



Annual Report 2020

**Pushing boundaries together.
*Through research. For society.***

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Dear donors, Dear friends of ETH,

The past year has underlined the importance of mutual help and support, and your contributions have exemplified this. Thanks to donors and partners, ETH Zurich was able to accelerate vital research, extend scholarships for talented young academics during the crisis and press ahead with strategic projects in what proved to be an exceptional year.

2020 impressed on us the need to prepare for the future. It is vital that budding entrepreneurs such as Jonathan Kiefer, who is developing a new treatment for leukaemia, are able to introduce their innovations to society sooner rather than later. Promising talents such as student Janine Wetter, who wants to gain a better understanding of climate change, need optimal support today. And in the field of basic research too, it is crucial to act now to create the right conditions for the future: by constructing a new, highly specialised physics laboratory building, ETH aims to further expand its leading position in quantum research.

Your support gives ETH Zurich flexibility and freedom. Every single contribution is important. Together, they have a huge impact – for the benefit and wellbeing of future generations. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks that we are able to count on your support and hope that this publication interests and inspires you.



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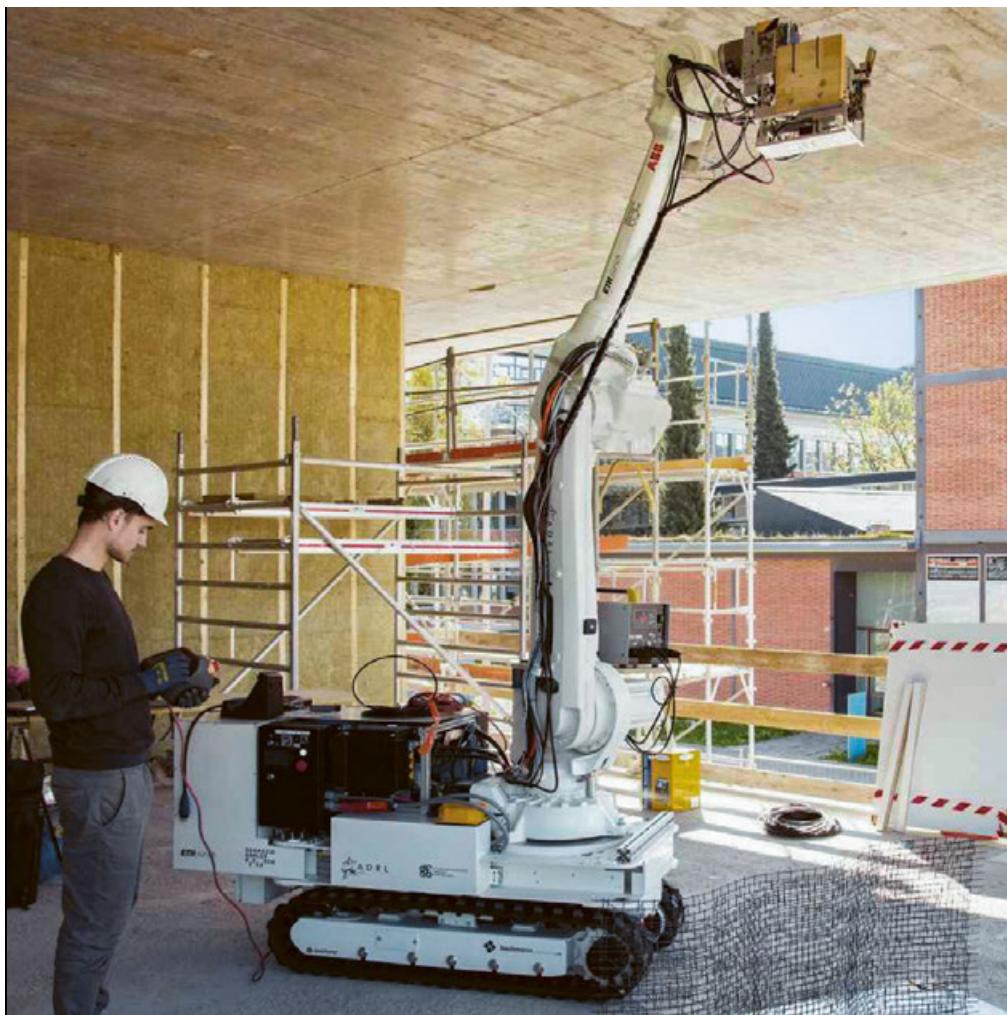


Dr Donald Tillman
Managing Director



A step closer to personalised medical treatment, rapid action during the coronavirus pandemic and a boost for quantum research: thanks to your support, we have been able to tackle major challenges over the past year.

Highlights 2020



Findings from research projects at ETH feed directly into product development in building and energy technology.

