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center of accreditation and quality assurance
of the swiss universities

Annual Report 2005

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Center of Accreditation and Quality Assurance
of the Swiss Universities (OAQ)

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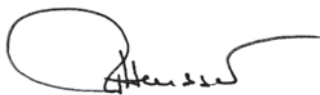
Foreword

It has been four years since the OAQ began its legally mandated work of assuring and promoting the quality of teaching and research at Swiss universities. In 2005, the OAQ carried out its 100th quality evaluation in which the accreditation procedure was in the forefront. This will remain the case especially with the international recognition of degrees increasingly tied to accreditation results. Accreditation in Switzerland follows the highest international standards and takes place in close cooperation with other European accreditation agencies. In this way, the OAQ has done the crucial groundwork for the international recognition of Swiss results.

Today a good internal quality assurance system at the universities themselves is considered essential in guaranteeing the quality of teaching and research. Early on, the OAQ took stock of the quality assurance systems at all Swiss public universities and subsequently, together with the universities and the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS), drew up internal quality assurance guidelines. With this step, Switzerland was among the first European countries to implement the ENQA Standards and Guidelines adopted in May 2005 by European education ministers.

In the future, the OAQ would like to offer its services as a nationally recognized competence centre to the whole tertiary education sector in matters of quality assurance and accreditation and also to be able to extend its mandate activity abroad. To be equipped for these tasks, the OAQ has developed an internal quality management system which in many respects goes far beyond the minimum European requirements.

Today, the OAQ is known and accepted nationally and its activities are appreciated internationally. The work of the eminent Scientific Advisory Board, the competence of the office staff and the constructive cooperation with partners in the education field have all played their part in ensuring that the OAQ has to a great extent established itself today. We want to take this opportunity to offer our sincere thanks to them.



Rolf Heusser, MD, MPH
Director of the Center of Accreditation and Quality Assurance
of the Swiss Universities (OAQ)

1 OAQ activities in 2005

1.1 OAQ office

As of January 31, 2005, the team at the OAQ office consisted of the director, nine scientific staff and two members of the secretariat for a total of 8.6 positions. The office is characterized by the broad diversity in its academic credentials and the wide regional representations of the staff. All three official languages are represented. Sylvie Fasel Berger of the academic staff left the OAQ after four years to take on other tasks. We would like to thank her sincerely for her huge commitment in developing the OAQ. Three new members have joined the team. They are Anne Crausaz who has joined the universities of applied sciences and higher professional schools division, Laura Beccari of the international desk and Ariane Nussbaumer of the medical professions division.

In the 2005 reporting year, the OAQ office carried out 21 quality assessments (12 institutions and nine academic courses) on behalf of the Swiss University Conference (SUC) and the State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER). In addition all 47 continuing education programmes in human and dental medicine were accredited on behalf of the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) and the Swiss Medical Association. By the end of 2005 the OAQ had surpassed the mark of 100 assessments (see www.oaq.ch/pub/en/OAQ_procedures_2003-2005).

The OAQ together with the universities and the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS) drew up guidelines for internal quality assurance for the universities. The OAQ also performed various services for the SUC, the Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology (OPET) and the FOPH. To guarantee the consistently high quality of its work, the OAQ developed an internal quality management system based on international standards and implemented it in 2005 (with guiding principles and manual).

The national profile of the OAQ was increased through a large number of bilateral meetings, by its participation in national and international commissions and a conference on internal quality assurance at the universities organized by the OAQ with the CRUS. The director and the academic staff took part in various seminars and conferences in the sphere of quality assurance and accreditation. The work of the OAQ was outlined in presentations at nine international and four national meetings and a wider public was informed about the work of the OAQ for the first time in the form of an electronic newsletter.

1.2 The Scientific Advisory Board

The Scientific Advisory Board is responsible for the scientific quality of the OAQ's work. The board was directed from 2001 to 2005 by Prof. Dr. Marie Theres Fögen. On August 31, 2005, she resigned her post as president to take on new tasks. The OAQ owes her a great debt of gratitude for her outstanding work during her presidency. In agreement with the CRUS, the SUC elected Prof. Dr. Martine Rahier as the new president of the advisory board. The board is made up of the following members for the term August 1, 2005, to December 31, 2007: Prof. Dr. Martine Rahier (President, University of Neuchatel, member since 2001), Prof. Dr. Jan De Maeseneer (University of Ghent, Belgium, since 2001), Dr. Padraig Walsh (University of Dublin City, Ireland, since 2005), Prof. Dr. Dominique de Werra (EPFL, Lausanne, since 2001), Prof. Dr. Andrea Schenker-Wicki (University of Zurich, from 2006).

The Scientific Advisory Board and the team at the OAQ office had four working meetings in 2005. The focus of the meetings was on the establishment of guidelines for internal university quality assurance. A lot of time was given to the final publications on the quality audit procedures at the cantonal universities and on accreditation procedures in the medical sector. Moreover, the accreditation of private education institutions as well as the related revision of accreditation guidelines was the subject of discussions. The Scientific Advisory Board also dealt with the future position of the OAQ in the context of the new university framework law. At an extraordinary session in October 2005, the president of the board and the director of the OAQ met with CRUS representatives to discuss the current situation regarding accreditation at the European and national levels.

1.3 Expert pool

By the end of 2005, the OAQ had called on the services of around 150 eminent experts from Switzerland and abroad for the expert pool with whom the OAQ works in its procedures (see Appendix). Independence vis à vis the institutions being examined is a must for each of the experts who sign a contract with the OAQ.

1.4 Mission statement and strategic concept of the OAQ

In its mission statement which is published on its website, the OAQ has outlined the goals of its activity clearly and concisely. On the basis of the mission statement a strategy concept was developed in 2005 with the following priorities: increased independence, responsibility for the whole university sector, focus on institutional quality assessments – standardization of procedures, support and counselling of universities in their internal quality assurance procedures, internationalization, expansion of services and mandates for third parties, activity abroad, active cooperation with national partners, increased international cooperation, comprehensive information about quality assessments, active communications policy.

1.5 Internal quality assurance in the OAQ

In 2005, the OAQ initiated its own internal quality assurance system to enable it to guarantee the sustainable high quality of its work. In December 2004 at the annual general meeting of the ECA in Zurich, the OAQ and representatives of 14 other European accreditation organizations signed the Code of Good Practice with its binding requirements relating to internal quality assurance of the accreditation agencies. At an international seminar organized by the Dutch accreditation agency (NVAO) in October 2005, OAQ internal quality assurance measures were compared with those of partner agencies and results showed the OAQ to be the leading agency in this field.

Quality assurance principles are implemented through various coherent measures which can be grouped under three headings: input, processes and results. These measures are an integral component of the daily work of the OAQ.

To be able to guarantee consistent quality in the different types of procedures, the OAQ published a quality manual in 2005 which sets down in detail the various phases of the procedures referring to standardized models.

