

**GREATER  
ZURICH  
AREA**

# The future of health

**Join global innovation leaders in  
BioTech, Pharma, and MedTech in the  
Greater Zurich Area**

# Switzerland's Life Sciences hub in numbers

**The Greater Zurich Area is one of the leading Life Sciences centers in Europe with its unique combination of academic excellence, highly skilled talent, and a business-friendly economy.**

Greater Zurich is home to some of the Life Sciences industry's biggest established names and new pioneering firms, turning the Swiss region into a true global Life Sciences hub:

Amgen, Biogen, MSD, Novartis, Roche Diagnostics, Astra Zeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Zimmer Biomet, Alnylam, Benchling, Vir Biotechnology, Mirum Pharmaceuticals, Peptone, Cytokinetics, Apellis, Absci, Blueprint Medicines, Align Technology, and many more.

**350**

companies in  
BioTech & Pharma

**1,400**

companies in  
MedTech

**+ 6.8**

billion CHF annual  
revenue BioTech

**+ 20.8**

billion CHF annual  
revenue MedTech

**+ 408**

million CHF annual  
investments in  
BioTech companies

**+ 2.7**

billion CHF in  
annual BioTech  
R&D investments

**> 17,000**

people working  
in BioTech

people working  
in MedTech

**> 67,000**

Sources:  
Swiss Biotech Association (Report 2023),  
Swiss MedTech (sector study 2022)

# Top 10 factors Life Sciences companies benefit from in Greater Zurich

**Life Sciences companies in the Greater Zurich Area utilize the unique business climate for advancements in research and development.**



Rich ecosystem of global key players & market leaders, alongside specialized SMEs and pioneering start-ups



Switzerland is the leading innovation hub worldwide, and boasts the highest number of patents per capita



Leading talent hub in the world for attracting, retaining, and developing talent



Closeness to world-renowned academic institutions, which are conducting cutting-edge research



Frequent research collaboration between industry and academia to boost innovation



Access to state-of-the-art research laboratories and production facilities for Life Sciences



Business- and management-friendly environment enable ease of doing business



Access to international systems for the protection of intellectual property enables a central registration procedure



High quality of life and proximity to nature create ideal work-life-balance



Ideal entry and test market to launch new products due to the international recognition of high Swiss quality standards

Discover the key players in Greater Zurich's BioTech, Pharma, and MedTech ecosystems:

 **Biotech & Pharma ecosystem map** 

 **MedTech ecosystem map** 

# State-of-the-art infrastructure and platforms for collaboration

The Greater Zurich Area stands out globally for its dense concentration of manufacturers, industry-specific suppliers, and service providers, solidifying Switzerland's position as a key player in Life Sciences.

In the Greater Zurich Area, the frequent collaboration of diverse actors in the Life Sciences industry is strongly boosted by the availability of a multitude of platforms and networking opportunities.

Switzerland's medical technology industry, for example, showcases exceptional collaboration, with over 90% of Swiss medical equipment manufacturers engaging in partnerships with universities, hospitals, and related sectors like mechanical engineering and pharmaceuticals.



“Greater Zurich and Switzerland as a whole are home to many important large companies as well as small and medium enterprises that could be potential partners in the future.”

**Cedric Francois**

Co-Founder and CEO, Apellis Pharmaceuticals

Home to renowned platforms and incubators in Life Sciences, fostering collaboration and innovation:



### Health Tech Cluster Switzerland (HTCS)

HTCS is bringing together companies from medical technology, healthcare, biotechnology, pharmaceutical sciences, and molecular biology and is fostering collaboration and common projects.

[healthtech.ch](http://healthtech.ch)



### Bio-Technopark Schlieren-Zurich

More than 50 companies and 30 university institutions have rented space on over 90,000 square meters. The Bio-Technopark promotes the transfer of knowledge and technology, as well as the foundation and building up of Life Sciences companies.