More energy-efficient building planning

Population growth, urbanisation and energy provision are among the most pressing issues of our time and all are highly relevant to our industry partner Siemens. Siemens has therefore extended its strategic partnership with ETH Zurich for a further five years and is supporting innovative research projects in the field of sustainable construction/digital fabrication.

Fast-tracking Covid-19 research

The Botnar Research Centre for Child Health (BRCCH) launched an emergency initiative to develop practicable approaches to the Covid-19 crisis. Fondation Botnar, which enabled the establishment of the centre with its generous donation, provided additional funding. These funds support projects currently underway at ETH and other participating institutions; for example, to develop more reliable rapid tests or track chains of infection more accurately.



Vincent Fortuin, Hanna Ragnarsdottir, Janine Wetter and Dominic Egger give an insight into their research projects: take a look now.



Meet the Talent



Flexible and effective action thanks to the Corona Impulse Fund

From direct support for students with additional scholarships to the development of equipment for the health sector to fundamental research: the ETH Foundation and ETH set up the Corona Impulse Fund to assist with a range of scenarios. The funds are allocated quickly and without undue red tape, focusing on where they are needed most and will have the greatest impact, such as a serological study on the extent of immune protection. The funding comes from hundreds of donors, including numerous alumni, and the SIX Group – a joint effort in the spirit of solidarity.

Philanthropy to develop the full potential of exceptional talent

What does the support of donors mean to the recipients of the Excellence Scholarships and how did the students' daily lives change when the crisis hit in early 2020? Four recipients provided an insight which, given the circumstances, was staged digitally by video rather than face-to-face at the traditional Meet the Talent event. They included Hanna Ragnarsdottir, who is passionate about improving cancer research. She is one of the 50 to 60 exceptionally talented and motivated students we are able to fund every year, thanks to you.



Rössler Prize winner Paola Picotti used the prize money to fund her research, and she also made a donation to the Corona Impulse Fund.

Pioneering personalised treatment

Understanding proteomics, i.e. the full spectrum of proteins and their interactions, is the key to understanding human health. System biologist Paola Picotti develops technology that expands our understanding of the processes of human health, in particular biochemical processes that lead to aberrations and diseases such as cancer or Alzheimer's. In 2020, her pioneering research earned her the Rössler Prize. The prize is worth CHF 200,000 and has been awarded annually to promising young academics since 2009. The prize is made possible by a donation by ETH alumnus Dr Max Rössler.

Intelligent machines for the good of society

Robotics at ETH occupies an internationally leading position and last year received an additional boost: support from the Hilti Group and the Hilti Family Foundation Liechtenstein enabled the creation of two new professorships to reinforce Robotic Systems and the newly established RobotX Center for Intelligent Machines, which was launched in 2020 and brings together more than 20 robotics research groups at ETH. One of the robotics highlights at ETH to date has been the search and rescue robot ANYmal – we are all eager to see what comes next.



The donor-financed funding programme for young entrepreneurs ensures that ETH technology quickly finds its way into practice. Vanesa Rocha Martin's research on treating colic in babies is a perfect example.

Stimulating the economy thanks to ETH spin-offs

New approaches to treating leukaemia, help for colicky babies and sustainable yoga mats: Pioneer Fellowship support, made possible by our donors and partners, enables young researchers to drive forward their ideas and found businesses. Since 2010, 101 Fellowships have been awarded. More than 30 new spin-offs are created every year at ETH. They not only introduce new products and services to society, but also play a powerful part in consolidating Switzerland's role as a business and innovation hub.

Boost for future mobility

Introducing greener transport systems, making use of artificial intelligence and optimising overburdened infrastructure: tomorrow's mobility brings new challenges to technology, business and society. To address these, ETH Zurich founded the ETH Mobility Centre in 2018. AMAG has now joined SBB, Siemens and ETH Professor Emeritus Alexander Wokaun as the centre's first partner from the automotive industry, providing new impetus to the project. Further funding partners will be signed up over the coming years.



ETH honorary councillors Adrian Weiss (left) and Calvin Grieder (right)

Inclusivity through cutting-edge assistance technology

The Cybathlon Global Edition took place in November: 51 teams from 20 countries completed everyday tasks with the aid of cutting-edge assistance technology. Due to the pandemic, the teams competed at different times and in separate locations. The Cybathlon brings together people with disabilities, technology developers and the general public to promote inclusivity and progress. It helps to drive developments in assistance technology, such as Scewo, the wheelchair that can climb stairs, developed six years ago at ETH and now ready for series production.

Honour for two deserving long-term philanthropists

Calvin Grieder and Adrian Weiss have been enthusiastic ambassadors and supporters of ETH Zurich for many years, and have provided important impetus for teaching and research. Calvin Grieder's focus is on building bridges between business and science, while Adrian Weiss promotes next-generation academics and research in the fields of architecture, electrical engineering and computer science. Through their efforts, they have each encouraged important new developments. To thank them for their tremendous ongoing commitment, ETH has appointed both of them as honorary councillors.