1.6 Evaluation of OAQ procedures

All OAQ procedures in 2005 are being evaluated. Seventy-nine questionnaires (situation at end of 2005) relating to accreditation, evaluation and audit procedures were sent out, asking about concept, planning, self-assessment and on-site visits. On average, OAQ procedures are rated as good to very good (4-4.6 of a maximum of five points) with an above-average reply rate of 97% of the institutions examined and 88% of the participating experts.

Certain detailed information about the evaluations of the individual procedures was kept anonymous for reasons of data protection. As a whole, the experts who were questioned were more satisfied with the procedures than the institutions. Regional differences were also noted with French-speaking Switzerland showing a greater acceptance of the audits than the German-speaking part of the country.

There were scarcely any differences between the assessments of the accreditation and evaluation procedures. But there were certain nuances. For example, the instruments, which were virtually identical in both procedures, were more highly praised in the case of voluntary accreditations than in obligatory evaluations in the context of the qualification for financial support. In contrast, the on-site visits were rated higher in the evaluation procedures than in the accreditations (4.5 against 4 of a maximum of five points). With all types of procedures, the effort needed for the self-assessment report was rated very highly, although there still seems to be room for improvement in OAQ instructions in this phase.

On the whole, the experts were very satisfied with the procedures (4.6 of a maximum five). Suggestions for improvement concerned mainly avoiding duplications in the examination of institutional and programme-related quality standards. It was also noted that the coordination of different types of procedures by the OAQ (evaluations and accreditations) occasionally led to confusion.

2 Accreditation

2.1 University accreditation

Between 2003 and 2005, the OAQ carried out 65 accreditation procedures and examined 84 objects. Of these, 18 procedures were for the SUC, in which 15 institutions and 22 academic courses were examined, including 4 institutions and 11 courses from the public sector and 11 institutions and 11 courses from the private sector. Forty-seven accreditation procedures were carried out for the FOPH in continuing medical studies (see Ch. 4.2).

In the reporting year the following accreditation procedures were completed with a SUC decision:

- Inter-university continuing education programme in “Public Health” of the universities of Basel, Bern and Zurich, www.mthprog.unizh.ch. Subject of the accreditation: academic course. Date of accreditation: February 24, 2005. Accreditation valid to February 29, 2012
- Post-graduate course “International Business Law” of the University of Zurich Faculty of Law, www.unizh.ch/nds/d. Subject of the accreditation: academic course. Date of accreditation: February 24, 2005. Accreditation valid to February 29, 2012
- Facoltà di Teologia di Lugano (private Institution), www.teologialugano.ch. Subject of accreditation: institution. Date of accreditation: February 24, 2005. Accreditation valid to February 29, 2012
- Franklin College, Lugano (private Institution), www.fc.edu. Subject of accreditation: Courses in BA Art History, BA European Studies, BA History and Literature, BA International Banking and Finance, BA International Communications, BA International Economics, BA International Management, BA International Relations, BA Literature, BA Modern Languages (French, Italian) and BA Visual and Communications Art. Date of accreditation: September 13, 2005. Accreditation valid to September 30, 2012

Another seven accreditation procedures were still under way at the end of 2005. Besides the regular accreditation procedures, the accreditation instruments were also used in recognition procedures carried out on behalf of the State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER) (see Ch. 3.3). In the reporting year, 47 accreditation procedures were done by the OAQ in the area of human and dental medicine for the Federal Department of Home Affairs (DHA) (see Ch. 4.2).

Under Art. 9 of the cooperation agreement, SUC decisions can be disputed at an independent arbitration body. So far four appeals against SUC decisions concerning accreditation have been raised. In two of the cases final decisions were available before the end of 2005. One of the complaints against the publication of a negative accreditation decision was approved. According to the panel of judges, such publication violates the Federal Law on Data Protection (DSG, SR 235.1) and is therefore prohibited. Because of this decision, no further negative accreditation decisions by the OAQ have been published. The second complaint was made against a preliminary evaluation by the OAQ of an accreditation application by a private institution. This was unanimously rejected.

2.2 Accreditation guidelines and relevant instruments

The accreditation guidelines developed by the OAQ are soon to be revised. In the fall of the reporting year, the OAQ submitted a proposal to the SUC concerning which articles should be revised. The proposals deal mainly with clearing up vague procedural techniques such as the pre-accreditation of institutions and programmes whose activities have not yet started or only recently begun. The term "university institution" is also discussed. The definition of the university institution which according to the guidelines is the subject of accreditation has time and again been the subject of debate. As a result, the OAQ carried out a survey for the SUC involving representatives of the higher education sector (see university survey, www.oaq.ch/pub/de/10_01_01_proj_uni.php). According to the survey, a university is characterized by the following criteria: teaching and research; freedom of teaching and research; education in the sciences as a precondition for the exercise of academic activities and professions; diversity in scientific methods; responsibility of teaching and research to society; awarding of titles at all academic stages; qualification of teaching body; basic research; autonomous legal status.

Basically, the accreditation guidelines and especially the quality standards have proven themselves in the past thus guaranteeing consistency in procedures. The question of equal treatment of private and public institutions by the OAQ was not raised. The OAQ has developed the necessary instruments for the accreditation procedures (see accompanying instruments, www.oaq.ch/pub/de/03_02_00_akkred_begleitinstrumente.php). They are in four languages and accessible to the public on the OAQ website. These instruments are appreciated both by the experts and the institutions and are rated as very good. Other countries are using them as a model for relevant documents.

2.3 Impact of accreditation on public and private institutions

Accreditation in Switzerland, unlike in other countries, has absolutely no legal consequences (e.g. relating to recognition, title protection or financing). In the case of public institutions, the significance of an accreditation decision is limited to the certificate of quality (quality seal). But this quality seal serves as a good reference point when making international comparisons and as a source of information for students. It can also be used by institutions and academic courses for marketing purposes. Accreditation can facilitate international recognition of study results and it is also conceivable that study at an accredited institution could in future be a prerequisite for continuing studies or work abroad, for example as an engineer or doctor.

The same applies basically to private institutions. Accreditation is no grounds for a legal claim to recognition or even for financial subsidies. However, some cantons such as Uri have started to ask for an accreditation in order to achieve cantonal recognition. Accreditations are also gaining in importance as concerns the entry of a private institution in the cantonal trade register. The Federal Registry Office is thus directing cantonal offices to include the term "university" in the name of an institution only when it is justified, which has increasingly come to mean if the institution can prove that it has been accredited.

3 Quality assurance

3.1 Audits in the context of subsidy-related recognition procedures

The right of the Swiss cantonal universities to federal subsidies depends on a mandatory institutional quality examination (audit). The first cycle of audits at the 10 cantonal universities took place in 2003–2004. During the on-site visits by the experts, strengths and weaknesses of the internal quality assurance systems were analyzed and recommendations made which the universities must implement by the next audit cycle in 2007–2008. On the basis of the expert reports on each university, the OAQ wrote a final report and summarized the results in 2005 in a report which is available on the OAQ website.

