

# The Swiss Rare Disease Registry

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Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine

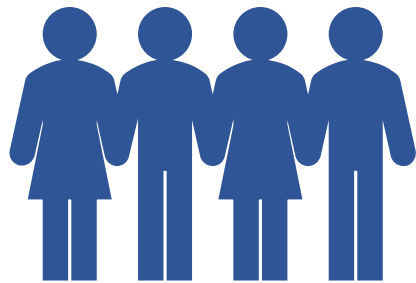
# Situation worldwide and in Switzerland

definition  
**< 1 in 2000**

**~7000**  
diseases are  
classified as **rare**

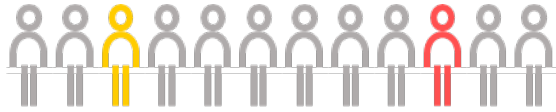


**1 in 12**  
has a **rare disease**



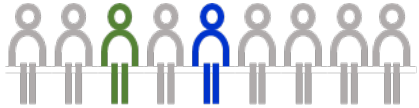
**>500 000**  
**persons** have a rare disease in  
**Switzerland**

# People with rare diseases are isolated

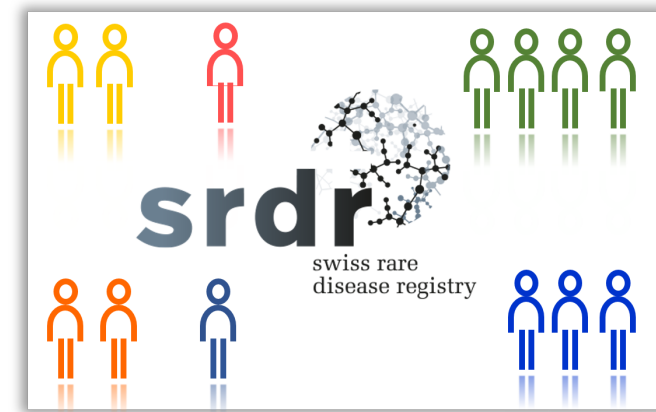


## Consequences:

- Affected persons are invisible (ICD)
- Research is impaired
- Medical care is not optimal



# Objectives



- **Setup a research platform** for clinical, epidemiological, basic and translational research on all rare diseases
- **Make people with rare diseases visible in health statistics and research**
- **Describe the situation** of rare diseases in CH
  - **Epidemiology** (incidence, prevalence, survival, mortality)
  - **Health care** (treating institution, diagnostics, management, quality indicators)
- **Facilitate study participation** for patients (national and international)
- **Integrate and harmonize** available data on rare diseases, bundle efforts
- **Build a network for communication**, for patients and health care providers

# History

2013

- Initiation
- 

2014

- The National Rare Disease Policy
- 

2015-2017

- Concept for the SRDR
- 

2018

- Ethics approval
- 

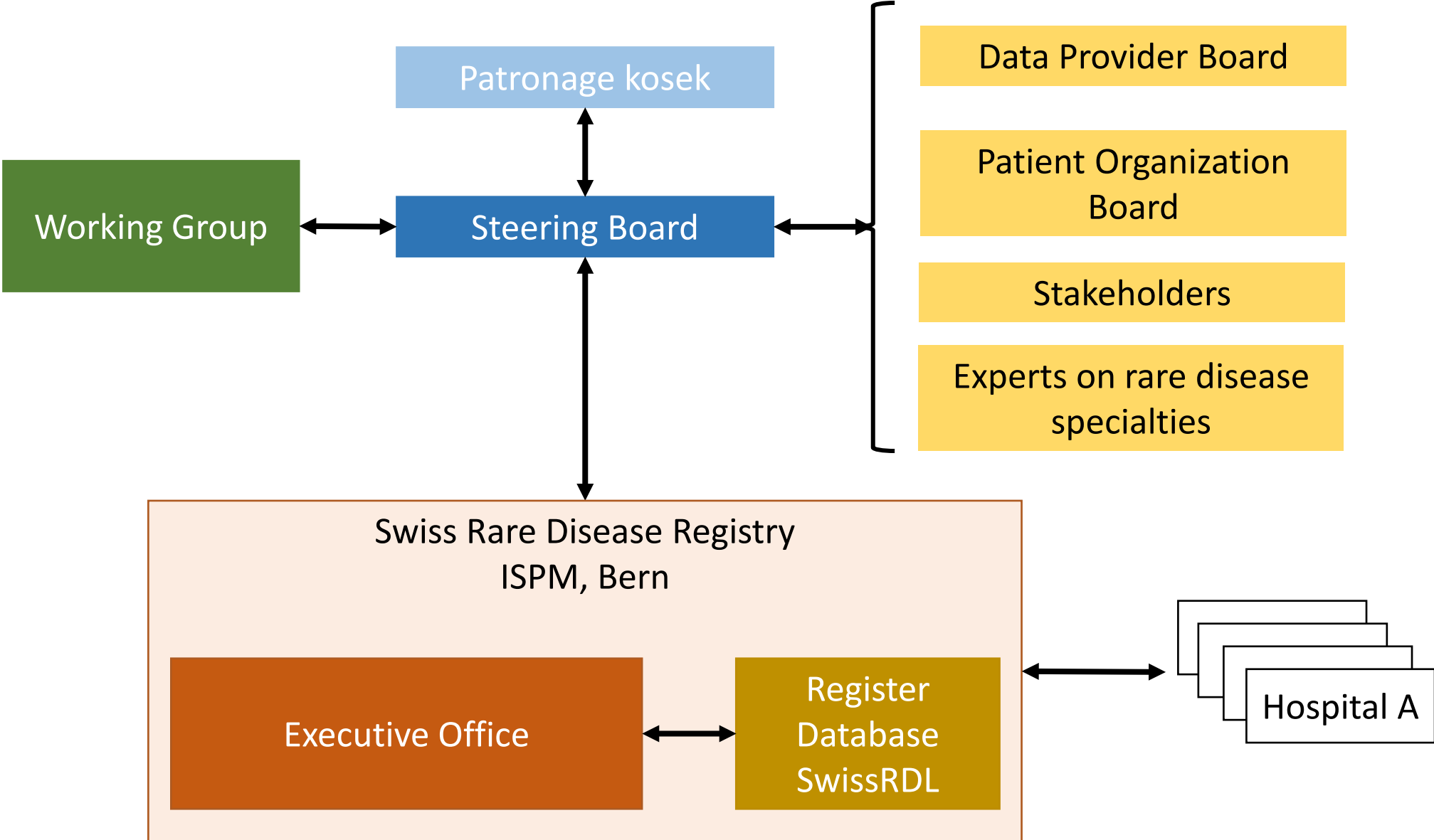
2020

- FOPH KRG Art. 24 funding approved
  - (5 years, CHF 250 000 per year)
  - Further funds needed
- 

