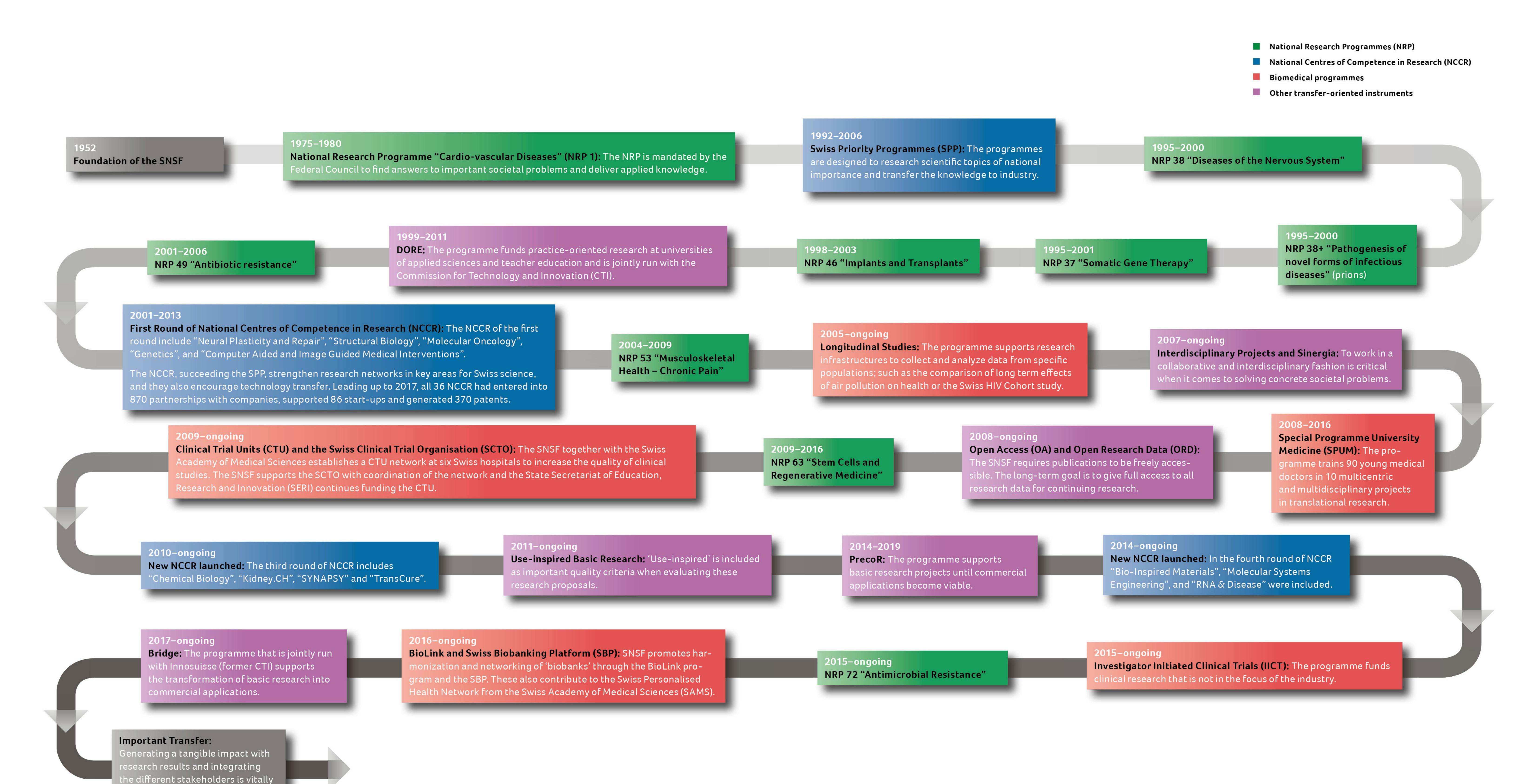# Encouraging Innovation at the SNSF

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) has increasingly been encouraging researchers to transfer their knowledge and technologies into industry and government for the benefit of society.

- National Research Programmes (NRP)
- National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCR)
- Biomedical programmes
- Other transfer-oriented instruments

1952
Foundation of the SNSF

1975–1980
National Research Programme "Cardio-vascular Diseases" (NRP 1): The NRP is mandated by the Federal Council to find answers to important societal problems and deliver applied knowledge.

1992–2006
Swiss Priority Programmes (SPP): The programmes are designed to research scientific topics of national importance and transfer the knowledge to industry.

1995–2000
NRP 38 "Diseases of the Nervous System"

2001–2006
NRP 49 "Antibiotic resistance"

1999–2011
DORE: The programme funds practice-oriented research at universities of applied sciences and teacher education and is jointly run with the Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI).

1998–2003
NRP 46 "Implants and Transplants"

1995–2001
NRP 37 "Somatic Gene Therapy"

1995–2000
NRP 38+ "Pathogenesis of novel forms of infectious diseases" (prions)

2001–2013
First Round of National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCR): The NCCR of the first round include "Neural Plasticity and Repair", "Structural Biology", "Molecular Oncology", "Genetics", and "Computer Aided and Image Guided Medical Interventions".
The NCCR, succeeding the SPP, strengthen research networks in key areas for Swiss science, and they also encourage technology transfer. Leading up to 2017, all 36 NCCR had entered into 870 partnerships with companies, supported 86 start-ups and generated 370 patents.

2004–2009
NRP 53 "Musculoskeletal Health – Chronic Pain"

2005–ongoing
Longitudinal Studies: The programme supports research infrastructures to collect and analyze data from specific populations; such as the comparison of long term effects of air pollution on health or the Swiss HIV Cohort study.

2007–ongoing
Interdisciplinary Projects and Sinergia: To work in a collaborative and interdisciplinary fashion is critical when it comes to solving concrete societal problems.

2009–ongoing
Clinical Trial Units (CTU) and the Swiss Clinical Trial Organisation (SCTO): The SNSF together with the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences establishes a CTU network at six Swiss hospitals to increase the quality of clinical studies. The SNSF supports the SCTO with coordination of the network and the State Secretariat of Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) continues funding the CTU.

2009–2016
NRP 63 "Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine"

2008–ongoing
Open Access (OA) and Open Research Data (ORD): The SNSF requires publications to be freely accessible. The long-term goal is to give full access to all research data for continuing research.

2008–2016
Special Programme University Medicine (SPUM): The programme trains 90 young medical doctors in 10 multicentric and multidisciplinary projects in translational research.

2010–ongoing
New NCCR launched: The third round of NCCR includes "Chemical Biology", "Kidney.CH", "SYNAPSY" and "TransCure".

2011–ongoing
Use-inspired Basic Research: 'Use-inspired' is included as important quality criteria when evaluating these research proposals.

2014–2019
PrecoR: The programme supports basic research projects until commercial applications become viable.

2014–ongoing
New NCCR launched: In the fourth round of NCCR "Bio-Inspired Materials", "Molecular Systems Engineering", and "RNA & Disease" were included.

2017–ongoing
Bridge: The programme that is jointly run with Innosuisse (former CTI) supports the transformation of basic research into commercial applications.

2016–ongoing
BioLink and Swiss Biobanking Platform (SBP): SNSF promotes harmonization and networking of 'biobanks' through the BioLink program and the SBP. These also contribute to the Swiss Personalised Health Network from the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS).

2015–ongoing
NRP 72 "Antimicrobial Resistance"

2015–ongoing
Investigator Initiated Clinical Trials (IICT): The programme funds clinical research that is not in the focus of the industry.

Important Transfer:
Generating a tangible impact with research results and integrating the different stakeholders is vitally important.