Initial indications show that the majority of the universities adopted the experts' recommendations, some of them making remarkable changes or introducing innovations such as setting up offices for quality assurance, concepts for the systematic evaluation of sub-units, allocation of resources for internal quality assurance, inclusion of quality assurance in strategic planning. The University of Lausanne even wanted a follow-up inspection by the same experts in 2006.

The Swiss quality audit system as it was developed by the OAQ has been greeted with great interest internationally and was presented and explained at various meetings and in scientific publications in 2005.

3.2 Quality assurance guidelines at Swiss universities

The results of the first round of audits were discussed in 2005 in the Swiss University Quality Network with the participation of persons responsible for quality and evaluation at the Swiss universities. On the basis of the conclusions reached at this discussion and the ENQA Standards and Guidelines, the OAQ, in cooperation with the Network and the CRUS, drew up guidelines for quality assurance at Swiss universities. The guidelines are made up of general conditions and seven quality standards applying to the areas of strategy, application, responsibilities, processes, evaluations, staff development, decision-making and communication. These seven standards are minimum requirements with all the prerequisites for effective internal university quality assurance. The guidelines will be adopted by the SUC in 2006 and will apply to all Swiss universities. They will be the required basis for the next quality audits in 2007–2008.

The OAQ also drew up a paper as a complement to the guidelines which serves to explain them to the universities. These guidelines make Switzerland the first country in Europe to implement the ENQA quality assurance standards in the university sector.

3.3 Evaluations in the context of subsidy-related recognition procedures

Evaluations in the context of subsidy-related recognition are carried out by the OAQ on behalf of the SER. In contrast to the accreditation procedures these evaluations are obligatory. Decisions are made by the Federal Council at the request of the DHA or in the event of the examination of the right to subsidies by the department itself. The decision can only be positive or negative. Until now the decision-making authorities have always followed the recommendations of the OAQ. In 2005, the following evaluations were carried out by the OAQ:

- Faculty of humanities, University of Lucerne
- Faculty of law, University of Lucerne
- Faculty of theology, University of Lucerne
- Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration (IDHEAP), Lausanne
- Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch (IUKB), Sion
- Schweizerische Zentralstelle für die Weiterbildung der Mittelschulpersonen (WBZ), Lucerne

The external costs of these evaluations came to an average of about CHF 30,000 and are somewhat higher than the average of CHF 21,000 paid for an accreditation procedure. However, it must be remembered that some of the institutions being evaluated have applied at the same time for accreditations of individual courses which require the use of additional experts. For example at the Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch (IUKB) four course accreditations were done along with the subsidy evaluation.

The OAQ also asked for a report from Stiftung Fernstudien Schweiz, an institution which it examined in 2003, on the effect of the recognition procedure and what these effects were. The institution said that since the procedure, there had been a greater interest from Swiss and foreign institutions in cooperation activities. It also reported that the institution's position in international negotiations had improved. New jobs had opened up and the inclusion of the institution in the intercantonal university agreement had created a new source of financing. Furthermore, the institute initiated quality-improvement measures on the basis of OAQ and expert recommendations. The institution summed up its impressions this way: "Today we can say that the recognition procedure can be seen as a signpost, aid and indication of strengths, weaknesses, potentials and risks and that the recognition procedure in this sense has helped guarantee the future of our institution." Other institutions too have pointed to the obvious added value of the procedure (see IDHEAP reaction, Newsletter 02/2006, www.oaq.ch/pub/de/01_00_00_home.php).

3.4 Swiss University Quality Network

The “Q Network” was founded in 2003 at the initiative of the OAQ. The members of this network are the persons responsible for quality and evaluation at the cantonal universities and the two federal institutes of technology (ETH) as well as representatives from the CRUS and the OAQ. Since the founding, the Q Network has met seven times. In 2005, the focus was on discussion of the quality audit results, the exchange of best practices and the development of Swiss guidelines for internal university quality assurance. These meetings were organized and chaired by the OAQ. At the moment, the Q Network has no formal mandate. However, efforts are under way to formalize the network and give it an official mandate.

3.5 Project “diploma mills”

In matters relating to recognition, the OAQ pursues a joint information policy with the CRUS (Swiss ENIC). In 2005, the OAQ and the CRUS launched the project idea of an inventory of private university institutions in Switzerland with the aim of offering transparent information about private sector providers and thus be in a position to uncover so called “diploma mills”. The project was scheduled to go through a feasibility study in spring 2006 with the EDK and other partners such as the OPET.

3.6 The national qualification framework

The first exploratory talks with regard to the development of a comprehensive national qualification network for Switzerland took place in 2005. In the discussions regarding the university sector, the CRUS, the SER and the OAQ have taken a leading role and are carrying out preliminary conceptual work in a small working group. The OAQ is responsible mainly for the elaboration and measurement of competence profiles on the basis of the so-called Dublin Descriptors. Moreover, the OAQ is to develop a proposal concerning how a link can be made between the national qualification framework and the Swiss accreditation system. According to the decision by European education ministers, work on the national qualification frameworks should begin in 2007 at the latest and end in 2010.

4 Third-party services

Under Art. 19, para. 5 of the cooperation agreement the OAQ may carry out paid services for the partners in the agreement or for third parties. The basic principle of independence applies also to the work for third parties. The areas in which the OAQ provides third-party services include especially the universities of applied sciences (UAS), the higher professional schools as mandated by the OPET and the medical professions as mandated by the FOPH, the Swiss Medical Association, FMH and the Swiss Dentists' Association, SSO.

4.1 Services for the universities of applied sciences and the higher professional schools

4.1.1 Evaluations and accreditations at the universities of applied sciences

In the context of the reforms in the Bologna process, the universities of applied sciences (UAS) are introducing bachelor's and master's study courses. To guarantee that the standards of the Bologna reforms would be met, a project known as "Evaluation of the concept of the bachelor's degree courses" was launched under the supervision of the Federal Commission for the Universities of Applied Sciences (EFHK). In 2005, the OAQ, on behalf of the OPET, examined the expert reports of these evaluations assessing in particular the clarity, legibility and coherence of the reports. It was significant too to find out whether and how problem areas were identified. Finally, the experts' suggestions for improvements were assessed. Between December 2004 and December 2005, the OAQ participated in four evaluation cycles of the bachelor's courses. An average of 20 expert reports were analyzed per cycle and for each cycle an analysis report was written.

The OAQ is also active in the accreditation of the UAS, a procedure which is to become obligatory under the partially revised UAS law. The OPET is now busy drawing up accreditation guidelines which should be ready in 2006. In this connection the OAQ has been working to become the reference agency of the OPET for these procedures. In October 2005, the OAQ received a request from the College of Technology and Economics Chur (HTW Chur) to accredit the four study courses. The OAQ accepted the request and the accreditation procedure was to begin in January 2006. It is the first accreditation procedure for the OAQ in the UAS sector. The OAQ, building on the preliminary work of the OPET, developed the necessary basis to carry out the procedure. This basis corresponds to international standards and is compatible with the quality standards adopted by the SUC for the universities.