Left to right: Pius Baschera, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the ETH Foundation; donor Martin Haefner, ETH alumnus and honorary councillor; and Joël Mesot, ETH President

A boost for quantum research

Quantum research has developed at breakneck speed in recent years. It is anticipated that the use of quantum phenomena in the fields of computing, sensor technology and cryptography will soon make new applications technically feasible. In order to consolidate its strong position in the field of quantum research, ETH is planning to construct a highly specialised physics laboratory building on the Hönggerberg campus. A generous donation from ETH alumnus and honorary councillor Martin Haefner has moved the project the decisive step closer to realisation.

Digital technology for more productive, greener construction

Digital design, planning and construction are becoming increasingly important. The engineering, planning and consultancy firm Basler & Hofmann has entered into a strategic partnership with ETH's Center for Augmented Computational Design in Architecture, Engineering and Construction, known as "Design++", with a generous donation spread over six years. The funding will go primarily towards establishing a new professorship in Augmented Computational Design. The aim of the partners is to develop digital tools and processes that simultaneously improve design, boost productivity in the construction process, raise the quality of buildings and reduce their environmental impact. They also hope that the latest findings in the fields of artificial intelligence and augmented reality will feed directly into architecture and civil engineering practice.



You – our valued donors and partners – support teaching and research at ETH Zurich. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your commitment in 2020 and the confidence you have shown in the ETH Foundation. Our gratitude also goes to all those donors who prefer to remain anonymous.

Thank you

 The list of donors can also be found at: www.ethz-foundation.ch/en/thank-you

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"Talented students and researchers have a responsibility to make the most of their potential. It is our responsibility to support them as best as we can."

**Professor Sarah M. Springman,
Rector of ETH Zurich, donor**





"The Excellence Scholarship & Opportunity Programme recognises students' outstanding achievements and determination. As an innovation hub, Switzerland needs next-generation talent like this."

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T



"I am proud to be enabling young people to study and thereby playing a role in ensuring equal educational opportunities."

**Daniel Uhlmann,
ETH alumnus, donor**

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**"I still have very strong ties to ETH Zurich.
My time there shaped who I am today.
I am proud of my alma mater and am happy
to give something back."**

**Dr Germaine J. F. Seewer,
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Legacies and bequests

We would like to thank everyone who has helped fund exceptional projects and outstanding talent through their legacy or bequest.



Your support makes great things happen. Find out more about the many ways to support teaching and research at ETH Zurich – whether you are a resident in Switzerland, Germany, the US or elsewhere. We will be happy to have a personal conversation with you about your interests and requirements.

Your support

Your support

Ways to support education and research

The following pages show you a few of the areas in which we can work together to achieve more. Find out what your donation can achieve, from basic research to practical applications in your home.

Un-earmarked support (Poly Fund)

Your donation to the ETH Foundation for the general purpose of funding research and teaching at the university allows ETH the greatest possible flexibility. Your support enables the Executive Board to seize diverse opportunities in teaching and research immediately and without undue red tape, driving visionary ideas to fruition. In concrete terms, this means that ETH is able, for instance, to establish new professorships or support exceptional research and teaching projects.

Earmarked support

An earmarked donation allows you to support specific strategic projects at ETH or a subject area of your choice.

Support in your name

You can also provide support for a cause close to your heart or ETH in general through a named fund. Here we set up a fund in your name for this purpose – for example the “Jane Smith Fund to support climate research” or the “John Smith Fund to support research and teaching at ETH Zurich”.

Your own sub-foundation under the umbrella of the ETH Zurich Foundation

With a substantial donation, you can create your own sub-foundation under the umbrella of the ETH Zurich Foundation. We would be happy to show you some options and work with you on an individual solution that ensures your sub-foundation passion project finds the right place within the ETH universe.

Making an impact beyond your lifetime

All these support options can also be considered in your personal estate planning. With legacies and bequests, you can link your personal life story with the prestigious past of ETH Zurich and also help to shape the future.

Bequeathing property

Your emotional attachment to your home tends to grow over the course of a lifetime as it becomes a memory bank of life-defining experiences and milestones. Of course, you want to know that your property will be in good hands when you are no longer here. The ETH Zurich Foundation, as a reliable partner, ensures that donations, legacies or bequests of property are handled professionally.

Together with Immobilien ETHZF AG, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the ETH Zurich Foundation, established specifically to manage properties on behalf of ETH Zurich, we ensure that your interests and wishes are respected.

**"It's a good feeling to know that
I can help others beyond my lifetime."**

Dr Sandro Mollet, ETH alumnus, has included the
ETH Foundation in his will.