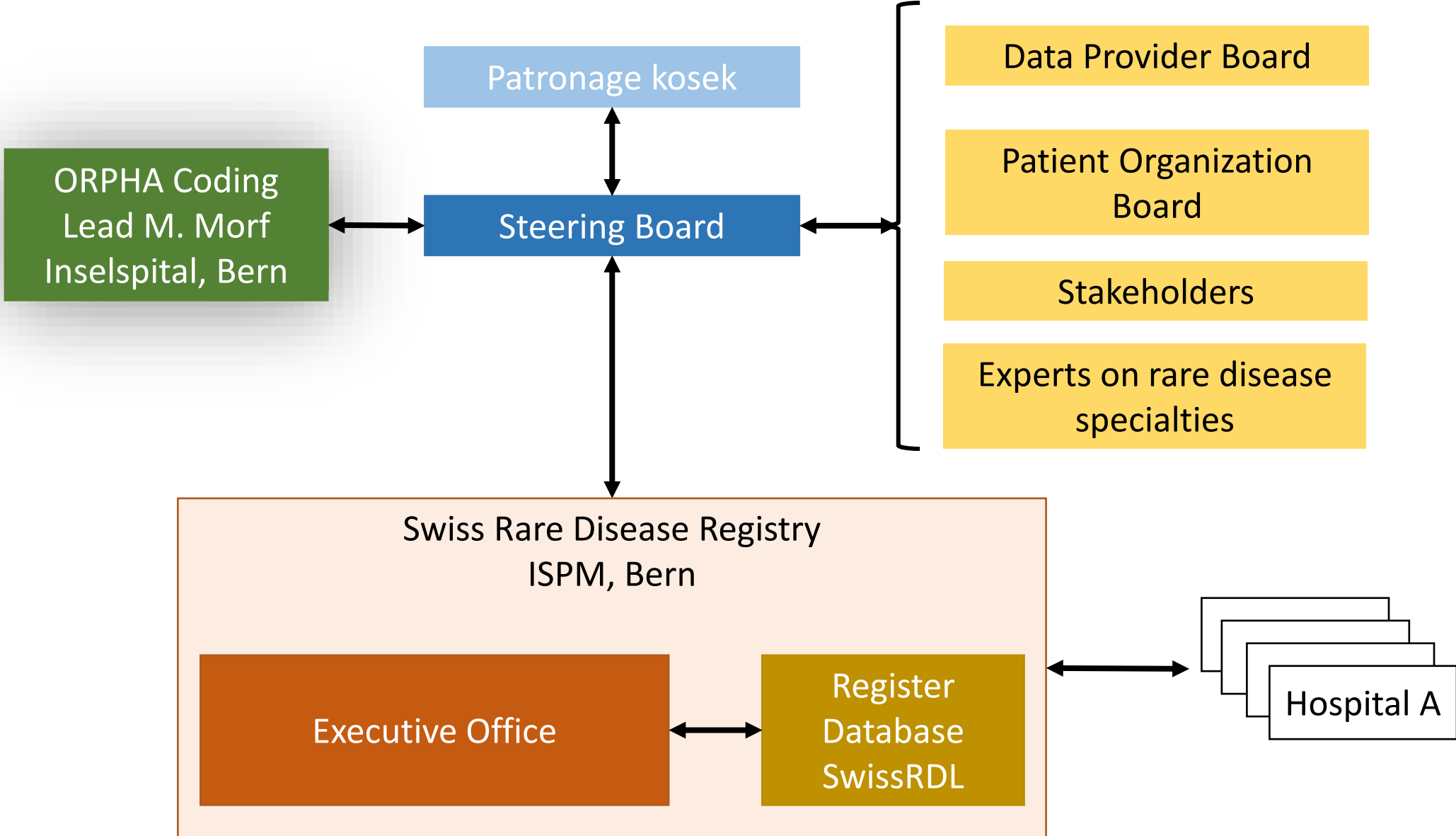
2021

- Project Manager PD Dr. Michaela Fux started

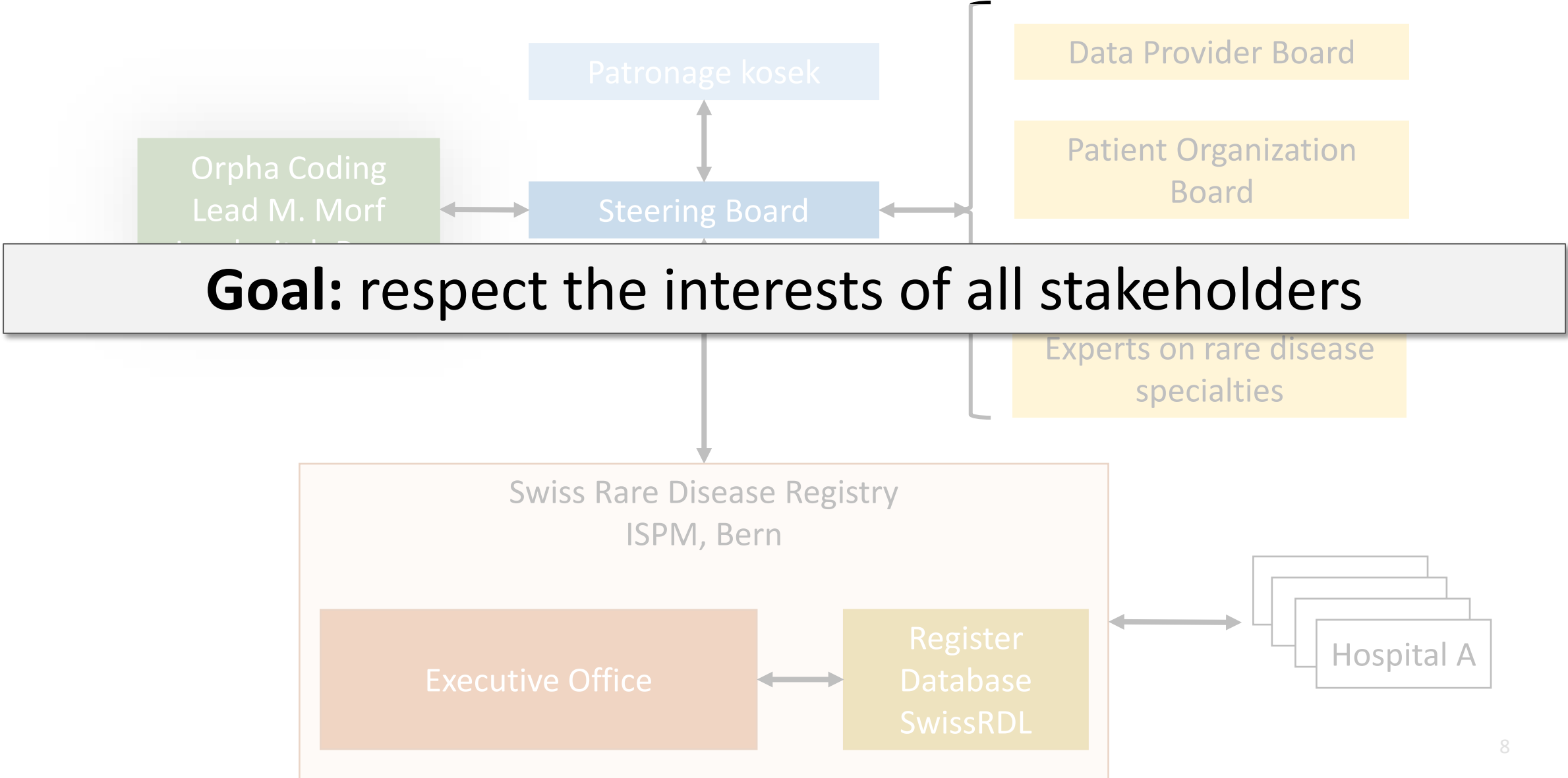
# Organization Structure: Concept in development



# Organization Structure: Concept in