4.1.2 Accreditations in the higher professional school sector

The OAQ also works with the OPET in the private school sector, particularly the higher professional schools. Following a motion submitted by Oskar Freysinger of the National Council (see www.parlament.ch/afs/data/f/gesch/2004/d_gesch_20043552.htm), the OAQ was commissioned at the end of 2005 to make an analysis of private professional schools abroad. The analysis includes both recognition and/or accreditation possibilities and a definition of the tertiary education sector in the countries being surveyed. In addition, a concept is being developed for the possible accreditation of corresponding schools in Switzerland.

Thanks to its experiences with various types of schools such as universities, universities of applied sciences and higher professional schools, the OAQ is in a position of being able to promote itself as a competence centre for accreditation and quality assurance for the whole tertiary education sector in Switzerland.

4.2 Services in the medical professions and psychology

4.2.1 Accreditations in the sector of further medical education

In 2004, the OAQ was commissioned by the FMH and the SSO to conduct accreditation procedures on the basis of the federal law on the free movement of medical staff (FMPG) for 43 continuing education titles in human medicine and four continuing education titles in dental medicine. On the basis of the accreditation standards drawn up by the OAQ in cooperation with the FOPH and the umbrella organizations and based on international WFME standards, the professional associations and continuing education institutions drew up a self-assessment report which was examined by two independent foreign experts chosen by the OAQ. The professional associations were able to reply to the expert reports after which the OAQ drew up a final report for the DHA.

In all cases there was a positive decision on accreditation. Finally, the OAQ wrote a résumé which sums up all the procedures and provides information about strengths and weaknesses as well as recommendations on how to improve quality. Since then, the OAQ was commissioned by the FOPH to carry out a follow-up to the procedures.

On the basis of a mandate from the FOPH a concept was developed in 2005 for the accreditation of continuing education courses in human and dental medicine according to the future federal law on the medical professions (MedBG). The corresponding quality standards and guidelines for self-evaluation and outside evaluation have been adapted to the new MedBG. In the context of this mandate, an analysis was made with an external expert of the international situation in the area of accrediting continuing education programmes in the university medical professions.

In the future, under the MedBG, chiropractics will be included in the medical professions. Therefore the OAQ and the FOPH concluded a new contract concerning the development of a concept and instruments for the accreditation of continuing education in chiropractics (in cooperation with the FOPH, the Swiss Chiropractors Association and the Swiss Chiropractic Institute).

4.2.2 Planned accreditations in the psychology sector

The FOPH gave the OAQ a mandate for 2005-2006 to look into the matter of accreditation of continuing education in psychological psychotherapy according to the law on psychology professions. It includes a position on the accreditation object and on the criteria and quality standards.

5 National and international cooperation

National and international contacts are an important concern for the OAQ. It works closely with its national partners and other European accreditation and quality agencies and is an active member of important networks in Europe and beyond. In this it guarantees that its quality examinations meet national requirements and the highest international standards and can be constantly adapted to continuing developments.

5.1 Cooperation with national partners

Since it began its work in 2001, the OAQ has developed a close and constructive relationship with its most important national partners, the SUC, the CRUS and the SER. This translates particularly into regular meetings between the OAQ Scientific Advisory Board and the CRUS, the organization of joint seminars and participation in various project and working groups. At the end of 2005, the OAQ and the CRUS submitted a joint theory paper on external quality assurance and on the application of accreditation in the Swiss university domain. This document is a good basis for the OAQ position in view of the new university framework law.

5.2 International cooperation

The OAQ works closely with foreign quality assurance and accreditation agencies. The OAQ is an active member of such networks as the ENQA, ECA, Joint Quality Initiative in Europe and INQAAHE, UNESCO/OECD initiatives on a global level. It has also initiated a series of bilateral and trilateral accreditation cooperation programmes. Since 2004, the OAQ has been president of the ECA and in this capacity can keep abreast of European developments in the implementation of the Bologna Declaration and to a certain extent exert an influence. The ECA's work is significant for Switzerland because the consortium is pursuing the goal of having accreditation decisions and qualifications recognized internationally by the end of 2007. The OAQ director also represents the centre on the Scientific Advisory Board of a German accreditation agency the AHPGS, as well as on the board of Project Q of the German Rectors' Conference. Finally, the OAQ participates in a joint expert group of the WHO and the WFME.

6 Information and communication

The dissemination of information on accreditation and quality assurance is one of the legally binding tasks of the OAQ which sees information and communication as an integral part of its work and which represents an open and transparent information and communication policy. To be able to carry out its information mission and implement its communication policy, the OAQ uses several media forms. In keeping with its status as a nationally and internationally connected organization it publishes in the three national languages and English.

6.1 Annual report 2004

The 2004 annual report, which was available by the end of April 2005 in German, French, Italian and English in print form and on the web, provides a general overview of OAQ activities during that reporting year. It went to around 1,500 addresses in Switzerland and abroad and met with a generally good response.

6.2 Public and media relations

The OAQ provides information about its tasks and goals. It also reports regularly on on-going work and provides specific information and knowledge from the quality assurance and accreditation sphere. A design agency, NOSE, is responsible for the uniform design and development of all print and electronic media in keeping with the OAQ corporate design. From the outset, the OAQ has worked with an outside communication advisor whose tasks in the PR field include media releases and the organization of media conferences as well as support in the production of the annual report.

The OAQ provides as thorough information as possible about its quality assessment procedures. The names of the institutions and/or the courses of study of all accreditation procedures are published on the OAQ website. As a rule, positive accreditation decisions are published with the experts report and the OAQ final report. Since 2005, the OAQ has provided the accredited institutions and study courses with an electronic version of the accreditation seal for use on the institution's own website or on its letterhead (see example. www.teologialugano.ch/index.php). The summary report of the OAQ on the first quality audit cycle was published on its website.

During the reporting year, the OAQ replied by telephone or in writing to numerous questions about accreditation and recognition of diplomas and titles. Two to three times a week, the OAQ answers questions from inside Switzerland and abroad concerning the legitimacy of private education institutions. At the international level in 2005, the OAQ took part in the development of a joint electronic ECA information platform for the publication of accreditation decisions in Europe.

In 2005, the director and the scientific collaborators at the OAQ took part in around 100 events and conferences in Switzerland enabling it to inform different groups in the university sector about the latest activities.

