Swiss National Science Foundation

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Short biography of Prof. Dr. Torsten Schwede

Torsten Schwede, a renowned bioinformatician, has presided the Research Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation since 2025. He is Professor of Structural Bioinformatics at the University of Basel and a research group leader at the SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, where he has been teaching and conducting research on protein structure modeling since 2001. Such models are used, for example, in the development of pharmaceutical agents. From 2018 to 2024, Professor Schwede served as Vice President for Research at the University of Basel, where he was responsible for support for early-career researchers, internationalization, and digital research infrastructures.

Curriculum vitae

2025 –	Swiss National Science Foundation, President
2007 –	University of Basel, Professor for Structural Bioinformatics
2018 – 2024	University of Basel, Vice President for Research
2002 – 2007	University of Basel, Assistant Professor (TTAP) for Structural Bioinformatics
1999 – 2001	GlaxoWelcome / GSK, Geneva, Postdoctoral Researcher
1994 – 1998	University of Freiburg i.Br., PhD in Protein Crystallography
1991 – 1994	University of Freiburg i.Br., Chemistry student
1988 – 1991	University of Bayreuth, Chemistry student

About the SNSF

Based on a government mandate, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) supports scientific research in all academic disciplines – from physics to medicine to sociology. The SNSF is Switzerland's leading organisation for the promotion of scientific research. To ensure its independence, the SNSF was established in 1952 as a private foundation. Its core task is the evaluation of research proposals. By awarding public research money based on the principle of competition, the SNSF contributes to the high quality of research in Switzerland. In close collaboration with higher education institutions and other partners, the SNSF strives to create the best possible conditions for the development and global interconnectedness of Swiss research. It pays particular attention to the promotion of early-career researchers. In addition, it accepts evaluation mandates to help ensure that large third-party-funded research initiatives deliver the highest scientific quality.

Selected Roles and Responsibilities

2019 – 2023	SNSF Swiss National Science Foundation, Member of the Foundation Council
2016 – 2019	SPHN Swiss Personalized Health Network, Director of the Data Coordination Center
2013 – 2018	IMI Innovative Medicines Initiative, Member of the Scientific Committee
2011 –	CASP - Critical Assessment of Protein Structure Prediction, Co-organizer
2007 – 2018	SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, Member of the Executive Board

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Research Interests

Computational structural biology, molecular modelling, AI/ML approaches in structure prediction, benchmarking and critical assessment, bioinformatics, data science.

Publications & Impact:

Scholar Google: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=sX-HeS8AAAAJ
Web of Science: http://www.researcherid.com/rid/A-4650-2008
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