

Dominik Theler, Scientific Officer, NCCR, RNA and Disease, ETH Zürich und Universität Bern. NCCR Scientific Officer, a multifaceted role linked to academic research. NCCRs are research instruments of the Swiss National Science Foundation, who is our main sponsor, together with the University of Bern and ETH Zurich. And they promote long-term research networks in areas of strategic importance for Swiss science, economy and society. Currently there are about 20 running NCCRs in very different areas and at different stages of their life cycle. We, the NCCR RNA and Disease, we have now been operational for three and a half out of a maximum of 12 years. And our network currently consists of over 40 member and associate member groups, all over Switzerland. So such a network needs to be coordinated. That's one of the tasks of a scientific officer. We also are involved in the scientific administration. Every year we have to submit an annual report to our main sponsor, the SNF, for a review panel. But then a big part of our work goes into the following four areas where we are mandated to be active in by the Swiss National Science Foundation. And these are communication, education, equal opportunities and knowledge and technology transfer. And on the right you just see a small selection of activities that we recently did or are active in. So we just launched this year a new, I would say, innovative pre-doc program in RNA and Disease Switzerland. At the beginning of this month we participated, again, to the Zurich Science Days with a booth. We have a newsletter that's published several times a year. And in addition to these four areas, we also have a couple of events that take place that need to be organized, such as our review panel visit, our annual retreat, workshops, summer schools, and so on. And we also serve as the point of contact. How does this relate to my master and my PhD studies? How do you get to these things on the right from a protein-RNA complex structure? So I profit from my knowledge in RNA biology. It's also vital that I'm familiar with the academic research process. And I could also build on the transferable skills I acquired during my master and PhD studies. How did I get to my current position? It was a rather unexpected opportunity. I was approached and asked if I would like to interview for this job. But becoming an NCCR scientific officer was never on my radar of career options, despite having been part of one during my PhD. What fascinates me about my current position is the versatility of tasks and interactions. It's a generation of new activities, and it's still being closely connected to academic research. Thank you.