6.3 Talks in Switzerland

The OAQ discussed its work at the following events in Switzerland:

- 22.02.05: Conference on universities of applied sciences, Zurich, "UAS accreditation"
- 21.04.05: KWFB of the FMH, Bern, "Accreditation of continuing education in human medicine – results"
- 29.04.05: Conference of the Swiss Student Union and the student body of the University of Bern, "Accreditation and quality assurance in Europe and Switzerland"
- 14.10.05: Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Switzerland, "The Swiss Accreditation System"
- 02.12.05: OAQ/CRUS workshop on internal quality assurance at universities, "Internal Quality Assurance at Higher Education Institutions: requirements and good practices"

6.4 Talks abroad

The OAQ described its work abroad at the following conferences:

- 03.02.05: ENQA Quality Audit Workgroup, Bath, U.K. "Quality Audits in Switzerland"
- 17.02.05: Accreditation agency for study courses in the area of Remedial Training, Care, Health and Social Work (AHPGS), Freiburg, Germany, "Current Trends in QA and Accreditation in Europe"
- 01.06.05: ECA, Dublin, Ireland, "European Consortium for Accreditation – Future Developments"
- 16.06.05: AQUA conference, Vienna, Austria, "Quality assurance, management and development"
- 07.07.05: HRK conference on the internationalization of accreditation, Berlin, Germany, "European Developments in QA and Accreditation"
- 01.09.05: AMEE conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands, "Accreditation and recognition of Medical Schools in Europe – The Swiss approach"
- 09.12.05: ECA workshop, Vienna, Austria, "Mapping Co-operations in ECA: end of 2005 Update"
- 15.09.05: European Association for International Education (EAIE), Cracow, Poland, "A Quality Label for Universities"
- 13.12.05: University Rectors' Conference, Bonn, Germany, "Quality Audits as the ideal solution?"

6.5 The Bologna conference of the Swiss Student Union (VSS)

In April 2005, the VSS and the student body of the University of Bern organized a Bologna conference dealing with current developments in the sphere of quality assurance and accreditation. The OAQ was involved in the planning phase of the event whose plenary sessions and workshops gave the OAQ a good platform to present its tasks and activities to a wider public among the students.

6.6 The national conference on internal quality assurance with the CRUS

In December 2005, the OAQ and the CRUS and the Finnish quality assurance agency FINHEEC organized a conference on "Internal quality assurance at higher education institutions – requirements and good practices". This event which was aimed at a national and international audience aroused considerable interest. Participants came from more than 20 European countries and the reaction to the programme content was extremely positive.

6.7 OAQ website

The most important, easily accessible communication medium of the OAQ is the website whose content is constantly updated and fleshed out. It provides clear and direct access in four languages (see www.oaq.ch) to various topics of concern to the OAQ and also serves as a platform on which the OAQ can publish decisions and reports of procedures. Since 2004, the number of monthly hits on the site has increased favourably to an average of 4,500 from an average of 1,000. In addition, each visit consults four to five pages. Every second visitor has visited the site before which is an indication that it is an important information source. By far the most interesting documents for visitors are the expert reports.

6.8 OAQ newsletter

Since the end of 2005, the OAQ has published an electronic newsletter dedicated to a particular theme. The first issue dealt with accreditation and the second focussed on quality assurance. It is planned to issue the newsletter every three to four months.

6.9 Publications

Besides these regular information sources, the director and the scientific collaborators publish articles on accreditation and quality assurance in the specialist literature.

The OAQ submitted the following articles in 2005:

- Rolf Heusser, Sabine Felder, Therese Steffen Gerber: Quality Audit – Definition und Anwendung in der externen Qualitätssicherung von Hochschulen, in: Winfried Benz, Jürgen Kohler, Klaus Landfried (Hrsg.): Handbuch Qualität in Studium und Lehre, Raabe Verlag, Berlin 2004/05, delivery (in print)
- Rolf Heusser: Accreditation and recognition of medical schools in Europe – the Swiss approach, in: AMEE Conference Amsterdam, 30 August/1 September 2005, Abstracts, p. 62
- Rolf Heusser: Akkreditierung der Public Health Aus- und Weiterbildung in der Schweiz, in: Martin Sprenger (production), Public Health in Österreich und Europa, publication on the occasion of the retirement of Prof. Dr. med. Horst Richard Noack, 2005, p. 193
- Rolf Heusser: Current state of accreditation and quality assurance in Europe. Conference “Internationalisation of Accreditation”, Berlin, July 2005 (in print)
- Rolf Heusser: Quality Audits – Beispiel Schweiz. Conference “Quality Audits as the ideal solution?”, Bonn, December 2005 (in print)
- Rolf Heusser: Qualitätssicherung und Akkreditierung in Europa, in: brochure of a series of articles of the German coordinating office for health sciences (DKGW, 2005)

OAQ media releases report on important selected events. This has happened twice so far: once when the results of the first audit cycle were published and once when the Code of good practice was signed at the ECA annual conference in 2004 in Zurich.

6.10 Database

The OAQ has a database which at the moment is used mainly for address administration. It is based on an alternative product by Microsoft Access and also offers the possibility to administer procedures. The database now has around 2,800 addresses of organizations, offices and institutions as well as information on individuals, such as experts, who have been or are working with the OAQ and on other interested parties. All OAQ staff has external access to the database which is regularly updated by the OAQ secretariat. Besides address administration the database is used for the distribution of the OAQ newsletter and of the annual report. In future the database is to be used to monitor procedures.

7 Finances

The accounts of the OAQ are examined by the Federal Audit Office. The SUC receives the annual account and the audit report for formal approval. As in previous years, the Federal Audit Office approved the annual accounting for 2005 without objection.

7.1 Balance sheet and profit and loss statement for 2005

Balance sheet as of 31 December 2005

Assets	CHF
Cash	1,787.90
Current accounts, BEKB savings account	304,124.31
Accounts receivable and withholding tax on accounts receivable	14,707.15
Deferred assets	64,389.65
Work begun for third parties	132,625.00
Total assets	517,634.01
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	146,721.74
Accounts payable to university cantons	113,155.75
Prepaid expenses	214,800.00
Deferred liabilities	41,751.50
Fluctuation reserve	1,205.02
Total liabilities	517,634.01

Income statement for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005

Expenditures	CHF
Personnel expenses, including social security and Advisory Board fees	1,317,652.43
Public relations project, website	94,047.45
Operating costs	
Rent/maintenance	55,544.60
Furnishing	14,158.95
Hardware/software incl. database	69,756.05
Operating costs	187,335.68
Organization of meetings and workshops	48,311.48
Accreditation costs (documents, translation, legal support)	390,719.87
Miscellaneous and contingencies	7,327.45
Total expenditures	2,184,853.96
Final account (from fluctuation reserve)	1'205.02
Total	2,186,058.98

Income

Contributions from the cantons	
BS	90,708.95
BE	132,894.69
FR	83,305.39
GE	154,271.20
NE	35,018.67
SG	40,230.80
TI	13,473.03
VD	97,924.42
ZH	226,672.85
Confederation	874,500.00
Accreditation/evaluations private	97,112.45
Third-party services/federal mandates	371,158.60
Workshops and course fees	10,570.15
Liquidation of reserve from 2004	-12,538.36
Value-adjustment claims/reduction in earnings	-32,460.70
Interest income	3,216.84
Total	2,186,058.98

7.2 Auditor's report

EIDGENÖSSISCHE FINANZKONTROLLE
CONTRÔLE FÉDÉRAL DES FINANCES
CONTROLLO FEDERALE DELLE FINANZE
CONTROLLA FEDERALA DA FINANZAS



MONBIJOUSTRASSE 45, CH-3003 BERN

Reg. Nr. 1.6199.325.00349.02

Bericht der Revisionsstelle

an die Mitglieder der Schweizerischen Universitätskonferenz (SUK)

Als Revisionsstelle haben wir die Buchführung und die Jahresrechnung (Bilanz und Erfolgsrechnung) des Organs für Akkreditierung und Qualitätssicherung der Schweizerischen Hochschulen (OAQ) für das am 31. Dezember 2005 abgeschlossene Geschäftsjahr geprüft.

