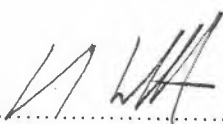
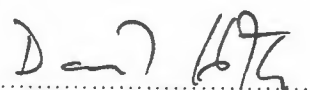




**Letter of Intent**

**Transfer of Grants – ‘Money follows Researcher’ (MfR)**

1. The Science Europe Member Organisation Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) is dedicated to the further development of the European Research Area (ERA) and fully acknowledges its role in the advancement of research in Europe.
2. One of the preconditions for a successful ERA is the possibility for researchers to move to, and work at, the places best suited to their needs. One way to use existing national funding across Europe is to allow researchers to take with them the remainder of their grants to their new host institution.
3. The objective is to enable continuity of funding when researchers move locations, regardless of the reasons for mobility. This funding continuity can safeguard funding organisation investments in specific projects and minimise the disruption of work programmes.
4. In order to achieve the ambition of this Letter of Intent, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) shall authorise researchers moving to another country to use the remainder of a current research grant for the continuation of their research abroad.
5. This Letter of Intent covers funding as indicated by each organisation in their national annex, displayed on their own webpages.
6. The authorisation for a transfer must be requested by the Principal Investigator wishing to move.
7. The grant shall be continued at the new research institution as closely as possible to the original terms and objectives.
8. Due consideration should be given to all members of the research team directly or indirectly impacted by the transferral of funds.
9. The conditions and requirements for MfR, as well as the components of a grant that are transferable, are listed in the annex to this Letter.
10. Data on the number of transfers, the amount of budget it transferred and the receiving countries will be collected by the Science Europe Office with the agreement of MOs for internal analysis and review. The Letter of Intent is publicised on the Science Europe website in order to make it transparent.
11. If the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) would like to withdraw from the agreement, the Science Europe Office should be notified.

Date: 15.7.2014 Signatures:  

Martin Vetterli, President

Daniel Höchli, Director



## **Annex: Terms and Conditions**

Each organisation must clarify the exact terms and conditions of the transferral of grants within three months after the Letter of Intent is signed. As a minimum requirement the organisation will provide the following:

1. List of types of grants which can be taken abroad:
  - Individual projects in all disciplines: projects funded by the Humanities and Social Sciences division, the Mathematics, Natural and Engineering Sciences division, the Biology and Medicine division, Interdisciplinary projects funded by CoRe division.
  - To a limited extent: career funding schemes.
2. Parts of the grants (types of cost) which are transferrable:
  - In principle, all direct costs: research funds (consumables, travel costs, other costs), salaries (for collaborators, not for the principal investigator), small equipment, but no indirect costs (overhead).
3. Conditions and requirements for submitting an MfR request including information on how direct and indirect impacts on research teams will be managed:
  - A detailed request must be submitted to the responsible division of the SNSF as early as possible. The SNSF makes decisions as to the further use of funds (e.g. use within Switzerland, transfer abroad, budget items, duration, etc.).
  - The project has to be feasible at the new host institution (concerning infrastructure, work contracts, etc.).
  - No additional funds can be requested for projects that are carried out outside of Switzerland.

4. Limitations to the transfer of the grants:

- The grants can be transferred to any country.
- If the principal investigator moves to another country after their proposal was approved but before the project has actually started, the SNSF only funds the first year of the project. If the principal investigator moves to Germany or Austria before the project has started, special rules apply, which are covered by an agreement between the German Research Foundation DFG, the Austrian Science Fund FWF and the SNSF.

5. Other relevant regulations:

- There is no legal claim to MFR.