Find out more here



An appreciation of donors who supported ETH Zurich with legacies and bequests in 2020



The life of *Yvonne Lang-Chardonnens* was defined by a tremendous thirst for knowledge. A trained pianist, she seized the opportunities life offered and was always interested in taking on new challenges. At the age of 60, she learned Japanese, and Arabic and Russian followed. Yvonne Lang-Chardonnens was very keen on ensuring that others were given the opportunities she herself had enjoyed. Alongside travel, classical music and world events, she had a keen interest in science. Her legacy gift will allow the ETH Zurich Foundation to continue her commitment to research beyond her lifetime.

In October 2020, ETH lost a long-term and highly respected member in *Professor Hugo Tschirky*. After his mechanical engineering studies and a doctorate in 1968, he spent time abroad, completed a second doctorate, and in 1982 was appointed Professor of Management Science at ETH. Even after his retirement, he remained connected to the university as a lecturer and guest. Hugo Tschirky's passion for supporting young entrepreneurs from ETH will continue through his legacy gift, as stipulated in his will.

Ursula Himmel-Glarner studied at ETH at a time when women were rarely given the opportunity to go to university. She always remembered her pharmacology studies as the happiest time of her life. A good education, particularly for women, remained one of her chief concerns. As a result, Ursula Himmel-Glarner, who passed away at the end of 2019, was a long-term supporter of the ETH Zurich Foundation. In accordance with her will, this commitment will continue through funding for exceptional female Master's students.



We would also like to express our appreciation to all those bereaved families who have made a gift to ETH in memory of their loved ones. Their gift represents a connection that extends beyond a lifetime. The family of the late *Dr Walter Karl Grüebler*, former member of the Board of Trustees of the ETH Foundation and long-term CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sika AG, chose to support the Excellence Scholarships in memory of their loved one. The family of the late *Peter Strübin*, who studied mechanical engineering at ETH and was involved during his lifetime in supporting the next generation of scientists, continued his long-time commitment with a donation in aid of the ETH scholarships.

Our thanks also go to everyone else who supported ETH with their legacy gifts over the past year.

Connected worldwide

ETH Zurich's worldwide network of donors and leading partners enables the acceleration of internationally outstanding research and teaching for the benefit of the global community. As ambassadors and partners of the university, they help us to take an interconnected approach to the big issues of today and tomorrow and to push the boundaries of knowledge.

The Wellcome Trust – the world-leading foundation for medical research – shares this vision and is supporting the launch of the digital Trial Intervention Platform (dTIP) at ETH. The dTIP will strengthen the implementation of research studies and drive forward clinical research in the field of healthcare.

The ETH Foundation nurtures close relationships with foundations, private individuals and companies in Germany, the US and beyond, exploring funding goals and implementing cherished projects across national boundaries.

 www.ethz-foundation.ch/en/international



"Wellcome and ETH Zurich share the vision that taking down barriers in translational science is key to solving global health challenges. We believe there is still huge potential in medical research and innovation, and we look forward to our partnership with ETH."

Katherine Anastasi-Frankovics,
Director of Innovations, Wellcome Trust







"Outstanding talents, bright ideas"

Helping exceptional talent produce outstanding achievements for Switzerland as a science and business hub.

Take Nicole Kleger, for example, a doctoral student and former Excellence Scholar who is researching biodegradable bone implants. She has developed a process to manufacture magnesium implants using a 3D-printed salt template. Her inspiring research environment, the Complex Materials group led by Professor André Studart, provides the materials scientist with fresh inspiration on a daily basis. And she is moving ever closer to her goal of using the new type of implant to accelerate the healing of complicated bone fractures, thus improving the lives of patients. To continue providing the best possible support for talent such as Nicole's in the future, we need your support.



