

Dr. Thomas Werder Schläpfer

Thomas Werder Schläpfer is Co-Director of the SNSF since 1 April 2025. He is a member of the executive management of the SNSF and responsible for research funding operations. As Co-Director, he is also a member of the Academic Board of the Research Council. After his PhD in computational science at ETH Zürich, he held various positions in private industry and was head of an R&D department and global technology manager for generator circuit breakers at ABB before joining the SNSF in 2017.



Curriculum vitae

- 2025 – Co-Director of the Swiss National Science Foundation
- 2020 – Member of the Executive Management of the Swiss National Science Foundation, Chief Operations Officer
- 2017 – 2020 Head of Division Mathematics, Natural and Engineering Sciences, SNSF
- 2014 – 2017 Head of R&D and Global Technology Manager, ABB High Current Systems
- 2011 – 2014 Group Leader Basic Development, ABB High Current Systems
- 2008 – 2011 Principal Scientist, ABB Corporate Research
- 2005 – 2008 Computational engineer, Helbling Technik AG
- 2000 – 2004 PhD, ETH Zürich, Institute of Computational Science (ABB-Research Prize, Medal of ETH Zurich)
- 1997 – 2000 Master, Computational science, ETH Zürich
- 1995 – 1997 Bachelor, Mechanical engineering, EPF Lausanne

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.