development



# Organization Structure: Concept in development





# Which data do we register?

## Core Data Set

### Medical Data:

Diagnose(s) (ORPHA codes)

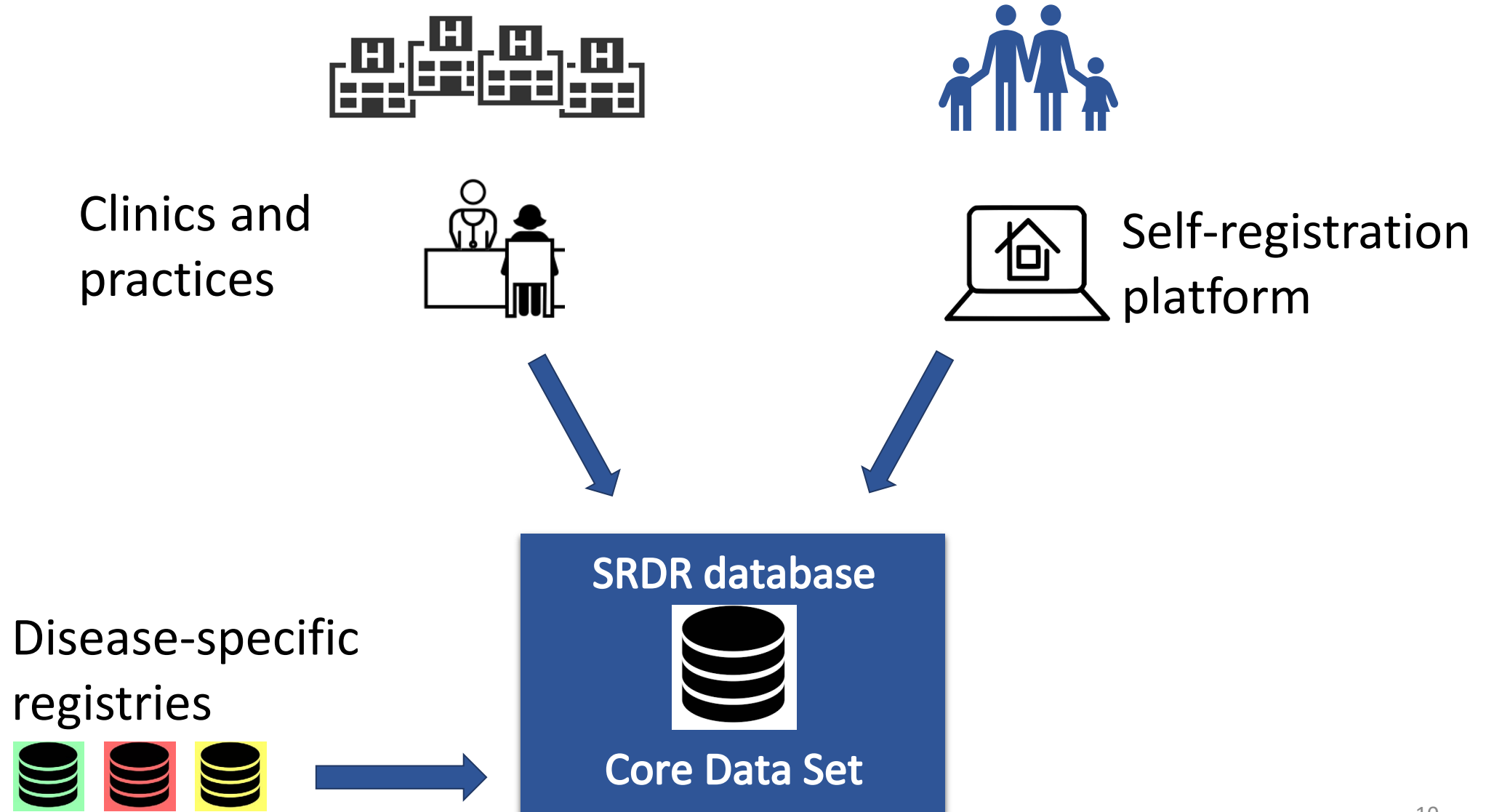
### Patient Data:

Identifying data

Health provider identifier

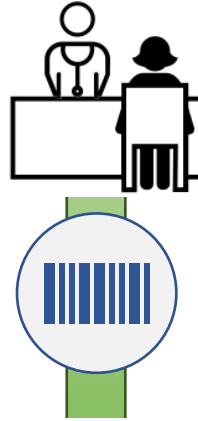
- All data are already in medical records
- **Informed consenting:** required, voluntary and withdrawable

# Sources of the Core Data Set



# Current focus: Data collection at clinics

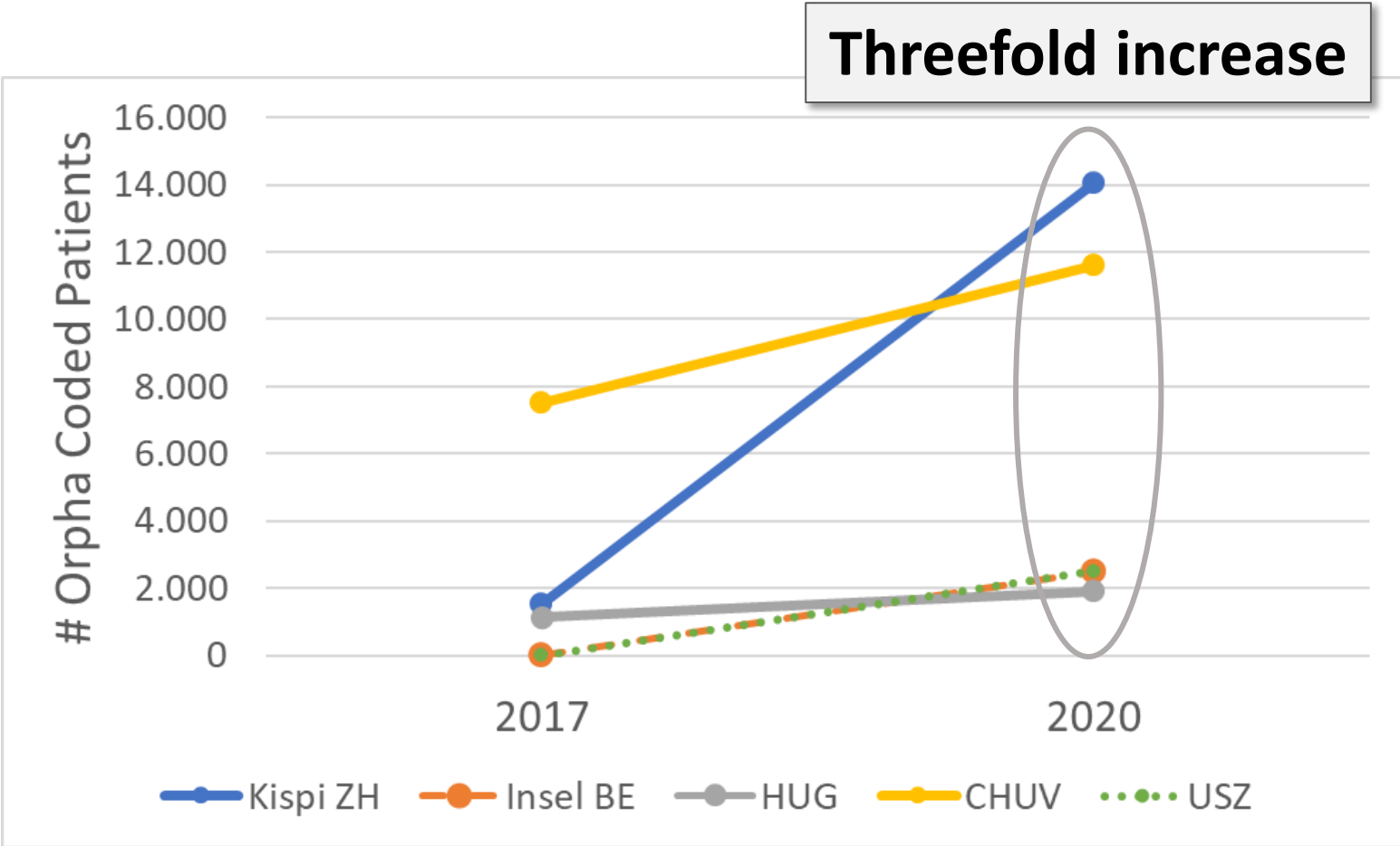
Dx of patient with a rare disease



**Orpha Coding**

**ORPHAcode:** a unique and stable identifier for rare diseases

# Number of ORPHA coded Patients in Switzerland



# Current focus: Data collection at clinics

Dx of patient with a rare disease



**Orpha Coding**



**Information  
Consenting**



- Age-appropriate
- Available in GE, FR and IT
- Clinician and patient sign or only patient signs
- Send to university hospitals, non-university hospitals and patient organizations
- Kispi ZH: 140 signed IC (state July 2021)

