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Dr. med. Antonia Müller was awarded the research prize, which is worth of 30,000 francs, for her work on the “Complex interactions after blood stem cell transplantation – immune function, pharmacological immunosuppression, GVHD and CMV reactivation”.

The aim of this project is to study the associations between graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), its drug treatment and the immune function after blood stem cell transplantation. GVHD occurs because the transplanted immune system of the donor identifies the tissue in the recipient as foreign and attacks it. This often severe clinical picture is prevented or treated using medicines that suppress the immune system. On the whole, this leads to the transplanted patient displaying a highly compromised immune defence system and thus extreme susceptibility to infections, especially virus infections.