Find out more here







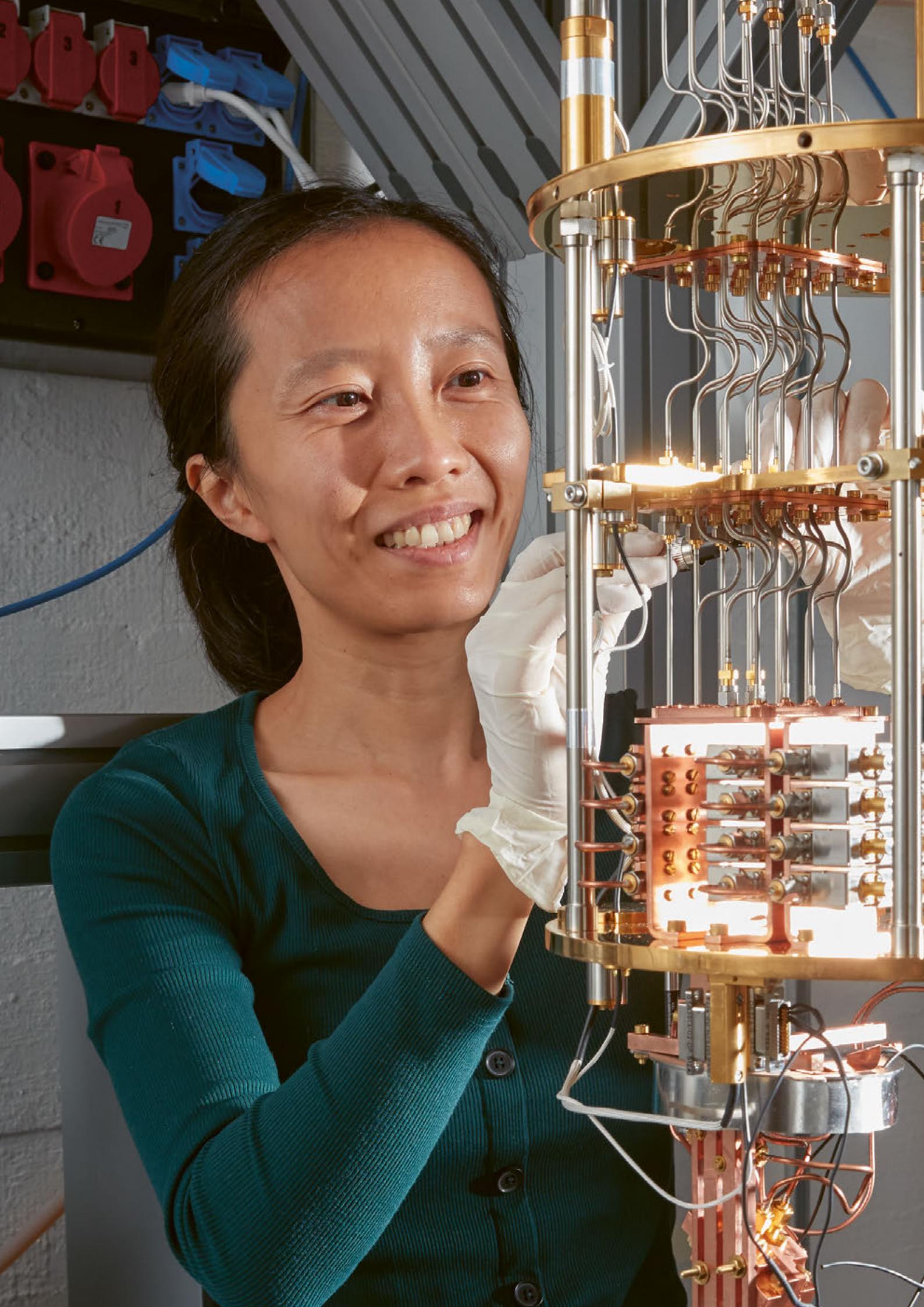
"Technology for our health"

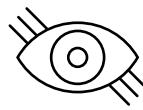
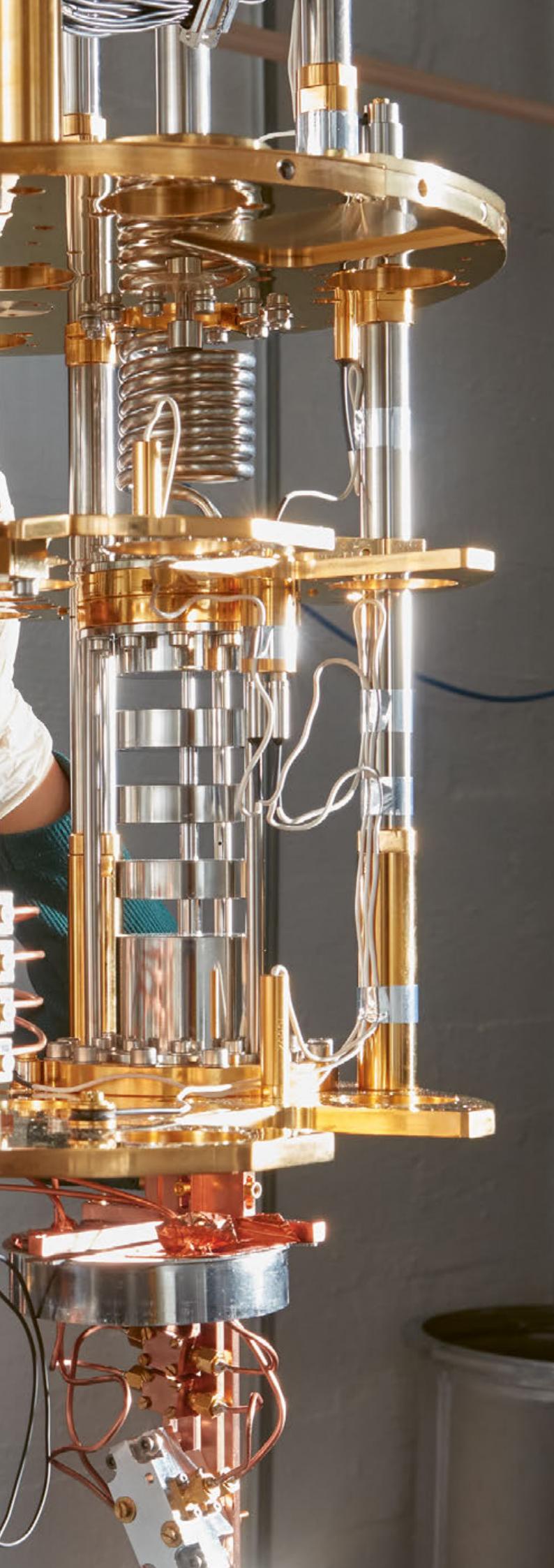
Ensuring that the latest research findings find their way into medical practice and reach people as quickly as possible.