# Current focus: Data collection at clinics

Dx of patient with a rare disease



**Orpha Coding**



**Information  
Consenting**



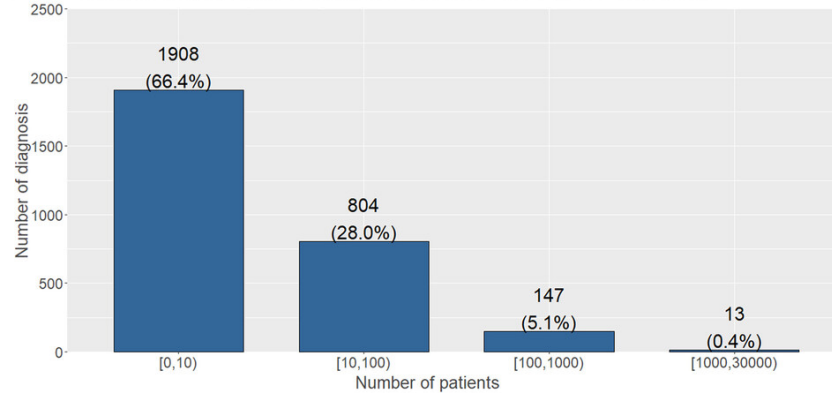
Automatic  
data transfer



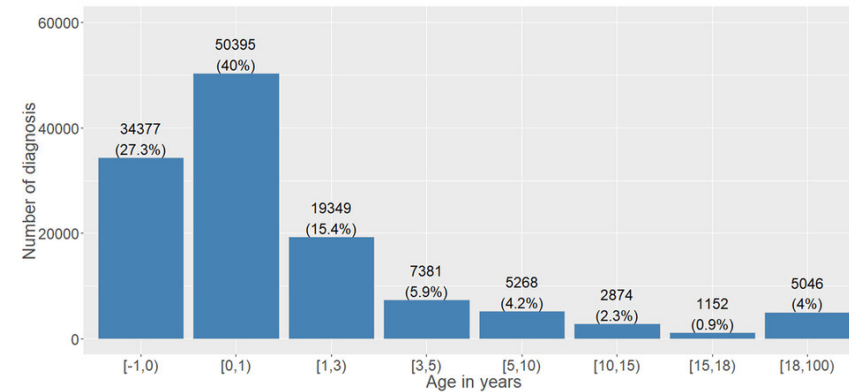
- Process started with BE, GE, ZH Kispi
- Data transfer foreseen for the first quarter of 2022
- More to follow

# The Core Data Set: Few, but relevant variables

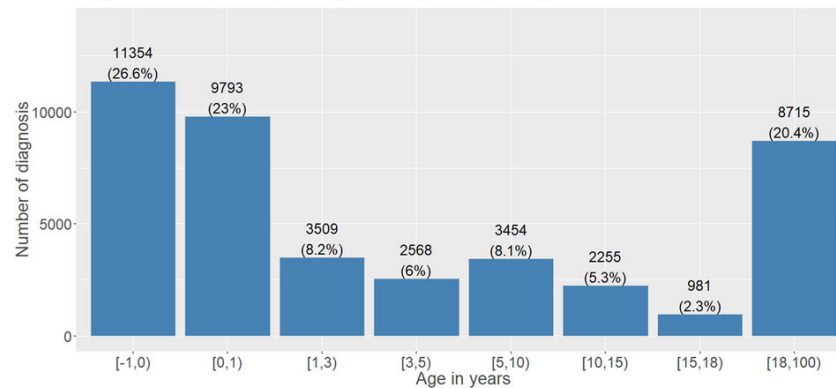
**A** Range of patient numbers within the 2,872 diseases



**B** Age range at first signs (n=125,842)



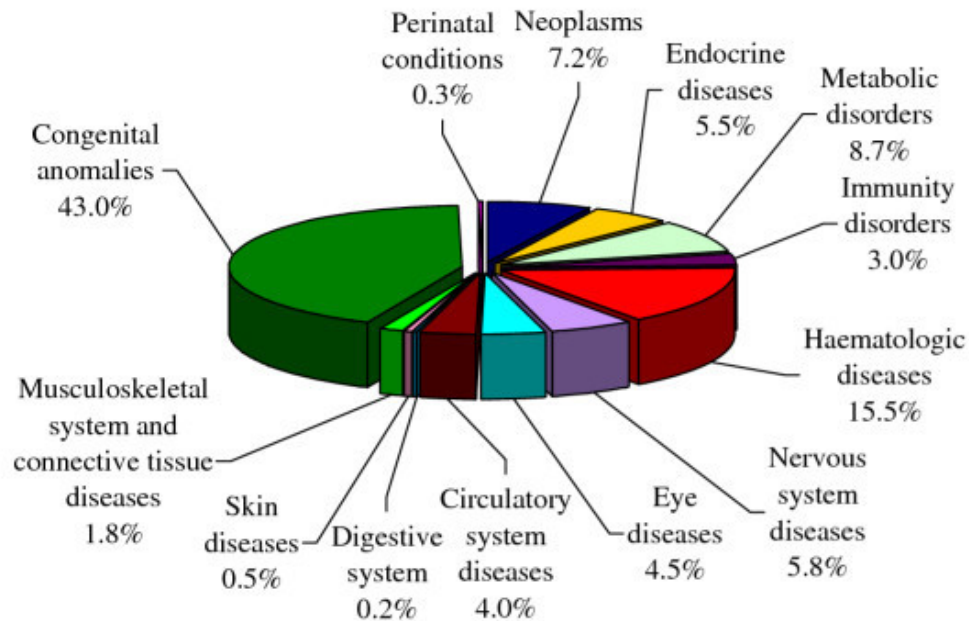
**C** Age at confirmed diagnosis (n=42,629)



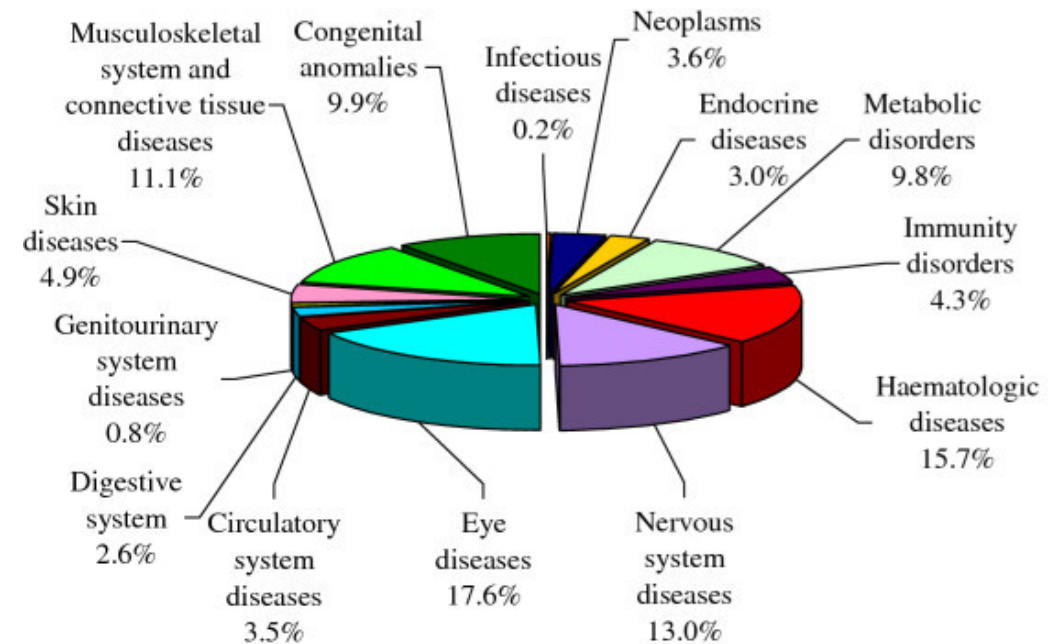
Taruscio D et al, 2014, *Blood Transfus*

