
The Swiss Medtech Award 2023 goes to Abionic



Rapid Diagnostic Test that could save millions of lives

At Swiss Medtech Day, the most important event in the Swiss medical technology industry with around 700 attendees, Lausanne-based company Abionic, founded in 2010, was presented with the Swiss Medtech Award valued at CHF 75,000. Abionic specialises in providing rapid diagnostic tests which function at close proximity to the patient (Point-of-Care Testing). According to the jury, this technology could revolutionise in-vitro diagnostics.

Around 700 representatives of the Swiss medical technology industry attended this year's Swiss Medtech Day. Peter Biedermann, Swiss Medtech Managing Director, is delighted with this record number. «Swiss Medtech Day is the largest platform for networking in the medtech industry and the perfect venue to present the Swiss Medtech Award. Who could better appreciate the achievement of the winning team than this particular crowd? Everyone in the room knows how much skill and work goes into developing a medical technology innovation.

This year's Swiss Medtech Award worth CHF 75,000 goes to the Point-of-Care Diagnostics company named Abionic. The company, founded in 2010 by Dr Nicolas Durand and Dr Iwan Märki as a spin-off of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), received the award in recognition of its rapid diagnostic test platform (abioSCOPE). It features a revolutionary nanotechnology-based process: patient samples such as blood, saliva, or urine can be tested for more than a dozen biomarkers in just five minutes and then, if necessary, clinical decisions can be made based on the test results.

□ This convenient and practical device can be used at the point of care – at the bedside, in the pharmacy, at the scene of an accident, or in an ambulance. «The time gained can save lives. In the case of sepsis, every hour counts,» says jury representative Andi Vonlanthen from Sonova. Sepsis – commonly known as blood poisoning – is one of the most frequent causes of death worldwide. It is an inappropriate reaction of the body to an infection whereby the body's defence system not only damages the pathogen, but its own organs as well. A quick and reliable diagnosis is crucial, as each hour without antibiotic treatment increases risk of death by 8%. The Abionic rapid test searches the blood sample for pancreatic stone protein, a biomarker produced by the pancreas in response to sepsis.

«Abionic is also impressive from an entrepreneurial point of view. In just under ten years, the founders have managed to set their company on a course of expansion by developing rapid tests for acute and primary care. Their team has succeeded impressively in bringing together talents from a multitude of scientific and technical fields, as well as clinical, regulatory and commercial ones » says Andi Vonlanthen.

Dr Nicolas Durand, CEO of Abionic, accepted the Swiss Medtech Award with great pleasure on behalf of his team. Much has changed since the company was founded – except the ambition. «We are dedicated to revolutionising in vitro diagnostics, as well as significantly improving patient care and saving lives with our rapid tests. The Swiss Medtech Award is further confirmation that we are on the right track,» says the winner.

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