[bio-technopark.ch](http://bio-technopark.ch)



### Institute for Research in Biomedicine IRB

The IRB specializes in immunology and was one of the driving forces behind covid-19 research during the pandemic.

[irb.usi.ch](http://irb.usi.ch)



### Wyss Translational Center Zurich

Launched by both ETH Zurich and the University of Zurich, this translational research center supports projects focusing on developing treatment protocols and clinical therapies, as well as novel technologies, and intelligent systems in the fields of regenerative medicine, robotics, and medical devices/bionics technologies. Projects benefit from the world-leading experts from both universities and multidisciplinary teams.

[wysszurich.uzh.ch](http://wysszurich.uzh.ch)

**Various platforms enable collaboration and innovation in Life Sciences in the Greater Zurich Area:**

**Reach out**  
for personal  
network  
introduction!



**Balgrist Campus**  
[balgristcampus.ch](http://balgristcampus.ch)

**ETH Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab**  
[ethz.ch/ielab](http://ethz.ch/ielab)

**Bio Technopark Schlieren - Zurich**  
[bio-technopark.ch](http://bio-technopark.ch)

**Grow Wädenswil**  
[grow-waedenswil.ch](http://grow-waedenswil.ch)

**House of lab science**  
[houseoflabscience.world](http://houseoflabscience.world)

**Health Tech Cluster Switzerland (HTCS)**  
[healthtech.ch](http://healthtech.ch)

**Industrie biomediche insubri Ibi**  
[ibi-sa.com](http://ibi-sa.com)

**Institute of Oncology Research: IOR**  
[ior.usi.ch](http://ior.usi.ch)

**Institute for Research in Biomedicine IRB**  
[irb.usi.ch](http://irb.usi.ch)

**Medizincampus Davos**  
[medizincampusdavos.ch](http://medizincampusdavos.ch)

**TECHNOPARK® Zurich**  
[technopark.ch](http://technopark.ch)

**TECHNOPARK® Winterthur**  
[tpw.ch](http://tpw.ch)

**Life Science Competence Center Ticino**  
[innovationticino.com/life-sciences](http://innovationticino.com/life-sciences)

**Wyss Translational Center Zurich**  
[wysszurich.uzh.ch](http://wysszurich.uzh.ch)

**ZHAW School of Life Sciences Wädenswil**  
[zhaw.ch/en/lisfm](http://zhaw.ch/en/lisfm)

**Zurich University Hospital**  
[en.usz.ch](http://en.usz.ch)

# Global innovation hub – frontrunners in Life Sciences research & patents

Switzerland has continuously been ranked as the most innovative country in the world for over a decade.

The Greater Zurich Area contributes significantly to this placement, as collaborations between companies and academia form a unique ecosystem of ongoing innovation: Knowledge and experience are being exchanged not only within individual research departments but also between different industries, companies, and institutions.

Switzerland is one of the countries with the highest number of biotechnology patents per capita. A single authority (the Federal Coordination Center for Biotechnology) governs applications for approval in biotechnology and genetic engineering, which means minimal bureaucracy and straightforward procedures.



“The Greater Zurich Area has one of the most innovative pharmaceutical and biotech ecosystems.”

**Nishant Neel**

Regional Services Lead, Benchling Europe



“The R&D conditions [in Greater Zurich] are excellent.”

**Dr. Kamil Tamiola**

Founder and CEO, Peptone



credits: © Universitätsklinik Balgrist | Daniel Hager



“We can develop new technologies and innovations in a realistic setting.”

**Prof. Dr. med. Mazda Farshad**

Medical director of the Balgrist University Hospital, Initiator and Founder OR-X

## OR-X: At the intersection of robotics, VR, AI, and medtech:

The Operating Room X (OR-X) is an open-access center for surgical research and training at the Balgrist University Hospital. OR-X combines a highly realistic surgical environment with cutting-edge technology; combining robotics, AR and AI. At the heart of OR-X is a fully equipped operating room, designed for tomorrow's surgical research and training.