# The Core Data Set: describing the prevalence.....

0-17 years

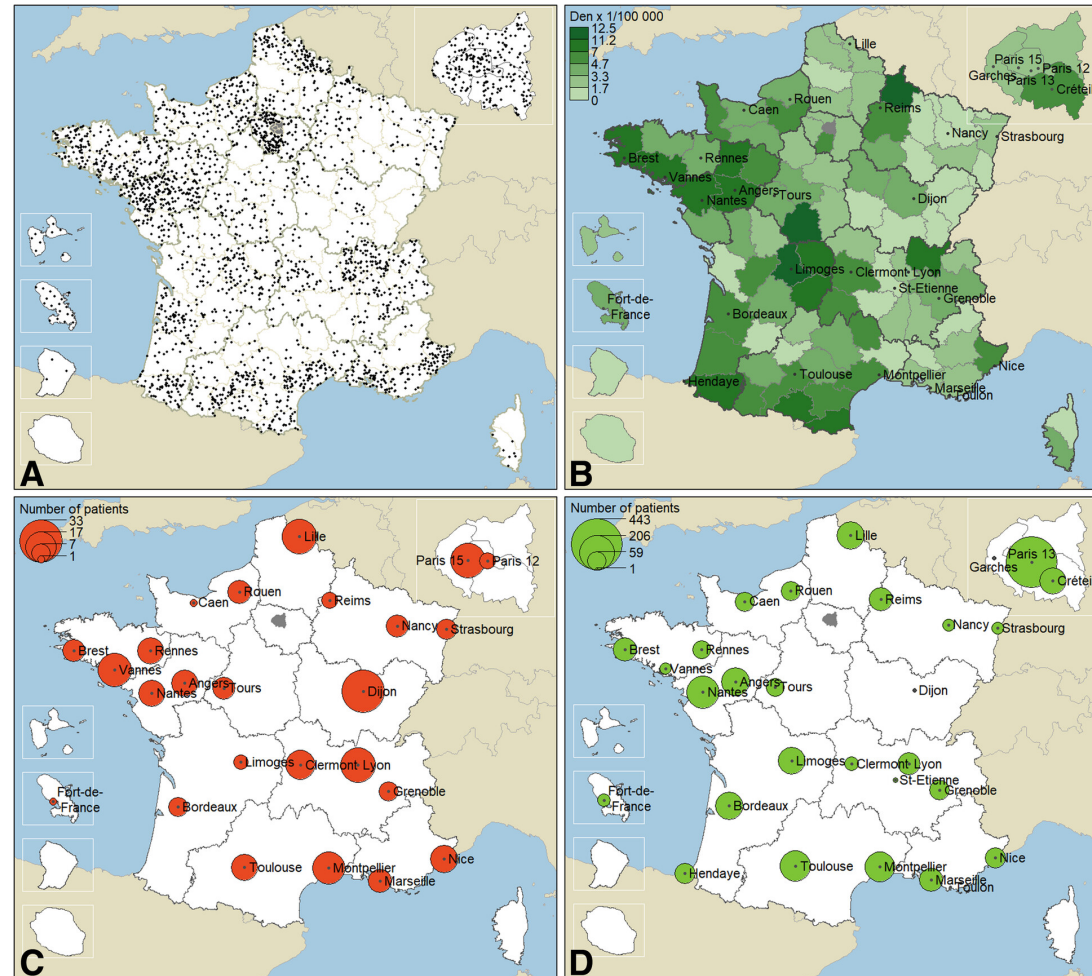


≥18 years





# ... and the regional distribution



**Feasibility study**

Antonio, MD et al, 2019,  
*Orphanet J Rare Dis.*

# Our design enables diverse studies

## I. Collection of Core Data Set

Medical Data

Patient Data

## II. Linkage with available routine data

Federal Statistical Office:

Population Statistics, birth and death statistics, hospital episode statistics

Hospitals: Clinical data warehouse (harmonized via SPHN)

## III Integration of additionally collected data (research projects)

**Disease-specific registries**

**Medical records studies**  
available data

**Questionnaire surveys**

**Cost analysis**

**Clinical studies**  
RCTs/observational studies involving patient examinations

Routine funding

Separate funding

# Possible studies in SRDR

... most examples from Swiss Childhood cancer registry  
[www.childhoodcancerregistry.ch](http://www.childhoodcancerregistry.ch)

# Study 1: Prevalence of rare pulmonary diseases + relevant health care providers

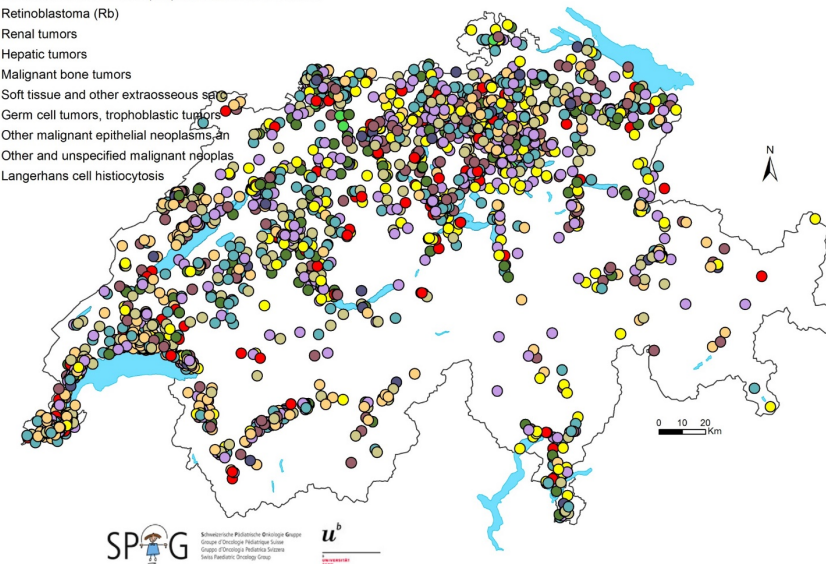
Data	<b>Only core dataset:</b> <b>Diagnosis, age, sex, region</b>
Work	Extract anonymized dataset from DB Analysis
Ethics	- (included in registry ethics)
Consent	- (included in original consent)
Significance	Insight into prevalence, age structure and regional distribution of diagnosed rare diseases; baseline for other studies