Take Alexander Tanno, for example. Through the spin-off Hemetron, the ETH alumnus, along with doctoral student Yves Blickenstorfer, is developing a rapid test that is accurate, easy to use and portable. He works closely with the university hospitals in Basel and Zurich and with telemedicine companies. The biomedical engineer hopes that his technology will not only play an important role in overcoming any future pandemics, but also help in tackling the current crisis. He is supported by donors, who have provided him with start-up capital, mentoring and access to ETH labs through a Pioneer Fellowship. ETH Zurich is grateful for your support, which is helping ensure that technology such as this is ready to use as quickly as possible and able to make an innovative contribution to our health.



Find out more here





"Big data & science"

Ensuring that basic research opens up future-oriented opportunities in society, business and medicine.

Take the research of Professor Yiwen Chu, for example. Together with her research group for hybrid quantum systems, the scientist is working on developing new methods and devices to connect various types of quantum objects and transmit quantum information. The group is also conducting basic research into where the boundaries between the quantum world and the traditional world lie. Within just a few years, she anticipates major developments that will have an impact on a wide range of areas such as computing and measurement technology. Your support is helping to accelerate these breakthroughs.



Find out more here





"Earth & humankind"

Ensuring that our children have the freedom to choose how to use natural resources.

Take Oxara. With their ETH spin-off, Gnanli Landrou and Thibault Demoulin are aiming to facilitate the construction of sustainable and affordable housing all over the world. The two materials scientists are working on a process for producing cement-free concrete from clay-based excavation material. By reducing CO₂ emissions and avoiding sand and gravel consumption, their process saves on resources and is also significantly cheaper than conventional methods of concrete production. Donations helped enable the two young entrepreneurs to move closer to realising their vision of dignified housing for all. Thanks to your support, ETH Zurich can continue to transform promising solutions for challenges such as these into marketable products.



Find out more here



Donations to the ETH Foundation help consolidate ETH Zurich's leading position on the international stage, strengthen Switzerland's capacity for innovation and push the boundaries of knowledge. Our foundation board trustees volunteer their experience and enthusiasm to ensure that together, we are able to make remarkable things happen.

Facts & figures

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Balance sheet

Consolidated

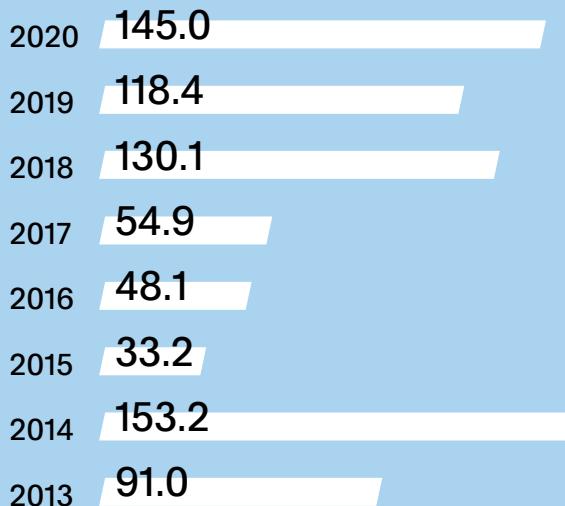
Assets	31.12.2020 in CHF	31.12.2019 in CHF
Cash and cash equivalents	9,001,576	10,355,108
Securities	193,616,366	201,756,990
Short-term receivables from donors	180,899,818	116,126,222
Other short-term receivables	3,125,126	1,515,494
Accrued income	2,064	34,829
Total current assets	386,644,950	329,788,643
Financial assets	1,324,949	800,000
Long-term receivables from donors	214,221,941	208,204,118
Other long-term receivables	55,000	55,000
Fixed assets	13,417,713	14,119,677
Total non-current assets	229,019,603	223,178,795
Total assets	615,664,553	552,967,438
Liabilities		
Trade accounts payable	9,141	43,810
Short-term liabilities from allocations	37,470,842	45,175,366
Short-term non-interest-bearing financial liabilities	0	150,000
Other short-term liabilities	66,227	59,254
Deferred income	371,212	357,181
Total current liabilities	37,917,422	45,785,611
Long-term liabilities from allocations	126,761,698	107,899,492
Provision for property maintenance	27,814	0
Total non-current liabilities	126,789,512	107,899,492
Interest-bearing fund capital	38,386,016	39,674,167
Non-interest-bearing fund capital	305,480,343	268,274,987
Total earmarked fund capital	343,866,359	307,949,154
Total liabilities	508,573,293	461,634,257
incl. earmarked fund capital		
Foundation capital	50,000	50,000
Statutory reserves	9,837	5,996
Internally generated unrestricted capital	91,273,344	42,575,162
Annual result	15,758,079	48,702,023
Equity	107,091,260	91,333,181
Total liabilities	615,664,553	552,967,438

