Press Release

DEBIOPHARM JOINS THE WORKING GROUP OF THE NAIPO INITIATIVE: TRANSFORMING CANCER CARE WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

A new national initiative aims to develop a secure, swiss-hosted infrastructure to enable AI-enhanced precision oncology across Switzerland while ensuring sensitive and personal health data remains protected.

Lausanne, September 17, 2025 – Debiopharm (www.debiopharm.com), a privately-owned Swiss biopharmaceutical company committed to establishing tomorrow's standard of care to cure cancer and infectious diseases, announces its participation in the working group of the NAIPO initiative (National AI Initiative for Precision Oncology), alongside many Swiss institutions. This national project, supported by Innosuisse, aims to accelerate cancer care with the use of artificial intelligence. As part of one of the initiative's workstreams, Debiopharm will leverage its expertise in OMICS data processing, precision medicine, and bioinformatics to provide the NAIPO team with relevant OMICS data, supporting the training of AI models designed to enhance clinical oncology diagnostics.

According to the Global Cancer Observatory, cancer remains one of the country's most pressing public health challenges, with nearly 58,000 new cases and close to 20,000 deaths recorded in 2022. Achieving fully personalized care remains challenging due to fragmented data and limited integration across institutions. A closer coordination across the national healthcare network will result in more effective and equitable treatments for patients.

NAIPO (National AI Initiative for Precision Oncology) responds to this need with an integrated, AI-powered precision oncology platform to transform cancer care delivery. By applying advanced AI models at every stage of the patient journey, it aims to optimize diagnostics, personalize treatments, and support data-driven clinical decision-making. "Building on lessons from previous efforts in precision oncology in Switzerland, our initiative targets the development of novel, clinically informed AI tools by seamlessly integrating a common data platform, continuously adapting robust models, and designing effective clinical interfaces and patient apps." says Dorina Thanou, lead of the initiative at the EPFL AI Center.

Selected as a Flagship Initiative by Innosuisse, the Swiss Innovation Agency, NAIPO will unfold over four years under the leadership of the EPFL AI Center and ETH AI Center, uniting a large transdisciplinary team from a wide array of institutions including the Swiss Data Science Center (SDSC), the Swiss National Supercomputing Centre (CSCS), the Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts of Northwestern Switzerland, the Bern University of Applied Sciences, the Universities and University Hospitals of Basel, Bern, Geneva, and Zurich, Debiopharm, Roche, SOPHIA GENETICS, Switch, Tune Insight, as well as the regional hospitals of Aarau, Baden, Ticino, Luzern and Winterthur and the private clinics of Hirslanden and Swiss Medical Network. With an expected total cost of CHF 18.9 million, the project will receive approximately CHF 8.25 million in public funding from Innosuisse with the remaining amount coming from the implementation partners.

Transforming cancer research

NAIPO pioneers new AI approaches in cancer research and care, from clinical decision-support agents and large language models for records mining, to foundation models for treatment response prediction and privacy-preserving approaches. “Combined with high-throughput experimental models and patient avatars, these technologies will allow us to capture and model each patient’s uniqueness.The program will redefine AI’s role in medicine and strengthen Switzerland’s position as a leader in medical AI innovation” said Elisa Oricchio, director of the Swiss Institute of Experimental Cancer Research (ISREC) at EPFL

“Tailoring predictions and recommendations to individual patients is one of the most exciting aspects of NAIPO,” said Charlotte Bunne, professor at EPFL working on model development. “Our models will continuously learn from curated biomedical literature, as well as from individual biological and clinical data to identify potential new targets, biomarkers, and investigational drugs. Novel AI-driven insights will be integrated with clinically validated models and translated into decision-support systems.” Placing patients’ specific needs at the center of the initiative, dedicated solutions will be developed, such as a mobile app, to enhance communication and ensure patients remain actively informed and engaged throughout their care.

Deployment and long term vision

The program’s roadmap foresees clinical pilots at university and cantonal hospitals and private clinics, leading to an initial rollout at participating hospitals nationwide within four years. In addition to advancing cancer care, the infrastructure is intended to serve as a model for future applications in other disease domains.

“This initiative marks a transition toward a proactive model for precision oncology,” said Olivier Michielin, Head of Precision Oncology at Geneva University Hospitals (HUG) and Clinical Co-Coordinator of the project. “It reflects a commitment to ensuring that all patients, regardless of where they are treated within this network, benefit from the latest advances in AI-supported medicine.”

“Artificial intelligence could be a powerful accelerator to help patients,” said Bertrand Ducrey, CEO of Debiopharm. “Safer and more effective personalized treatments will give patients a better chance to recover from their disease.”

“NAIPO is exactly what clinical oncology needs today. We are able to produce much more data than a couple of years ago, but we often don't know how to integrate this in actual patient care. NAIPO is instrumental to close this gap.” Says Andreas Wicki, oncology professor at the University of Zurich and Clinical Co-Coordinator of the project.