## I. Core Data Set

**Medical :** Diagnosis, date of Dx    **Personal:** Age, sex, region, health care

### Tumor main groups

- Neuroblastoma and other peripheral nervous cell tumors
- Retinoblastoma (Rb)
- Renal tumors
- Hepatic tumors
- Malignant bone tumors
- Soft tissue and other extraosseous sarcomas
- Germ cell tumors, trophoblastic tumors
- Other malignant epithelial neoplasms, an
- Other and unspecified malignant neoplasms
- Langerhans cell histiocytosis



Example from Swiss Childhood Cancer Registry

# Study 2: Survival and causes of death in patients with rare neuromuscular diseases

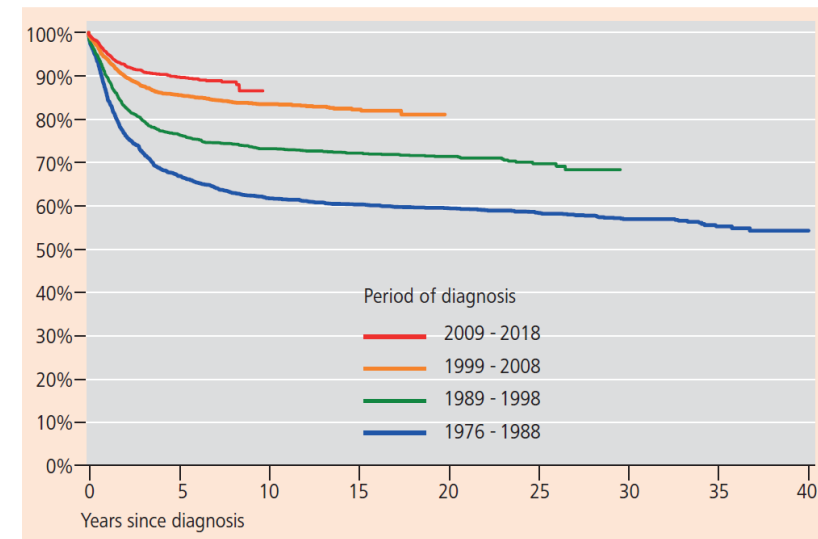
Data	<b>core dataset</b> <b>Cause of death statistics (SFSO)</b>
Work	Extract dataset from DB Link with dataset from SFSO Analyse pseudonymised dataset
Ethics	<b>inform</b> (included)
Consent	- (included)
Significance	Insight into survival of rare disease, trends over time, causes of death, international benchmarking

## I. Core Data Set

**Medical** : Diagnosis, date of Dx    **Personal**: Age, sex, region, health care

## II. Linked available routine data

**Federal Statistical Office**: Data and cause of death, birth records, hospitalisations (Dx, duration), geocodable environmental exposures



# Study 3: Air pollution & risk for interstitial lung disease

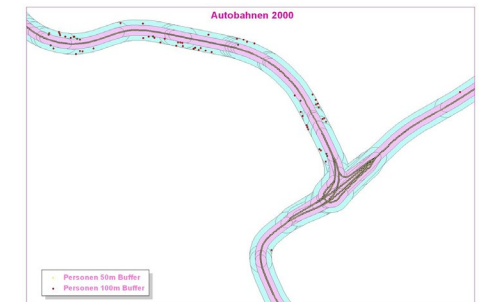
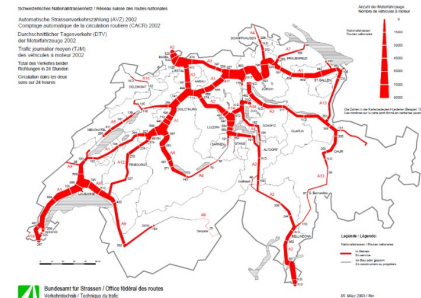
Data	<b>core dataset</b> <b>Geocoded addresses at birth &amp; at dx</b> <b>Cohort (healthy peers) from SNC/SFSO</b> <b>Exposure data from SFSO, BAFU, etc</b>
Work	Extract dataset from DB Geocode addresses (cases & peers) Estimate exposure Compare exposure cases : peers
Ethics	inform (included)
Consent	- (included)
Significance	Insight into environmental risk factors for rare disease

## I. Core Data Set

Medical : Diagnosis, date of Dx Personal: Age, sex, region, health care

## II. Linked available routine data

Federal Statistical Office: Data and cause of death, birth records, hospitalisations (Dx, duration), geocodable environmental exposures



# Study 4: Renal function and metabolic syndrome in patients with .....

Data	<b>core dataset</b> <b>Lab values and blood pressure from university hospital data warehouses (SPHN datasets)</b>
Work	Extract dataset from DB Link with data warehouses Extract lab values, heights, weights, blood pressure Analyze anonymous dataset
Ethics	- (included)
Consent	- (included)
Significance	Descriptive or analytic studies, long-term course in lab outcomes

## I. Core Data Set

**Medical** : Diagnosis, date of Dx    **Personal**: Age, sex, region, health care

**Hospitals**: Clinical data warehouse (harmonized via SPHN): Dx, lab results



# Study 5: Quality of life and PRO outcomes in patients with

.....