Income statement

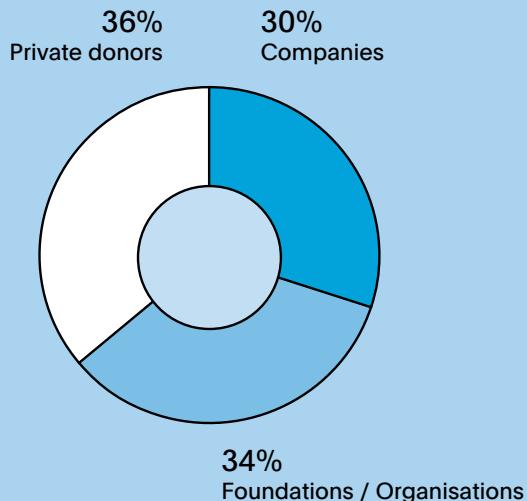
Consolidated

Income	2020 in CHF	2019 in CHF
Financial contributions, not earmarked	27,854,480	33,155,727
Financial contributions, earmarked	117,100,999	85,229,146
Financial contributions	144,955,479	118,384,873
Cancellation of donations/Repayment of donations	-787,120	-1,500,000
Total financial contributions	144,168,359	116,884,873
Net proceeds from renting	1,387,000	1,387,000
Total real estate income	1,387,000	1,387,000
Other income	12,407	6,904
Total income	145,567,766	118,278,777
Expenses		
Allocations, not earmarked	1,674,733	210,000
Allocations, earmarked	91,459,597	134,186,381
Cancellation of allocations/ Repayment of allocations	-2,785,026	-450,000
Total allocations	90,349,304	133,946,381
Expenses for property maintenance	50,000	0
Insurance expenses	7,890	8,247
Leasehold fees	128,000	128,000
Total property expenses	185,890	136,247
Personnel expenses	3,259,809	3,101,259
Facility expenses (incl. other operating expenses)	191,528	178,742
Administrative expenses (IT, accounting, mailings)	520,441	390,581
Public relations (annual report, events, internet)	543,375	442,498
Hospitality expenses	42,259	154,981
Board of Trustees, auditors and supervisory authority	36,135	27,546
Total operating expenses excl. amortisation	4,593,547	4,295,607
Amortisation of fixed assets	701,964	722,111
Total operating expenses incl. amortisation	5,295,511	5,017,718
Operating results	49,737,061	-20,821,569
Financial results		
Financial income	17,321,452	28,700,971
Financial expenses	-15,323,234	-3,807,213
Results before change in fund capital	51,735,279	4,072,189
Funds increment	-129,456,982	-86,975,962
Funds decrease	93,926,776	135,921,934
Interest fund capital	-446,994	-4,316,138
Fund result (earmarked fund)	-35,977,200	44,629,834
Annual result	15,758,079	48,702,023

Donations CHF m



Origin of funds 2003–2020



Report of the independent auditor to the Board of Trustees of the ETH Zurich Foundation, Zurich

The accompanying summary financial statements, comprising the summary balance sheet and the summary income statement as at 31 December 2020 for the financial year then ended (pages 38 and 39), are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of ETH Zurich Foundation, Zurich for the year ended 31 December 2020. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated 22 March 2021.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of ETH Zurich Foundation, Zurich.

Responsibility of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements.

Auditors' responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our audit procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Swiss Auditing Standard 810 "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements".

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of ETH Zurich Foundation, Zurich for the year ended 31 December 2020 are consistent, in all material aspects, with those financial statements.