Für die Jahresrechnung ist die Geschäftsstelle des OAQ verantwortlich, während unsere Aufgabe darin besteht, die Jahresrechnung zu prüfen und zu beurteilen. Wir bestätigen, dass wir die Anforderungen hinsichtlich Befähigung und Unabhängigkeit erfüllen.

Unsere Prüfung erfolgte nach den Schweizer Prüfungsstandards, wonach eine Prüfung so zu planen und durchzuführen ist, dass wesentliche Fehlaussagen in der Jahresrechnung mit angemessener Sicherheit erkannt werden. Wir prüften die Posten und Angaben der Jahresrechnung mittels Analysen und Erhebungen auf der Basis von Stichproben. Ferner beurteilten wir die Anwendung der massgebenden Rechnungslegungsgrundsätze, die wesentlichen Bewertungsentscheide sowie die Darstellung der Jahresrechnung als Ganzes. Wir sind der Auffassung, dass unsere Prüfung eine ausreichende Grundlage für unser Urteil bildet.

Gemäss unserer Beurteilung entsprechen die Buchführung und die Jahresrechnung dem schweizerischen Gesetz, der Vereinbarung vom 14. Dezember 2000 zwischen dem Bund und den Universitätskantonen über die Zusammenarbeit im universitären Hochschulbereich (SR 414.205) sowie der Geschäftsordnung vom 22. Februar 2001 des OAQ.

Wir empfehlen, die vorliegende Jahresrechnung zu genehmigen.

Bern, den 2. März 2006

EIDGENÖSSISCHE FINANZKONTROLLE


Christoph Mücher
Mandatsleiter


Robert Homberger
Revisionsleiter

8 2006 annual programme

8.1 Evaluation of the OAQ

After its five years of activity, the OAQ will be evaluated in 2006 by an independent team of experts. The procedure which was mandated by the SUC is based on a self-assessment report as well as an on-site visit. The evaluation should show whether the OAQ is meeting its legal obligations in the area of accreditation and quality assurance. It should also create the basis for the international recognition of the OAQ. In keeping with this goal an evaluation procedure was striven for, which on the one hand provided answers to national issues and on the other hand gave information about whether the OAQ was meeting European guidelines for good quality assurance and accreditation agencies. The OAQ is the first agency in Europe to submit to such an international test. It is assumed that a positive evaluation result would mean entry into the planned European registry for validated quality assurance agencies.

8.2 New university framework law

The results of the above-mentioned Peer Review procedure will create not only impulses for further improvements in quality at the OAQ, but will also indicate to the political authorities points which could be significant for the new university framework law. This law should regulate the structural integration of the OAQ and its field of activities. The OAQ aims to become the sole authority in Switzerland with responsibility for accreditation and quality assurance for the whole tertiary education sector. In a paper on UAS accreditation the OAQ stated its position on this matter. In 2006 the talks must be carried out intensively with political decision makers and the relevant federal offices. At the same time, the OAQ will carry out the first pilot accreditations according to the new university framework law to gain experience in the UAS sector. Should the OAQ also become responsible for the UAS sector, the corresponding internal structural adjustments in the OAQ would have to be made, such as an expanded Scientific Advisory Board, sub-departments with competence in the UAS and higher professional education sectors.

A further goal of the new university framework law, the introduction of obligatory institutional accreditation is supported by the OAQ and also the CRUS because of the good cost-benefit ratio. Should this target be consolidated, then in 2006 defining the criteria for such accreditation and determining the consequences would become inevitable. The OAQ can take on this work only together with its partners – the universities and political authorities.

8.3 Accreditation procedures and other quality examinations

In connection with its operational activities, the OAQ will as usual conduct accreditation procedures and other quality examinations in 2006. By the end of February 2006 the OAQ had received a total of 14 requests from universities mainly concerning the accreditation of programmes. Further, procedures not yet completed in 2005 are expected to end in 2006. Conceptual work is scheduled for the planned revision of accreditation guidelines and the OAQ would like to tackle the measurement of "learning outcomes" and competence profiles. Also on the agenda are preparations in the fall of 2006 for the second cycle of examinations in the fall of 2007 of quality assurance systems at public universities. The institutions must know in sufficient time what areas will be examined and what requirements are needed for a successful procedure.

8.4 National and international partners

The OAQ will continue its international activities in 2006. Because of its presidency of the ECA, the OAQ will give priority to the goals of this organization which means that by the middle of 2007 coordination of European accreditation systems should have progressed to the point that the agencies are in a position to give equal recognition to each other's results. Close cooperation with national recognition authorities is important if, on this basis, there is to be international recognition of degrees. To achieve the declared goals and to build up confidence, the OAQ will try to carry out a joint accreditation with a foreign partner agency in 2006. Further cooperation activities with ECA member agencies are planned in such areas as mutual observation of procedures and exchange of staff and experts.

Internationally, the OAQ wants to take a central position. Other priorities for 2006 include full membership of ENQA and the meeting of all criteria for acceptance in the planned European register of validated quality assurance agencies. The OAQ also plans to extend its accreditation and auditing activities abroad where it will apply its great expertise particularly in the field of institutional procedures.

The OAQ's national network will also be given priority in 2006 with the focus on maintaining contacts with the teaching and student bodies. The close cooperation with the universities and the CRUS will be continued to support the universities in establishing effective and coherent quality assurance systems and to ensure that Switzerland remains at the top as a university centre. In the UAS sector there is a demand for a commitment at all levels (commissions, federal authorities, committees, schools). The services offered by the OAQ to third parties such as the OPET and the FOPH are to continue in 2006 and be consolidated which means that the OAQ can involve itself sustainably and substantially in accreditation procedures at the UAS, higher professional schools and in the area of the medical professions.

8.5 Information und Communication

The OAQ intends to continue its active communication policy in 2006. The main information sources will be the website which is regularly updated, the newsletter which appears every three or four months, regular participation at national and international conferences and publications in specialized media. The OAQ and the CRUS are planning to co-organize for the end of November 2006 a second instalment of the successful 2005 conference on internal quality assurance at universities. In future it will be necessary to use available communication means in a more targeted way. The main concerns of the OAQ will be described in well-founded position papers; bilateral meetings will be used for the exchange of opinions and to put forward the OAQ position.