Data	core dataset (Dx & address) <b>Additional data collected via questionnaires</b>
Work	SRDR identifies eligible participants SRDR sends study information & questionnaire Researcher receives anonymous dataset
Ethics	<b>Small amendment</b>
Consent	<b>Collected together with questionnaire</b>
Significance	Patient-reported outcome measures

## I. Core Data Set

**Medical** : Diagnosis, date of Dx    **Personal**: Age, sex, region, health care

## Questionnaire surveys



### Swiss Survivors

Schweizer Studie zur Gesundheit nach einer Krebserkrankung, Leukämie oder Tumor im Kindes- oder Jugendalter

### Fragebogen für Jugendliche

In diesem Fragebogen geht es um die Gesundheit und die Lebensqualität von Jugendlichen Ihres Alters, welche als Kind eine schwere Erkrankung hatten (Krebs, Leukämie oder Tumor). Die Resultate werden den Ärzten helfen, die Behandlung und Nachkontrollen von krebskranken Kindern weiter zu verbessern.

Ihre Antworten werden streng vertraulich behandelt. Die erste Seite und letzte Seite mit Ihrem Namen, Ihrer E-Mail Adresse und Telefonnummer werden von uns vom Fragebogen abgelöst und vertraulich aufbewahrt. Die Eingabe des restlichen Fragebogens in den Computer und die Auswertung erfolgen anonym.

Senden Sie den ausgefüllten Fragebogen bitte im beigelegten und vorfrankierten Couvert an uns zurück. Bei Schwierigkeiten oder Fragen dürfen Sie sich gerne an Dr. med. Rahel Kasteler oder Annette Weiss wenden.

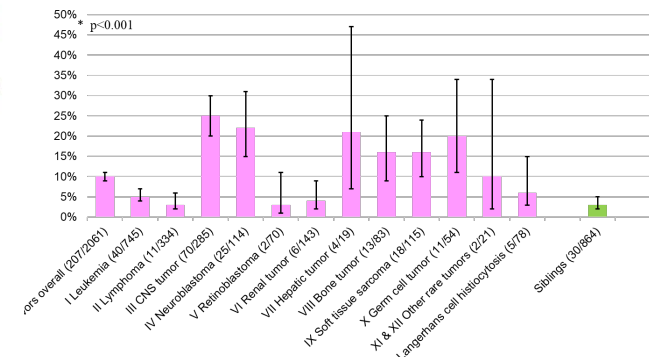
Telefon: 031 631 33 47  
E-Mail: rahel.kasteler@ispm.unibe.ch oder annette.weiss@ispm.unibe.ch



Schweizerische Pädiatrische Onkologie Gruppe (SPOG), www.spog.ch  
SPOG Office, Eftingerstrasse 40, 3005 Bern

Kinderkrabshilfe Schweiz (www.kinderkrabshilfe.ch)  
Florastrasse 14, 4600 Olten

Schweizer Kinderkrebsregister (www.kinderkrebsregister.ch)  
Institut für Sozial- und Präventivmedizin, Universität Bern, Finkenhubelweg 11, 3012 Bern





# Study 6: Randomized controlled trial of new drug X in patients with ....

Data	core dataset (Dx & address) <b>Additional data collected in study</b>
Work	<b>SRDR identifies eligible participants</b> <b>SRDR sends study info to patients</b> <b>Patients</b> return form to researcher <b>Researcher</b> contacts participants (and their physicians) for detailed study information and potential recruitment
Ethics	<b>Separate ethics</b>
Consent	Necessary, oral and written information
Significance	Fast identification & contact of participants for (inter-) national study

## I. Core Data Set

**Medical** : Diagnosis, date of Dx    **Personal**: Age, sex, region, health care

**Clinical studies**  
RCTs/observational  
studies involving  
patient examinations

Efficacy and safety of azithromycin maintenance therapy in primary ciliary dyskinesia (BESTCILIA): a multicentre, double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled phase 3 trial

Helene E Kobbernagel, MD • Frederik F Buchvald, PhD • Eric G Haarman, PhD • Carmen Casaulta, MD • Samuel A Collins, PhD • Prof Claire Hogg, MD • et al. [Show all authors](#)

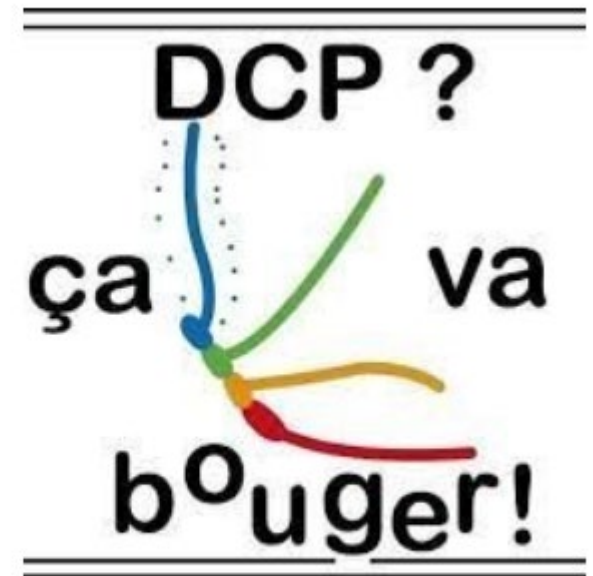
Published: May, 2020 • DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-2600\(20\)30058-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-2600(20)30058-8) •  Check for updates

# Study 7: Set up a patient and family support group for people living with Noonan syndrome....

## I. Core Data Set

**Medical :** Diagnosis, date of Dx    **Personal:** Age, sex, region, health care

Data	<b>core dataset (Dx &amp; address)</b>
Work	<b>SRDR</b> identifies eligible participants SRDR sends info to eligible people <b>Interested people can directly contact group organizer /apply 4 membership</b>
Ethics	Not needed
Consent	Not needed
Significance	Enable people with a rare disease to network with each other



Contact: **Isabelle Cizeau**

# In summary



## **Assuming ..**

- sufficient & sustainable funding
- health care providers' willingness and speed of to provide data

## **The SRDR will be ..**

- A national data node and FAIR research platform for all rare diseases
- efficient and affordable

## **And allows Switzerland to ..**

- perform epidemiological studies, health care research & basic research
- Fill gaps in knowledge rapidly
- **Improve health and QOL for people living with a rare disease**