel**, showing how a polymer could make it from the University Labs to the market. Stephan Kohler, Head of Technology Transfer, Pactt gave an overview of Trends and Challenges in Academic Licensing.

The conference wrap-up and closure was done by Dr Laurent Miéville, Head of Technology Transfer, Unitec and co-founder of the Lake Innovation Society.

The event attendance was beyond expectations with some 40 attendees representing the Academia and the Industry.

The conference was followed by a cocktail and dinner where attendees could network and continue their discussions about the "bridges" to keep building between the academy and the industry. Much positive feedback was received which confirms the success of the event and the interest of the attendees to take part in Lake Geneva Innovation Society events and further enhance interactions between industry and academia.