Appendix: Experts working with the OAQ**All procedures except the medical professions**

Prof. Philippe Albert, Partenaire d'Entrepreneurs, La Tour de Salvagny, France

Prof. Christian Allesch, Fachbereich Psychologie, Universität Salzburg, Österreich

Prof. Marc Amstutz, Rechtswissenschaftliche Fakultät, Universität Freiburg, Schweiz

Prof. Peter Antes, Seminar für Religionswissenschaften, Universität Hannover, Deutschland

Claude Auer, Plan-les-Ouates, Suisse

Dr. Gudrun Bachmann, Leiterin E-Learning und Koordinatorin des LearnTechNet, Universität Basel, Schweiz

Dr. Richard Bessoth, Projektleiter Europäisches Weiterbildungsstudium Bildungsmanagement, St. Ingbert, Deutschland

Prof. Alexander Bergmann, Doyen, Ecole des hautes études commerciales, Université de Lausanne, Suisse

Dr Daniel Billaux, Itasca Consultants SA, Ecully, France

Dr. Tove Blytt Holmen, Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT), Oslo, Norway

Prof. Ingeborg Bø, Executive Director of the Norwegian Association for Distance Education (NADE), Oslo, Norway

Prof. Christoph Boehinger, Lehrstuhl für Religionswissenschaften, Universität Bayreuth, Deutschland

Prof. Jacques Bury, Directeur Agence pour le Développement et l'Evaluation des Politiques de Santé (ADSAN), Carouge, Suisse

Prof. Giuseppe Cacciatore, Dipartimento di Filosofia, Università di Napoli Federico II, Italia

Prof. Franco Cavallo, Facoltà di Medicina e Chirurgia, Università degli Studi di Torino, Italia

Prof. Allan D. Cochrane, Pro-Vice Chancellor Open University, Milton Keynes, UK

Prof. Dagmar Coester-Waltjen, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Deutschland

Giovanni Andrea Cornia, Professore straordinario, Dipartimento di Scienze Economiche, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Italia

Prof. Emanuel De Kadt, Chair of Cultural Anthropology, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands

Prof. Jean-Marc de Leersnyder, Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial (CEECC), Québec, Canada

Prof. Pierre de Senarclens, Institut d'Etudes Politiques et Internationales (IEPI), Université de Lausanne, Suisse

Prof. Jacobus J. de Vries, Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Damien Desjonquères, Directeur des Programmes Care France, Paris, France

Corinne Dettmeijer, President of the Juvenile Court The Hague, The Netherlands

Prof. Karl Einhüopl, Klinik für Neurologie, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Vorsitzender des Wissenschaftsrats, Berlin, Deutschland

Dr. Sandra E. Elman, Executive Director of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), Washington, USA

Prof. Mariki Eloff, School of Computing, University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa

Prof. Hans-Uwe Erichsen, Vorsitzender des Deutschen Akkreditierungsrates, Münster, Deutschland

Prof. Reinhard Feldmeier, Theologische Fakultät, Universität Göttingen, Deutschland

Prof. Lluís Ferrer i Caubet, Rector Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, España

Prof. Luc François, Directeur éducatif de l'Université de Gand, Belgique

Prof. Barbara Friebertshäuser, Institut für Allgemeine Erziehungswissenschaft, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main, Deutschland

Prof. Muzio Gola, Direttore del Dipartimento di Meccanica, Politecnico di Torino, Italia

Prof. Gabriele Griffin, Department of Gender Studies, University of Hull, UK

Prof. Michèle Guillaume-Hofnung, Professeur de droit public, Université Paris XI, France

Prof. Jon Haakstad, The Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT), Oslo, Norway

Prof. Kauko Hämäläinen, Palmenia Centre for Continuing Education, University of Helsinki, Finland

Prof. Nick Harris, Vice Director Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), Gloucester, UK

Prof. Adrienne Héritier, Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies, San Domenico di Fiesole, Firenze, Italia

Prof. Stefan Hirschauer, Institut für Soziologie, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Deutschland

Prof. Christopher Hood, All Souls College, Oxford, UK

Prof. David Hyndman, Department of Geological Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, USA

Prof. Mercedes Jaime Sisó, Departamento de Filología Inglesa y Alemana, Facultad de Veterinaria, Universidad de Zaragoza, España

Prof. Gotthard Jasper, Rektor der Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Deutschland

Prof. Jean-Loup Jolivet, Président Comité national d'évaluation (CNE), Paris, France

Sami Kanaan, Associé et Consultant senior, Bureau Evaluanda, Genève, Suisse

Prof. Reinhard Kannonier, Rektor der Universität für künstlerische und industrielle Gestaltung, Linz, Österreich

Prof. Walter Kirchsclaeger, Theologische Fakultät, Universität Luzern, Schweiz

Prof. Jürgen Kohler, Rechts- und Staatswissenschaftliche Fakultät, Universität Greifswald, Deutschland

Prof. Helmut Konrad, Historisches Institut, Universität Graz, Wien, Österreich

Dorte Kristoffersen, Australian Quality Assurance Agency (AQUA), Melbourne, Australia

Prof. Rainer Künzel, Leiter Zentrale Evaluations- und Akkreditierungsagentur Hannover, Deutschland

Prof. Jacques L'Ecuyer, Directeur Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial, Quebec, Canada

Prof. Stephan Leimgruber, Katholisch-Theologische Fakultät, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Deutschland

Prof. Erich Leitner, Institut für Erziehungswissenschaft und Bildungsforschung, Universität Klagenfurt, Österreich

Prof. Ossi V. Lindqvist, Chair of the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council (FINHEEC), Helsinki, Finland

Prof. Francesco Lurati, Director of the Executive Master of Science in Communications Management, Università della Svizzera italiana, Svizzera

Prof. Marcus Lutter, Zentrum für Europäisches Wirtschaftsrecht, Universität Bonn, Deutschland

Prof. Evelies Mayer, Institut für Soziologie der Technischen Universität Darmstadt, Deutschland

Prof. José-Ginés Mora, Director Centre for Higher Education Management (CHEM), Technical University of Valencia, Spain

Prof. Klaus Müller, Katholisch-Theologische Fakultät, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Deutschland

Prof. Denis Müller, Faculté de théologie, Université de Lausanne, Suisse

Prof. Herfried Münkler, Institut für Sozialwissenschaften, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Deutschland

Prof. Hildegard Nickel, Institut für Sozialwissenschaften, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Deutschland

Prof. Peter R. Nippert, Direktor des Instituts für Ausbildung und Studienangelegenheiten (IfAS), Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Deutschland

Prof. Ramon Pascual, Departement de Fisica, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Espanya

Prof. Francisco Pujol, Department of Economics, Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona, España

Prof. Johannes M. Rainer, Institut für Österreichisches und Europäisches Privatrecht, Universität Salzburg, Österreich

Prof. Roland Reichenbach, Allgemeine Erziehungswissenschaft, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Deutschland

Prof. Eda Sagarra, Department of Germanic Studies, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

