



DICEL (Documentation, Information, Communication and E-Learning)

The STI library and documentation centre

One of the main tasks of the centre is the dissemination of scientific information. Electronic resources are steadily increasing and thus the media collection, as a reference collection, has to be regularly updated. Despite access to virtual libraries, subscriptions are still maintained to about 70 (year 2000, ca 100) important journals which are not available elsewhere. The centre provides professional training and assistance in the fields of information and documentation, not only in Switzerland but also for partner institutions in the South.

Information and communication technology

The main project in 2004 was the installation of a new computer network and a new server room which guarantee better performance and higher security for our communication systems. The new network – with a cable length of over 120 km – will also be used for the new telephone and technical alarm systems, and will replace the old pager system with mobile phones. The system will be operational from November 2004.

Other projects include the development of a new website for 2005 based on a data management system. This should provide a more convenient way to keep the site up-dated.

E-learning

The E-learning project 'TropEduWeb' of the Swiss Virtual Campus was completed in 2003. The website offers fact sheets on pathogens, self-learning modules on various topics in tropical medicine, and also incorporates a virtual microscope for parasitological diagnosis. Version 1.0 of the learning software for our new block course 'Infektionsbiologie und Epidemiologie' for the Bachelor's degree in Biology has been completed.

In addition, the basic course 'Parasitologie und Parasitismus' is running on the didactic concept of 'blended learning' combining student-teacher interactions with self-learning phases using the available learning software (version 1.2).



The core team of the E-learning project 'TropEduWeb': Prof. Hanspeter Rohr, co-ordinator and 'driving force' of the project, his wife Birgit who mastered a huge workload and Henning Bennicke (seated) who did the amazing programming for the Web-Microscope and Web-Viewer (Photo N. Weiss).

Biostatistics Unit

The Biostatistics Unit offers services to in-house collaborators and conducts its own methodological research (see section 5). The unit provides training in statistics for MSc and PhD students.

Central laboratory

The central laboratory is responsible for maintaining a series of parasites in various life cycle stages, and for preparing teaching materials for courses as well as parasite material for research and serological tests. The laboratory also contributes to teaching and training in courses on the microscopical diagnosis of parasitic diseases.

Cafeteria

In 2003, the STI opened with great success its own self-service cafeteria 'Chez Yvette' named after Yvette Endriss who is responsible for the management and catering (which includes her excellent home-made cakes and tarts!). Occasionally, she also offers tasty meals.



▲ Yvette Endriss is a great manager of the new STI cafeteria (Photo N. Weiss).

◀ The signboard 'Chez Yvette' is an artwork by Markus Weber (Photo N. Weiss).

Technical services

A substantial subvention from the Canton of Basel-Stadt (CHF 1.5 million) allowed us to not only install the new computer network but also renovate the 'Föhre' – the oldest building at the STI – and rehabilitate the old animal room.



Paul Haas – our multitasking craftsman – was kept very busy with all the renovation work in 2003/2004. The picture shows him during the construction of the new server room (Photo N. Weiss).

The Jubilee Foundation

The Jubilee Foundation was established in 1993, to mark the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Institute. Its aim is to promote innovative research in the STI in three main areas: life-threatening malaria; urbanisation and urban health, and health and the environment in the Sahelian zone. The STI Directorate will be happy to provide further information.

The R. Geigy Foundation

During his lifetime, Professor Rudolf Geigy established two foundations to support the Swiss Tropical Institute. These have now been combined to form the *R. Geigy-Stiftung* (RGS). The aim of the Foundation is to support activities that cannot be financed from other sources. One of the primary aims of the original foundations was to support young scientists doing field work and to help scientists to publish their results. Grants are also made for the acquisition of special pieces of equipment and for special expenses such as renovation of the buildings. Support from the RGS for research is indicated under 'Funding' in the individual sections of the Report.



100 Years Rudolf Geigy
5.–6. December 2002

Prof. F. Gutzwiller, Chairman of the Board of Governors, at the Geigy-Symposium in 2002 (Photos by R. Dürr, photographic layout by N. Weiss).



'Hommage à Rudolf Geigy': Celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founder of the STI, Prof. Rudolf Geigy, 5 and 6 December 2002 (Photo R. Dürr).