PricewaterhouseCoopers AG



Gerhard Siegrist

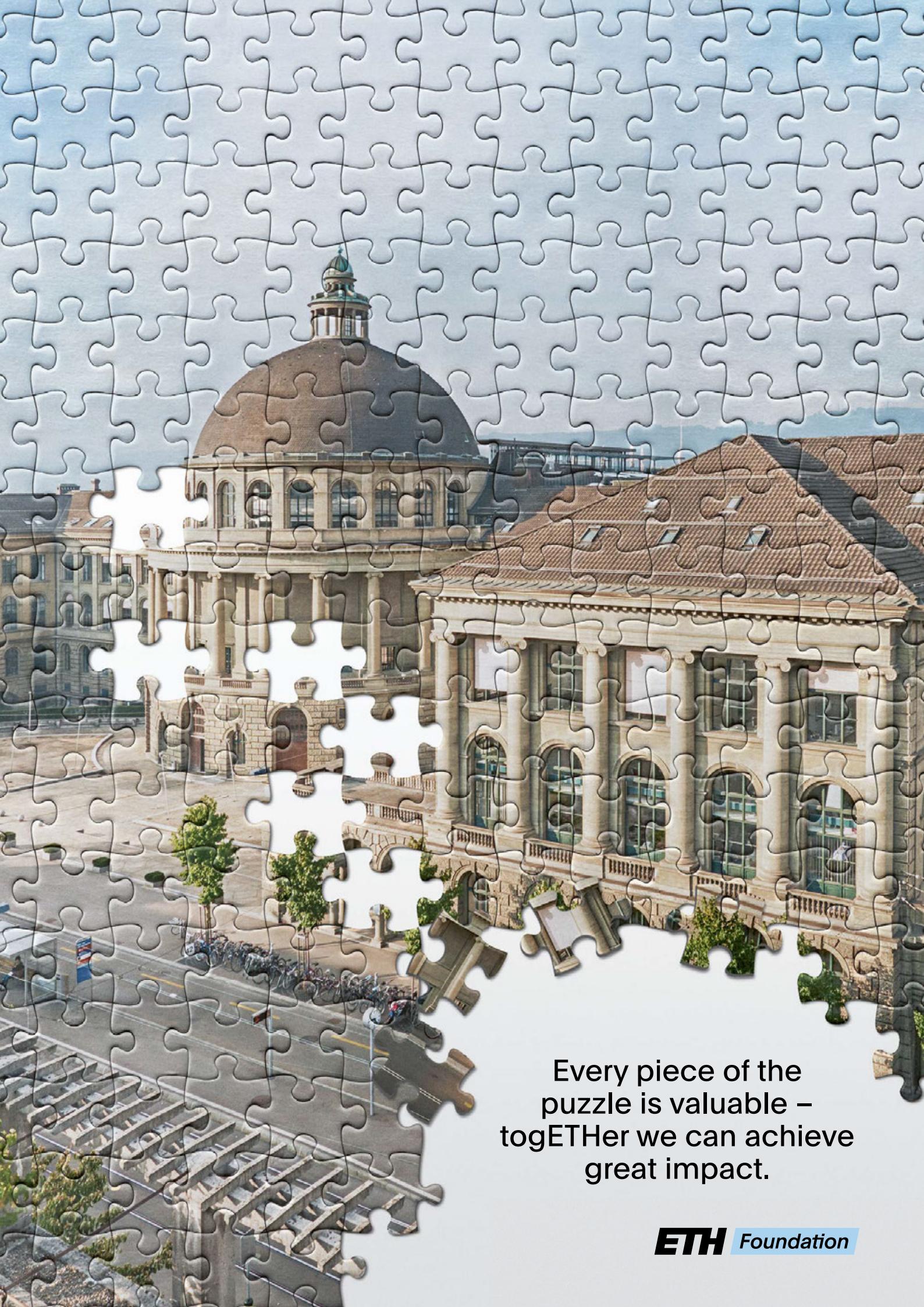


René Jenni

Zurich, 22 March 2021



Our guidelines for partnerships can be found in the Code of Conduct at
www.ethz-foundation.ch/en/code-of-conduct



Every piece of the
puzzle is valuable –
togETher we can achieve
great impact.

ETH Foundation



You can find more insights
in our annual report online:

www.ethz-foundation.ch/en/annual-report

We look forward to hearing from you

ETH Zurich Foundation
Weinbergstrasse 29
CH-8006 Zurich

T +41 (0)44 633 69 66
E info@ethz-foundation.ch

www.ethz-foundation.ch

Bank account details

Credit Suisse AG, 8070 Zurich
CHF IBAN CH87 0483 5027 0482 3100 0
EUR IBAN CH47 0483 5027 0482 32011
USD IBAN CH90 0483 5027 0482 32013
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