Prof. Jacques Salzer, Négociation & Médiation, Université de Paris V, France

Prof. Suzette Sandoz, Faculté de Droit, Université de Lausanne, Suisse

Prof. Angelo Saporiti, Facoltà di Economia, Università degli Studi de Molise, Roma, Italia

Dr Andrée Sursock, Secrétaire générale adjointe, European University Association (EUA), Bruxelles, Belgique

Prof. Helmut Schauer, Institut für Informatik, Universität Zürich, Schweiz

Prof. Friedrich Schneider, Vizerektor für Aus-
senbeziehungen, Johannes Kepler Universität,
Linz, Österreich

Prof. Johann Schneider, Studiendekan, Fach-
hochschule Frankfurt am Main, Deutschland

Prof. Christoph Tholen, Institut für Medien-
wissenschaften, Universität Basel, Schweiz

Prof. Christian Thune, Director Danish Evalu-
ation Institute (EVA), Kopenhagen, Denmark

Prof. Rudolf Tippelt, Institut für Pädagogik,
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München,
Deutschland

Prof. Massimo Tronci, Vicepresidente Diparti-
mento di Meccanica e Aeronautica e Asso-
ciazione Italiana Cultura Qualità, Università
di Roma «La Sapienza», Italia

Prof. Dirk van Damme, Head of Cabinet of
the Flemish Minister of Education, Brussels,
Belgium

Prof. Rias J. van Wyk, Director Technoscan
Centre, Edina MN, USA

Prof. Guy Vanderstraeten, Head Department
of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation,
Gent, Belgium

Prof. Marco Vitale, Dipartimento di Anatomia
umana, Farmacologia e Scienze Mediche
forensi, Università di Parma, Italia

Ton Vroeijenstijn, DB Ryswijk,
The Netherlands (until December 2003)

Prof. Staffan Wahlén, National Agency for
Higher Education, Stockholm, Sweden

Prof. Beatrice Weber-Dürler, Rechtswissen-
schaftliche Fakultät, Universität Zürich,
Schweiz

Prof. Klaus Weiermair, Institut für Unterneh-
mensführung, Tourismus und Dienstleistungs-
wirtschaft, Universität Innsbruck, Österreich

Prof. Andreas Wiebe, Abteilung für Infor-
mationsrecht und Immaterialgüterrecht,
Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, Österreich

Procedures involving the medical professions

Prof. Werner Aberer, Universitäts-Hautklinik,
Graz, Österreich

Dr. Hans Alsen, Qualitätsbeauftragter
DRK-Kliniken Berlin, Deutschland

Prof. Rolf Attström, Department of Peri-
odontology, Center for Oral Health Sciences,
Malmö University, Sweden

Prof. Hartwig Bauer, Generalsekretär der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Chirurgie, Berlin, Deutschland

Prof. Eggert Beleites, Direktor der Universitäts-HNO-Klinik, Jena, Deutschland

Prof. em. Rolf Elling Berg, Sandefjord, Norway

Prof. Friedhelm Beyersdorf, Ärztlicher Direktor der Abteilung Herz- und Gefäßchirurgie, Herz-Kreislauf-Zentrum des Universitätsklinikums Freiburg, Deutschland

Prof. em. Ralph Bloch, Ontario, Canada

Prof. Hubert E. Blum, Medizinische Fakultät, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Deutschland

Prof. Marianne Brodmann, Medizinische Universitätsklinik Graz, Österreich

Prof. Walter Burger, Medizinische Fakultät, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Deutschland

Prof. Nico Creugers, Head of Department of Oral Function and Prosthetic Dentistry, College of Dental Sciences, University Medical Centre, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Prof. Alain Durocher, Service d'Urgence Respiratoire, de Réanimation Médicale et de Médecine Hyperbare, Hôpital Albert Calmette, Lille Cedex, France

Prof. Wolfgang Eisenmenger, Institut für Rechtsmedizin der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Deutschland

Sabine Feller, Abteilung für Ausbildungs- und Examensforschung AAE, Institut für medizinische Lehre IML, Medizinische Fakultät, Universität Bern, Schweiz

Prof. Gabriele Gillessen-Kaesbach, Institut für Humangenetik, Universität Essen, Deutschland

Prof. Winfried Graninger, Medizinische Universitätsklinik Graz, Österreich

Prof. Richard Hays, Faculty of Medicine, Health and Molecular Sciences, Townsville, Australia

Prof. Klaus Heller, Klinikum der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main, Deutschland

Dr. Michael Herschel, Direktor Clinical Research Glaxo Wellcome GmbH & Co., München, Deutschland

Prof. Clemens F. Hess, Direktor der Klinik für Strahlentherapie und Radio-Onkologie, Klinikum der Universität Göttingen, Deutschland

PD Dr. Karina Hofmann-Preiss, Radiologische Gemeinschaftspraxis, Gera, Deutschland

Prof. Fritz Hohagen, Klinik für Psychiatrie und Psychotherapie, Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein, Lübeck, Deutschland

Prof. Alexander Kapp, Hautklinik Linden der Medizinischen Hochschule Hannover, Deutschland

Dr. Hans Karle, Faculty of Health Sciences,
The Panum Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark

Prof. Hugo A. Katus, Ärztlicher Direktor
Innere Medizin III, Universitätsklinikum
Heidelberg, Deutschland

Prof. Johannes Köbberling, Leiter des
Zentrums für Innere Medizin, Kliniken
St. Antonius, Wuppertal, Deutschland

Prof. Hans A. Kreipe, Pathologisches Institut,
Medizinische Hochschule Hannover,
Deutschland

Prof. Norbert Lameire, Chief Renal Division,
Ghent University, Belgium

Prof. Martin Lischka, Institut für medizini-
sche Aus- und Weiterbildung (IMAW), Wien,
Österreich

Prof. Thomas Löscher, Abteilung für Infek-
tions- und Tropenmedizin, Ludwig-Maxi-
milians-Universität München, Deutschland

Prof. Hansjörg Melchior, Kassel,
Deutschland

Prof. Betty Meyboom-de Jong, Head of
Department of General Practice, Groningen,
The Netherlands

Prof. Ernst Moser, Geschäftsführender
Direktor der Abteilung Nuklearmedizin, Uni-
versitätsklinikum Freiburg, Deutschland

Dr. Peter Niedermoser, Oberarzt für Patho-
logie, Krankenhaus der Barmherzigen
Schwestern, Linz, Österreich

Prof. Fritz Uwe Niethard, Direktor der
Orthopädischen Universitätsklinik der
RWTH Aachen, Deutschland

Prof. Peter R. Nippert, Direktor des Instituts
für Ausbildung und Studienangelegenheiten
(IfAS), Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität
Münster, Deutschland

Prof. Fritz Offner, Département Hématologie,
Vakgroep Inwendige ziekten, Gent, Belgium

Prof. em. Albert Oriol-Bosch, Barcelona,
Spain

PD Dr. Josef Pospiech, Neurochirurgische
Universitätsklinik, Universität Duisburg,
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