

President's Report – General Assembly 2026: Activities of 2025

Marloes Eeftens, Basel, 21 May 2026

It was my pleasure to act as President of the Swiss Society of Aerobiology (SSA/SGA) this last year, together with Roxane Guillod, Benoit Crouzy, Regula Gehrig, and Maria Lbadaoui on the executive committee. We aim to continue and develop SSA/SGA as a platform for interdisciplinary exchange—bringing together expertise in measuring and modelling aerobiological exposures, as well as researching, preventing, and mitigating their health effects.

Highlights from 2025

[Launch of our SSA/SGA LinkedIn page.](#)

In an effort to diversify our communication channels, you can now follow SSA/SGA on LinkedIn. We invited everyone to stay up to date on all the latest aerobiological news from Switzerland and beyond: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/swiss-society-of-aerobiology-ssa-sga-01695b363/>. If you have any aerobiological news worth sharing through this channel, we invite you to inform Maria and we can increase your reach to our 116 subscribers.

[Migrating our website to a new platform to improve cost-efficiency and presentation](#)

We have migrated our website to the WordPress platform for better cost-efficiency, better presentation and easier interactions when changes or updates are needed. Thanks to our assistant Nastasia Morel (MSc student Informatics / Cybersecurity, EPFL) all is re-designed, and our website: <https://aerobiology.ch> has a more modern look. We have also updated some content.

[Joint allergy and aerobiology symposium \(UniSpital Basel\)](#)

On 16 October 2025 in Basel, our Joint Allergy and Aerobiology Symposium 2025, co-hosted by Prof. Dr. Karin Hartmann (University Hospital Basel) was attended by 30-40 participants from diverse backgrounds. Sessions covered topics such as pollen's impacts on respiratory and cardiovascular health, novel treatment possibilities for urticaria, analysis of antihistamine concentrations in wastewater, and current recommendations for allergy prevention. The event was followed by an apéro riche for further exchange.

Speakers were:

- Prof. Dr. Alessandro Marcon (Diagnostics and Public Health, University of Verona, Italy)
- Marloes Eeftens (Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Switzerland)
- Prof. Dr. Karin Hartmann (Allergy / Dermatology, University Hospital Basel, Switzerland)
- Dr. Stephan Baumgartner (EAWAG, Water Research Institute of the ETH Domain, Dübendorf, Switzerland)
- Prof. Matthias Kopp (Paediatrics, University Children's Hospital Bern, Inselspital Bern, Switzerland)

Looking ahead

SSA/SGA remains committed to engaging its members through symposia, publications, and broader dissemination of aerobiological knowledge. We aim to organize a major symposium every two years, and we are currently busy with the planning for the 2026 symposium. Smaller-scale events and outreach activities in the years between. In our 2026 symposium, we will go “beyond pollen” – literally, focusing on several atypical aerobiological exposures such as spores and airborne bacteria.

Planned activities for 2026 include:

- A two-day symposium on 5 and 6 November 2026 in Locarno Monti, with the title “Aerobiology: Beyond pollen.” Confirmed speakers include Prof. Dr. med. Marcel Bergmann, Dr. med. Oliver Fuchs, Prof. Dr. med Yannick Müller, Pia Karbiener, Jasmin Meixner, Dr. Nicolas Bruffaerts and Dr. Branko Sikoparija. Registrations are welcome until 31st October 2026. Watch our <https://aerobiology.ch/events/> for more information!
- We will newly offer a travel grant of up to 1000 CHF for a young researcher (up to 3 years after finishing their PhD) who is studying or working at a Swiss institution or university. The grant is intended to cover the costs of participating in a conference, course or other scientific event focusing on aerobiology in 2026. More information is available here: <https://aerobiology.ch/grants-poster-awards/>