NAIPO’s long-term vision includes reducing disparities in access, accelerating the discovery of new biomarkers and treatments, and supporting sustainable innovation across the Swiss healthcare system. Milestones and key results will be shared as the project progresses.

About Debiopharm

Debiopharm aims to develop innovative therapies that target high unmet medical needs primarily in oncology and bacterial infections. Bridging the gap between disruptive discovery products and real-world patient reach, we identify high-potential compounds and technologies for in-licensing, clinically demonstrate their safety and efficacy, and then hand

stewardship to large pharmaceutical commercialization partners to maximize patient access globally.

As part of a strategic digital transformation, Debiopharm believes in the power of artificial intelligence to accelerate clinical research, optimize trials, and identify new biomarkers. Through our investment fund, we collaborate closely with cutting-edge technology startups in our portfolio—such as Genialis, Hope AI, and Tune Insight—to bring disruptive solutions to precision oncology and clinical development.

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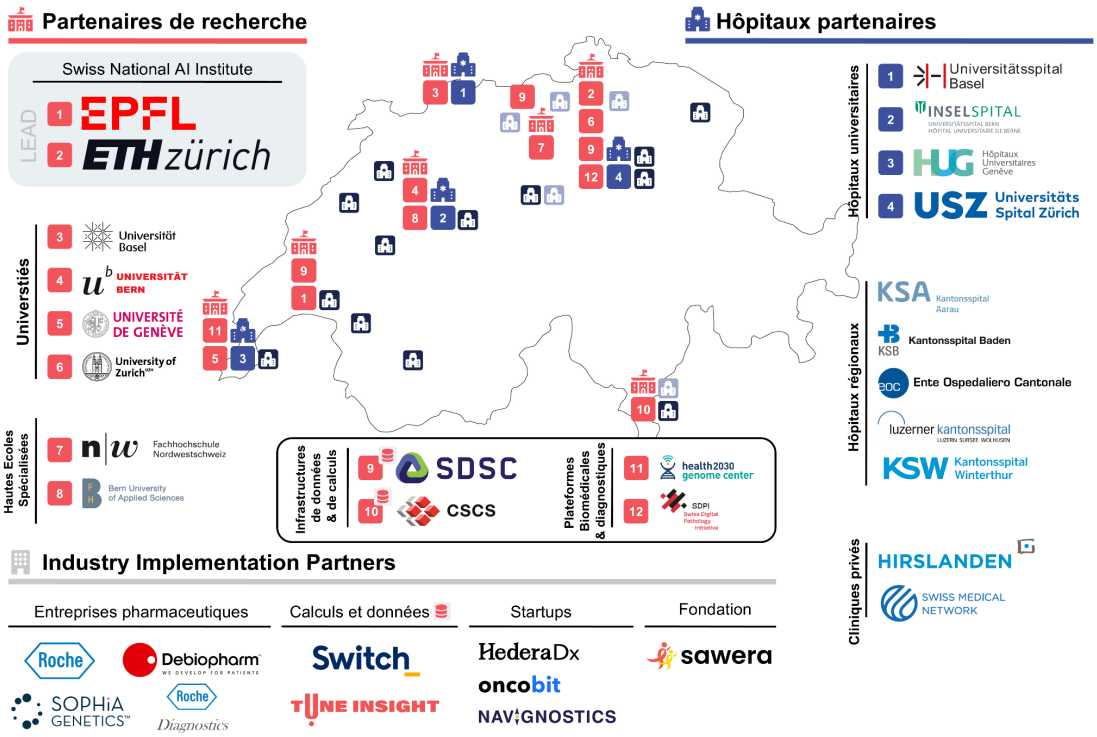
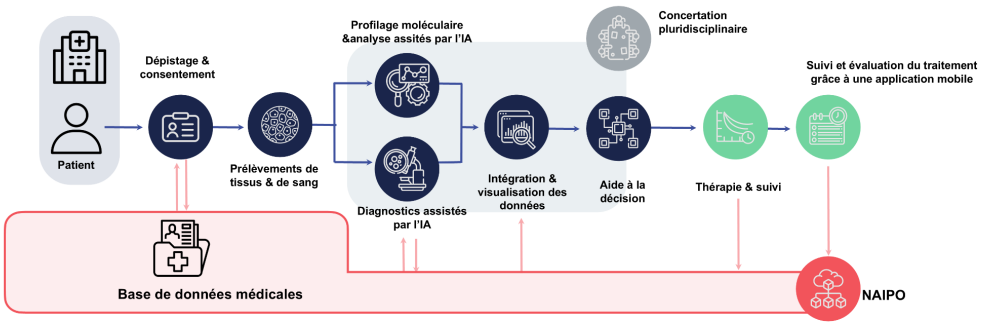


NAIPO Research partners



Data flow