A number of scientific experiments on computer-assisted surgery are currently being conducted at the OR-X, including projects exploring how robotics, augmented reality, and artificial intelligence can provide surgeons with data-based support in the operating room.

[or-x.ch](http://or-x.ch)

With its strong innovative structures, high availability of skilled talent, and pioneering industry leaders, it is no coincidence that the Greater Zurich Area is the origin of many world-class patents in Life Sciences.

# 40%

**of Life Sciences companies in Switzerland conduct R&D**

In Switzerland, R&D is carried out by around 40% of Life Sciences companies, and approximately 45% have manufacturing operations within the country. Further, Switzerland has the second strongest product pipeline in Europe and ranks first in terms of share of phase 3 products. The country stands out for its international co-inventions and its high R&D expenditure per capita, highlighting its strong dedication to innovation and global collaboration.

Sources: Site Selection for Life Sciences in Europe, KPMG, 2021, 2024



# Greater Zurich: The leading talent hub for high-skilled employees

Switzerland and the Greater Zurich Area are among the most powerful talent hubs in the world.

# #1

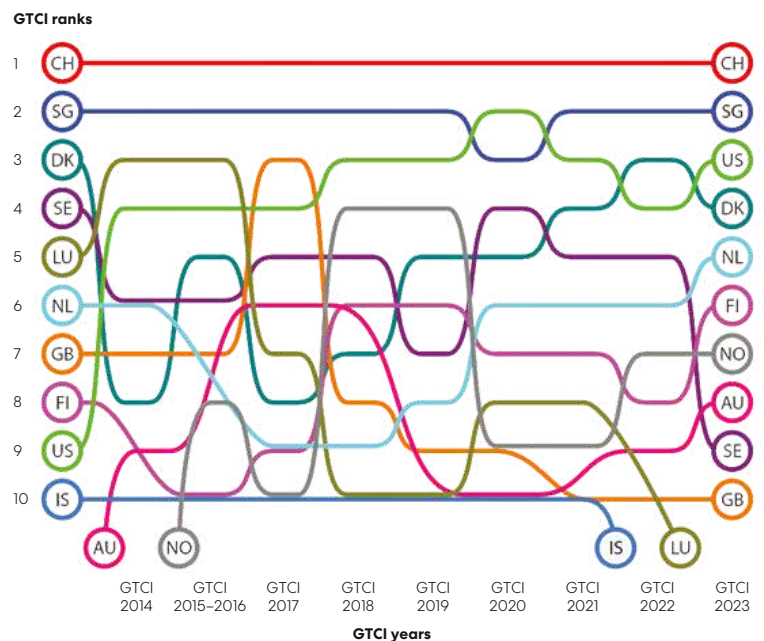
**Switzerland is the world's most attractive and competitive country for skilled workers and leads in developing, attracting, and retaining talent.**

Source: INSEAD Global Talent Competitiveness Index

The high density of qualified employees as well as the business-friendly regulations and flexible labour market make the Greater Zurich Area an attractive location for global companies, SMEs, and start-ups.

In addition, the high quality of life is a convincing attraction for international professionals and enables an attractive work-life balance.

## Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2023





One of the things that stands out about operating in Greater Zurich is the high quality & diverse talent pool available to fill roles across our entire organization – R&D, supply chain, commercial, and corporate functions. It's a great location to build a team to lead our European operations.

**Jeff Poulton**  
CFO, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals



The Greater Zurich Area is a fabulous place to recruit talent.

**Cedric Francois**  
Co-Founder and CEO, Apellis Pharmaceuticals

Renowned universities of applied sciences and world-class universities continuously train highly qualified specialists.



**ETH Zurich**  
(Top 10 worldwide)  
ethz.ch

**University of Zurich**  
(Top 100 worldwide)  
uzh.ch

**Università della Svizzera italiana USI**  
usi.ch

**Zurich University of Applied Sciences ZHAW**  
zhaw.ch

**FHNW - Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz**  
fhnw.ch

**Supsi - La Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana**  
supsi.ch/en/home

# Successful expansions of Life Science companies into Greater Zurich

Discover recent Life Sciences company expansions into the Greater Zurich Area, which have contributed to further enrich the buzzing industry cluster:



## European HQ



### Michael Vollmer

Chief Business Development Officer & Managing Director, Switzerland

“It was clear that we could not make a better choice than Greater Zurich for our international base. The region offered us an excellent location with a world-class employee pool, infrastructure, security, beauty, culture, and cuisine. Without a doubt, it does not get any better for international business than to be in Greater Zurich Area.”

**Photon is a technology company that provides medical communication solutions for physicians, hospitals, and healthcare systems. The US company has its European HQ in Greater Zurich since 2022.**



### Cedric Francois

Co-Founder and CEO of Apellis Pharmaceuticals

“When I say that Switzerland is synonymous with quality, it is not an overstatement as we have experienced it. Greater Zurich Area is a fabulous location for recruiting the best specialists, where all the elements are available to establish a hub for global expansion.”

**Apellis Pharmaceuticals is an American biotech company that has established its European HQ in the Greater Zurich Area for all its non-US activities in 2019.**

## Global innovation & development hub



### Dr. Dean Li

President of MSD Research Laboratories  
“Zurich provides an exceptional academic and Life Sciences ecosystem.”

**The pharmaceutical company MSD Merck Sharp & Dohme has been running its global innovation and development hub in Greater Zurich since 2021.**



### Dr. Kamil Tamiola

Founder and CEO of Peptone  
“When we weighed in all the things that we learnt about the Greater Zurich Area, it became obvious that this was the place to be. The R&D conditions [in Greater Zurich] are excellent.”

**Peptone, a biotechnology startup from the United Kingdom, settled in the Greater Zurich Area in 2022. The site is the company's research and development hub.**

## EMEA HQ



### Nishant Neel

Benchling's Regional Services Lead for Europe  
“The Greater Zurich Area is particularly ideal due to its parallels in the innovation structure to the San Francisco Bay Area, where Benchling's headquarters are located. We were attracted to its proximity to world-renowned research institutes such as the University of Zurich and the University Hospital Zurich.”

**Benchling, a leading cloud-based platform for Life Sciences R&D from San Francisco has opened its EMEA headquarters in Greater Zurich in 2021.**

## Innovation hub



### Sean McClain

Founder and CEO at Absci  
“The Innovation Center brings Absci's drug creation platform to the heart of European innovation. [The Greater Zurich Area] is a leading biotech hub for bringing drugs to market. Absci is tapping into its talent and technology ecosystem to realize our mission of bringing life-changing biologics to patients faster, through the power of generative AI and our expansion into the region.”

**Absci is a generative AI drug creation company that entered the European pharmaceutical market by opening its innovation center in the Greater Zurich Area in 2023.**

# Contact information & services

The secret of success is simple: combining first-class world-renowned academic institutions with strategic investors, management friendly regulatory agencies, and leading IP protection strategies results in an unbeatable market advantage that allows companies in Greater Zurich to be one step ahead of the competition.

**Are you looking to expand your business into Greater Zurich? Get in touch and access our free services.**



Introductions to key contacts in industry, academia, and government agencies



Facilitating contact to potential research partners at universities and research institutes.



Support in location evaluation, introduction to service providers, and advice on regulations.

## Contact us today!

[greaterzuricharea.com](http://greaterzuricharea.com)

[info@greaterzuricharea.com](mailto:info@greaterzuricharea.com)



Greater Zurich Area Ltd (GZA) supports you on every step of your expansion journey with location evaluation data and site selection insights. Moreover, we guide you through the business and technology ecosystems and network you with the relevant companies, universities and research institutes, investors and incubators, authorities, and service providers.

**GZA is the official investment promotion agency of 9 cantons (states) in German- and Italian-speaking Switzerland. The public-private partnership is supported by 30+ partners from business and science.**

Bio-Technopark Schlieren, Zurich

